

FFM Bulletin

Monthly Newsletter of the Framingham Friends Meeting

<https://ffmquakers.org/>

November 2025 Calendar

November 1	9:30 a.m.	NEYM: Gathering for Friends Concerned in Gospel Ministry
November 2	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School*
	11:45 a.m.	Quaker Questions: Part III
November 5	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
	5:00 p.m.	Plant-based Potluck Dinner
November 7	7:30 p.m.	Latticework
November 9	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School*
	11:45 a.m.	Committee Meetings
November 12	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
November 16	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 – Care and Community; Corporate Giving
November 19	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
November 20	3:00 p.m.	Chestnut Farms CSA Pickup
November 21	7:30 p.m.	Latticework
November 23	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School*
November 26	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
November 27	12:00 p.m.	Thanksgiving Potluck
November 30	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School*

**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)

November 1	Gathering for Friends Concerned in Gospel Ministry, Framingham Friends Meeting
November 3	Pendle Hill Lecture: Building Common Ground in Polarized Times (hybrid)
November 6, 13, 20	Experiment with Light 3-part series (Zoom)
November 7	Friends Peace Teams: Peacebuilding in North America (Zoom)
November 8	Decolonizing our Activism: The 7 th Fire - How to Be a Good Ally (Zoom)
November 8	Extended Worship Opportunity Hanover NH
November 8	Practicing our Peace Testimony: Quaker Discernment on Abuse (Zoom)
November 11	Monthly Check-in for Friends Serving Their Local Meetings (Zoom)
November 13	Faith and Play Community Circle (Zoom)
November 14 – 16	JYM Fall Retreat, Deerfield, MA
November 15	Listening to Spirit in Conflict (Zoom)
November 15	Meeting Care Day, Bedford, MA
November 25	Monthly Check-in for Immigration Justice Work Among Friends



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“When it gets down to having to use violence, then you are using the system’s game. The establishment will irritate you – pull your beard, flick your face – to make you fight. Because once they’ve got you violent, then they know how to handle you. The only thing they don’t know how to handle is non-violence and humor.”

John Lennon

Please note the following volunteer assignments for November and December:

Date	Opener	Greeters	Fellowship	Hybrid Host
11/2/25	Corbit Larsen	Corbit Larsen	Neil Blanchard and Anne Jones	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	Amie and Ryan Saulnier	JR
11/30/25	Elin Calver	Stephen Nadel	Brian and Katharine Clark	Richard L.
12/7/25	Corbit Larson	Corbit Larson	Ileana Matamoros and Diego Low	Chuck L.
12/14/25	Neil Blanchard	Louise Bendel	Christmas Program	Neil B.
12/21/25	Manzellas	Lee Miller	Lia Altshuler and Jim Houston	Peter M.
12/28/25	Dave Baxter	Dave Baxter	Nathan and Stephanie Hebert	JR

Thank You!

Condolences

We offer our deepest condolences to Kit, Valerie, Megan, Kris and Shiloh on the loss of John Potter. Please hold this dear family in the Light.

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.

Work Day Returns!

On September 20th many members and attenders restarted an FFM tradition by participating in a Work Day. Rooms were cleaned and organized. Windows were washed. Pictures were hung and rehung in the middle room. Benches were repaired and strengthened. Markers for benches were renewed. Kitchen appliances were cleaned. The back patio was weeded and cleared as was the hill behind it. Weeds were removed around the grounds. The outside steps to the Meeting Room were weeded and gravel dust added to reduce the tripping hazard. Jim Houston made more progress on the beautiful doors that have been added to the Fellowship Room. Work was followed by a lovely and sociable lunch. Elin Calver and Chuck Lidz, Co-clerks.

First Day School

First Day School continues our theme of "How do we find peace?" We have been learning about compost and have some composting experiments going on in jars in the FDS room. We hope to build a compost heap over against the trees beyond the garden, but first we have to learn about what materials to use. Our older children are doing Dungeons & Dragons two times a month hosted by Adam Hurley; since they have more D&D sessions, they will be coming up to Meeting for Worship when the younger children go up. While the older children play D&D, the younger children have lightly supervised Free Play under the care of non-parent adults, allowing parents and regular teachers to spend more time in worship upstairs. We will celebrate November birthdays and full moons. We will spend time with our "personal trees" and start a "nature weaving." The "How do we find peace?" theme includes trying to make worship more meaningful for the children. Lee Miller came to talk to the children about what he does during Meeting for Worship and answered questions. We want to invite more adults from our meeting to briefly share with the children what makes worship meaningful to them. We have been learning the song "Teach Me to Stop and Listen" and we are teaching it to the adults. 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.

Shared Thanksgiving Potluck at the Meetinghouse

The Fellowship Committee is pleased to announce that there will be a shared meal at noon on Thanksgiving Day, November 27. This will be a potluck, and there will be a sign-up sheet up in the Fellowship room soon. Come one, come all!

News from Daniel and Marina O'Leary

Some FFM Friends who have been around for awhile will remember Dan and Marina O'Leary. Marilyn was recently in touch with Dan and was invited to share this with the Meeting. Their experience of the war in Ukraine is painful, as nearly two years ago, their nephew, Astap Djepka, was killed in a drone strike during the war, leaving behind his wife Olonka and three sons, Danny, Keril, and Nakita. Dan and Marina are over the moon with the wonderful surprise that Astap's sister Marina, just gave birth to her fourth child, Kira Didos, born on October 2, 2025. They are hoping that a just peace comes to Ukraine soon.

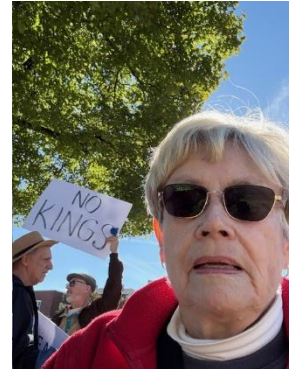


New Front Stone Wall



At the request of the Framingham Fire Department, the stone wall at the entrance to our driveway was relocated. (Apparently they got stuck trying to make a turn there a while back). Lyn Weinberg shared that anyone who would like to plant flowers in front of the wall is welcome to do so.

Framingham Friends Say, “NO KINGS!”



Friends standing up for democracy in Framingham, Ashland, Concord, Westborough, Bedford, Boston, Foxborough, and Washington, D.C.



"We are not for Names, nor Men, nor Titles of Government... but we are for Justice and Mercy, and Truth and Peace, and true Freedom, that these may be exalted in our Nation." - Edward Burrough

World Quaker Day Open House

The Outreach Committee organized an Open House at the Meeting on Sunday October 5, World Quaker Day. We had 10 visitors attend and enjoyed the time to gather as a community over a brown bag lunch before our guests showed up.



Literature table



Snacks for visitors



Marilyn greets visitors in the Meeting room

Quaker Questions #3

For folks new or 'newish' to Quakers, and anyone else who wants to learn more, Morgan Wilson and Lee Miller will offer a 3rd session of Quaker Questions. Attendance at the first two QQ sessions is not required, nor should it prevent you from attending this one. All are welcome! Sunday, November 2 at 11:45 a.m.

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. Request the Zoom link by sending an email to: worshipzoomffm@gmail.com

Kindness matters.
But kindness does not = justice.
Civility counts.
But calling for civility is not the
humane response to injustice.
Justice is.
Love is essential.
But love is not a passive, weeping
bystander.
Love puts in work.

Bernice A. King

Framingham Friends Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting for Worship
with a Concern for Business
Tenth 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 Tenth month, nineteenth day, 2025. 26 members and attenders were present. Out of the silence, clerk Richard Lindo read the following advices which were considered in silence.

Query/Advice: Mind the light of God in your consciences, which will show you all deceit; dwelling in it, guides out of the many things into one spirit, which cannot lie, nor deceive. Those who are guided by it, are one. ~ George Fox, 1624-1691

Worship

1. The Clerk asked for new items for the agenda, and one was added.

2. Treasurer's Report

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

Eighth month ending operating account balance	\$972	
Operations income	\$4,605	
Operations expenses	\$(2,168)	
Net increase (decrease)	\$2,437	
Ninth month ending operating account balance	\$3,409	
Restricted contributions	\$130	
Non-operating income (expense)	\$280	
Bequest Reserve	\$20,183	
Capital Improvement Fund	\$3,120	
Heat Pump Installation Fund	\$21,056	
Total Cash Assets	\$47,768	
Our operating account balance is about	\$922	lower than a year ago.
Ordinary contributions for the year to date are about	\$527	less than a year ago

Friends approved accepting the report.

3. Calendar Report

Elin Calver presented the Calendar Coordinator's Report.

New requests needing approval:

Nov. 5 and Dec. 7, 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Plant-based Potluck Dinner (Betsy Bragg)

Nov. 22, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Pinefield Garden Club (Elin Calver)

Jan. 24, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. Pinefield Garden Club (Elin Calver)

First First Discussion Dates

Nov. 2 - Quaker Questions, Dec. 7, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, Mar. 1, Apr. 5, May 3, Jun. 7.

Friends approved accepting the report.

4. Jean Schnell presented the final 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 committees; and placing working

groups under the oversight 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. The Committee is also strongly recommending that each committee review their current descriptions listed in the Directory, and make changes as appropriate. This would take effect with the next round of nominating at the end of this fiscal year. Friends approved accepting the report.

5. Pamela Strauss presented the Librarian Annual Report. This report outlines the acquisition of new books through purchase and donations, as well as the work of the librarians over the last year. This has primarily involved organizing the library with the goal to facilitate access to the books. Friends approved accepting the report with gratitude.

6. Susan McAvoy presented the first draft of the Corporate Giving Report on behalf of Peace, Justice and Earthcare. They are recommending donations to 17 organizations, both Quaker and community based. Each organization would receive \$100, with the exception of the Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA) and Metrowest Workers Center/CASA, which would each receive \$200. If anyone has suggestions of organizations to include in our corporate giving, please email them to Susan McAvoy or Neil Blanchard. Current recommendations are: A Place to Turn, Concord Prison Outreach, Daniel's Table, Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light, Hoops and Homework, Literacy Unlimited, Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, Metrowest Legal Service, Metrowest Worker Center/CASA, Pearl Street Cupboard and Cafe, Quaker Earthcare Witness, Quaker Voluntary Service, Rosie's Place, Voices Against Violence, Woolman Hill, World Central Kitchen, Wopanaak Language Reclamation Project.

7. Chuck Lidz presented the Annual Report for the Enabling Fund. This fund provides assistance to members and attenders to encourage their participation in Friends' activities and concerns or to assist in a financial crisis. There were no requests made or acted on in the last 12 months. The Meeting has requested that the Enabling Fund Committee work on clarifying the appropriate uses of the fund, given the sense that many people are unaware that it exists. These would then be publicized more broadly. Friends approved accepting the report.

8. Adam Hurley provided an update on the National Day of Mourning. They are not yet ready to receive our monetary donation, but should be soon. There will also be volunteer opportunities, which will be sent out to FFM Announce. The organizers have welcomed our offer to help.

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

Richard Lindo, presiding clerk

Kristin Wilson, recording clerk

What's In the Temple?

In the quiet spaces of my mind a thought lies still, but ready to spring.

It begs me to open the door so it can walk about.

The poets speak in obscure terms pointing madly at the unsayable.

The sages say nothing, but walk ahead patting their thigh calling for us to follow.

The monk sits pen in hand poised to explain the cloud of unknowing.

The seeker seeks, just around the corner from the truth.

If she stands still it will catch up with her.

Pause with us here a while.

Put your ear to the wall of your heart.

Listen for the whisper of knowing there.

Love will touch you if you are very still.

If I say the word God, people run away.

They've been frightened--sat on 'till the spirit cried "uncle."

Now they play hide and seek with somebody they can't name.

They know he's out there looking for them, and they want to be found,

But there is all this stuff in the way.

I can't talk about God and make any sense,

And I can't not talk about God and make any sense.

So we talk about the weather, and we are talking about God.

I miss the old temples where you could hang out with God.

Still, we have pet pounds where you can feel love draped in warm fur,

And sense the whole tragedy of life and death.

You see there the consequences of carelessness,

And you feel there the yapping urgency of life that wants to be lived.

The only things lacking are the frankincense and myrrh.

We don't build many temples anymore.

Maybe we learned that the sacred can't be contained.

Or maybe it can't be sustained inside a building.

Buildings crumble.

It's the spirit that lives on.

If you had a temple in the secret spaces of your heart,

What would you worship there?

What would you bring to sacrifice?

What would be behind the curtain in the holy of holies?

Go there now.

~ Tom Barrett ~