



CORVALLIS FRIENDS MEETING

JANUARY 2020

☞ **ALL ARE WELCOME** ☞

Sunday Worship: 10 – 11 am
Wednesday Evening Worship: 7 – 7:45 pm

Clerk

Susan Easton

Recording Clerk Team

Nina Joy Lawrence, Esther Schiedel, Jonathan Stoll

Treasurer

Wendy Robinson

Spiritual Care Committee

Bob Burton, John Selker

Adult Religious Exploration Committee

Laurie Childers

Children and Youth Program

Yalda Asmatey

Groundskeeping Coordinators

Kathy Miller, Mark Boyd

House & Hospitality Coordinator

Abigail Stoughton

Major House Maintenance

Bob Burton

Meeting House Scheduling

Sid Rosen

Rides Coordinator

Donna Gerry



Corvallis Meeting:

corvallisfriends.org

facebook.com/CorvallisFriendsMeeting

Willamette Quarterly Meeting:

www.willamettequarterly.org

North Pacific Yearly Meeting:

www.nypm.org

THIS MONTH'S CALENDAR

SUN
1•5

10:00 am Meeting for Worship

11:30 am **The Spirit in Poetry**: Bring a poem or two that most inspires you, to share aloud. (If you are too shy someone can read it for you.)

THU
1•9

Stone Soup (2nd Thursdays @ St. Mary's)

1-4 Prep/Cook: contact barb@barbaralevine.com

5-7 Serve/Clean: contact rachel.peck1@gmail.com

SUN
1•12

10:00 am Meeting for Worship

11:40 am **Meeting for Business**

WED
1•15

4-6 pm Third Age Circle Group (usually 2nd

Wednesdays @ the Meeting House) Worship

Sharing and discovery for those in the new 'middle age' stretching from 55-80! Open to all. Theme: The best thing you've done in your adult life so far.

SUN
1•19

10:00 am Meeting for Worship

11:30 am **Focusing Initiatives International**, supporting peace and resilience around the world. Pat Omidian will share stories and activities from working with them.

SUN
1•26

10:00 am Meeting for Worship

11:30 am **Potluck**: share food and deepen friendships among Friends

This newsletter comes out on the first Sunday of the month, and by e-mail a few days earlier. Submissions and delivery requests go to Lisa Yagoda, editor: corvallisfriends@gmail.com. Next deadline: Saturday Dec 28, 2019.

3311 NW Polk Ave., Corvallis, Oregon 97330 • (541) 714-3306

DEC 2019 MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES

Corvallis Friends Meeting for Business

December 8, 2019

Clerk: Susan Easton

Recording Clerk: Esther Schiedel

Friends present: Judy Hays-Eberts, Nancy Ewald, Ruth McNeill, Carmen Brummet, Bob Burton, Mary Jane Gray, Wendy Robinson, Sid Rosen, Bob Henderson, Nina Joy Lawrence

Meeting began with expectant quiet.

Wendy read the following passage from Faith and Practice, NPYM

Friends make decisions in the faith that there is one divine Spirit which is accessible to everyone and that when we follow the Light of Truth within, we find unity and right action. When we are faithful in discernment, we become more patient, listen more carefully, feel stronger bonds of community, and are more sensitive to divine nudges. We find ourselves transformed and aligned with the Spirit.

Friends **approved the November minutes** as published in the newsletter.

The **Treasurer's Report** was submitted and accepted with gratitude. Wendy noted that we have a substantial amount of *money on hand* (around \$40,000) in our brokerage account. We discussed increasing our yearly donations to the organizations we contribute to. We will season this idea until next Meeting for Business, and Wendy will go ahead with our annual donations.

Currently the Meeting accepts stock donations—which are sold, converted into cash and held in an account at Edward Jones. Wendy provided us with information about *Friends Fiduciary*, which is a non-profit investment company that serves many Friends organizations (including NPYM) and engages in socially responsible investing. Would we as a Meeting want to put some of our funds into this company? Friends could use it to make stock donations to the Meeting, our investments could earn money (although they could also lose money). We will season this proposal.

One of our annual donations as a Meeting is to the City of Corvallis in lieu of property taxes. *Friends approved that we request this donation to go towards bias incident response efforts*

Spiritual Care Committee reported that *Friendly Sevens* groups have been formed and should begin meeting.

Announcements after Meeting for Worship are taking up a lot of time and the Committee is considering ways to streamline this. They shared some ideas: curtailing the amount of details given verbally, using a whiteboard in the Fellowship Room for a calendar of events, restricting the types of announcements. They welcome suggestions.

The *fall Retreat* was cancelled due to illness. At this time there are no plans for a Retreat in the near future.

Friends are encouraged to sign up to help at the **Men's Cold Weather Shelter during the last three weeks in March** (although they can certainly volunteer there at other times).

Some Friends have requested that we have *more floor seating available* in the worship room. We discussed moving or getting rid of one of the wooden benches. Friends approved moving one of the benches into the Fellowship Room after we take down our giving tree.

Adult Religious Exploration reviewed the schedule for the rest of the month: we'll learn some simple dances on the 15th; hold a celebratory potluck (think colorful, think yummy!) on the 22nd and distribute our giving tree items; share our process for holding others in the light on the 29th

Children's Education: Nina reported that the planned activities have inspired the children to attend. Volunteers are needed to help with the children next Sunday.

Peace Justice and Environment

Sid reported the overnight use of the

continued on next page...

MINUTES (CON'T)

...continued from previous page

Meetinghouse by the War Tax Resisters went well and they were appreciative of our letting them meet there. He wondered whether we wanted to change our policies in regard to that kind of use by groups. We decided our existing guidelines should remain and the Scheduler can contact Meeting for Business for approval for any requests for exceptions.

Scheduler: a reminder that members of the



New in the Library

Belonging to the Black Crows: A Lakota Journey, by Dorothy Black Crow. The author moved from mainstream America to a Sioux Nation reservation when she got married. She tells the story of how it changed her life. She had to learn, for instance, that the land is alive, that nothing is as important as the extended family, and that generosity, courage and endurance are the greatest goals. She learned from living in basic, primitive conditions.

Meeting can request a private use of the Meetinghouse once a year without charge [this should be put into the User's Manual—I didn't see it in there]

The **Giving Tree** is growing. Items got rearranged inadvertently and the toilet paper will be moved against the wall.

Meeting closed with worship.

Next Meeting for Business – January 12, 2020

The Handless Maiden: A Lakota Mystery Story by Dorothy Black Crow. This story is set in the late sixties when the American Indian Movement was at its height. The Lakota heroine and hero investigate the death of a young woman, a friend of the heroine, whose hands, tattooed "Red Power" have been cut off.

Both books donated and signed by Dorothy Black Crow

Holiday Giving Trees Enliven Potluck Celebration, Now Will Help Corvallis Neighbors

By the time of December's holiday potluck party, the two giving trees in the meetinghouse social room had grown to include nearly 400 items on the food giving tree, and over 800 diapers and rolls of toilet paper on the t.p. tree. With their sparkling lights, they added much good cheer to the holiday celebration.

We were joined by Sheila O'Keefe and Olive Davis, the directors of the South and North Corvallis food banks, who told us of the increasing number of folks (over 1200 a month) who depend on each of the food banks and of the decreasing amounts of food available from state, county, and local sources.

After the meal the [choose one: fun, chaos] began as the trees were dismantled and the items tallied and divided into boxes for the two food banks. Many willing hands, both children's and adult's, made relatively quick work of the distribution, carrying of boxes to the cars waiting to transport

them to the two food banks, and cleanup of the social room.

When weighed in at the food banks, our donations totaled 563 pounds, or over a quarter ton! Sheila and Olive expressed gratitude on behalf of all the food bank clients to everyone at CFM who helped make the holiday giving trees such a success.



Advices and Queries on Silence

All of us need to find a way into silence which allows us to deepen our awareness of the Divine and to find the inward source of our strength.

Amid the busyness of daily living, we seek to return to the stillness which grounds us.

We value silence, not as an end but as a means toward the end, which is communication with the Divine and fellowship with one another.

We must not remain silent when something is wrong, or when we are led to speak out.

Seek to be formed by a practice of silence, as a foundation for a mindful life.

- Do we set aside times of quiet for openness to the Spirit?
- How do we bring stillness into our daily lives?
- Do we seek to be formed by a living silence? How are our lives shaped by the practice of stillness?
- Do our hearts dwell in the silence beneath everyday busyness?

~ North Pacific Yearly Meeting, *Faith and Practice*, 2017

Corvallis Friends Meeting
3311 NW Polk Ave.
Corvallis, OR 97330