

# FFM Bulletin

Monthly Newsletter of the Framingham Friends Meeting

<https://ffmquakers.org/>

## May 2025 Calendar

|           |            |   |
|-----------|------------|---|
| May 2-4   |            | Young Friends Retreat   |
| May 4     | 10:00 a.m. | Meeting for Worship and First Day School*   |
|           | 11:45 a.m. | First First Discussion – Seeking to Talk with Friends on Right Relationships (Minga Claggett-Borne) |
| May 7     | 9:30 a.m.  | Coffee, Anyone?   |
| May 9     | 7:30 p.m.  | Latticework   |
| May 10    | 8:30 a.m.  | NEYM Permanent Board Meeting  |
| May 11    | 10:00 a.m. | Meeting for Worship and First Day School*   |
|           | 11:45 a.m. | Committee Meetings  |
| May 14    | 9:30 a.m.  | Coffee, Anyone?   |
| May 16-18 |            | Junior High Yearly Meeting Retreat  |
| May 18    | 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 – Finance and Nominating, First Reading   |
| May 21    | 9:30 a.m.  | Coffee, Anyone?   |
| May 23    | 7:30 p.m.  | Latticework   |
| May 25    | 10:00 a.m. | Meeting for Worship and First Day School*   |
| May 28    | 9:30 a.m.  | Coffee, Anyone?   |

*\*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 or call Anne Anderson for current information.*

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

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| May 1     | Elise Boulding's Imaging as Discernment (online)                                    |
| May 8     | End Of Life Drop-In Reflection Group (online)                                       |
| May 13    | Monthly Check-In for Friends Serving their Local Meetings (online)                  |
| May 27    | Immigration Justice Mutual Support Check-In (online)                                |
| Tuesdays  | FWCC Prayer for Peace (online)  |
| Thursdays | Meeting for Worship with Attention to Peace in Palestine and Israel (AFSC – online) |
| Fridays   | Action Hour for a Ceasefire Now (AFSC – online)                                     |



## May 2025 Bulletin

**“It is not enough to weep for our lost landscapes; we have to put our hands in the earth to make ourselves whole again. Even a wounded world is feeding us. Even a wounded world holds us, giving us moments of wonder and joy. I choose joy over despair. Not because I have my head in the sand, but because joy is what the earth gives me daily and I must return the gift.**

**Robin Wall Kimmerer**

*Please note the following volunteer assignments May and June:*

| Date    | Opener         | Greeters      | Fellowship                         | Hybrid Host |
|---------|----------------|---------------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| May 4   | Elin Calver    | Stephen Nadel | Renel Fredriksen and John Robinson | Chuck L.    |
| May 11  | Corbit Larson  | Corbit Larson | Dave Baxter and Anne Anderson      | John P.     |
| May 18  | Neil Blanchard | Dave Baxter   | Brian and Katharine Clark          | Peter M.    |
| May 25  | Manzellas      | Chuck Lidz    | Ileana Matamoros and Diego Low     | JR          |
| June 1  | Dave Baxter    | Kit Potter    | Tom Sadtler and Jane Wells         | Chuck L.    |
| June 8  | Elin Calver    | Louise Bendel | Lia Altshuler and Jim Houston      | John P.     |
| June 15 | Corbit Larson  | Lee Miller    | Nathan and Stephanie Hebert        | Peter M.    |
| June 22 | Neil Blanchard | Stephen Nadel | Isabelle Kane and Doug Lipincott   | JR          |
| June 29 | Manzellas      | Corbit Larson | Jud DeCew and Trudy Schafer        | Neil 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 Baxter 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

### First First May 4

Sponsored by the Peace Justice and Earthcare committee, Minga Claggett Borne and Suzanne Schell will facilitate a discussion on Right Relationship with Indigenous People.

“Since Nov 5, 2024, we are in a shifting landscape. With tenderness and exploration we invite you to discuss right relationships with our BIPOC and Indigenous neighbors. New England Yearly Meeting asked us, the Right Relationship Resource Group, to find out from monthly meetings, "What are you learning?"

We come to this discussion with amazement and humbleness.

Is your Meeting engaged in building relationships with Indigenous and BIPOC communities? How?

- Has your Meeting considered any reparative actions? How is it progressing?"

This the NEYM webpage on Right Relationship with Indigenous Peoples: Resources for Engagement:

<https://neym.org/right-relationship-indigenous-peoples-resources-engagement>

## First Day School News

First Day School had a great time with our annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 20. Thanks to all the adults who contributed to this activity! We have been reading books about a young Quaker boy on Nantucket named "Obadiah" back when the island was populated almost exclusively by Quakers. We made pinecone bird feeders based on the first Obadiah story where Obadiah befriends a pesky seagull. We have made popsicle stick puppets of some of the characters so we can act out future stories. These stories teach us a bit about Quakers of the past, but are always about making good decisions today.

We are about to start some sessions on "Good Trouble", triggered by John Lewis' statement in Selma in 2020, "Get in good trouble, necessary trouble, and redeem the soul of America"

(<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/five-things-john-lewis-taught-us-about-getting-in-good-trouble/>).

We will teach the meeting one of our favorite songs about good trouble, "Be a Pain"!

We have another Dungeons & Dragons session scheduled for May 18 for the older children, with supervised Free Play for the younger children. We want to thank the 6 adults who are not parents of children in FDS who have volunteered to help out occasionally at FDS!!! This has allowed parents to attend Meeting for Worship and become more connected to our meeting. We can use more helpers, though, so please let us know if you would like to come help out on the 3rd or 4th Sunday of each month, help out every other month, or choose weeks to help based on our weekly emails about upcoming activities. We especially appreciate regular time commitments but know that you can be excused any time you have a conflict!

### Wish a Happy May Birthday to:

**Tristan Manzella May 5**

**Lucas Saulnier May 9**

**Claire Pennington May 11**

**Christina Pennington May 11**

**Eowyn Hebert May 30**



## Condolences

Condolences to Janet, Lee, and Aleya Miller on the recent deaths of Janet's brother, Jerry, and her sister, Mary Alice.

Gerald Bates obituary: <https://www.rochestercremation.com/obituaries/gerald-a-bates>

Mary Alice Matteson obituary: <https://www.rochestercremation.com/obituaries/maryalice-matteson>


## People are Checking Us Out!


According to Google, since the new website went live, 1,615 people have viewed our profile. In the past month, 200 people have checked us out.



## Quaker Questions Part II

Sunday, June 8, after Meeting for Worship, Morgan Wilson and Lee Miller from the Ministry and Counsel committee will host another session of Quaker Questions for folks who are new(ish) to Friends Meeting. All are welcome, whether you attended Part 1 or not!





**But wait,  
there's more!**

**Ask me  
another!**

**NEW(ISH) TO QUAKER MEETING?**  
PUZZLED BY OUR ODD VOCABULARY?  
CURIOUS ABOUT HOW QUAKERS CAME TO BE?  
MYSTIFIED BUT STILL INTERESTED?  
**DIDN'T ATTEND PART 1? NO WORRIES!**  
JOIN LEE MILLER AND MORGAN WILSON FROM THE  
MINISTRY AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE FOR:  
**Quaker Questions? Part II**  
Date: Sunday June 8, 2025  
Time: after Meeting for Worship



## Easter Egg Hunt!

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Easter Egg Hunt and all the enthusiastic participants!

(Photos: Marilyn Manzella and Melissa Foster)





### Save the Date! June 1 Potluck

Join us to say farewell to long-time members of our community, Tom Sadtler and Jane Wells, who are moving to Philadelphia to be near family. Bring a dish and a memory to share. If you are new to the community, come and get to know these wonderful Friends before they go!

### Out of Concern for Others:

- ❖ Please stay home if you are ill or have recently been exposed to Covid.
- ❖ Please wear a mask if you have any upper respiratory symptoms.

You can still join us via our hybrid Meeting for Worship available on Zoom.

To request the Zoom link, please email: [worshipzoomffm@gmail.com](mailto:worshipzoomffm@gmail.com)

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### A Gift

Just when you seem to yourself  
Nothing but a flimsy web  
of questions, you are given  
the questions of others to hold  
in the emptiness of your hands,  
songbird eggs that can still hatch  
if you keep them warm,  
butterflies opening and closing themselves  
in your cupped palms, trusting you not to  
injure their scintillant fur, their dust.  
You are given the questions of others  
as if they were answers  
to all you ask. Yes, perhaps  
this gift is your answer.

Denise Levertov

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

Friends at Framingham gathered in silent worship for a regularly scheduled hybrid Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business on Fourth month, twentieth day, 2025. 18 members and attenders were present. Out of the silence, clerk Richard Lindo read the following advice which was considered in silence.

Advice: We are not for Names, nor Men, nor Titles of Government, nor are we for this Party, nor against the other, because of its Name and Pretence; but we are for Justice and Mercy, and Truth and Peace, and true Freedom, that these may be exalted in our Nation. ~Edward Burrough, 1634-1663

Worship

1. The Clerk asked for new items for the agenda, and there being none, Friends approved the agenda.

2. Treasurer's Report

Chris Doehlert read the Treasurer's report. All amounts rounded to the nearest dollar.

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Second month ending operating account balance | \$8,436  |
| Operations income                             | \$2,751  |
| Operations expenses                           | \$3,497  |
| Net increase (decrease)                       | \$(746)  |
| Third month ending operating account balance  | \$7,690  |
| Restricted contributions                      | \$130    |
| Non-operating income (expense)                | \$ 0     |
| Bequest Reserve                               | \$19,026 |
| Capital Improvement Fund                      | \$2,340  |
| Heat Pump Installation Fund                   | \$21,056 |

|                   |          |
|-------------------|----------|
| Total Cash Assets | \$50,112 |
|-------------------|----------|

|  |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Our operating account balance is about | \$2,466 lower than a year ago. |
|--|--------------------------------|

|   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| Ordinary contributions for the year to date are about | \$3,439 less than a year ago |
|---|------------------------------|

Friends approved accepting the report.

3. Calendar Report

Richard Lindo presented the Calendar Coordinator's Report on her behalf.

New requests:

Saturday, May 10, 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM - Permanent Board Meeting (Elizabeth Hacala; Peter Manzella has offered to help set up a Zoom session)

Upcoming FirstFirst (information only, approval not needed)

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

Sunday, June 1, 2025 - Ministry & Counsel Potluck (Melissa Foster)

Friends approved accepting the report.

4. Melissa Foster presented a membership request and a membership update on behalf of Ministry and Counsel. An application for membership has been received from Jud DeCew. A clearness committee

has been assigned. The committee is asking that James Winer, who had been a Quaker by family association, be removed from our membership listing. He has not responded to outreach attempts and has not attended in a number of years.

Friends approved the request.

5. Renel Fredriksen presented the annual report for the Calendar Committee. This committee coordinates meetinghouse usage requests; publishes the print and electronic bulletins; manages our three email lists; maintains the database of active members and attenders, and publishes the Meeting Directory annually.

Friends approved the report, with particular gratitude for the work on the directory.

6. Anne Anderson presented the annual report on behalf of the Response Committee, which is charged with keeping children in the meeting safe from maltreatment. There are a number of practices in place to reduce opportunities for maltreatment to occur. The Committee meets when an incident or concern is reported. There were no incidents reported this year.

Friends approved accepting the report.

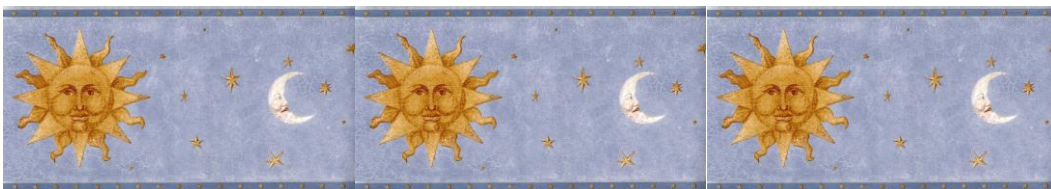
The Meeting closed with silent worship, purposing to meet again on fifth month, eighteenth day, 2025.

Richard Lindo, presiding clerk

Kristin Wilson, recording clerk

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"Once every people in the world believed that trees were  
divine ... and that deer, and ravens and foxes, and wolves and  
bears, and clouds and pools, almost all things under the sun and  
moon, and the sun and moon, were not less divine ... "  
W.B. Yeats





## **For Calling the Spirit Back from Wandering the Earth in Its Human Feet**

Put down that bag of potato chips, that white bread, that bottle of pop.

Turn off that cellphone, computer, and remote control.

Open the door, then close it behind you.

Take a breath offered by friendly winds. They travel the earth gathering essences of plants to clean.

Give it back with gratitude.

If you sing it will give your spirit lift to fly to the stars' ears and back.

Acknowledge this earth who has cared for you since you were a dream planting itself precisely within your parents' desire.

Let your moccasin feet take you to the encampment of the guardians who have known you before time, who will be there after time. They sit before the fire that has been there without time.

Let the earth stabilize your postcolonial insecure jitters.

Be respectful of the small insects, birds and animal people who accompany you. Ask their forgiveness for the harm we humans have brought down upon them.

Don't worry. The heart knows the way though there may be high-rises, interstates, checkpoints, armed soldiers, massacres, wars, and those who will despise you because they despise themselves.

The journey might take you a few hours, a day, a year, a few years, a hundred, a thousand or even more.

Watch your mind. Without training it might run away and leave your heart for the immense human feast set by the thieves of time.

Do not hold regrets.

When you find your way to the circle, to the fire kept burning by the keepers of your soul, you will be welcomed.

You must clean yourself with cedar, sage, or other healing plant.

Cut the ties you have to failure and shame.

Let go the pain you are holding in your mind, your shoulders, your heart, all the way to your feet. Let go the pain of your ancestors to make way for those who are heading in our direction.

Ask for forgiveness.

Call upon the help of those who love you. These helpers take many forms: animal, element, bird, angel, saint, stone, or ancestor.

Call your spirit back. It may be caught in corners and creases of shame, judgment, and human abuse.

You must call in a way that your spirit will want to return.

Speak to it as you would to a beloved child.

Welcome your spirit back from its wandering. It may return in pieces, in tatters. Gather them together. They will be happy to be found after being lost for so long.

Your spirit will need to sleep awhile after it is bathed and given clean clothes.

Now you can have a party. Invite everyone you know who loves and supports you. Keep room for those who have no place else to go.

Make a giveaway, and remember, keep the speeches short.

Then, you must do this: help the next person find their way through the dark.

- Joy Harjo -