



FFM Bulletin

Monthly Newsletter of the Framingham Friends Meeting

<https://ffmquakers.org/>

May 2026 Calendar

May 3	10:00 a.m. 11:45 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School* First First Discussion – Marty Grundy “How Do We As Friends Face the Empire?”
May 6	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
May 8	7:30 p.m.	Latticework
May 8 – 10		Junior High Yearly Meeting Retreat at Framingham
May 10	10:00 a.m. 11:45 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School* Committee Meetings
May 13	9:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m.	Coffee, Anyone? FICA Meeting
May 17	10:00 a.m. 11:45 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School* Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business Annual Report – Finance and Nominating (First Readings)
May 20	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
May 21	3:00 p.m.	Chestnut Farms CSA Pickup
May 22	7:30 p.m.	Latticework
May 24	10:00 a.m. 11:45 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School* Peace Justice and Earthcare Threshing Session
May 27	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
May 29 – 31		NEYM Young Friends Retreat
May 31	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School*

(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 current information.*

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

May 8 - 10	Junior High Yearly Meeting Retreat, Framingham
May 10	Faith and Play Community Circle (Zoom)
May 12 and 14	Peaceableness and Practicing Hope with Children and Youth (Zoom)
May 12	Monthly Check-in for Friends Serving Their Local Meetings (Zoom)
May 14	End-of-Life Reflection Drop-in Group (Zoom)
May 19	Protect, Resist, and Build with AFSC (Zoom)
May 29-31	Young Friends Spring Retreat at Framingham

May 2026 Bulletin

“There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is.” Albert Einstein

Please note the following volunteer assignments for May and June:

Date	Opener	Greeters	Fellowship	Hybrid Host
<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 Neil Blanchard</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>Jennifer Keen and Martha Reid</u>	<u>Richard L</u>
<u>6/7/26</u>	<u>Manzellas</u>	<u>Stephen Nadel</u>	<u>Lia Altschuler and Jim Houston</u>	<u>Chuck L.</u>
<u>6/14/26</u>	<u>Neil Blanchard</u>	<u>Chuck Lidz</u>	<u>Peter and Mary Colby</u>	<u>Neil B.</u>
<u>6/21/26</u>	<u>Corbit Larson</u>	<u>Lee Miller</u>	<u>Heather and James Gray</u>	<u>Peter M.</u>
<u>6/28/26</u>	<u>Manzellas</u>	<u>Louise Bendel</u>	<u>Renel Fredriksen and John Robinson</u>	<u>JR</u>



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.

Condolences

Our deepest condolences to the Calver family, Ina, Jack, Gwyn, and Ella on the death of their mother and grandmother, Elin, who died on March 30, 2026, at the age of 80. A Memorial Meeting will be held at the Meetinghouse on June 6.

Art Installation Featuring Molly Branagan-Dee

The Friends of Framingham Trails and the Framingham Cultural Council are offering an outdoor exhibit on the theme of “Moving” on the Cochituate Rail Trail, May 1 through September 1, 2026, with an opening celebration on Saturday May 9 at 1:00 p.m. Our own Molly Branagan-Dee is one of the featured artists. Field trip, anyone?

New Calendar Coordinator and First First Coordinator

Members of the Calendar Committee, Anna Romer and Stephen Nadel are taking on new responsibilities. Anna will serve as Calendar Coordinator. Contact her for event scheduling **beginning July 1. Renel Fredriksen will be covering until that date, as Anna will be away.** Stephen will serve as the First First Coordinator. Contact him to schedule First First events.

First Day School Update

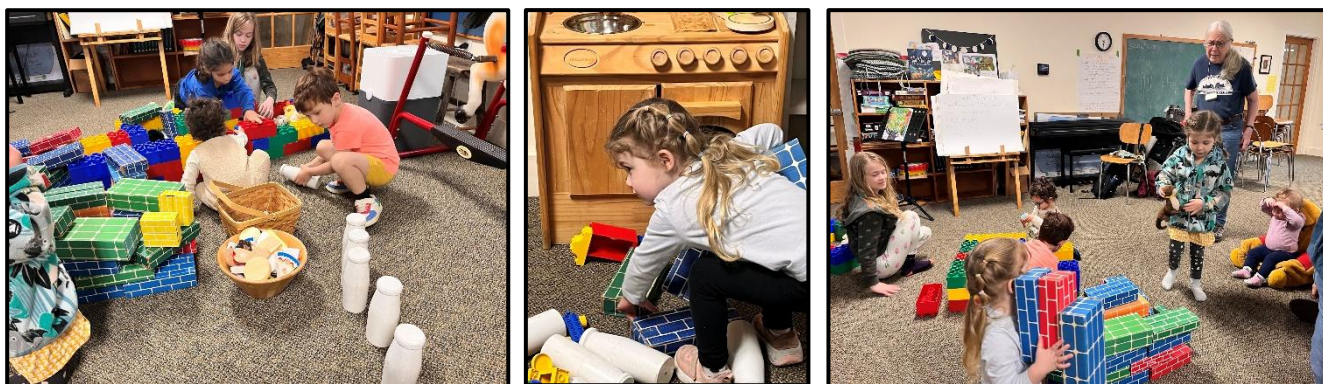
In May, First Day School continues its spring theme of "Sanctuary". We will make our 'personal trees' into imaginary sanctuaries for all kinds of small creatures by building fairy houses under them. New children will get to choose their personal trees while all the trees will get better identification tags. We will learn about what sanctuary means and why we want our meetinghouse to be a sanctuary where everyone is safe. We will finally make imaginary sanctuaries out of gingerbread.

We will put out tick tubes in the field this month. These kill larval ticks hosted by field mice without hurting the mice or other mammals. They have been very successful so far in making our grounds safer for children to play. The next Dungeons and Dragons sessions for older children will be on June 7 and 14.

Melinda Wenner Bradley teaches a storytelling technique called "Godly Play" that has informed our new moon stories. Melinda had a Zoom on April 1 about her "fresh and challenging vision for Quaker communities...that move toward a deeper practice of belonging rooted in the conviction that children already carry that of God within them and have spiritual gifts to share right now." There is a Zoom recording available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jxa4xl0SgFI&t=243s> If you are interested in watching this with others, please let Anne Anderson or Heather Gray know.

FDS 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.



First Day School Hard at Work Building Sanctuaries

Photos courtesy Heather Gray

A Joyful Easter Egg Hunt...In the Rain



“Hello Dolly” at Walnut Hill School

The very talented Judy Nadel will be performing in the upcoming show, “Hello Dolly” at the Walnut Hill School for the Arts. Performances will be held Friday-Sunday May 8-10 and May 15-17. Tickets are available at [Hello Dolly Tickets Walnut Hill School](#). A great show for all ages!

First First in May: Marty Grundy

At our May First First gathering, Quaker historian Marty Grundy will speak on the topic “How Do We as Friends Face the Empire?” This will be a hybrid gathering beginning at 11:45 a.m. Marty Grundy, a long-time member of Cleveland (OH) Meeting, is currently a member of Wellesley Meeting. As a teen she was intrigued by the difference between her meeting in Philadelphia YM and the early Friends meetings she read about. In an effort to better understand early Friends she studied their language (Bible), deciphered the handwriting of early minutes, and read a lot. She has also served Friends as clerk and recording clerk, facilitated retreats and study groups, and has done a fair amount of writing including *A Call to Friends: Faithful Living in Desperate Times*, *Pendle Hill Pamphlet #347 Tall Poppies: Supporting Gifts of Ministry and Eldering in the Monthly Meeting*, and has edited *Resistance and Obedience to God: Memoirs of David Ferris, 1707-1709* (an early Friend).

A Trip to Disney World

Renel and JR plus daughter Amanda and grandson Oscar spent a week at DisneyWorld last month. It's great fun watching an almost-10-year-old have the time of his life (not to mention the roller-coaster-loving 43-year-old). The experience brought out the kid-at-heart side of the oldsters as well. One of the secrets was ordering scooters which made getting around a breeze! After all these years, Disney remains a leader in organization, queuing management, and overall customer service.



Photos courtesy
Renel Fredriksen



Happy May Birthday to:

Tristan Manzella

Lucas Saulnier

Claire Pennington

Christina Pennington

Eowyn Hebert

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 at:

Meeting for Worship and Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business

<https://zoom.us/j/714855865?pwd=MUFsbmxyUnUyWEtVc203MGdGOEV3QT09>

Meeting ID: 714 855 865

Password: 009922

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,714855865# US (New York)

Meditation: An Inward Migration by Brian McLaren

During my years as a news junkie, I found myself getting a strange high from the latest ugliness report. Each time I indulged, I fanned the flames of something unhealthy ... my moral superiority, or resentment, or fear, or despair, or desolation, or us-versus-them hostilities....

The internal realities we construct in our minds actually exist in our minds, ugly or beautiful, false or true. They shape our internal values which influence our external behavior. We tend to make the world around us resemble the world within us. Based on our focus, *ugliness is everywhere* or *beauty abounds*.

Alexis Wright is an Aboriginal writer from Australia. As an indigenous person, she understands that the end of the world has been happening for centuries for indigenous people. She understands that both colonizers and colonized need to be liberated from the mindset of colonization. The first step toward freedom, she says, is to decolonize or de-capitalize the mind, so you can “develop strengths that will not be defined by how others believe you should think.” She calls this liberation “sovereignty of mind” [1]

The journey to sovereignty of mind requires an *inward migration*, where we in a sense become refugees from our external nation, culture, economy, and civilization, even though we still live within its borders. We withdraw inwardly....

When I heard Alexis Wright speak of this inward migration, I felt I gained a new insight into Jesus and his oft-quoted but rarely understood term “kingdom of God.” “The kingdom of God is within you,” he said (Luke 17:21). He described the innermost room of your consciousness (Matthew 6:6), where you go to think differently, to sort out your desires and hopes authentically. When you learn how to do that inward migration, that spiritual migration, you find yourself looking for others who have also gone there, who have discovered a freedom and sovereignty of mind....

[Jesus said,] “Wherever two or three of you gather in my name, there I am,” and [we] might understand him to say, “Listen, I understand that you are outnumbered. I understand that so many people around you have been sucked into the story of ugliness. I understand that you are learning to live by a different story where beauty abounds. You don’t need me physically present to tell the beautiful story. You can tell it yourselves. Even just two or three of you can gather together, embodying my way of being in the world. You can be cells of resistance, outposts of transformation, seedbeds of beauty.”

That is the best future I can imagine for organized religion in these dangerous times. Instead of helping nostalgic people inhabit bubbles of the past, religious communities can help people go forward on this inward migration toward sovereignty of mind, where in defiance of a rising level of ugliness, people cultivate beauty... seeing it, creating it, savoring it. Savoring beauty within will lead to beautiful outward action.

References:

[1] Alexis Wright, from “The Inward Migration in Apocalyptic Times,” *Emergence Magazine* (October 26, 2022).

Brian D. McLaren, [*Life After Doom: Wisdom and Courage for a World Falling Apart*](#) (St. Martin’s Essentials, 2024), 214, 215, 216–217



Article Submitted by Chris Wolff

Framingham Friends Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting for Worship
with a Concern for Business
Fourth month, nineteenth day, 2026

Friends at Framingham gathered in silent worship for a regularly scheduled hybrid Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business on Fourth month, nineteenth day, 2026. 31 members and attenders were present. Out of the silence, clerk Richard Lindo read the following advices which were considered in silence.

We held the memory of Elin Calver as we settled into worship.

Query/Advice: Do we endeavor to live in the life and power that takes away the occasion of all war, seeking to do our part in the work of reconciliation between individuals, groups, and nations? Do we faithfully maintain our testimony against nuclear war and all other military preparations, the bearing of arms, and all participation in war?

Worship

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

2. Treasurer's Report

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

Second month ending operating account balance	\$29,104
Operations income	\$2,727
Operations expenses	
Net increase (decrease)	
Third month ending operating account balance	\$27,338
Restricted contributions	\$130
Non-operating income (expense)	
Bequest Reserve	\$41,422
Capital Improvement Fund	\$3,900
Total Cash Assets	\$72,660

Our operating account balance is about \$19,649 greater than a year ago.

Ordinary contributions for the year to date are about \$14,532 greater than a year ago.

Friends approved accepting the report.

3. Calendar Report

Anna Romer presented the Calendar Coordinator's Report.

New requests needing approval:

June 13, 9am - 4pm - Woolman Hill Board Meeting (Morgan Wilson) - approved.

July 13-July 16, 9:30am - 4:30pm and July 17, 9:30am - 6pm - Boston Private Tutors Summer Camp (Stephanie Schmit) - This poses a conflict with the "Coffee, anyone?" group, as well as with the Chestnut Farms meat CSA distribution. We will ask the CSA if they're willing/able to move the July pickup, and the "Coffee, anyone?" group will discuss options at their next meeting. - Approved, pending resolution of the two conflicts.

July 6 - August 21 - Use of field for summer camp, to be used a couple days per week for about an hour around noon - Academy MetroWest (Adam Hurley) – approved, with the exception of the week of July 13- July 17, unless that group's request is not approved.

July 24 and August 14, 10am - 1pm - Academy MetroWest (Adam Hurley) - approved.

Friends approved the requests item by item.

Upcoming Events not needing approval

April 26: Quaker Questions (Lee Miller and Melissa Foster)

May 8, 5pm - May 10, noon - JHYM Retreat (Kara Price)

May 13 - Framingham Interfaith Community Association Meeting (Richard Lindo)

May 24, 11:45 - 12:45 - Peace, Justice and Earthcare Threshing Session, after meeting

May 29, 5pm - May 31, noon - Young Friends Retreat (Xinef Afriam)

First First Discussion Dates

May 3 - Quaker historian Marty Grundy "How Do We as Friends Face the Empire?" (M&C)

Jun 7 - Jen Newman of Beacon Hill Friends will preview her Bible Half Hour talk at FGC (M&C)

4. Peter Manzella presented a proposal on behalf of the ad hoc energy committee. The committee is recommending that we engage Great Sky Solar to install a ground-mounted array of 48 solar panels on open land west of the building. The installation cost after federal tax credits would be \$52,297, and would include 30 years of comprehensive insurance coverage. A number of Friends have already expressed a willing interest in contributing to this project. In addition to member donations, several Meeting funds totaling approximately \$29,900 may be available to help cover the costs.

However, the 30% federal tax credit expires at the end of 2026, and must be committed by July. The committee is asking Business Meeting to approve the Great Sky Solar proposal, authorize the Meeting Clerk or Meeting Trustees to sign the letter of intent, and to begin outreach to members for donations to cover the net cost.

While there is support for this proposal, concerns were raised regarding the amount of space the panels will take up, and the impact on the usability of the fields. Friends recommended that the committee map out and/or stake out the area to make it clear how much space the panels will occupy. Friends would also like to see an estimate of the additional cost to raise the panels further off the ground, as well as the cost of a fence, then reconvene for further discernment and approval.

5. Renel Fredriksen presented the annual report for the Calendar Committee. This committee plays a vital role in keeping the Meeting connected and organized. The calendar coordinator processes meetinghouse usage requests and presents them monthly for Meeting approval. The Bulletin editor publishes our bulletin, which keeps Friends informed of news, events, and activities in our Meeting. The email/mail administrator maintains a database of active members and attenders. The First First coordinator maintains the schedule of First First events. The directory editor is editor-in-chief of the annually published directory.

The committee gratefully acknowledges the extraordinary service of Elin Calver, who passed away before the completion of this report.

Friends approved accepting the report.

6. Lee Miller presented a proposal on behalf of the Outreach Committee, which provides guidelines for the use of the Framingham Friends Meeting banner at events:

“Any two members or attenders who are led to attend a non-violent demonstration are encouraged to use our Framingham Friends Meeting banner. It is suggested that they share the planned usage in order to encourage others to join them.”

Friends approved the proposal.

7. Anne Anderson presented the annual report on behalf of the Response Committee. The Response Committee is charged with keeping the children in the meeting safe from maltreatment. Examples include always having two adults with the children, training First Day School teachers and other adults in how to prevent and detect child maltreatment, and having adults who work with children pass a CORI check. The Committee meets when an incident or concern is reported, and as needed to train new members or to choose a new convener. No incidents were reported this past year.

Friends approved accepting the report.

8. Kristin Wilson presented the annual report on behalf of the Fellowship Committee. The Fellowship Committee has continued to maintain the rotating list of people providing Fellowship after meeting, and ensures supplies the Meeting needs are kept on hand. In addition to organizing the annual holiday program, the committee provided set-up and clean up support for a few events, and coordinated the Thanksgiving potluck and Christmas Eve carol sing.

Friends approved accepting the report.

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

Richard Lindo, presiding clerk

Kristin Wilson, recording clerk