

# FFM Bulletin

Monthly Newsletter of the Framingham Friends Meeting

<https://ffmquakers.org/>

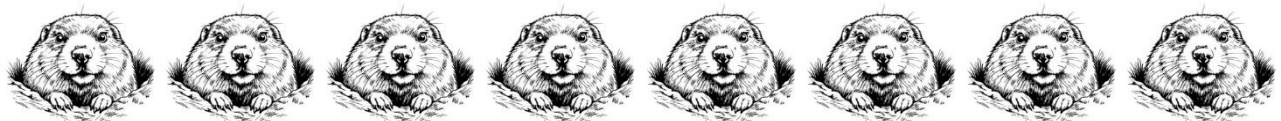
## February 2025 Calendar

February 2	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School*
	11:45 a.m.	First First Discussion – Yearly Meeting Sessions Re-structuring
February 5	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
February 9	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School*
	11:45 a.m.	Committee Meetings
February 12	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
February 14	7:30 p.m.	Latticework
February 16	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School*
February 19	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
February 20	3:00 p.m.	Chestnut Farms CSA Pickup
February 23	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School*
	11:45 a.m.	Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
		Annual Report – Ministry and Counsel
February 26	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
February 28	7:30 p.m.	Latticework

*\*Please note that FDS plans are flexible and may change from week to week. To be added to the FDS email list for updates, email Anne for current information.*

## NEYM Events (see <https://neym.org/> for details)

February 1 - 9	Friends General Conference Online Gathering (Zoom)
February 3	Pendle Hill Lecture: A Call to Action from Quakers of Color (Zoom)
February 7-9	Junior Yearly Meeting Winter Retreat, Wellesley, MA
February 11, 18, 25	Advance Planning for Decline and Death (Zoom)
February 11	Monthly Check-in for Friends Serving Local Meetings (Zoom)
February 13	End of Life Drop-In Reflection Group (Zoom)
February 14-17	Young Adult Friends Midwinter Retreat, Deerfield, MA
February 25	Stories and Spirituality for Families: A Faith and Play workshop (Zoom)
February 25	Immigration Justice Mutual Support Check-in (Zoom)



## February 2025 Bulletin

“There is something of God in every man, let us affirm it more certainly than ever, but surrounded as we are by millions of new-made graves and with the voices of the hungry and the dispossessed in our ears, let us not easily accept the impious hope that the natural goodness of ourselves is sufficient stuff out of which to fashion a better world.”

~ Gilbert H. Kilpack, 1914-1999

*Please note the following volunteer assignments for February and March:*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Opener</b>	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Fellowship</b>	<b>Hybrid Host</b>
<b>February 2</b>	<b>Neil Blanchard</b>	<b>Adam and Mary Hurley</b>	<b>Anna Romer and Jean Schnell</b>	<b>Chuck L.</b>
<b>February 9</b>	<b>Corbit Larson</b>	<b>Melissa Foster</b>	<b>Kristin and Morgan Wilson</b>	<b>John P.</b>
<b>February 16</b>	<b>Manzellas</b>	<b>Martha Reid</b>	<b>Wendy Tompkins and Jim Klinkenberg</b>	<b>Peter M.</b>
<b>February 23</b>	<b>Elin Calver</b>	<b>Lee Miller and Betty Gardescu</b>	<b>Susan McAvoy and Jennifer Keen</b>	<b>JR</b>
<b>March 2</b>	<b>Dave Baxter</b>	<b>Dave Baxter</b>	<b>Chris Wolff and Richard Lindo</b>	<b>Chuck L.</b>
<b>March 9</b>	<b>Neil Blanchard</b>	<b>Chuck Lidz</b>	<b>Bob and Melissa Foster</b>	<b>John P.</b>
<b>March 16</b>	<b>Manzellas</b>	<b>Lee Miller</b>	<b>Corbit Larson and Dan Shaud</b>	<b>Peter M.</b>
<b>March 23</b>	<b>Corbit Larson</b>	<b>Stephen Nadel</b>	<b>Ernie Beer and Neil Blanchard</b>	<b>JR</b>
<b>March 30</b>	<b>Elin Calver</b>	<b>Lee Miller</b>	<b>Pamela Strauss and Martha Reid</b>	<b>Neil B.</b>

*Thank You!*

### Fellowship Committee

The Fellowship Committee is inviting you to support our community through providing fellowship after the close of Meeting. It is an important way you can participate in the life of the Meeting. Thank you in advance! If you CANNOT do this assigned date, please contact another member or attender from this list with whom you can switch dates. Please do not use FFM announce for this task but rather contact the person directly. *If you have to make a change, once you have found someone who can provide fellowship on your assigned date, please notify Dave of the change.* Otherwise, if all is well, just bring fellowship! Consult The Directory "Guidelines for Fellowship" for tasks involved-- though please note, we think preparing for 30 people is an accurate estimate.

Thank you for supporting the life of the Meeting.  
Anna Romer, on behalf of the Fellowship Committee

### January 26 Called Meeting for Discussion of the Future of First Day School

The Ministry and Counsel committee met with members of the First Day School committee and parents to listen to concerns about how the Meeting is caring for and supporting the children in our Meeting and their parents. Framingham Friends Meeting is one of the few monthly meetings locally with an active First Day School, but that doesn't mean our work is done. Please come, listen, support, and share ideas on how best to nurture this essential part of our Meeting community. This meeting will be held immediately after announcements. Childcare will be provided.

## **February 2 First First Discussion**

Please join us for our February First First on envisioning the future of NEYM Sessions in the years ahead.

**BACKGROUND:** New England Yearly Meeting is facing the challenge of making some hard decisions concerning Annual Sessions in the years ahead. A working group drawn from a number of meetings in New England has delved into the situation and concluded that the current plan of having a yearly gathering of people over 5 or 6 days where most people attend in person and are housed in dormitory accommodations is no longer sustainable financially and in terms of staff resources. They have explored how other Yearly Meetings or Quaker organizations (like FGC) have managed this and are proposing 6 possible scenarios that they would like to be considered across New England in scheduled Visioning Sessions this winter. They have provided a wealth of background information and a two-page handout to help guide the discussion and are proposing that these visioning sessions follow a particular format in considering the scenarios which will then all be considered at a meeting in April of representatives of each Visioning Session. The plan would then be that a specific proposal will emerge from this April meeting that will be presented to Sessions for consideration this August.

Framingham has agreed to provide such a visioning session which is scheduled for the February First First on February 2 at approximately 11:45 AM following Fellowship. It will be a hybrid meeting so as to include as many interested as possible. Friends are invited to attend whether or not you have ever been at Yearly Meeting Sessions. Although the intent of the meeting is to consider the various scenarios presented and thus to help the Yearly Meeting in its future planning around Sessions, other thoughts and concerns that arise from the discussion are welcome. All the feedback, whether around the specific scenarios presented or other concerns, will be noted and will be sent electronically to NEYM and in person at the April session by a yet-to-be-named representative of our meeting.

Attached below are links to the various documents the Yearly Meeting has developed to help us in our discernment. Copies of the two-page handout will be available in hard copy at the First First. Please use the links below to get the necessary background on the issue prior to the First First. Thanks and we look forward to a fruitful discussion.

Handout for discussion: <https://neym.org/sites/default/files/2025-01/Handout%20for%20Sessions%20Visioning%20Prompts%20%26%20Scenarios%20Summary.docx.pdf>

Plan presented with visuals: <https://neym.org/sites/default/files/2024-09/Sessions%20Vision%20plan%20slides%20%281%29.pdf>

Draft Plan: <https://neym.org/sites/default/files/2024-08/Draft%20Plan%20Sessions%20Visioning%202025%2B%20copy.pdf>

Lengthy version of draft plan: <https://neym.org/sites/default/files/2024-08/Draft%20Plan%20Sessions%20Visioning%202025%2B%20copy.pdf>

Form used to submit feedback from listening group session: <https://airtable.com/apphFzcJQtP9ogjx/shrT2VzIGEwj6lVLP>

## **Fun Family Friendly Performance Featuring Judy Nadel**

Stephen Nadel shared that his daughter Judy will be appearing in “The Spongebob Musical: Live on Stage!” February 1 and 2, both days at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. This pre-professional program, very funny and excellent quality, will be at the Delbridge Family Center for the Arts in the Walnut School for the Arts, in Natick, with parking available on Highland Ave. Children are very welcome!

## First Day School Update

First Day School has been busy in this new year! We have celebrated Hanukkah, the full Wolf Moon, and Martin Luther King Day. There will be a Called Meeting at the rise of worship on January 26 to discuss how the meeting can better meet the needs of families with children.

In February, we are looking forward to celebrating Chinese New Year. We encourage families to attend the Chinese New Year celebration in Boston on Feb 9 (<https://www.bostoncentral.com/events/boston-chinese-new-year-parade/p59289.php>), but we will provide a program for children whose families are unable to go. We will be celebrating the birthdays of children who were born in February and the full Snow Moon.

Our popular Dungeons & Dragons group for older children, led by the talented team of Adam and Mary Hurley, meets about once a month, along with supervised free play provided for younger children so that caregivers can attend Meeting for Worship.

Several of our children and young people are enjoying weekend youth retreats organized by New England Yearly Meeting, and some of our adults are staffing.

In related activities, we are updating the CORI (criminal record) checks for adults who work with children. If you would like to volunteer, you can find blank forms giving us permission to do such a check in a folder pinned to the bulletin board in the FDS room. The results are confidential, and we are only looking for offenses related to the safety of our children. CORI checks are actually a small component of our work to keep our children safe: we try to know all adults who work with our children well!! We also have windows in all the FDS doors, we require at least 2 adults to be with the children (at least one of whom has a completed CORI check), and we provide training materials on child safety to adults who work with children. Framingham Friends Meeting has a "Response Committee" to which any concerns about incidents related to child safety can be reported. Members are Anne Anderson, Peter Colby, Lynn Lidz, and Lee Miller.



Celebrating the Full Wolf Moon in First Day School. Photos courtesy of Anne Anderson and Heather Gray



## First Day School Martin Luther King Day Service Project



First Day School made individual Ramen noodle cups of soup, chicken or veggie flavors, to put in the Southborough Community Fridge pantry.

### Condolences

Condolences to Jay Booker and his family on the death of his wife, Janet, on December 27, 2024 at their Natick home. Janet was 85 years old and led a full and productive life. You can find her obituary at <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/janet-booker-obituary?id=57146120#obituary>

### Latticework welcomes Friends to join

Nearly forty years ago, some young mothers from Meeting decided to get together to discuss how to talk about Easter with their children. These gatherings quickly evolved into meeting regularly every other Friday night, a practice that continues today. Oh, the people have changed, come and gone, the format became less programmed, and the location jumped from homes to the Meetinghouse and back to homes. We showed up to help each other and provide mutual support.

All that is to say that Latticework continues to be a constant, enriching the lives of those involved. It is a women's discussion group that changes with the participants and the times. We usually meet at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Stacey Lancaster, 46 Long Avenue in Framingham but relocate as needed. Upcoming dates are January 31, February 14 and 28, and March 14 and 28 and it's good to confirm the location in advance.

You are welcome to come and join us! To learn more, contact: Stacey Lancaster, Lynn Lidz, Jennifer Keen, Elin Calver, or Marilyn Manzella.

### Care and Community

Care & Community recognizes that many Friends are feeling a sense of despair that is unspoken. We are looking for ways to address that broad concern.

**First**, as we wait to be aware of what is coming, we can take meaningful action by being supportive of each other. We encourage people to ask for help, remembering that there is often joy for those who offer assistance. Keeping our community strong and responsive, sharing our skills and talents with each other, we can be grounded in a better sense of agency.

**Second**, we hope to support people in our midst who are publicly active, to help them stay effective and safe. We already know many of those working in the community and in the world, and we hope to continue finding examples to share. Recognizing the importance of such vital contributions will make it possible to nurture those gifts and actions as needs change and the times allow.

**Third**, we have learned that one antidote to fear and discouragement is gratitude. Remembering and expressing appreciation for our own blessings softens fear and anxiety. Sharing words of thanks with others— friends and family, community members, organizations—strengthens the resilience of us all. C&C is planning to host gatherings for writing notes or lists of gratitude.

Many have suggested that we begin hosting Friendly Dinners in homes as we did for years prior to the pandemic. We are considering Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> for possible potlucks in people's homes. If you are available and would be willing to host a dinner, please email Lynn Lidz or Susan Woodrow.

### **Celebrating Together**



A small group gathered on Christmas Eve to enjoy singing favorite carols amidst candlelight. Photo courtesy of Marilyn Manzella



First Day School leading a rousing version of The Twelve Days of Christmas at our annual Christmas Program. Screenshot from Melissa Foster.

**Covid Guidelines:**

There has been a seasonal uptick in cases of Covid, influenza and other respiratory illnesses, and norovirus. We ask you to follow the current practices at Framingham Friends Meeting to limit the spread of Covid 19:

- . Stay home if you are ill or have recently been exposed to Covid.
- . Wear a mask if you have any upper respiratory symptoms.
- . Keep up to date on Covid vaccinations.
- . Use air purifiers in the Meetingroom when windows cannot be opened.

If additional measures need to be taken, the Covid Coordinating Committee will notify the FFM community.

**The Hidden Singer**

The gods are less for their love of praise.  
Above and below them all is a spirit that needs nothing  
but its own wholeness, its health and ours.  
It has made all things by dividing itself.  
It will be whole again.  
To its joy we come together --  
the seer and the seen, the eater and the eaten,  
the lover and the loved.  
In our joining it knows itself. It is with us then,  
not as the gods whose names crest in unearthly fire,  
but as a little bird hidden in the leaves  
who sings quietly and waits, and sings.  
~ Wendell Berry ~



Image courtesy of Devon Artists

**Framingham Friends Meeting  
Minutes of the Meeting for Worship  
with a Concern for Business  
First month, nineteenth day, 2025**

Friends at Framingham gathered in silent worship for a regularly scheduled hybrid Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business on First month, Nineteenth day, 2025. 20 members and attenders were present. Out of the silence, clerk Richard Lindo read the following advices which were considered in silence.

Advice

- *Art thou in darkness? Mind it not, for if thou do it will fill thee more, but stand still and act not, and wait in patience till light arise out of darkness to lead thee.*
- *~ James Nayler, 1616-1660*

1. New items and Approval of Agenda – there were no new items.

Friends approved the agenda.

2. Treasurer's Report

Lee Miller read the Treasurer's report, which is a three month summary for Tenth, Eleventh, and Twelfth months. All amounts rounded to the nearest dollar.

Ninth month ending operating account balance	\$4,330
Operations income	\$20,957
Operations expenses	\$(4,248) - electricity is the primary expense;
total for this 3 month period was just under \$1000 (compared to \$1600 for the same period last year).	
Inspections and cleaning make up the bulk of our remaining expenses.	
Net increase (decrease)	\$16,709
Twelfth month ending operating account balance	\$21,039
Restricted contributions	\$390
Non-operating income (expense)	\$(271)
Bequest Reserve	\$19,410
Capital Improvement Fund	\$1,950
Heat Pump Installation Fund	\$21,056
Total Cash Assets	\$63,455

Our operating account balance is about \$3,880 greater than a year ago. Note that \$2000 of this variance is for charitable contributions that had not yet been made, but have since been distributed to Peace, Justice and Earthcare to make the donations. So the variance is actually \$1,880.

Ordinary contributions for the year to date are about \$388 greater than a year ago

Friends approved accepting the report.

3. Calendar Requests

Elin Calver presented the Calendar Coordinator's Report.

**Past requests accepted:**

January 4, 2025, 9:30-11:30 am. Shabbat morning service (Rabbi Katy Allen)



January 14, 2025, 6:00-7:00 pm. Neighborhood gathering (Doug Stephan)

**New requests:**

May 2, 2025, 5:00 pm - May 4, 2025, 12:00 pm. Young Friends Retreat (Collee Williams)

May 16, 2025, 5:00 pm - May 18, 2025, 12:00 pm. JHYM Retreat (Kara Price)

**Upcoming FirstFirst (information only, approval not needed)**

Sunday, February 2, 2025 - M&C Discussion on NEYM Sessions Revisioning

Sunday, March 2, 2025 - M&C State of Society

Sunday, April 6, 2025 - Open

Sunday, May 4, 2025 - Seeking to talk w Friends on Right Relationships. (Minga Claggett)

Sunday, June 1, 2025 - Open

Friends approved the accepting the requests.

4. Melissa Foster presented a letter on behalf of Ministry and Counsel in support of Richard Lindo traveling to Cuba in April 2025 to visit both Puerto Padre Meeting and Delicias Meeting. Richard met with a clearness committee which found him clear to visit Friends in Cuba and will continue to serve as a support committee for him. If approved, this letter will then go to the Puente de Amigos committee for approval, then to the NEYM Permanent Board for their approval, and finally it will serve as a letter of introduction for Richard to Cuban Friends. Because this agenda item concerned Richard, Lee Miller clerked this portion of the meeting.

Friends approved this letter of introduction with the noted change introducing Richard as the Presiding Clerk of Framingham Friends Meeting.

5. Chuck Lidz presented the annual report on behalf of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Over the last year, the Committee continued its work to maintain the Meetinghouse. Much of their work was spent on issues related to the installation of the new heat pump system, including repairs resulting from removing the old oil tanks and building a cover for one of the condensers. They ensured that necessary inspections were completed; removed some mold from the Fellowship room; cut down a couple of trees; repaired some meeting room benches; tidied the grounds for public events; grew some pollinators; and hosted a workday. The Committee appreciates the support of all who participated in maintaining our property.

Friends approved accepting the report.

The Meeting closed with silent worship, purposing to meet again on second month, twenty third day, 2025.

Richard Lindo, presiding clerk

Kristin Wilson, recording clerk