FFM Bulletin

Monthly Newsletter of the Framingham Friends Meeting

https://ffmquakers.org/

November 2026 Calendar

November 1	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School*
	11:45 a.m.	First First Discussion: Ofrenda
November 4	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
November 6	7:30 p.m.	Latticework
November 8	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School*
	11:45 a.m.	Committee Meetings
	3:00 p.m.	Spiritual Foundations of Political Resistance – sponsored by Outreach committee
November 11	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
November 15	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 – Care and Community, Corporate Giving
November 18	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
November 19	3:00 p.m.	Chestnut Farms CSA Pickup
November 20	7:30 p.m.	Latticework
November 22	10:00 a.m.	Meeting for Worship and First Day School*
	11:45 a.m.	Book Club *Pieces of Life* by Shirley Britton
November 25	9:30 a.m.	Coffee, Anyone?
November 26	12:00 p.m.	Thanksgiving Potluck Gathering (Awaiting Organizer)
November 29	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 Anne Anderson for current information.*

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

November 12	End of Life Drop-in Reflection Group (Zoom)
November 13 – 15	JYM Retreat "Children of the Light" at Woolman Hill, Deerfield, MA
November 14	Extended Worship, Putney Friends Meeting House in Putney, VT
November 14	Meeting Care Day, First Parish in Bedford, MA
November 15	Weed Memorial Lecture at Beacon Hill Friends House and on Zoom
November 16	Faith and Play Workshop (Zoom)
November 17	Faith and Play Community Circle (Zoom)
November 18	Was Quaker women's ministry in the 1650s a foundation for the modern Quaker testimony of equality? A book talk by Steve Angell (Zoom)
November 21	Interpersonal Peace-Making: Practicing Peace with One Another (Zoom)

November 2026 Bulletin

"When you rise in the morning, give thanks for the light, for your life, for your strength. Give thanks for your food and for the joy of living. If you see no reason to give thanks, the fault lies in yourself."

Tecumseh

Please note the following volunteer assignments for November and December:

Date	Opener	Greeters	Fellowship	Hybrid Host
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.
12/6/26	Corbit Larson	Kit Potter	Corbit Larson and Dan Shaud	Chuck L.
12/13/26	Manzellas	Lee Miller	Lia Altshuler and Jim Houston	Neil B.
12/20/26	Louise Bendel	Adam Kohrman	Holiday Program	Peter M.
12/27/26	Neil Blanchard	Corbit Larson	Kit Potter and Megan Potterbush	JR

Thank You!

First Day School

First Day School is focusing this fall on conflict resolution through creative problem solving, although we also will celebrate holidays and other topics as they come up. Sarah James is leading a role-playing game, Oakholly Academy, "the prestigious institution for educating the next generation of wizards, witches, warlocks, and casters!" for the older children every other week. Prestigious it may be, but there seem to be a lot of problems to be solved there! The younger children have been singing, reading stories about conflicts and how they can be resolved, and doing problem-solving activities. We plan to make spirals/labyrinths outdoors celebrating the seasons, made with fall leaves, or pine needles, or snow. We invite the meeting to walk these with us. We are planning to host an "Ofrenda" (memories of friends and relatives who have died) in the middle room on November 1. The entire meeting is invited to contribute photos and written memories. We want to honor Shirley Britton, Lyn Weinberg, Elin Calver, John Potter, and Joan Deppe among others, so please bring memorabilia and write down memories of them in the notebook provided. On November 8, we will celebrate Diwali, the Indian celebration of Light, with flowers, lanterns, rangoli designs, and traditional Indian sweets. FDS will host multi-generational Advent "vespers" on Monday evenings at 7 pm in December. Look for an announcement with a Zoom link on FFMAnnounce. We are also looking forward to celebrating the Winter Solstice with Care and Community in December.



Building the Spiral



Ofrenda



Nature's Offerings

Book Club November 22

Join us for a discussion on *Pieces of Life*, the memoir by Framingham Friend Shirley Parvati Britton, published in 2018. We will meet after fellowship at 11:45. Copies of the book are available in the meetinghouse library. Feel free to join even if you haven't had a chance to read it. See Trudy Schafer or Louise Bendel for more information.

National Day of Mourning Vegetable Drive

The Peace Justice and Earthcare Committee will be organizing the second annual National Day of Mourning Vegetable Drive for the United American Indians of New England, who hold their annual protest on that day. After the ceremonies a meal is distributed to the participants; often the first meal they have eaten in a long while before they return home. Last year was the first year we were requested to help, and our very generous community stepped up to the challenge. We very much hope to do the same this year and into the future as part of our enduring commitment to the Native American communities.

What to donate: non-perishables such as root vegetables are ideal (onions, potatoes, squash, turnip, rutabagas, etc.)

Any questions: contact Susan McAvoy or Adam and Mary Hurley.

When: November 22 (the Sunday before Thanksgiving) or before- we will set up a collection area, or you can bring goods in boxes or paper bags.

If you are **interested in volunteering** in the kitchen or the food distribution area on the day of the event, contact David Gordon Buresh, Volunteer Coordinator.

Save the Date

My daughter Judy will be playing a leading role of The Baker's Wife in *Into the Wood*s by Sondheim at Walnut Hill School for the Arts. The dates of the performances are Friday Dec. 11, Saturday Dec. 12 (2 shows) and Sunday Dec. 13 (Matinee). Ticket information is not out yet. Submitted by Stephen Nadel.

Public Panel Discussion Sponsored by Outreach Committee, November 8 from 3:00 to 5:00 PM



FFM Represents!



Chuck Lidz and Lee Miller staff the Framingham Friends table at Framingham Fest on October 3.

Photo courtesy Marilyn Manzella

The Guest House

This being human is a guest house.
Every morning a new arrival.

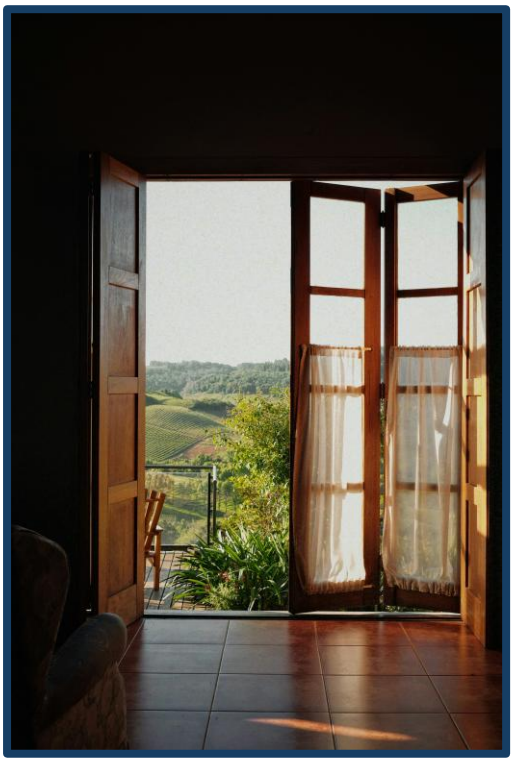
A joy, a depression, a meanness,
some momentary awareness comes
as an unexpected visitor.

Welcome and entertain them all!
Even if they're a crowd of sorrows,
who violently sweep your house
empty of its furniture,
still, treat each guest honorably.
He may be clearing you out
for some new delight.

The dark thought, the shame, the malice,
meet them at the door laughing,
and invite them in.

Be grateful for whoever comes,
because each has been sent
as a guide from beyond.

Rumi ~ Submitted by Sarah James



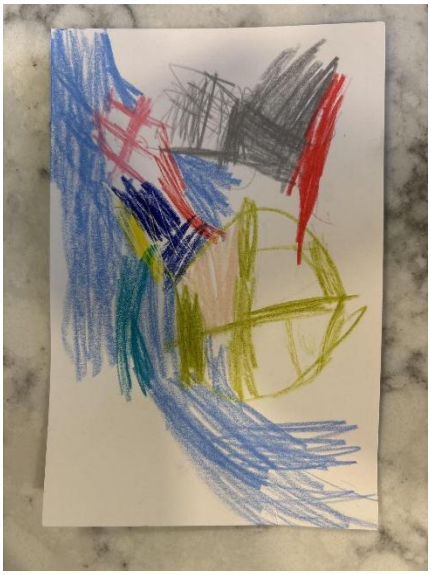
New Skylight!

Kudos to our FFM Repair Crew Bob Foster, Jim Houston, and Peter Manzella who replaced the broken kitchen skylight.

Photo courtesy Marilyn Manzella







A Good Machine by Eleanor James



A Twirly Machine by Eleanor James

Link to Join Hybrid Meeting for Worship:
Email worshipzoom@ffm.com to request link

The Promise



Stay, I said
to the cut flowers.
They bowed
their heads lower.

Stay, I said to the spider,
who fled.

Stay, leaf.
It reddened,
embarrassed for me and itself.

Stay, I said to my body.
It sat as a dog does,
obedient for a moment,
soon starting to tremble.

Stay, to the earth
of riverine valley meadows,
of fossiled escarpments,
of limestone and sandstone.
It looked back
with a changing expression, in silence.

Stay, I said to my loves.
Each answered,
Always.

Jane Hirshfield ~ submitted by Lia Altschuler

"I felt gratitude pouring out of my heart, like light out of a bright window, reaching toward all who had offered their kindness and help. 'This is what it feels like to be whole-hearted,' I told myself. The whole-heartedness issued not only from gratitude, but also from an awareness of my vulnerable dependence on the goodness of God and other people. I felt blessedly connected with everyone and everything." Marcel Martin

Thanksgiving Shared Meal
At this time, no one has come forward to coordinate the Meeting's traditional shared Thanksgiving potluck. Could this be you? Last year saw over 2 dozen in attendance. Are you led to make this happen? Make an announcement and a sign-up sheet!

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

Friends at Framingham gathered in silent worship for a regularly scheduled hybrid Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business on Tenth month, eighteenth day, 2026. 19 members and attenders were present. Out of the silence, clerk Richard Lindo read the following quote which was considered in silence. "Remember that love is a gift of the Divine, not simply a human emotion. As imperfect human beings we are not always able to feel loving toward one another, but by opening ourselves to the Light Within, we can receive and give love beyond our human capacity. Attend to what love requires of you."
Advices 15 and 16 from NEYM Faith and Practice, Revised

1. Friends approved the agenda with no changes.

2. Treasurer's Report

Lee Miller presented the Treasurer's report for Ninth month, noting that our new fiscal year began September 1. All amounts rounded to the nearest dollar.

Eighth month ending operating account balance	$7,925
Operations income	$5,257
Operations expenses	$(1,834)
Net increase (decrease)	$(3,422)
Ninth month ending operating account balance	$11,347
Restricted contributions	$130
Solar Installation contributions	$500
Non-operating income (expense)	$177
Bequest Reserve	$43,844
Capital Improvement Fund	$260
Total Cash Assets	$33,541

*Our operating account balance is about $7,490 greater than a year ago.
*Ordinary contributions for the year to date are about $808 greater than a year ago.
The Treasurer noted that the solar installation fund will reflect a negative balance until we receive the expected rebate from the government.

The September payment of the August electric bill, which was covered by donated solar credits, should be the last large electricity bill we will need to pay. We can expect to pay a small monthly amount during the winter months.

Friends approved accepting the Treasurer's report.

3. Calendar Report

Richard Lindo read the Calendar Coordinator's Report prepared by Anna Romer.
Friends approved a new request for a private event on Saturday November 14, 2026, all day.
It was noted that the January 8 – 10, 2027 JHYM retreat is a back-up reservation in case their first choice, Mt. Toby, is unavailable for any reason.

4. Ministry and Counsel

Lee Miller read a letter from Providence Monthly Meeting asking us to accept a transfer of membership for Stephen Nadel to Framingham Friends Meeting. Friends approved enthusiastically. Richard Lindo and Lee Miller have agreed to shepherd a welcoming committee for Stephen.

5. Enabling Committee

Anne Anderson presented the annual report of the Enabling Committee, which exists to financially support members and attenders in going to a variety of Quaker activities, or in the event of financial crises. All are welcome and encouraged to apply. No requests were received this year.
Friends approved accepting the report.

6. Peace, Justice and Earthcare

Susan McAvoy presented the first draft of the Corporate Giving report. Focus areas for giving include: Food banks and food insecurity, Emergency family service, Youth services, Earth care, Disaster relief, Violence intervention services, Employment, Immigration, and Quaker organizations. They have also compiled a secondary list that they may decide to include in future years. The proposed list will be considered for approval at the November Meeting for Business.
The list is appended to the minutes.

Rev. Debbie Clark of Edwards Church has asked Framingham Friends Meeting to co-sponsor the Interfaith Climate Conference to be held April 4, 2027 at Edwards Church in Framingham. Peace Justice and Earthcare committee recommends that we co-sponsor this event with a contribution from the Meeting of $200. The committee requests an additional $100 to be added to their budgeted amount of $100 toward the contribution. Friends approved both the co-sponsorship and the additional funds.

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

Richard Lindo, presiding clerk

Melissa Foster, recording clerk

Corporate Giving List 2026-2027

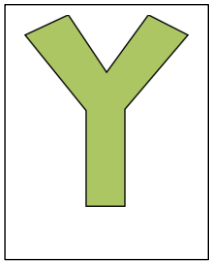
Organization	Website
American Indian College Fund	https://collegefund.org/
A Place to Turn	A Place to Turn
Concord Prison Outreach	https://concordprisonoutreach.org
Daniel's Table	Food Security in Framingham, Massachusetts • Home • Daniel's Table
Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light	Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light
Family Promise Metrowest	Family Promise Metrowest
Haven's Harvest	https://www.havensharvest.org/
Hoops and Homework	Hoops and Homework – after-school and summer program
Literacy Unlimited: Julie Heagney used to be the Director	LVM Literacy Unlimited | Literacy Unlimited | Framingham Public Library
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition (MIRA)	Home Page - MIRA Coalition
Metrowest Legal Services: Illeana Matamoros (former employee)	MetroWest Legal Services | Free Civil Legal Aid | Boston, MA
Metrowest Workers Center/CASA: Diego Low is Co-Director	Metrowest Worker Center - Casa - Home
Pearl Street Cupboard & Cafe	Pearl Street Cupboard & Café at Park | United Way of Tri-County
Quaker Voluntary Service	Quaker Voluntary Service | Community. Service. Transformation.
Rosie's Place	Rosie's Place | Home
Voices Against Violence	Voices Against Violence | SMOC
Woolman Hill: Morgan Wilson and Richard Lindo (formerly) on the Board	WOOLMAN HILL | Quaker Retreat Center
World Central Kitchen	https://wck.org/
Wopanaak Language Reclamation Project	www.wlrp.org

Alternate list: Organizations recommended but not funded this year (but members may consider for personal contributions).

Organization	Website	Recommended by
Native American Rights Fund	https://narf.org/	Anne Anderson
Employment Options, Inc	www.employmentoptions.org	Chuck Lidz
Quaker Earthcare Witness	About Us - QEW	

We are Thankful For:

I am feeling grateful for the color in the trees and health for myself and my family.
Eleanor has expressed gratitude for the letter "Y".
Sarah James



I am thankful for FFM! Louise Bendel



I am grateful for clean air and a roof over my head.
I am grateful to my spouse who does the grocery shopping and cooks for me.
I am grateful that my mother still lives and I have grandchildren.
I am grateful that my children are in good health.
I am grateful to be living near my sister.
I am grateful for time and resources to visit old friends.
Thank you God and Goddess.
Thank you Buddha and Allah.
Thank you Sun and Moon and Stars. Kate Clark

I am grateful for:
Becoming a new, transfer member at Framingham Friends Meeting
For my kids doing well and seeming to have positive futures
For having a wife who could put up with me and save me from a sad widower-hood
For still having a mother who is alive and kicking at 84
Having a profession that is useful and allows me to support my family
For having one of the most treatable forms of cancer, since it could have been worse.
Stephen Nadel

I am very grateful personally that Chuck and I will spend the last week of October in Sedona, AZ celebrating my 80th birthday with our 3 grown kids (plus the son-in-law who can join us) and my sister and brother-in-law.
At FFM, I am full of gratitude for the young families with the many children who have enriched our Meeting. In addition, it is a gift to have been able to eliminate our dependency on fossil fuels these past few years. Thanks to all who worked on these projects or donated to the cause. All of the above helps us to create a sustainable Meeting.
Lynn Lidz



I'm thankful for the three volunteers who replaced the kitchen skylight and managed to do it safely!
Marilyn Manzella

I'm grateful for people and places that bring me joy.
Melissa Foster





The world is both burning & blooming.



You get the bad news
and the sunrise in the same day.
You cry over the headlines,
then you laugh at a baby
wearing a hat shaped like a bear.
This is the dual citizenship
of being alive.
Rage and reverence
Grief and grace.
You are allowed to feel both.
You are allowed to scream,
& still notice how good the soup is.
You don't have to choose.
Let it all in.

Karen Salmansohn + yourtodieforlife.com