

FFM Bulletin

Monthly Newsletter of the Framingham Friends Meeting

<https://ffmquakers.org/>

July and August 2025 Calendar

July 2	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
July 4	6:00 p.m.	Latticework
July 6	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship
	11:45 a.m.	First First Discussion – Open Discussion
July 9	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
July 13	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship
July 16	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
July 17	3:00 p.m.	Chestnut Farms CSA Pickup
July 18	6:00 p.m.	Latticework
July 19	6:00 p.m.	Potluck for Kirenia Criado from Cuba Yearly Meeting
July 20	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship
July 23	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
July 27	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship
July 30	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
August 1	6:00 p.m.	Latticework
August 3	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship
August 6	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
August 10	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship
August 13	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
August 15	6:00 p.m.	Latticework
August 17	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship
August 20	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone
August 21	3:00 p.m.	Chestnut Farms CSA Pickup
August 23	12:00 p.m.	Ministry and Counsel Committee retreat
August 24	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship
August 27	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
August 29	6:00 p.m.	Latticework
August 31	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship

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

July 8	Monthly Check-in for Friends Serving Their Local Meetings
July 10	End of Life Drop In Reflection Group
July 22	Monthly Check-in for Immigration Justice Work among Friends
August 1 - 6	NEYM Annual Sessions
August 12 or 14	How can Monthly and Yearly Meetings Welcome and Support Parents?
August 26	Monthly Check-in for Immigration Justice Work among Friends

July and August 2025 Bulletin

“The longer I live, the more deeply I learn that love
– whether we call it friendship or family or romance –
is the work of mirroring and magnifying each other’s light.
Gentle work. Steadfast work. Life-saving work in those moments
when life and shame and sorrow occlude our own light
from our view, but there is still a clear-eyed loving person
to beam it back. In our best moments, we are
that person for another.”

James Baldwin

Please note the following volunteer assignments for July and August:

Date	Opener	Greeters	Fellowship	Hybrid Host
7/6/25	Dave Baxter	Dave Baxter	Marilyn, Peter and Danielle Manzella	Chuck L.
7/13/25	Elin Calver	Chuck Lidz	Lucia Chen-Lowe and Sam Lowe	John P.
7/20/25	Corbit Larson	Kit Potter	Lee Miller and Betty Gardescu	Peter M.
7/27/25	Neil Blanchard	Louise Bendel	Stephen Nadel and Louise Bendel	JR
8/3/25	Manzellas	Lee Miller	Adam and Mary Hurley	Chuck L.
8/10/25	Dave Baxter	Corbit Larson	Chuck and Lynn Lidz	John P.
8/17/25	Elin Calver	Dave Baxter	Gerald Kimber White and Trudy Schafer	Peter M.
8/24/25	Corbit Larson	Stephen Nadel	Kristin and Morgan Wilson	JR
8/31/25	Neil Blanchard	Chuck Lidz	Wendy Tompkins and Jim Klinkenberg	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 Day School

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our "comfort kits/backpacks" project for children in families at risk of ICE raids. We filled 12 backpacks as well as some additional bags!!! Diego will help us distribute those to families in need. People were so generous, and the children really felt they were helping other children.

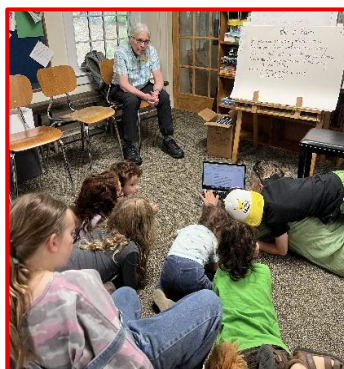
Wondering how you can help our immigrant neighbors? Here are 2 opportunities to donate to support families harmed by the cruel immigration arrests currently in place:

1. A student of Aimee Saulnier's has lost his father to ICE. See this GoFundMe page to donate: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-a-metrowest-family-in-crisis>

2. To contribute to CASA's Emergency Fund to aid our migrant neighbors, click here: https://fundrazr.com/casafund2025?ref=ab_1atyTcdGGV1atyTcdGGV

Over the summer, Adam will lead at least one Dungeons and Dragons session with the older children. Thanks again to Adam for this wonderful activity! We will announce some family-friendly all-ages Sunday afternoon FDS Hikes on this list and on FFMAnnounce. We will announce a Pizza and (board) Games night for adults and children once we have determined good dates for our families. Families are invited to weed and water the 3 Sisters Garden and play in the field or on the swing set or in the sandbox any time. Children are welcome to play in the FDS Room so long as there is at least one CORI'd adult or one parent of the children supervising (preferably two adults total - the "littles" can quickly wander away!). A list of adults with completed CORI checks, with their phone numbers, is on the bulletin board on the back wall of the FDS Room. Please clean up before you leave! Our cleaners can't clean if toys are left scattered around the floor.

First Day School returns in September. You are invited to help in the planning! Are there themes that draw you? Do you have a skill or objects-with-a-story you could share with the children? Suggestions and volunteers are welcome!!! Many thanks to the members of our First Day School Committee - Anne Anderson, Heather Gray, Stephanie Hebert, Chuck Lidz, Danielle Manzella, and Amie Saulnier - all of whom are continuing for next year.



Photos courtesy Aimee Saulnier and Felice Lopez



Wish a Happy August
Birthday to:

Helen Shaud Aug. 9

Congratulations to Nick Foster and Sarah Bocket!

Bob and Melissa Foster spent a week in San Francisco to celebrate the marriage of their son, Nick to Sarah Bocket. They were married in a beautiful, simple ceremony on June 11 at San Francisco City Hall with both sets of parents in attendance.



Fond Farewell to Tom Sadtler and Jane Wells

Framingham Friends gathered for a potluck to say good-bye to cherished Friends, Tom Sadtler and Jane Wells on the first Sunday in June. Susan Woodrow offered memories and stories of the past 50 years that Tom has been part of this community. Tom and Jane were presented with a memory book of photos from their time among us. We will miss them very much and wish them all the best in their move to be closer to family in Philadelphia.



Photos courtesy of
Marilyn Manzella

Laura Keen is in Kenya!

Laura Keen, daughter of Jennifer Keen, is currently serving with the Peace Corps in western Kenya as a biology and chemistry high school teacher. She has been living in a village not far from Lake Victoria for the past 18 months, learning Swahili and Luo and integrating into her close-knit community. Here she is pictured with some of her students in May 2025.



Laura is seeking donations to put a new roof on the school laboratory. Use the QR code on the flyer to support this project! Laura grew up in our First Day School!

SUPPORT THE RENOVATION OF A SCIENCE LAB IN KENYA!

We are raising funds to repair the roof of the school laboratory. This lab is where students in grades 9 through 12 study chemistry, biology, and physics as they prepare for Kenya's National Exam.

WHAT?

WHY?

The current roof has corroded and leaks during the rainy season. A new roof will ensure the lab can be used year-round.

The new roof will be equipped to collect rainwater, contributing to water security at the school.

How?

QR GO TO:
<https://www.peacecorps.gov/donate/projects/sp-25-615-003/>

THANK YOU!

Video of Richard Lindo's Visit to Cuba with Puente de Amigos

Richard provided a presentation about his recent trip to visit Cuban Friends under the auspices of the Puente de Amigos. He and 3 Friends from Wellesley Meeting visited their Sister Meetings (Puerto Padre for Wellesley and Delicias for Framingham and Fresh Pond). They made strong connections with Cuban Friends and were able to deliver financial support, along with medical supplies and practical items like rechargeable light bulbs and a microphone and projector. We got to "travel" along with Richard via some wonderful slides and videos from his experiences. If you missed the presentation, you can still watch it via this link:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1jeTMQ_r-CdR14GfLXWpRlBJ-Bn19fAlf/view
¡Muchas gracias, Richard!



The hardest part is people.
So Lord, help me face them
without rancor or disappointment.
Help me see the pain behind their actions
rather than the malice;
the suffering rather than the rage.

And in myself, as I struggle
with the vise of my own desire —
give me strength to quiet my heart,
to quicken my empathy, to act
in gratitude rather than need.

Remind me that the peace I find
in the slow track of seasons
or an uncurling fern frond,
is married to the despair I feel
in the face of nuclear war.

Remind me that each small bird shares atoms
with anthrax, with tetanus, and with acid
rain,
that each time I close my heart
to another, I add to the darkness;
Help me always to follow kindness.

Let this be my prayer.

Karen Holden



Framingham Friends Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting for Worship
with a Concern for Business
Sixth month, fifteenth day, 2025

Friends at Framingham gathered in silent worship for a regularly scheduled hybrid Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business on Sixth month, Fifteenth day, 2025. 17 members and attenders were present. Out of the silence, clerk Richard Lindo read the following advices which were considered in silence.

Advice: I believe there is something in the mind, or in the heart, that shows its approbation when we do right. I give myself this advice: Do not fear truth, let it be so contrary to inclination and feeling. Never give up the search after it: and let me take courage, and try from the bottom of my heart to do that which I believe truth dictates, if it leads me to be a Quaker or not. ~ Elizabeth Fry, 1780-1845

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

2. Treasurer's Report

Lee Miller read the Treasurer's report for fifth month. All amounts rounded to the nearest dollar.

Fourth month ending operating account balance	\$6,223
Operations income	\$2,049
Operations expenses	\$(2,767)
Net increase (decrease)	\$(718)
Fifth month ending operating account balance	\$5,505
Restricted contributions	\$130
Non-operating income (expense)	\$(174)
Bequest Reserve	\$17,962
Capital Improvement Fund	\$2,600
Heat Pump Installation Fund	\$21,056
Total Cash Assets	\$47,123
Our operating account balance is about	\$1,134 lower than a year ago.
Ordinary contributions for the year to date are about	\$3,366 less than a year ago
Friends <u>approved</u> accepting the report.	

3. Calendar Report

Marilyn Manzella presented the Calendar Coordinator's Report.

New requests needing approval:

July 19, 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM - Potluck: C&C and Sister Meeting Subcommittee (Richard Lindo)

Sept. 16, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM - Concord Prison Outreach Volunteers (Jeanette Sheahan)

Sept. 27, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM - Ember Fleming Wedding

Oct. 5, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM - FFM Open House (Lee Miller)

Upcoming events:

Sunday, June 22, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM - Richard Lindo talk about Cuba trip (Richard Lindo)

Upcoming FirstFirst (information only, approval not needed)

October 5, 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM - Outreach Committee (Lee Miller)

Friends approved the new requests.

4. Ministry and Counsel

Morgan Wilson reported that Ministry and Counsel is joyfully recommending that Jud DeCew be accepted as a member of Framingham Friends Meeting on the unreserved recommendation of his clearness committee. Peter Colby, Richard Lindo, and Sam Clark have agreed to serve as Jud's welcoming committee.

Friends approved the membership of Jud DeCew, as well as the proposed welcoming committee.

In addition, on behalf of the Clerk of Ministry and Counsel, Morgan Wilson presented the request from Chris Miller to transfer his membership to Mt. Toby Meeting.

Friends approved the request for transfer.

5. Outreach

Lee Miller presented a proposal on behalf of the Outreach Committee. The Committee is asking to hold an Open House in the fall as part of its outreach efforts. The proposed date for this event is Sunday, Oct. 5 from 1-3 pm, and the Committee is encouraging members and attenders to stay after meeting to participate. There was a suggestion that we also advertise the Open House as part of the Framingham Interfaith Community Association (FICA) table at the Meet Your Neighbor event this fall.

Friends approved the proposal.

6. Peace Justice and Earthcare

Susan McAvoy presented a Minute on Israel and Gaza on behalf of Peace Justice and Earthcare. The Minute urges Congress to seek a permanent ceasefire, the release of all hostages, the delivery of humanitarian aid, and to financially support the reconstruction needed in the region. It also asks all the people of the United States to advocate for the equal rights of Israelis and Palestinians, and to refrain from antisemitic and Islamophobic words and actions, and to denounce them whenever they are expressed. They are asking that Framingham Friends add our voices to the minute, which was approved by both Dover (NH) Meeting and Wellesley Friends Meeting. Peace Justice and Earthcare is recommending we send this minute to our representatives.

Friends approved the minute.

7. Nominating

Chuck Lidz presented the final version of the Nominating Committee report. Friends asked that the report be edited to list only those positions being approved by Framingham Friends Meeting. All positions approved or appointed by other organizations should be listed in the directory rather than in this report.

Friends approved accepting the report.

8. Finance

Lee Miller presented the proposed annual budget for fiscal year 2025-2026 for its second reading on behalf of the Finance Committee. The budget is unchanged from the first reading.

Friends approved the budget.

9. Ad Hoc Energy Committee

Peter Manzella presented the Ad Hoc Energy Committee Annual Report. This year, the committee has been exploring options for offsetting the energy costs of the new heat pumps that were installed in 2023. These include installing solar panels on the property, joining a community solar project, or using proceeds from investments. They are currently awaiting a quote for a solar panel installation.

Friends approved accepting the report.

The Meeting closed with silent worship, purposing to meet again on ninth month, twenty-first day, 2025.

Richard Lindo, presiding clerk

Kristin Wilson, recording clerk