

FFM Bulletin

Monthly Newsletter of the Framingham Friends Meeting

<https://ffmquakers.org/>

October 2026 Calendar

October 4	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School*
	11:45 a.m.	Quaker Questions
October 7	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
October 9	7:30 p.m.	Latticework
October 11	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School*
	11:45 a.m.	Committee Meetings
October 14	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
October 15	3:00 p.m.	Chestnut Farms CSA Pickup
October 17	all day	Wellesley Friends All-Meeting Retreat
October 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 – Corporate Giving (first reading), Enabling, Librarian
October 21	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
October 23	7:30 p.m.	Latticework
October 25	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School*
	11:45 a.m.	After Thoughts Worship Sharing
October 26	7:30 p.m.	Spiritual Deepening
October 28	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, email or call Anne Anderson for current information.*

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

October 5, 12, 19, 26	Growing Old Together, ARCH Foundations Workshop (Zoom)
October 13	Monthly Check-In for Friends Serving Their Local Meetings (Zoom)
October 14	Faith and Play Community Circle (Zoom)
October 16 - 18	NEYM Junior High Yearly Meeting Retreat, Providence Monthly Meeting
October 20	Protect, Resist, and Build with AFSC (Zoom)
October 23 - 25	NEYM Young Friends Retreat, Portland, ME
October 31	Quaker Spring Fall Online Retreat (Zoom)



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“Sing and rejoice, ye children of the day and of the light; for the Lord is at work in this thick night of darkness that may be felt.” George Fox

Please note the following volunteer assignments for October and November:

Date	Opener	Greeters	Fellowship	Hybrid Host
10/4/26	Neil Blanchard	Louise Bendel	Lia Altshuler and Jim Houston	Chuck L.
10/11/26	Corbit Larson	Kit Potter	Lynn & Chuck Lidz	Neil B.
10/18/26	Manzellas	Lee Miller	Trudy Schafer & Adam Kohrman	Peter M.
10/25/26	Louise Bendel	Adam Kohrman	Gerald Kimber White & Stephen Nadel	JR
11/1/26	Neil Blanchard	Corbit Larson	Lia Altshuler & Jim Houston	Chuck L.
11/8/26	Corbit Larson	Stephen Nadel	Wendy Tompkins & Jim Klinkenberg	Neil B.
11/15/26	Manzellas	Chuck Lidz	Adam and Mary Hurley	Peter M.
11/22/26	Louise Bendel	Dave Baxter	Jennifer Keen & Susan McAvoy	JR
11/29/26	Neil Blanchard	Louise Bendel	Chris Wolff & Richard Lindo	Richard L.

Thank you!

First Day School Update

This year, we believe we have enough children to have 3 groups in First Day School. Twice a month, on the 2nd and 4th Sunday, our older group of First Day School kids will have the opportunity to explore themes relevant to their lives through an ongoing role-playing game involving both table top and live action elements. The setting of the story is a school of magic called Oakholly Academy, which grounds the story in the interests of the kids and gives lots of opportunities to explore this year's First Day School theme of conflict resolution. Magic here comes from sustained focus on a hobby, and there are ideas for modules addressing AI and academic integrity, bullying, technology addiction and respect for nature. There will also be a larger plot arc around finding corruption at the school and fighting it. Something like “there's a black mold that's making students make bad decisions and that the players would need to band together to remove.” There will also be lots of opportunities for “guest teachers” to visit the group on 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays to bring the kids something of their own interest - think things like plant identification, or stories of a trip you recently went on, or creating art, or cooking – “potions” or foods for a school feast...the possibilities are limited only by the interests folks want to share with the kids! Contact Heather Gray or Anne Anderson with your ideas!

For the “Middles”, our theme is “Conflict Resolution Through Peaceful Problem Solving”. We have various problem-solving activities planned that involve active, cooperative play. We hope children will learn to face problems and solve them together rather than avoid anything uncomfortable. We will still emphasize staying safe and involving an adult if necessary. Our first activity was jigsaw puzzles, which the group worked on together. Almost everyone got involved! We will probably alternate a more theme-oriented activity with Free Play.

For the “Littles” we will have someone to help them participate in the problem-solving activities as much as possible, but provide simpler play as needed. One child just wanted to hear a book read to her, while another was learning that blocks you slide up a wire will fall back down when you let go. This required a lot of experimentation!



First Day School Puzzle Wizards!

Check Out Latticework!

Latticework is a Quaker women's group that meets every other Friday at 7:30 PM. We meet without an agenda, just conversation and snacks. Please consider dropping in for an evening to check it out and see if we're the low-key, cozy gathering that's right for you. Location is usually Stacey Lancaster's house in Framingham although occasionally we switch it up. Hope to see you there!

Moose on the Loose!



From Dave Baxter: A couple of weeks ago, we spent three days at the Medawisla Appalachian Mountain Club lodge and saw this moose with her calf by the side of the road.

Condolences

Condolences to the family of Joan Deppe who died on September 14th surrounded by family and friends. She had been a frequent attendee at Framingham Friends Meeting for several years and is fondly remembered by many here.

Successful Workday

Thanks to the Building and Grounds committee and everyone who came to help, inside and out, at the Meeting Workday in September!



Another Artist in FFM!

From Sarah James: Eleanor drew the attached picture to be included with the bulletin. As she was drawing, she talked about a fire drill she had this week. The drawing includes a way for the alarm to go off and a way to disconnect it once the emergency is over, so everyone can get to safety. We worked collaboratively, but I only drew in the blue marker.



Update on Solar Installation Project

Thanks to the generous contributions of our Meeting community, we raised sufficient funds to move forward with our solar panel installation. Our contracted vendor, Great Sky Solar, trenched for the wiring from the installation site to the building and excavated for the structure posts. After a short delay in the delivery of the structure components and solar panels, the remaining equipment arrived and Great Sky completed the wiring to the building and connected it to the electric service panel. The structure, solar panels, microinverters, and power controllers are now installed, and both the City Electrical Inspector and Building Inspector have approved the work. Great Sky should have submitted the Certificate of Completion to Eversource, and we are now waiting for Eversource to change the electric meter and turn on the system. This can take up to 15 business days. We'll provide a detailed update once the system is live. Peter Manzella, Clerk, Ad Hoc Energy Committee

FFM Table at Framingham Fest 2026

The Outreach Committee has reserved a table for the Meeting at Framingham Fest at the Framingham Center Common on Saturday, October 3 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Drop by and say hello!

Link to Join Hybrid Meeting for Worship

Our services are hybrid, with the option to attend in person or via Zoom. To request the Zoom link, please email: worshipzoomffm@gmail.com.

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

Friends at Framingham gathered in silent worship for a regularly scheduled hybrid Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business on Ninth month, twentieth day, 2026. 19 members and attenders were present. Out of the silence, clerk Richard Lindo read the following quote which was considered in silence. “Friends come back from their worship with a new sense of ordination, but not the ordination of human hands. Something has happened in the stillness that makes the heart more tender, more sensitive, more shocked by evil, more dedicated to ideals of life, and more eager to push back the skirts of darkness and to widen the area of light and love.” ~ Rufus Jones, 1863-1948

1. Friends approved the agenda with no additions or corrections.

2. Treasurer’s Report

Lee Miller presented the Treasurer’s report for sixth through eighth months. All amounts rounded to the nearest dollar.

Fifth month ending operating account balance	\$13,758
Operations income	\$5,763
Operations expenses	\$(11,595)
Net increase (decrease)	\$(5,883)
Eighth month ending operating account balance	\$7,925
Restricted contributions	\$390
Non- operating income (expense)	\$1,549
Bequest Reserve	\$43,667
Capital Improvement Fund	\$130
Solar Installation Fund	\$(22,410)
Total Cash Assets	\$29,312

Our operating account balance is about \$6,954 greater than a year ago.

Ordinary contributions for the year to date are about \$13,559 greater than a year ago.

Friends approved accepting the report.

The Treasurer explained how the Capital Improvement Fund and the Solar Installation Fund worked in terms of the Solar Installation Project. We have equity funds in which we allocated our intended usage, which is different from where the money is kept. We designated a specific fund for the Solar Installation Project to which Friends contributed \$47,880. We were left with a deficit and the Treasurer moved \$4,420 from the Capital Improvement Fund to the Solar Installation Fund to cover the needed cost.

The \$22,410 deficit in the Solar Installation Fund is roughly \$1 different than the amount of the rebate we expect from the federal government, and the deficit should be eliminated once the rebate is received. To receive the rebate, we will need to apply to the government at tax time. Once the deficit can be made up, funds will be transferred as needed, and the Solar Installation Fund will be zeroed out

and closed. Contributions are still welcome to the Solar Installation Fund to replenish the funds that were transferred from the Capital Improvement Fund. To clarify, the Meeting itself is NOT running a deficit. Our current total cash assets stand at \$29,312. The net results for the Operations Account for the year exceeded the net results of the previous year and came in with net income greater than the forecasted budget.

3. Calendar Report

Anna Romer presented the Calendar Coordinator's Report.

The following new requests were approved:

- Saturday 10/17 from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Wellesley Friends Meeting Retreat, requested by Carolyn Stone
- Saturday 11/21 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Pinefield Garden Club Flower Arranging and Lunch, requested by Judy Artley
- Friday 1/8 at 3:00 p.m. to Sunday 1/10 at 3:00 p.m., NEYM Junior High Yearly Meeting Retreat, requested by Kara Price

It was noted that we are blessed with a particularly beautiful and spacious building and grounds.

4. Outreach Committee

Lee Miller presented a request from the Outreach committee to host a public forum, "Spiritual Foundations of Political Resistance" on Sunday 11/8 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Panelists from a number of congregations have been invited and accepted the invitation. Friends approved the request.

5. Building and Grounds:

Chuck Lidz presented a request for funds for the repair and replacement of one of the kitchen skylights. Members of Building and Grounds committee have volunteered to carry out the installation of the new skylight with a projected cost of \$2,600. The Meeting has insurance coverage, however there is a desire to move ahead with the repair quickly before the weather turns.

Friends approved asking the Treasurer to check with the Meeting's insurance company and share his findings with the Building and Grounds committee. Friends approved that the committee then proceed with the necessary steps, trusting the committee to carry out the repair, discerning the most effective way to do so to address issues of timeliness as well as cost.

6. First Day School

Anne Anderson presented the annual report of the First Day School committee. First Day School seeks to provide a safe space where children can see their own Inner Light and that of others and to experience the wider world in all its wonder and make it a better place. The theme for the past year was "how to find peace" which was explored through a variety of activities. Appreciation was expressed for Adam Hurley's dungeon master service with the older children's Dungeons and Dragons group. He is not available to continue this fall and the committee is investigating other possible activities for the older children.

Additional non-parent adults are needed to spend one Sunday a month with First Day School to play with the 'littles' to allow teachers to provide meaningful lessons for the older children, as well as to give teachers the opportunity to attend Meeting for Worship once a month when free play is scheduled.

Friends approved accepting the report with gratitude, and special thanks to Anne Anderson for all of her good work.

7. Peace Justice and Earth Care

Susan McAvoy presented the annual report of the Peace Justice and Earth Care committee. Their activities are increasingly focused on support of Native American causes, including additions to the Corporate Giving List that reflect this growing concern.

Friends approved accepting this report with appreciation for the committee's continuing efforts to seek out recommended organizations for the Meeting to support.

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

Richard Lindo, presiding clerk

Melissa Foster, recording clerk

Autumn Day

Lord: it is time. The summer was immense.
Lay your shadow on the sundials
and let loose the wind in the fields.
Bid the last fruits to be full;
give them another two more southerly days,
press them to ripeness, and chase
the last sweetness into the heavy wine.
Whoever has no house now will not build one anymore.
Whoever is alone now will remain so for a long time,
will stay up, read, write long letters,
and wander the avenues, up and down,
restlessly, while the leaves are blowing.

Rainer Maria Rilke



Shall we do without hope? Some days
there will be none. But now
to the dry and dead woods floor
they come again, the first
flowers of the year, the assembly
of the faithful, the beautiful,
wholly given to being.
And in this long season
of machines and mechanical will
there have been small human acts
of compassion, acts of care, work
flowerlike in selfless loveliness.
Leaving hope to the dark
and to a better day,
receive these beauties freely
given, and give thanks.

Wendell Berry