



FFM Bulletin

Monthly Newsletter of the Framingham Friends Meeting

<https://ffmquakers.org/>

October 2025 Calendar

October 1	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
October 5	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School*
	11:45 a.m.	First First Discussion – Brown Bag Lunch with Outreach
	1:00 p.m.	Open House for World Quaker Day
October 8	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
October 10	7:30 p.m.	Latticework
October 12	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School*
	11:45 a.m.	Committee Meetings
October 15	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
October 16	3:00 p.m.	Chestnut Farms CSA Pickup
October 19	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 – Corporate Giving (first reading); Enabling;
		Librarian
October 22	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
October 24	7:30 p.m.	Latticework
October 26	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School*
	11:45 a.m.	Introduction to Spiritual Listening
October 29	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, contact Anne Anderson for current information.*

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

October 2,9,16,23,30	Quaker Beliefs for Everyone (Zoom)
October 7 and 8	The Heart of Peace (Zoom)
October 9	End of Life Drop-in Reflection Group (Zoom)
October 14	Faith and Play Community Circle (Zoom)
October 16 - 19	Quaker Earthcare Witness Fall Gathering, Powell House
October 17 - 19	Making Queer Quaker History, Woolman Hill
October 17 - 19	Young Friends Fall Retreat, Providence Meeting
October 25	Climate Witness, Philadelphia and Zoom
October 28	Monthly Check-in for Immigration Justice Work Among Friends
October 30	Advance Planning Worship Series (Zoom: 3-part series continues November 6 and 13)



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"We drag around our brokenness in the same container as our holiness." Anne Lamott

Please note the following volunteer assignments for September and October:

Date	Opener	Greeters	Fellowship	Hybrid Host
10/5/25	Neil Blanchard	Stephen Nadel	Dan Shaud and Corbit Larson	Chuck L.
10/12/25	Manzellas	Kit Potter	Pamela Strauss and Martha Reid	Neil B.
10/19/25	Dave Baxter	Chuck Lidz	Amie and Ryan Saulnier	Peter M.
10/26/25	Elin Calver	Chuck Lidz	Neil Blanchard and Anne Jones	JR
11/2/25	Corbit Larsen	Corbit Larsen	Peter and Mary Colby	Chuck L.
11/9/25	Neil Blanchard	Louise Bendel	Heather and James Gray	Neil B.
11/16/25	Manzellas	Lee Miller	Renel Fredriksen and John Robinson	Peter M.
11/23/25	Dave Baxter	Dave Baxter	Dave Baxter and Anne Anderson	JR
11/30/25	Elin Calver	Stephen Nadel	Brian and Katherine Clark	Chuck L.

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.

First Day School

First Day School got off to a great start with two weeks on the theme of "How do we find peace?" and a week of Dungeons & Dragons for the older children hosted by Adam Hurley. While the older children played D&D, the younger children had supervised Free Play under the care of non-parent adults, allowing parents and regular teachers to spend more time in worship upstairs. We already have two more D&D sessions scheduled during October. We have several October birthdays to celebrate, along with the Harvest Full Moon.

The "How do we find peace?" theme will continue for several more weeks. We will transition into making worship more meaningful for the children. We want to invite adults from our meeting to briefly share with the children what makes worship meaningful to them.

Nature continues to be one of our connections to peace. Sarah Nabbitt is going to help us build and maintain a compost heap near the garden in the field. We will spend time with our "personal trees" and start a "nature weaving".

We continue to seek non-parent adults willing to spend one Sunday a month with the children. We have a wide age range, and our topics are not always so interesting for the youngest, so they need some supervision during play. All adults are welcome to attend our brief weekly planning sessions on Wed. evening at 7:30 on Zoom. Get in touch with Anne Anderson if you would like the Zoom link and to confirm the time and day. Please also get in touch if you would like to be added to the weekly FDS email with a description of what is coming up.

Kids' Convivio!

CASA Allies sponsored a wonderful Kids' Convivio at the Meetinghouse on the afternoon of August 29 for our migrant neighbors. It was a joyful afternoon of food, fellowship, games, and crafts for all. Thank you to all of the CASA Allies and the FFM Friends who helped make this event happen! (Photos courtesy of Melissa Foster)





I Am My Neighbor's Keeper: A Concert for A Place to Turn


"We are on this planet for a short time...
It all comes down to concern and compassion for each other...
When we help to uplift one, we uplift everyone."
Avery Sharpe

**I AM MY NEIGHBOR'S KEEPER:
A Benefit Concert**

Sunday, October 5, 2025, 3:00pm
Edwards Church Sanctuary
39 Edwards St, Framingham, MA 01701



All proceeds will support the important work of
A Place to Turn a food pantry serving MetroWest.



Tickets are by donation. Please donate generously to
strengthen the web of our caring. (Suggestion: \$30-80)
Tickets and donations can be made at [EventBrite.com](https://eventbrite.com)

Sponsored by: Open Spirit, Edwards Church, Framingham Friends,
Greater Framingham Community Church, Memorial Church in Sudbury, First Parish in Framingham,
First Church in Natick, Just Peace Players, Roots and Wings, Temple Beth Am,
Temple Beth Shalom, The Plymouth Church in Framingham

Listen to some wonderful music and support a good cause...right after the World Quaker Day Open House!

Repair Café

Have you got something that needs fixing or mending? Bring it to the Repair Café: Sunday, Oct 5th, 2pm to 5pm at Scott Hall at 24 Vernon St; Framingham.

Our volunteers can help fix many things for free including clothing, lamps, small appliances, computers/other electronics, bikes, batteries, toys, jewelry and sewing machines. We will also have a station for sharpening straight knives, scissors, and garden tools.

If you know what parts are needed, please get them ahead of time.

RSVP optional, but appreciated: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/framingham-repair-cafe-tickets-1677750710539>

A Message From Our New NEYM Youth Coordinator

I am Xinef, your new coordinator, and I'm very excited to share with you the upcoming YF retreat dates and locations.

In the fall, we will be gathering at Providence Friends Meeting in Rhode Island from **October 17th to the 19th**. In the winter, we will be returning to Woolman Hill Retreat Center in S. Deerfield, Massachusetts from **January 16th to the 19th**. In the spring, we will be gathering at Framingham Friends Meeting in Massachusetts from **May 29th to the 31st**. Additionally, we will continue the emerging tradition of holding the Teen Retreat from **March 27th to the 29th** during the intergenerational Living Faith gathering in Portland, ME.

Whether this is your umpteenth retreat or your first visit with the Young Friends, I would like to share with you an intention. Perhaps now more than ever, the need for a retreat, or -as my mother would say- a time out of time, is great. A moment to recalibrate, to reorient, to rejuvenate feels more essential than ever. And further, a moment to strengthen our skills of community building. To realize the power we have to shape the spaces we want to be in. Teens these days are constantly dealing with a lack of 3rd spaces, a place outside of home and school. And the ones that are offered seem to rarely serve the needs of the audience they're built for. So I ask what it would be like to take the hammer and chisel into our own hands and build the ideal space for a time out of time. For a retreat that is both a place to go and a place to grow. That is the intention that I hold going into this exciting retreat year alongside the Young Friends community.

But the thing is, we need *you* in order for that intention to manifest. The Young Friends is and has been a staple community housed within the New England Yearly Meeting Society of Friends and it has taken many shapes and sizes over the past years, quite especially these last few. So maybe this feels like a heavy lift; to set aside a time to retreat from your daily lives as fully fledged humans wrapped in the teen experience, and then to travel all across the New England Region to land in an amorphous, sometimes uncertain Quaker group for a few long days... You may have been to Friends Camp, or gone through JYM/JHYM, or participated in local teen groups through your monthly meeting, or maybe this is your first foray into Quaker youth spaces. Either way, it is clear that each of those spaces has their own flavor, intentions, and sense of 'self' as it were. So trying on a different community may feel exciting as you get a little bit more of what you've already tried and loved, but then sometimes there's the unsureness because difference and change can be very overwhelming. But I remember when I was invited to a party or group hangout in my youth and I didn't know anyone or what the vibes would be like, so I'd bring myself and my people and even if I didn't know anyone else, we'd have the best time until we felt more at ease and included. My bubble expanded and I was a part of making the experience what it was.

So I ask you to friend-bomb the party. To bring yourself as you are. To go in bravely and curiously. And again, to don the tools that will help sculpt the most ideal version of this community you can vision. — You're invited, with excitement, to be a part of the process and I hope beyond hope to see you there.

Thanks for your consideration, ttfn

- Xinef, TOMC

Condolences

Condolences to the family of Stacey and Renee Lancaster on the death of Stacey's mother, Pat Lancaster, in Texas on 29 Aug 2025 at age 96.

More Travels (and some Travails...) for the Fosters

We spent 3 weeks camping our way around Lake Superior with son, Nick, and his wife, Sarah. Early in the trip there was some tough going, with cold, wind, and rain several days in a row. (Pro tip: Boondock camping during cold, wet weather is not the most fun ever). The weather turned to glorious fall days and starry nights and we rallied for a delightful rest of the trip. A highlight for all of us was a surprise showing of the Northern Lights when we were camped on the beach next to a small lake in Canada: the show went on for hours! We're glad to be home but already planning where to go next year with Nick and Sarah!



Top: Sunset over Lake Superior; Northern Lights; Waterfall in Michigan. Bottom: Favorite boondocking campsite.
Photos courtesy of Melissa Foster

Fourth Sunday Offering: Introduction to Spiritual Listening

Sunday October 26 after rise of Worship and Fellowship, Chris Wolff and Kit Potter will offer an introduction to Spiritual Listening that they and Ministry and Counsel hope will lead to the formation of small groups to continue seeking together. Spiritual listening is a sharing process for enhancing your inner life, fostering a deeper connection to yourself, to others, and to the divine, and finding greater purpose and balance in life. All Are Welcome to join!

Reminder!

If you haven't already done so, please pick up your copy of the FFM Directory from the alphabetized box in the entryway of the Meetinghouse!



New England Yearly Meeting Updates:

New England Yearly Meeting has a new Presiding Clerk for the next 3 years: Phil Veatch of Fresh Pond Meeting and a new Teen Outreach and Ministries Coordinator: Xinef Afriam.

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.

Contact worshipzoomffm@gmail.com for the worship link.



Our spooky
Meetinghouse at
night...thanks to the
red emergency lights!

**Framingham Friends Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting for Worship
with a Concern for Business
Ninth month, twenty first day, 2025**

Friends at Framingham gathered in silent worship for a regularly scheduled hybrid Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business on Ninth month, twenty first day, 2025. 27 members and attenders were present. Out of the silence, clerk Richard Lindo read the following advices which were considered in silence.

Query/Advice: Do not fear periods of doubt and questions; they may lead to openings. Are you open to the many ways Spirit may speak to you?

Worship

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 sixth to eighth months. All amounts rounded to the nearest dollar.

Fifth month ending operating account balance	\$5,505	
Operations income	\$6,829	
Operations expenses	\$(11,363)	- almost half in social testimonies
Net increase (decrease)	\$(4,533)	
Eighth month ending operating account balance	\$972	
Restricted contributions	\$390	
Non-operating income (expense)	\$2,127	
Bequest Reserve	\$19,903	
Capital Improvement Fund	\$2,990	
Heat Pump Installation Fund	\$21,056	
Total Cash Assets	\$44,921	
Our operating account balance is about	\$789	lower than a year ago.
Ordinary contributions for the year to date are about	\$1,100	less than a year ago

The year finished with total income slightly exceeding total expenses by just over \$1700.00.

Ordinary contributions fell short of the previous fiscal year by about \$1100.00.

Total operating income was within \$100 of last year's income.

Total operating expenses were about \$2000.00 greater than last year, despite a drop of about \$1500.00 in our electricity costs.

Friends approved accepting the report.

3. Calendar Report

Marilyn Manzella presented the Calendar Coordinator's Report.

Past Events:

Aug 30, 12:30 PM - 6:00 PM - Convivio (Melissa Foster)

Sept. 18, 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM - Sessions Planning (Kristin Wilson)

Friends approved accepting the past events.

New requests needing approval:

Oct. 4, 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM - Wellesley Friends Retreat

Oct. 25, 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM - LUCE training (Susan Woodrow)

Oct. 26, 11:40 AM - 1:00 PM - Introduction to Spiritual Listening (Hybrid) (Chris Wolff)

Nov. 1, 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM - Ministering Friends - (Brian Drayton, Weare Meeting)

May 8, 5:00 PM - May 10, 12:00 PM - Junior High Yearly Meeting Retreat (Kara Price)

May 13, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM - FICA Meeting (Richard Lindo)

May 29, 5:00 PM - May 31, 12:00 PM - Young Friends Retreat (Xinef Afriam)

Friends approved the new requests.

4. Morgan Wilson reported that Ministry and Counsel is recommending that Amie Saulnier be accepted as a member of Framingham Friends Meeting on the joyful recommendation of her clearness committee. Dave Baxter, Anne Anderson, Trudy Schafer, Melissa Foster, and Heather Gray have agreed to serve as Amie's welcoming committee. Ministry and Counsel is very pleased with the number of membership applications and visitors we've seen in the past year.

Friends approved the membership of Amie Saulnier, as well as the proposed welcoming committee.

5. Jean Schnell presented an interim report on behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee for Committee Restructuring. The committee is recommending a reorganization of existing committees that results in a set of stand-alone committees; the formation of a new "Operations Committee" to oversee tasks which contribute to the daily life of the meeting; guidelines for Ad Hoc or task force committees; changing the name "working groups" to "sub-committees", which would be under the supervision of one of the stand-alone committees. There are also recommendations regarding term limits and membership requirements for certain committees, as well as for the Meeting to periodically reassess our committee structure.

Questions and comments received will be taken back to the Committee for review, and a final report will be brought back to Meeting for Business.

6. Susan McAvoy presented a request for support for United American Indians of New England National Day of Mourning on behalf of Peace Justice and Earthcare. They are requesting a donation of \$100.00. The Meeting approved donating \$200. If Peace Justice and Earthcare chooses to organize any further collections, such as a vegetable donation drive, they are free to do so without having to bring a proposal back to Meeting for Business.

Susan McAvoy also presented the Committee's Annual Report. In the past year, the Committee researched organizations to be included in our corporate giving and got approval from the Meeting to sign on to a letter asking the governor to sign an executive order to move forward with a climate change and nuclear weapons commission. In addition, they co-sponsored a first first on Right Relationships and Restorative Actions with local Native Americans and co-sponsored a concert organized by Open Spirit.

The Committee also brought a Minute on Gaza to Meeting for Business, and recommended the list of organizations for corporate giving.

Friends approved accepting the report.

7. Anne Anderson presented the First Day School Annual Report on behalf of the First Day School Committee. There are currently 5 families attending regularly, with between 3 and 10 children ranging in age from toddler to 13 attending each week. The First Day School had a rich and varied curriculum this year, learning about different holidays such as Diwali, Hanukkah, and Chinese New Year. Following a joint meeting for worship with Ministry and Counsel to discuss First Day School concerns and how the meeting can better support children and families, there have been more non-parent adults volunteering to help with the First Day School so that parents can worship.

Friends approved accepting the report with much gratitude.

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

Richard Lindo, presiding clerk

Kristin Wilson, recording clerk