

FFM Bulletin

Monthly Newsletter of the Framingham Friends Meeting

<https://ffmquakers.org/>

April 2026 Calendar

April 1	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
April 5	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School*
	11:45 a.m.	Easter Egg Hunt
April 8	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
April 10	7:30 p.m.	Latticework
April 12	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School*
	11:45 a.m.	Committee Meetings
April 15	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
April 16	3:00 p.m.	Chestnut Farms CSA Pickup
April 18	10:00 a.m.	Memorial Meeting for Lyn Weinberg
April 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 – Calendar, Response
April 22	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
April 24	7:30 p.m.	Latticework
April 26	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School*
	11:45 a.m.	Quaker Questions
April 29	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?

(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, contact Anne Anderson for current information.*

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

April 1	The Power of Enough, Every Wednesday in April (Zoom)
April 9	Letting Our Lives Speak in a Climate-Changing World, Portland, ME
April 11	Visioning Day: Thriving Quarterly Meetings, Haverhill, MA
April 14	Monthly Check-In for Friends Serving Their Local Meetings (Zoom)
April 17 - 19	Quakers Healing Circle 2026 Gathering, Powell House, Old Chatham, NY
April 21	Protect, Resist and Build with AFSC (Zoom)
April 24	For the Sake of Joy: Meetings, Pilgrimage, and the Re-Olding of Quakerism with Noah Bishop Merrill (Zoom)



April 2026 Bulletin

“I do not understand the mystery of grace—only that it meets us where we are
but does not leave us where it found us.” Anne Lamott

Please note the following volunteer assignments for April and May:

Date	Opener	Greeters	Fellowship	Hybrid Host
<u>4/5/26</u>	<u>Manzellas</u>	<u>Lee Miller</u>	<u>Adam and Mary Hurley</u>	<u>Chuck L.</u>
<u>4/12/26</u>	<u>Neil Blanchard</u>	<u>Kit Potter</u>	<u>Jennifer Keen and Susan McAvoy</u>	<u>Neil B.</u>
<u>4/19/26</u>	<u>Corbit Larson</u>	<u>Stephen Nadel</u>	<u>Chris Wolff and Richard Lindo</u>	<u>Peter M.</u>
<u>4/26/26</u>	<u>Manzellas</u>	<u>Chuck Lidz</u>	<u>Lia Altshuler and Jim Houston</u>	<u>JR</u>
<u>5/3/26</u>	<u>Neil Blanchard</u>	<u>Lee Miller</u>	<u>Melissa and Bob Foster</u>	<u>Chuck L.</u>
<u>5/10/26</u>	<u>Corbit Larson</u>	<u>Louise Bendel</u>	<u>Dan Shaud and Corbit Larson</u>	<u>Neil B.</u>
<u>5/17/26</u>	<u>Manzellas</u>	<u>Dave Baxter</u>	<u>Pamela Strauss and Martha Reid</u>	<u>Peter M.</u>
<u>5/24/26</u>	<u>Neil Blanchard</u>	<u>Corbit Larson</u>	<u>Amie and Ryan Saulnier</u>	<u>JR</u>
<u>5/31/26</u>	<u>Corbit Larson</u>	<u>Kit Potter</u>	<u>Neil Blanchard and Anne Jones</u>	<u>Richard L</u>

Thank You!

Fellowship

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.

Nominating Committee

Dear Members and Attenders, It is that time of year for Nominating Committee to begin doing it's work of matching people with tasks and committees. Please review what you are signed up for this year (it's in the Directory if you aren't sure). See if there are any changes you would like to make. If you are new and/or not signed up for any responsibilities this year, check in with yourself about how you might be feeling called to help out. Then please communicate your wishes to Renel, Chris W., Trudy, or Chuck. Don't forget the restructuring that happened this past year, so things are organized slightly differently. If you are not in the third year of a committee assignment and we do not hear from you, we will assume you want to stay on that committee. Thank you.

Memorial Meeting

A Memorial Meeting for Lyn Weinberg will be held Saturday, April 18. Family members will provide live music in the Meetingroom starting at 10 AM, followed by Worship at 10:30, interment in the Circle Garden at the Rise of Meeting, and then a light lunch. Please sign up to bring finger foods for the light lunch. All are welcome.

First Day School

FDS moves from “how to find peace” to “sanctuary” - how to create peace for ourselves and for others. We started by learning how people protect amphibians crossing the road during their annual migration to vernal pools. Then we will prepare for our annual Easter Egg hunt. After Easter, we resume the theme of creating “sanctuary” and will build gingerbread house sanctuaries.

We put two beanbag chairs in the meeting room between the benches, and the children chose books, stuffed animals, and activities that they felt would be good for being in meeting for worship. We may add two additional "child-friendly" seating options. This is an experiment, and we are looking for feedback on how this is working for your family!

Dungeons and Dragons continues for our older children, led by Adam. The younger children have Free Play on those weeks, supplemented by simple First Day School programs suited for younger children.

We could use a few more adults willing to spend one Sunday every month or two helping out with the children. We have some very young ones who need to be watched, held, or assisted with coloring, pasting, etc. We have regular volunteers for the first and second Sundays of each month but could use people willing to commit to the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Sundays.

Contact Anne Anderson, FDS Coordinator for more information or to be put on the mailing list for weekly updates on upcoming programs for FDS.

Happy Birthday



Happy April Birthday to:

Alex Manzella 4/4/2016

Tamsyn Firestone 4/12/2022

Friendly Dinners – Volunteers Needed

Care and Community is again looking for generous hosts to open their homes for Friendly Dinners in late June 2026! This is another wonderful opportunity to bring our community together for an evening of food, fellowship, and connection.

If you are interested in hosting, please reach out to any member of the Care and Community Committee:

- Lynn Lidz
- Susan Woodrow
- Jennifer Keen
- Ileana Matamoros
- Peter Colby
- Louise Bendel
- Mary Colby

Thank you for helping make our community a warm and welcoming place!

Recorder's Report Summary

Framingham Friends Meeting currently has 68 members, as of December 31, 2025. Of those, 3 are Members by Family Request. In addition, there are 15 Quakers by Family Association. Average attendance was 45 per week, nine more than a year ago, a 25% increase! This figure includes an average of 6 attending First Day School and 2 visitors. 76% of our members are 65 or more years of age. Incidentally, at the end of 2024, there were 3,161 Quakers in New England who were members of Monthly Meetings. A report for 2025 was submitted to New England Yearly Meeting and our statistics will be included in the next Directory.

Show Your Face!

If your photo is not already posted on the Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Room, snap a selfie or ask someone to take your photo, send it to Peter Manzella who will add a caption with your name. Pro tip: An outdoor picture in front of the witch hazel tree by the front door offers a beautiful background and great lighting!

Approved Proposal for Technological Issues During Hybrid Meetings

At the March Meeting for Business, the following proposal from Ministry and Counsel was approved:

In response to concerns raised about the occasional awkward disconnect when there are sound-based problems during hybrid Meeting, Ministry and Counsel recommends the following:

- 10 minutes prior to the start of Meeting for Worship, the on-site hybrid meeting coordinator will conduct a sound check with a Friend present on Zoom to make sure that we can hear each other in both spaces.
- Should a sound-disconnect occur during Meeting for Worship, we recommend that Friends settle into worship in the space where you are, either on Zoom or physically present in the Meeting room and let Spirit take the lead rather than trying to address the issue in the moment which can be disruptive to centered worship.

Upcoming First (and Fifth) Firsts

Upcoming First Firsts

**May 3, 2026: Quaker historian Marty Grundy will speak to us on the topic:
"How Do We as Friends Face the Empire"**

June 7, 2026: Jen Newman, executive director of Beacon Hill Friends House will give us a preview of her Bible Half Hour talk at Friends General Conference Gathering

Sponsored by Ministry and Counsel Committee



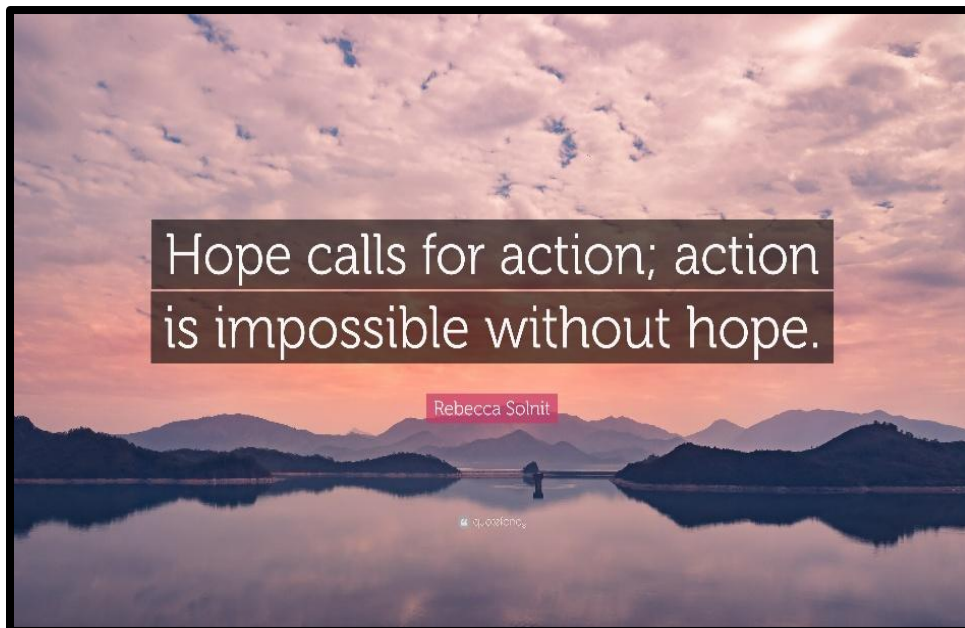
Photo courtesy of Lee Miller

We are alive in a fearsome time,
and we have been given new things to fear.
We've been delivered huge blows but also
huge opportunities to reinforce or reinvent our will,
depending on where we look for honor
and how we name our enemies.
The easiest thing is to think of returning the blows.
But there are other things we must think about as well,
other dangers we face.
A careless way of sauntering across the earth
and breaking open its treasures,
a terrible dependency on sucking out the world's
best juices for ourselves—these may also be our enemies.
The changes we dread most may contain our salvation.
small wonder.

Barbara Kingsolver - 2002

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. Email worshipzoomffm@gmail.com to request the link.



**Framingham Friends Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting for Worship
with a Concern for Business
Third month, fifteenth day, 2026**

Friends at Framingham gathered on-line and in person in silent worship for a regularly scheduled Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business on Third month, fifteenth day, 2026. Nineteen members and attenders were present. Out of the silence, clerk Lee Miller read the following declaration which was considered in silence.

"We utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fightings with outward weapons, for any end, or under any pretence whatsoever; and this is our testimony to the whole world. The spirit of Christ, by which we are guided, is not changeable, so as once to command us from a thing as evil and again to move unto it; and we do certainly know, and so testify to the world, that the spirit of Christ, which leads us into all Truth, will never move us to fight and war against any man with outward weapons, neither for the kingdom of Christ, nor for the kingdoms of this world."

Declaration of Friends to Charles II, 1660

1. The Clerk asked for new items for the agenda. Hearing none, Friends approved the agenda.
2. Treasurer's report

Lee Miller read the Treasurer's report.

All amounts rounded to the nearest dollar.

First month ending operating account balance	\$30,137
Operations Income	\$6,219
Operations Expenses	\$(7,253)
<u>Net increase(decrease)</u>	<u>\$(1,033)</u>
<u>Second month ending operating account balance</u>	<u>\$29,104</u>

Restricted Contributions	\$130
Non-operating income (expense)	\$59

Bequest Reserve	\$41,871
Capital Improvement Fund	\$3,770
Heat Pump Installation Fund	\$-

<u>Total Cash Assets</u>	<u>\$74,744</u>
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Our operating account balance is about \$20,668 *greater* than a year ago.

Ordinary contributions for the year are about \$14,555 *greater* than a year ago.

Friends approved accepting the report.

3. Calendar Requests

Renel Fredriksen presented the Calendar Coordinator's Report.

Meetinghouse Uses not needing Approval by Meeting for Business:
Lyn Weinberg's Memorial Meeting; Saturday, April 18, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm
April 26: Quaker Questions (Lee Miller and Melissa Foster), 11:45 am

Friends approved accepting the report.

4. Ministry and Counsel

Melissa Foster presented the State of Society report.

Framingham Friends Meeting enjoys a loving and thriving community, continuing to grow together in Spirit. Newer attenders feel welcomed and long-time attenders celebrate the energy and enrichment brought by newcomers. Children are an integral part of the spiritual life and community of the Meeting and we continue to seek intergenerational activities. Although we live in dark and chaotic times, we find hope in worship and active witness, and rely on each other to hold our spiritual center.

Friends approved accepting the report.

5. Ministry and Counsel

Melissa Foster presented a proposal to manage hybrid audio problems, which included a sound check prior to the start of Meeting for Worship and a process for dealing with instances that occur during worship.

In response to questions, it was explained that better technological solutions exist, but are expensive and have their own issues.

Friends approved the recommendations.

6. Marilyn Manzella presented the Recorder's Annual Report.

FFM membership had a net loss of one person in 2025. Two new members were offset by two resignations and one transfer to another meeting. Our average weekly attendance, however, increased by nine, an increase of 25%, compared to the prior year. Attendance at First Day School compares favorably with other New England meetings, leaving us tied for 5th place in the Yearly Meeting. We may wish to clarify the membership process for new attenders.

Friends approved accepting the report.

The Meeting closed with silent worship, purposing to meet again on Fourth month, nineteenth day, 2026.

Lee Miller, presiding clerk

Renel Fredriksen, recording clerk

