

FFM Bulletin

Monthly Newsletter of the Framingham Friends Meeting

<https://ffmquakers.org/>

July and August 2026 Calendar

July 1	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
July 3	6:30 p.m.	Latticework
July 5	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship
July 8	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
July 12	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship
July 15	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone? (Location TBD)
July 17	6:30 p.m.	Latticework
July 18	1:00 – 5:00 p.m.	FFM Swap
July 19	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship
July 22	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
July 26	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship
July 27	7:30 p.m.	Spiritual Deepening (FFM worship Zoom link)
July 29	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
July 31	6:30 p.m.	Latticework
August 2	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship
August 5	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
August 9	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship
August 12	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
August 14	6:30 p.m.	Latticework
August 16	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship
August 19	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
August 20	3:00 p.m.	Chestnut Farms CSA Pickup
August 23	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship
August 24	7:30 p.m.	Spiritual Deepening (FFM worship Zoom link)
August 26	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
August 28	6:30 p.m.	Latticework
August 30	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship

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

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

July 7 – 12	Friends General Conference Gathering, Burlington VT
July 9 and August 15	Tending the Soil of our Sanctuaries for Cisgender & Heterosexual Identities (Zoom)
July 14	Monthly Check-in for Friends Serving Their Local Meetings (Zoom)
July 31 – August 4	New England Yearly Meeting Sessions, South Hadley MA
August 6 - 31	On Neighbors, Change, Division, and Peace (various hybrid workshops)
August 12 – 16	Young Adult Friends International Gathering, Beaconsfield, UK
August 13	End of Life Drop-in Reflection Group (Zoom)

July and August 2026 Bulletin

“If you’re harboring the slightest bitterness toward anyone, or any unkind thoughts of any sort, you must get rid of them quickly. They are not hurting anyone but you.” Peace Pilgrim

Please note the following volunteer assignments for July, August, and September:

Date	Opener	Greeters	Fellowship	Hybrid Host
7/5/26	Louise Bendel	Corbit Larson	Lia Altschuler and Jim Houston	Chuck L.
7/12/26	Neil Blanchard	Chuck Lidz	Brian and Katharine Clark	Neil B.
7/19/26	Corbit Larson	Stephen Nadel	Ileana Matamoros and Diego Low	Peter M.
7/26/26	Manzellas	Lee Miller	Dave Baxter and Anne Anderson	JR
8/2/26	Louise Bendel	Lee Miller	Nathan and Stephanie Hebert	Chuck L.
8/9/26	Neil Blanchard	Chuck Lidz	Adam Kohrman and Stephen Nadel	Neil B.
8/16/26	Corbit Larson	Louise Bendel	Louise Bendel and Stacey Lancaster	Peter M.
8/23/26	Manzellas	Corbit Larson	Lee Miller and Sarah James	JR
8/30/26	Louise Bendel	Kit Potter	Marilyn, Peter, and Danielle Manzella	Richard L.
9/6/26	Neil Blanchard	Stephen Nadel	Jean Schnell and Anna Romer	Chuck L.
9/13/26	Corbit Larson	Adam Kohrman	Lia Altschuler and Jim Houston	Neil B.
9/20/26	Manzellas	Lee Miller	Lucia Chen-Lowe and Sam Lowe	Peter M.
9/27/26	Louise Bendel	Dave Baxter	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.

First Day School

First Day School is on vacation until September 13!

We finished up our exploration of "Sanctuary" with the kids building creative models of their concept of "sanctuary" from gingerbread pieces (and candy). The older children finished off with two final sessions of Dungeons and Dragons. And then there was the FFM Friendly Family Fun Fest, where kids made new friends and we all had a chance to talk with each other. We are still experimenting with two bean bag chairs in the meeting room: there are more children who want to use them than spaces, so we may need one or two more. The children are working on sharing, with the help of their parents.

Thanks to everyone who helped in First Day School this year: the FDS Committee (Heather, Stephanie, Anne, Amie, Dave, Lee, Lynn, and Molly); Adam for leading D&D and keeping our older children engaged with the

meeting; Mary H and Trinket for helping Adam; our regular volunteers-of-the-week Dave and Renel; Trudy and Lee for supervising Free Play; Chuck and Peter M for helping keep our room and equipment safe; Lia for baking Hamantaschen with the children; Sarah N for teaching about compost; the many people who brought candy and small toys for the Easter Egg Hunt and others who helped with hiding the eggs; and of course, all the parents and caregivers who brought their wonderful children!!!! If I have forgotten anyone, please know that your efforts are important and were much appreciated!

We may have a couple of "First Day School Hikes" on Sunday afternoons this summer that Anne will announce in meeting and via this mailing list; if you would like to lead one, let Anne Anderson know. We may get volunteers to host a "Free Play Sunday" or two, but so far, no one has stepped forward. Let us know if you are interested and we can try to match you up with a second person (at least one of you would need to be CORI-checked). Parents are still welcome to use the First Day School room, toys, and outside toys, but be sure to clean up. Children should not be left unsupervised in First Day School space.

Sanctuary Creations from First Day School



For their final unit of this school year, First Day School learned about the concept of "Sanctuary" and built their own beautiful gingerbread sanctuaries. Thank you to the artists who built these beautiful creations and to everyone who helped with this project!

Congratulations!

Nils Klinkenberg and Casey Hogle and big brother Albie welcomed the newest member of the family, Cedar Klinkenberg Hogle, on May 30, weighing in at 7 lb. 13 oz. Proud grandparents are Jim Klinkenberg and Wendy Tompkins.



And More Congratulations!

Rowan Wilson graduated Magna Cum Laude from Vermont State University in Lyndon, VT in May. He is spending the summer working in the pizza kitchen at Schilling Beer Company in Littleton, NH before heading to Saddleback Mountain in Rangeley, ME for his second year as their events coordinator.

Cannon Wilson will be heading to Sarah Lawrence College this fall, a year ahead of schedule. They are looking forward to moving on to this next adventure!

And Still More Congratulations!

Congratulations to Zoe Young (and proud grandma Felice Lopez) on the birth of Clara Robin Ramsey on 3 March 2026.

A.R.T. on the C.R.T.

Our own Molly Branagan-Dee is one of the artists for the open-air art display on the Connecticut Rail Trail in Framingham, on view through September 1.



This installation is based around the traditional quilting design "Flying Geese." Seen in such notable historic homes as the Alcott House and many others, this design features geometric triangles in place of geese in flight. Geese flying up above is a motif heavily associated with being out in nature and the weather changing, as well as freedom of movement. When I sit in my studio in the Saxonville Mills, I am reminded of its history as a carpet factory and the larger role textiles have had in shaping all of New England, but especially in this city I call home. By weaving nature together and forming these motifs I hope to make people feel connected to the nature moving all around them.

The triangles on this crocheted tapestry are made by the wonderful people at MIL (Morse Institute Library) Stitchers, who helped the project take flight!
Molly Branagan-Dee

Prepare for Swap Day July 18!

The Care and Community committee is scheduling another Swap Day on Saturday, July 18th. We had one at the Meetinghouse prior to Covid and it is an excellent way to find new homes for books, appliances, tools, clothing, toys, housewares and even furniture. We did not just trade all of each other's goods but it can be tempting.

We hope for good weather so we can set up in the parking area but we'll be inside if necessary. We expect that it will be 1-5 p.m., with an earlier set-up time to get tables ready. If anyone has some clothing racks, we'd love to borrow them. We could also use some clothing hangers.

Listening Survey Summary:

In May 2026, Ministry & Counsel conducted a survey of FFM members and attenders concerned with the quality of the listening experience in the Meeting Room when attending Meeting for Worship in person. Here is a summary of the findings: Of the 19 respondents, 7 reported hearing loss and 6 people reported using hearing aids. There are 4 different hearing aid companies that manufacture the aids being used. None of these have a "telecoil". (Telecoil information is useful to determine which kind of assistive listening equipment we can consider to improve the listening experience.)

Now that we have this data, we can seek guidance on systems and vendors who may be able to provide FFM with a product that will be beneficial to those who need it. We will explore the possibilities over the summer and will report back in the early fall with some options. Anyone who is interested in this topic is welcome to participate in an informal discussion group once options are identified. Please notify me if you're interested.

In addition to the in-person experience, several attenders using Zoom reported that they have difficulty hearing when someone speaks from the Meeting Room. While we explore assistive listening technology, there are things we can all do in the meantime to enhance the listening experience. Those who are moved to share vocal ministry or make announcements are reminded to speak clearly and to project their voices. Stay tuned for an update in the Fall.

Trudy Schafer

New Deck Project



Elin Calver had long wanted to fix her large deck which needed extensive repairs. After her recent passing, it became her daughter Ina's problem to manage. Chuck Lidz and Jim Houston offered to provide their labor to rebuild her deck if she would purchase the materials and Ina quickly agreed. For almost six weeks, Jim and Chuck worked on the deck replacement, consulting with Ina about the design, materials and construction. It is now finished and Ina stained the boards. It is a project that would please Elin very much, knowing that Ina, Jack, Gwyn and Ella can enjoy the deck for many years.

Submitted by Lynn Lidz

Hiking in Cornwall and North Devon: Lee Miller

I have done many long walks with a small group of friends over the last 20 years. This year, we decided to walk a bit of the Southwest Coast Path in England. I first walked 100 miles with Bryn in North Devon; then we dropped down to the Cornwall coast (Penzance around the Lizard to Coverack) for another 50 miles, joined by our friends Hilary and Susanne. It was lovely of course along the cliffs; and great to spend time with my friends again. We make a fun international group, Bryn and Hilary both being British and Susanne being German.

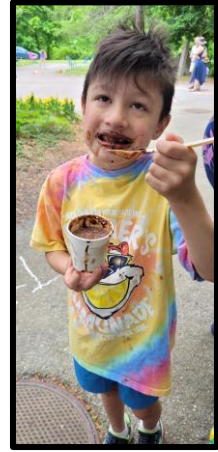


Zoom Link for Meeting for Worship:

To join us via our hybrid Meeting for Worship available on Zoom, send an email to worshipzoomffm@gmail.com

Framingham Friendly Fun Day!

Framingham Friends gathered to celebrate our community on a hot, sunny day with food, drinks, games, conversation, companionship and ICE CREAM!



**Framingham Friends Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting for Worship
with a Concern for Business
Sixth month, twenty first day, 2026**

Friends at Framingham gathered in silent worship for a regularly scheduled hybrid Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business on Sixth month, twenty first day, 2026. 22 members and attenders were present. Out of the silence, clerk Richard Lindo read the following advices which were considered in silence.

Advice: “When a position is taken against a strong and violent adversary, it will be necessary to be firm as a rock, fully prepared to suffer any consequence rather than yield to evil...Firmness, like that displayed by the early Christians and Friends and followers of Gandhi, is impossible in the presence of fear or doubt. It comes only from faith - the deep conviction that the position for which one stands is part of the eternal truth; that being true, it will survive and can be brought into expression by those who will uphold it at all cost.”

Lawrence S. Aspey

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 fifth month. All amounts rounded to the nearest dollar.

Fourth month ending operating account balance	\$15,753
Operations income	\$2,273
Operations expenses	\$(4,268)
Net increase (decrease)	\$(1,995)
Fifth month ending operating account balance	\$13,758
Restricted contributions	\$130
Non-operating income (expense)	\$2,254
Bequest Reserve	\$42,118
Capital Improvement Fund	\$4,160
Solar Installation Fund	\$6,500
Total Cash Assets	\$66,536

Our operating account balance is about \$8,253 greater than a year ago. Ordinary contributions for the year to date are about \$14,452 greater than a year ago.

Friends approved accepting the report.

3. Calendar Report

Renel Fredriksen presented the Calendar Coordinator’s Report.

New requests needing approval:

August 9, 2:00pm - 6:00 pm - Casa Convivio (Melissa Foster)

November 21, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm- Pinefield Garden Club (Deborah Sargent)

Friends approved the requests.

Upcoming Events not needing approval

July 18, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm, FFM Swap

July 13-16, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm and July 17, 9:30 am - 6:00 pm, Stephanie Schmit at Boston Private Tutors

Summer Camp

July 6 - August 21 and July 24- Use of field for summer camp, to be used a couple days per week for about an hour around noon - Academy MetroWest (Adam Hurley), plus August 14, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm.

First First Discussion Dates

9/6, unassigned

10/4, unassigned

11/1, unassigned

12/6, unassigned

4. Lynn Lidz requested that the Ad Hoc Memorial Garden Committee be laid down. The committee is no longer needed, as related tasks have been added to the Care and Community Committee responsibilities.

Friends approved the request.

5. Jean Schnell requested that the Ad Hoc Restructuring Committee be laid down. The work of this committee has been done.

Friends approved the request with gratitude.

6. Peter Manzella presented the annual report on behalf of the Ad Hoc Energy Committee. This Committee has been working since 2016 to reduce and ultimately eliminate the Meeting's use of carbon fuels. The work this year focused on soliciting and reviewing proposals for installing solar panels, and the Meeting approved the proposal from Great Sky Solar in May 2026.

Friends approved accepting the report, with great gratitude for the work of this committee and for Peter Manzella in particular.

7. Lee Miller presented the final budget report on behalf of the Finance Committee. Note that the solar installation fund is not included in the budget, as it is outside of our operational budget.

Friends approved accepting the budget as presented.

8. Renel Fredriksen presented the Nominating Committee's final report. Changes from the draft report include two more people on building and grounds; the First Day School now has a co-coordinator; and the committee is not recommending a rising clerk for the coming year. They are still looking for an FCNL representative. A list of service opportunities is included in the report, so Friends are aware of these as we move into our new committee structure.

Friends approved accepting the report with great appreciation for the work of the committee and Renel Fredriksen.

The Meeting voiced its great appreciation for Kristin's work as recording clerk over the last three years.

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

Richard Lindo, presiding clerk

Kristin Wilson, recording clerk