

WESTERN WORK



A PUBLICATION OF WESTERN YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS CHURCH

ENCOURAGE, SUPPORT, EQUIP

October/November, 2018



Watching the Leaves Fall

When I walk over the office from the Friends Apartments I sometimes take the “long way.” I walk around the whole building, noticing if anything is out of place and how the trees and shrubs are doing. The view changes from week to week and season to season, so it is always an interesting walk.

This morning one of the older trees began dropping leaves. One would drop, followed by another in 10 or 15 seconds, followed by still another. Of course this is only a light rainfall of leaves that will be followed by showers and then torrents of leaves. We are privileged. Many people live in places where these beautiful fall showers do not happen.

Trees drop their leaves because it is time to drop them. The leaves grow for a purpose. Leaves of different trees have very different shapes and sizes, but they share a common purpose. The leaves provide the energy to grow fruit and seeds. In the fall, when the leaves are no longer needed and the tree must be ready for the winter, the leaves are dropped.

Sometimes we hold on to things that we don't need. We can allow our lives to be cluttered with possessions, or unnecessary wants, or unhealthy and unhelpful attitudes. We need to learn from the trees and let go of what we don't need.



And as we let go, we discover that new life grows in and around us.

Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

(Ephesians 4:31-32NIV)

Bill Clendineng, Plainfield Friends, Pastor

Administrative Council

New London Meetinghouse, Nov. 17, 2018, 9:30a-3p

Afternoon: “A Living Letter to Ramallah,” by Norma Wallman

November Calendar

2-4 FALL IMPACT FOR YOUTH AT QUAKER HAVEN

3 BOOKS AND BRUNCH AT FAIRFIELD FRDS, 9AM-1PM

7 LOOKING FORWARD TASK FORCE, 10AM

7 TRAINING & RECORDING, 1PM

15 FINANCIAL TRUSTEES, 9:15 AM

15 NOBLESVILLE HAM & BEAN SUPPER, 5-7:30

17 ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL, NEW LONDON FRDS, 9:30AM-3PM

22-23 OFFICE CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING FRI-VOLITY & EATING

27 OFFICE ADVISORY COM, 11 AM

28 PROGRAM SUB-COM AND HOSPITALITY, 1PM

28-DEC. 2, FCNL ANNUAL MTG AND POLICY INSTITUTE

Western Work



Norma Wallman, from **Indianapolis First Friends**, was part of Friends United Meeting “Living Letters” visitation led by Max and Jan Carter in June 2018. The group consisted of 12 people, Quaker or Quaker-related, from throughout the United States. She will describe her experience at **Administrative Council** on Nov. 17.

Dave Freelan, pastor of **Hazel Dell Friends**, was featured in the most recent Kokomo Perspective. He has had a radio show for many years – **Sounds of Joy**, WZWZ-FM 92.5, Sunday, 7am-8:30 am.



MY MISTAKE. In the last edition I recognized this person as Ben Snyder, FUM NAM co-ordinator, just about to fly off. This is actually Jonathan Newton, pastor of **Kokomo First Friends**, about to take off. Sorry Jon.

- Wanda



WYM USFW Fall Conference was held at **West Newton Friends** on Sept. 25. To the right the officers, including USFW President Dinah Geiger are leading the meeting and giving reports.



Sarah Mullen Northup from **Right Sharing of World Resources** gave the program about how women around the world are loaned small grants to start a business. After they are successful, they pay back their loans so others can start their own business. Amy Perry and Linda Lee, both from **Indianapolis First Friends** gather and prepare our stamps to sell. The stamp money is given to many organizations, including RSWR. Sarah Northup is standing with Linda and Amy.



Shiloh Friends, like many other WYM meetings, uses CD's to provide the musical background for its worship in song.

October/November, 2018

New Excitement at West Newton Friends

For many years now, we at West Newton have been praying for discernment about our future. We'd gotten so small that it was hard to have any momentum. Much of the time at the beginning felt dark and gloomy; there just didn't seem to be any positive energy in the Meeting and it was hard to see any outcome other than closing ourselves down.

In more recent years, we've gained some new members who have brought energy with them. Their energy helped spark renewed energy in those of us who've been around the Meeting longer.

Recently, there have been exciting signs of life here at West Newton. We've begun working with West Newton Elementary School to assist them with some of the challenges they face. We are talking with the Goodwin Center about a family to sponsor year-round, not just at Thanksgiving or Christmas.

And most important of all, we are now sharing our meetinghouse with our new friends from Camby Tabernacle. Over the summer, they approached us about the possibility of sharing space and we felt this was an answer to our prayers. Since both congregations hold Sunday morning services, we cross paths frequently in the lobby and Mills Hall. It's so good to come out of the meeting room after Meeting for Worship to find so many smiling faces waiting to greet us. As we walk out the front door after Sunday school, we enjoy hearing the enthusiastic singing coming from the meeting room.

Sometime soon, we will be holding a joint welcoming service. God has led us to each other and I hope we can learn from each other more about God's love for each of us.

God is doing exciting things at West Newton Friends!

— Lynn Perry Mills



Quaker Haven Update

Staff Duplex - THE PERMITS ARE FINALLY HERE!!! NOW WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!!

As I have written in the past, we are planning on building a Staff Duplex very soon! We are preparing for the contractors to dig/pour the basement, but that is all we will be contracting out. Here is where we need help; we are planning on building this house with Volunteers. However, we do not know everyone in your church and what skills they may have. Can you help us get in contact with people that are able and willing to come help us get this house done?

If you know anyone that could help us, please contact the Quaker Haven office at either 574-834-4193 or contact@quakerhaven.com

Western Yearly Meeting Updates are published every Thursday. They contain:

Announcements of Current monthly Meeting activities, links to Friends organization & newsletters; flyers about speakers, events, **FOOD (bake sales, Chili suppers, beans and ham, fish, barbeques chicken)** book sales, quilt sales; **News from FUM Fields; Joys, Prayer Concerns, Obituaries, AND MUCH MORE.** *It only comes by email, so ask people in your meeting to share! If you have email, contact the office to have it sent to you.*

Western Work



Attached are pictures of Fairfield Friends sorting the gloves and toothbrushes to pack their Christmas bags; a picture of us at the school delivering the bags; and a picture of the kids holding up the throws/blankets that we gave them.

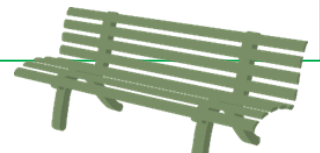
Fairfield Friends USFW decided to help a needy school in Indiana. Patrickburg Elementary was said to be the lowest socioeconomic school in Owen County, so we chose them. The greatest concern at the time was for each child to have a toothbrush and gloves. With the help of our meeting, we collected the items and delivered them to the school. Since then, and with the direction of Principal Mrs. Freeman, Fairfield Friends have delivered preparedness supplies, like the blankets, school supplies, and a special request for kidney-shaped tables (provided by Fairfield Quaker Men).

Adapted from Dinah Geiger, Fairfield Friends

**BACK TO
SCHOOL
SUPPLY
DRIVE**



School Supplies Donations Needed ~ We are assisting John Strange Elementary with school supplies for its teachers. The items needed are: 1) Ticonderoga pencils, 2) disinfectant wipes, 3) hand sanitizer and 4) Kleenex. Donations can be made in Fellowship Hall in the box on the stage. Thank you. - Indianapolis First Friends



West Newton Friends' effort to connect with the school children at West Newton Elementary by listening to them read or do math flash cards, by providing clothing for some needy students and doing things to encourage the teachers in small ways is a sure way to help others live a good and happy life.

They are also helping the Decatur Central Lion's Club to collect milk caps and other things to make benches for the Decatur Central Schools. The benches are used for children who are disruptive to take a break and think. The bench is big enough for a friend to sit and console or give comfort.

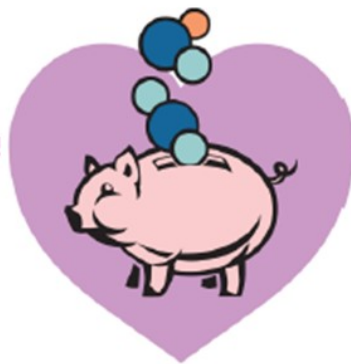
HOW CAN I CONTRIBUTE REGULARLY WHEN I DON'T ATTEND WORSHIP REGULARLY?

Hello, Friends!

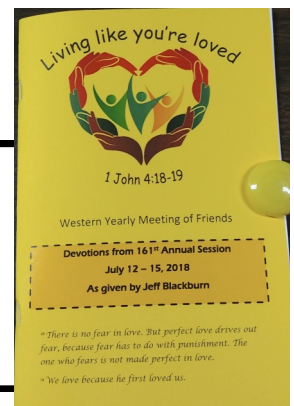
As most of you know, I've been on the Prayer Concerns List since last October when I underwent yet more surgery for cancer of the tongue. For a non-smoker, this has been an ongoing ordeal for me. I'm now on a feeding tube and a schedule that has a mid-morning feeding which falls between the Sunday School and Worship times on Sundays, so I've been unable to attend worship. Between feeding conflicts, general tiredness and a driving ban, which was recently revised to allow local driving when I'm not tired, not being able to attend worship means I was unable to drop my tithe in the collection plate on Sundays. Even when I attended worship before surgery however, I didn't drop an envelope in the plate! Why not?

Quite a while back it was suggested we offer our congregation the option of using our bank's online bill paying capabilities to make regular donations to Mooresville Friends Church. I was one of two volunteers to set up trial methods of regular payments to the church. It worked out very well, so I never discontinued my automatic deduction/payment. I did change from weekly to monthly deductions, but that's the only change I've made to my auto pay. I have to say that over the preceding months I've felt extremely thankful to have one less worry -- how to continue financial support of my church when I was unable to be in attendance. I highly suggest those of you who are comfortable with online bill paying give it a try - especially if you're unable to attend worship regularly. Just check with the Treasurer or a Finance Committee member for the information you need to set up your own auto pay account with your bank.

~ Susan Joyner



Recordings were made of the Quaker Lecture by Drew Smith and the Devotions by Jeff Blackburn. They are available from the office. Printed copies of the Quaker Lecture have not yet been received, but we have hard copies of the devotions. They are \$1 plus postage to offset printing. They are available from the office.



Western Work

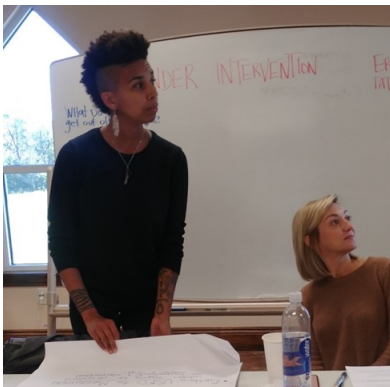
Pastor wanted

Carmel Friends Church in Carmel, Indiana is accepting applications for a new Senior Pastor. We are a meeting of about 70 people who are invested in outreach and growth. If you have pastoral experience and are willing to serve as our pastor, please visit <https://www.carmelfriends.org/pastor-search/> to learn more and apply."

Alternatives to Violence Mini Workshops ~ Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) Indiana is hosting mini workshops using participants' shared experience, interactive exercises and games to examine the ways we respond to situations where frustration can lead to anger and aggressive behavior through leadership development, community building and creative conflict management. These workshops are free and are for anyone who is interested in learning new and creative ways to respond to conflict in personal relationships and groups. The sessions are on the following Saturdays at Indianapolis Public Library branches:
November 10, 10am-1:30pm at Brightwood Library, 2435 N Sherman Dr, Indianapolis 46218
December 8, 12:30-4:30pm at Wayne Library, 198 S Girls School Rd, Indianapolis 46231

For more information and to register, please visit <https://avpindiana.org/registration-2/>

From Indianapolis 1st Frds

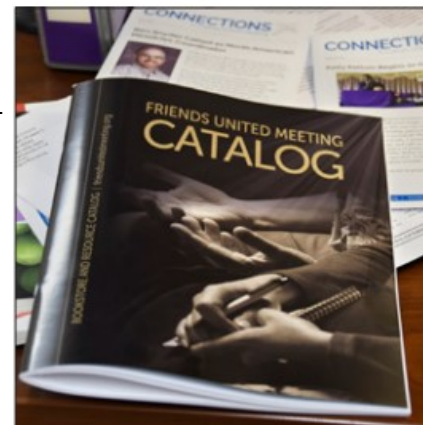


Bystander Training at Fairfield Friends Meeting was held on Sunday October 21. It was sponsored by the Board on Peace and Christian Social Concerns, and facilitated by the American Friends Service Committee. This training practiced defusing a confrontational situation involving prejudice, racism, ethnic or religious intolerance. It focused on showing a strong Quaker commitment to social justice consistent with our history.

Friends United Meeting is pleased to present us with a new on-line bookstore. The initial catalog offers more than 400 books and other items, including writings by and about Quakers and issues that Friends are interested in. There is a small selection of children's books and curricula which they hope to add to.

Kristna Evans is the manager and also managing editor of Friends United Press. She also owns Vintage Press for old and out of print Friends books.

The catalogs were at Yearly Meeting Sessions. If you didn't get one, there will be a few at Administrative Council, or you could call FUM (765-962-757; email info@fum.org ; or visit the FUM Website, resources. FUM Communications Director Dan Kasztelan



October/November, 2018

Devotions – Jay Newlin, Planfield Friends Meeting newsletter. From: 40 Days of Prayer for the Future of Friends Day 28 ~ “Gathered In Community” As A People Who Build One Another Up

I had a conversation with my son not long ago in which I told him about a specific person who I was finding very difficult to love. He thought about this for a moment then said, “God has no trouble loving this person. God is around him one-hundred percent of the time—and God enjoys spending time with him.” I had never thought about it that way before. God enjoys the people we might prefer to avoid? How amazing is that!

There is a difference between the people we choose for community and the people who actually are in community with us. That is, we naturally choose to be close to those we find agreeable, understandable, likeminded, and pleasant. But in life—and in Meeting for Worship, at church potlucks, on committees, and at wider Quaker gatherings—we sometimes find ourselves in very close association with others who are not necessarily any of those things! However, are we called to be in community only with those who are easy to love? The world of Friends United Meeting includes people who are diverse in many ways: culturally, theologically, politically, etc. For some, the diversity is too broad and too challenging. Yet others discover something dynamic in that diversity—namely that God is present within it, God designed it, and God hopes we will grow because of it. Our mission in the world is stronger because of the depth of our community. To achieve that level of community, accepting others gets us started. But we must become the kind of people who actively take the next steps to build one another up.

Authored by **Cliff Loesch**. Query: How can I make an effort to converse with a person I know who is difficult for me to Love? (editor’s note: Cliff was the Presiding Clerk of FUM for the last 2 Trienniums. He is the pastor at Wichita Friends Meeting, Great Plains Yearly Meeting.)



The Festival of Faiths was held in Military Park, Indianapolis in Oct. The weather was inclement, but Friends from **Indianapolis First Friends** set up and hosted a booth. **Fairfield Friends** identified themselves as part of the Faiths celebrating the event during the prayer service.



The Festival of Faiths is a time for getting to know people whose testimonies are similar to ours and who worship God. It is also a time to network with people and worshipping organizations.

This Peace Tower was designed by the Butler Univ. Peace Center. Hoosier Interfaith Power & Light will work with congregations on their use of energy and conserving both energy and money.



Western Work

Living A Query, by Beth Henricks, CE and Family Pastor at **Indianapolis First Friends**

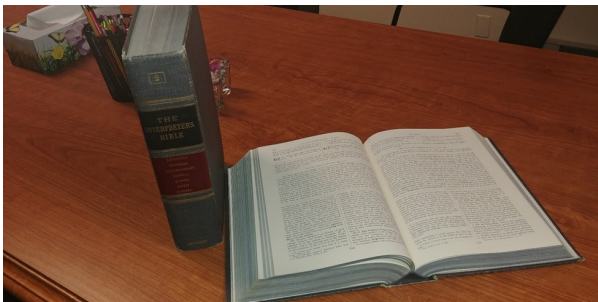
Last week I was sitting in my office and someone tapped on my window. There was Daud Abdur-Rahman outside. As many of you know, Daud is an Imam and attended Nur-Allah Islamic Center on 46th St near Keystone. Five years ago, he showed up one Sunday morning and kept coming back most Sundays and became involved in Sunday School and in outreach. He developed deep friendships with many of us. He became part of our fellowship and even gave the message one Sunday morning. He and his wife Lillian moved to Alabama a year ago but when he returns to Indianapolis he often stops by to say hello and check in on us.

Daud loves the Quakers and described his experience worshipping with us as deeply significant for him. He is looking to connect with Quakers in Alabama, but he has not found the same experience as he did at First Friends. We reminisced about hosting an appreciation ceremony together at School 43, his friendship with Duffy Fankboner (that changed both of them) and this amazing and holy experience we had during our Affirmation class three years ago.

One of our lessons in Affirmation is looking at other religions and how Quakerism compares. We invited the youth from Nur Allah to come and share an abbreviated Muslim service with us, eat with us and hang out with us. There were about 10 young people as well as a couple of adults including Daud that joined us. We had an incredible gathering that I will never forget, sharing worship, food and conversation with each other. That afternoon broke down any perceived barriers of difference or labels between us. These kids - black, white, Muslim and Quaker - were just kids with each other. Both Daud and I talked about how powerful this experience was of understanding, acceptance and sacredness.

My friendship with Daud has changed me. I got to know someone very different from me but a deeply spiritual person that I learned from and who showed me the Spirit's breadth and depth in a new way. We may use different words to describe our experiences, but we have great similarities in how the Divine transforms our heart and calls us into action into the world. Our Meeting was blessed to have Daud in our community and he continues to be a blessing in this world.

How do we step outside of our homogenous world and develop friendships and relationships with people different than us?



First Come, First Served

A retired pastor has retired his 12 vol. *Interpreter's Bible*, and his very used *Young's Concordance*. Both are well used and still useful. The first pastor who contacts the office to claim them, gets them.

People who wonder whether the glass is half empty or half full miss the point. The glass is refillable.

From Josh Brown's Facebook.

October/November, 2018



A special Thanks Goes out to Western Yearly Meeting!

In July, a grant was submitted to Western Yearly Meeting requesting funds to repair the front steps and add hand railings to ensure safe access into **Farmers Institute Friends Meetinghouse**. We are deeply grateful to receive these funds. By preserving these historical buildings, we continue to honor those who settled this farming community and the continuum of the Quaker beliefs and values.

- *Farmers Institute Newsletter*



Peggy Hollingsworth noted that the corn picture was painted by Quakenbush. Each kernel is different, but combined they work together for good to man and animal.



100 Years of Blessings, 1923-2023

Russiaville Friends Church is doing some preparative celebrating of its 100th anniversary. There will be 3-4 celebrations every year until 1923, with a different aspect of their history each time. Next month Sarabeth Marcinko will talk about Aunt Annice, who is known for her service at Ramallah Friends Schools.



Blue River Friends Church hosted the Ulman Cancer Runners on July 24th. The young adults started in California and ended their run in Maryland. When passing through Indiana they stopped at Blue River Friends. We had a cook-out for the runners and other supporters.

We had gathered several items to make cancer care bags for those fighting the battle. The bags were distributed to cancer patients at Surrounding centers in our area.

The Ulman Cancer Fund for Young Adults has been changing lives by creating a community of support for young adults, and their loved ones, as they fight cancer and embrace survivorship since 1996.

Blue River Friends Quaker Meeting, Salem, Indiana

WESTERN WORK

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ENCOURAGE, SUPPORT, EQUIP

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Purpose

WYM encourages, supports, and equips meetings and individuals to grow and share their faith in Jesus Christ as we seek the will of God through Scripture and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, expressed in Quaker tradition

