



FFM Bulletin

Monthly Newsletter of the Framingham Friends Meeting

<https://ffmquakers.org/>

December 2025 – January 2026 Calendar

December 3	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
December 5	7:30 p.m.	Latticework
December 7	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School*
	11:45 a.m.	First First Discussion – Open Discussion
December 10	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
December 14	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School*
	11:45 a.m.	Meeting Holiday Program
December 17	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
December 18	3:00 p.m.	Chestnut Farms CSA Pickup
December 19	7:30 p.m.	Latticework
December 21	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School*
December 24	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
	7:30 p.m.	Christmas Eve Candlelight Carol Sing
December 28	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School*
December 31	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
January 2	7:30 p.m.	Latticework
January 4	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School*
	11:45 a.m.	First First Discussion – TBD
January 7	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
January 11	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School*
	11:45 a.m.	Committee Meetings
January 14	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
January 15	3:00 p.m.	Chestnut Farms CSA Pickup
January 16	7:30 p.m.	Latticework
January 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: Building and Grounds
January 21	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
January 25	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School*
January 28	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
January 30	7:30 p.m.	Latticework

(More information, including non-Meeting uses of the Meetinghouse, can be found on our website calendar.)

**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)

December 5 – 7	Junior High Yearly Meeting Winter Retreat, Deerfield, MA
December 9	Monthly Check-in for Friends Serving Their Monthly Meetings
December 11	End of Life Drop-in Reflection Group
December 15	Faith and Play Community Circle
December 17	Moving Beyond Sustainability: Quaker Earthcare Witness
December 17	Midweek Meditations with Brian Drayton
December 23	Monthly Check-in for Immigration Justice Work Among Friends
January 8	End of Life Drop-in Reflection Group
January 13	Monthly Check-in for Friends Serving Their Monthly Meetings
January 17 – 19	Young Friends Midwinter Retreat, Deerfield, MA
January 27	Monthly Check-in for Immigration Justice Work Among Friends
January 30 – Feb. 1	Godly Play/Faith and Play Training for Quakers

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.

My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing.
- excerpted from *Thoughts in Solitude* by Thomas Merton.

Courtesy of Susan Woodrow

Winter 2025-2026 Bulletin Extended Edition

“A stranger in the meeting for worship once whispered to Rufus Jones, “When does the service begin?”
 “After you leave the meeting house,” replied Rufus Jones.

Please note the following volunteer assignments for December, January and February:

Date	Opener	Greeters	Fellowship	Hybrid Host
12/7/25	Manzellas	Corbit Larson	Ileana Matamoros and Diego Low	Chuck L.
12/14/25	Neil Blanchard	Louise Bendel	Christmas Program	Neil B.
12/21/25	Dave Baxter	Chuck Lidz	Lia Altshuler and Jim Houston	Peter M.
12/28/25	Corbit Larson	Lee Miller	Nathan and Stephanie Hebert	JR
1/4/26	Manzellas	Dave Baxter	Isabelle Kane and Doug Lippincott	Chuck L.
1/11/26	Neil Blanchard	Kit Potter	Trudy Schafer and Jud DeCew	Neil B.
1/18/26	Dave Baxter	Stephen Nadel	Stephen Nadel and Louise Bendel	Peter M.
1/25/26	Corbit Larson	Corbit Larson	Stacey Lancaster and Lee Miller	JR
2/1/26	Manzellas	Louise Bendel	Lucia Chen-Lowe and Sam Lowe	Chuck L.
2/8/26	Neil Blanchard	Chuck Lidz	Marilyn, Peter and Danielle Manzella	Neil B.
2/15/26	Corbit Larson	Lee Miller	Jean Schnell and Anna Romer	Peter M.
2/22/26	Manzellas	Stephen Nadel	Chuck and Lynn Lidz	JR

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 40 people is an accurate estimate. Thank you for supporting the life of the Meeting.

Meeting Holiday Program Sunday December 14

Plan to join our community in celebrating Christmas together with our annual Holiday Program in the Meeting room starting at 11:45 a.m. There will be group singing, a First Day School performance, the Friendly Singers, and more, followed by shared treats and general jolliness! All are welcome!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Carol Sing

Join us for a Candlelight Meeting and impromptu carol sing at 7:30 p.m. on December 24. If you have any extra snacks, feel free to bring them along for the Fellowship that will follow. Don't forget to invite your friends and family to join in!

First Day School Update

First Day School continues our theme of "How do we find peace?" We continue learning about compost and checking composting experiments going on in jars in the FDS room. We plan to build a compost heap next to the trees beyond the garden. Our older children are now 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 then 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 plan to have a regular FDS program geared toward the "Littles" on one of the two D&D weeks.

For Thanksgiving, we read a story about Wampanoag Thanksgiving and made a traditional Wampanoag porridge. Earlier, we made "peace bracelets" with letter beads spelling out words we associate with "peace". Several of our children attended the JYM Retreat in November

For our Christmas Program, we plan to share the story of "The Christmas Fox", as well as lead all the adults in singing "The Twelve Days of Christmas".

The "How do we find peace?" theme includes trying to make 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. 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.

First Day School hard at work!



Photos courtesy of Renel Fredriksen

Spiritual Listening and Inquiry Group(s) Forming

We are preparing to start a small group or groups for spiritual listening and inquiry. Usual commitment is a meeting once per month, with the initial trial period we are proposing being January – June. The format will be decided by the participants. Possible formats are many and varied. Here are just a few examples:

- Read a pamphlet & discuss
- Worship-share using a query
- Watch a Quakerspeak video and discuss
- Go to <https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcprograms/spiritual-deepening-program/>
<https://d.docs.live.net/749fadcc31ca987f/Desktop/Bulletin/Winter%202025-2026/Winter%202025-2026%20DRAFT.odt> and do a suggested set of lessons on a subject you want to explore

If you are interested in being part of such a group, please contact either Chris Wolff or Kit Potter.

News from Rick and Sheila Taintor

We are very busy in Newburyport. One of our main focuses is Newburyport Livable Streets, an advocacy group that we co-founded about 7 years ago. We run events supporting safe streets for walking and cycling: bike safety rodeos for middle-school kids; walk and bike audits to identify safety issues and recommend improvements; bike buses from neighborhoods to the elementary school; and more. I was amazed recently to realize that we've now been in Newburyport for 24 years, longer than anywhere else we've lived. We are enjoying being active and engaged in our community, through NLS and in other ways, and being retired has given me the time to do that. Please say hi to those in the Meeting who will remember us!

Local Boy Makes Good!

Charlie Foster, Bob and Melissa Foster's youngest son, recently received a Michelin Recommendation for his restaurant, Woods Hill Pier Four, located in the Boston Seaport.



Charlie appeared on Channel 4 CBS to cook some duck for the hosts and talk about the Michelin recommendation:
<https://www.cbsnews.com/boston/video/boston-restaurant-woods-hill-pier-4-shows-food-recommended-by-michelin-guide/>

Meeting Recommended Organizations for Holiday Giving

The Peace Justice and Earthcare committee put together this list approved by our Meeting for our corporate donations. This vetted list is also a good resource for your own charitable contributions at this giving season.

American Indian College Fund
Concord Prison Outreach
Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light
Haven's Harvest
Literacy Unlimited
Metrowest Legal Services
Pearl Street Cupboard and Café
Rosie's Place
Woolman Hill
Wompanaak Language Reclamation Project

A Place to Turn
Daniel's Table
Family Promise Metrowest
Hoops and Homework
Massachusetts Immigration and Refugee Advocacy Coalition
Metrowest Worker Center/CASA
Quaker Voluntary Service
Voices Against Violence
World Central Kitchen

February First Friendly Fireside Feast!

Save the date, Sunday February First, for our first ever Friendly Fireside Feast! Outreach committee is hosting this community-celebrating potluck and hope that Friends old and new will join us in our beautiful Meeting room for a time to connect. All are welcome!

FFM Outreach Committee is hosting a:

Friendly Fireside Feast

A Potluck Gathering in the
Meetingroom to Celebrate Community

Sunday, February 1st at 11:30 am

ALL ARE WELCOME! BRING A FRIEND or NEIGHBOR!

KIDS ARE ESPECIALLY WELCOME!





In these tough times, the arts can support resistance, endurance, and vitality. Yet Friends were firmly opposed to the arts for 200 years.

That era is over, but in many Quaker spaces, the arts are still the object of what has been called “uneasy tolerance.”

Issue #105 of the Quarterly Journal of the Quaker Fellowship of the Arts is now available online at:
<https://fqaquaker.org/TypesandShadows/>

A Blessing for Peace

As the fever of the day calms toward twilight
May all that is strained in us come to ease.
We pray for all who suffered violence today,
May an unexpected serenity surprise them.
For those who risk their lives
each day for peace,
May their hearts glimpse providence
at the heart of history.
That those who make riches
from violence and war
Might hear in their dreams
the cries of the lost.
That we might see through
our fear of each other
A new vision to heal
our fatal attraction to aggression.
That those who enjoy
the privilege of peace
Might not forget their
tormented brothers and sisters
That the wolf might lie down
With the lamb,
That our swords be beaten
Into plowshares
And no hurt or harm be done
Anywhere along the holy mountain.
~ John O'Donohue ~
(An Abundance of Blessings)

