

CORVALLIS FRIENDS MEETING

TENTH MONTH OCTOBER 2023

ALL ARE WELCOME

Sunday Worship: 10:00-11:00

3311 NW POLK AVE CORVALLIS OREGON 97330-5057 <https://corvallisfriends.org/>

541-829-0867 Email: corvallisfriends@gmail.com

Our Meetinghouse is located within the traditional homelands of the Chepenefa band of the Kalapuya speaking Nation.

THIS MONTH'S CALENDAR

Sunday October 1

8:30-9:30 am Silent Walking Worship Willamette Park

Contact Bob Ward bobward1948@gmail.com

10:00 am Meeting for Worship via Zoom and at the Meetinghouse

Sunday October 8

8:30-9:30 am Silent Walking Worship

10:00 am Hybrid/Blended Meeting for Worship Zoom and Meetinghouse together

11:40 Meeting for Business via Zoom

Sunday October 15

10 am Outdoor Meeting for Worship and Potluck at

10:00 am Meeting for Worship via Zoom and at the Meetinghouse

Sunday October 22

8:30-9:30 am Silent Walking Worship,

10:00 am Hybrid/Blended Meeting for Worship Zoom and Meetinghouse together

Sunday October 29

8:30-9:30 am Silent Walking Worship,

10:00 am Hybrid/Blended Meeting for Worship Zoom and Meetinghouse together

*Join Zoom Meetings:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84281206597?pwd=L1hnbTBPCUp4RC9NSXdERUM3K3FrUT09>

Meeting ID: 864 1766 6994 Passcode: 959966 or phone (253) 215 8782

This newsletter comes out on the first Sunday of the month. To subscribe by mail or email contact corvallisfriends@gmail.com Next deadline to submit items 10/31/23. Send to corvallisfriends@gmail.com

Corvallis Friends Meeting Monthly Meeting for Business 9/10/2023 on Zoom

Clerk: Bob Burton,

Recording Clerk: Esther Schiedel,

Friends Present: Bob Ward (for part of the Meeting), Kathy Miller, Jay Thatcher, Donna Gerry, Nina Joy Laurence, Wendy Robinson, Bob Henderson, Nancy Ewald

Meeting began in Silent Centering.

A written Treasurer's Report with explanations was submitted and accepted.

Spiritual Care Committee (SCC) met on September 7, 2023. The next meeting of the SCC will be on October 4, 2023 from 1-3 p.m. SCC will meet in person at the Meeting House for the next year on the Wednesday preceding Meeting for Business.

1. Several members of the SCC will be meeting with Friends attending Hybrid Meeting for Worship to continue discussions related to what their needs and desires are. SCC will also be working on acquiring a microphone for use in the Meeting Room and to further deal with technical difficulties related to the Hybrid Meeting.

2. SCC will be contacting the parents and children who have attended CFM in the past to find out what they would like in the way of First Day School or other events involving children and adults over the coming year.

3. There will be another opportunity in a Second Hour for Friends to update, or set out in writing for the first time, their requests for the Meeting in the event of their death.

4. The last outdoor joint Meeting for Worship in 2023 will be held at the Philomath City Park on Sunday September 17 followed by a potluck. Further information is in the Wednesday Digest.

5. SCC is proposing a new process for membership in Corvallis Friends Meeting for seasoning:

Membership for every person belonging to Corvallis Friends Meeting would end on 12/31/2024. On a simple request from the member, membership would be continued for five years, until 12/31/2029. The committee is thinking that several announcements would be published in the newsletter in the months leading to the due date. A letter would be sent to each Friend, with a simple response postcard to return.

Friends are asked to season this idea.

A new directory of Friends is in the works

Nancy Ewald reported for the Library Committee. Concerns are that the library is very much under-utilized, which has been the case for several years (even prior to the epidemic). Friends shared suggestions including: reading groups—reading aloud to each other, or sharing thoughts on a book or pamphlet they are all currently reading; steering visitors and newcomers to the library's resources; book reviews in the newsletter; including links to podcasts and other resources online.

Nina Joy shared about her experience of attending a training on Right Relationship with Native Peoples. One thing that was particularly powerful was a representation of how land was taken away piece by piece. In doing a land acknowledgement it is vital to connect with those whose land you are acknowledging. Kathy Miller suggested we research "do-ables" in our efforts to connect with and acknowledge Native Peoples.

Nina Joy clerked for the Meetinghouse Repainting Project report. Friends will be working this Friday and Saturday to prepare and then paint a section of the Meetinghouse. Bob Burton outlined the steps they are taking to avoid lead exposure and asked that children

not be present. Snacks and lunch items are requested.

Kathy Miller shared that a memorial for Bart Jones (Ruth McNeil's husband) will be held on Saturday Sept 23 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm on Zoom.

Next Meeting for Business October 8, 2023



My amazing experiences at FGC by Kathy Miller

I am grateful to have been blessed with the experience of joining approximately 500 Quakers from all over the USA and beyond (via Peace Corps volunteers etc.) in Monmouth to participate in Friends General Conference's annual Gathering 7/2-6/23. It's challenging to condense my very full part-time attendance down to a coherent paper. Several themes stand out. First Jay Thatcher, Bob Ward and I decided to co-lead a workshop - "Walking Worship- Flexing the Forms of Worship". We gathered with approx 20 Friends each morning from 9-11:45 . We shared a basic format that Corvallis Friends have practiced since March 2020 the first day; followed by worship sharing. We altered our walks to meet needs of Friends each day and asked each how they might flex the forms of worship in their home meetings and with us the following day. Some ideas were: "Worship with all our relations- trees, waves." (Caroline Wildflower) "Walking a virtual labyrinth - circles in a smaller space" (Mary Hampton) "Worship Sharing with movement" (Ginger) "Walking in 3s- worship discussion mode" (Julie) "Walking with 2 cards- 'Silent Worship' and 'Welcome' when walking in public places" (Jesse). Several other ideas were shared and practiced.

After morning workshops, several quakers would gather in a small group to sing before lunch. Lunch with new and old Friends was

engaging, enlightening and led to deeper connections.

In the afternoons there were several Interest Groups, Field trips, Author talks, perusing the FGC Bookstore, volunteer work and Actions to participate in. I attended afternoon presentations led by Quaker Earthcare Witness. Two inspiring Friends and authors stood out for me: Cherice Bock, who wrote "A Quaker Ecology: Meditations on the Future of Friends" and Eileen Flanagan, author of several books including one I purchased "Renewable One Woman's Search for Simplicity, Faithfulness, and Hope". They each represent larger organizations. Cherice has worked for Interfaith Power and Light and Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. She is also "an adjunct professor of ecotheology at Portland Seminary." (quakercloud.org). Eileen Flanagan is working with EQuATe = Earth Quaker Action Team based in Philadelphia (eqat.org). I was honored to participate in a nonviolent direct action with these two women and approx 60 other friends and several members of Salem 350.org at a Chase bank in Salem on 7/6/23. This action brought attention to the fact that Chase Bank is funding the "GTN Xpress" fracked gas pipeline that is proposed to run from British Columbia through Idaho, Washington and Oregon to California and would be a climate and environmental disaster (www.columbiariverkeeper.org). The action was extremely well organized and included opening prayers, songs, blessings from an Oregon indigenous elder man named "Quilt". There was a petition to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to deny a permit for this pipeline to expand. I was inspired to take further action to divest from Vanguard "One of the world's biggest drivers of climate chaos" (eqat.org). I am hopeful that more actions and divestments will convince Vanguard (manager of \$7 trillion!) to take responsibility for the impact of its investments and design truly sustainable portfolios to ensure a livable future for all (<https://eqat.org/>)

I hope my inspired actions will inspire others to connect with some of these Quaker organizations and take more actions in consideration of the bigger communities of life.

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**Adult Religious Exploration** We've had a couple of meetings (in person & by phone) and are planning to have another couple of meetings in the near future with all folks who are interested in rewriting & then filling out the form for end of life requests. These will be announced in the Wednesday Digest. We also hope to invite the Friends General Conference Meeting & Quarterly Meeting attendees from our Meeting to share their experiences. We hope these future meetings can happen in 2nd hours after Meeting for Worship.

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There is interest among Corvallis Friends in how to find a worshipful center for one's self in meeting. The Quaker study centre in Britain must have found this interest common, so they're offering an online class. The description says,

Have you ever wondered what Quakers mean by "Centering Down"? Are you puzzled by how difficult it is to "be still and cool thine own heart and mind"? This course is an exploration of different ways into stillness. You will cultivate your capacity to be present in worship and your daily activities.

Centering Down helps us to be more open to ourselves and our communities with kindness and understanding. Practicing a way into stillness transforms how we show up in the world, because we are truly nourished and resourced by the inner light. This course will of benefit to anyone who is looking to deepen their awareness of the divine in their lives.

In each of the six sessions we will explore a different way to enter stillness and silence, which you can then practice over the week. Each way into stillness is rooted in an Advice

and Query, which will act as a guide in each exploration. There will be recorded guidance to support your daily practice and you will be encouraged to journal about your experiences.

Class sessions will be on Wednesdays. The online content stays up all the time and is available for class members. Find more info at [https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/our-courses/?\\_sft\\_course\\_category=exploring-quakerism,quaker-service-roles](https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/our-courses/?_sft_course_category=exploring-quakerism,quaker-service-roles)

### **Advices & Queries – Sexuality (part 1)**

We do well to look past the outward appearances of orientation and identity to see the quality of all individuals and relationships in our meetings. Just as there is that of God in every person, there is that of God in every relationship that calls upon God. We remain tender toward all relationships founded on integrity, mutual respect, commitment, and love.

When dealing with issues of sexuality and sexual behavior, we strive for an appropriate balance between open, honest discussion and protection of privacy and confidentiality for individual members and attenders.

*• Do we accept and appreciate our sexuality as part of our humanity and as a gift from God? How do we integrate our sexuality and our spirituality?*

*• How can we help each other be faithful in expressing our sexuality? Do we support members and attenders with love and care relating to their sexuality and gender identity?*

*• How safe is our meeting? How do we create an environment appropriate for discussion of deeply personal issues?*

*• How willing are we to talk openly and listen carefully when others' ideas and behavior are different from our own? How do we respond to that of God in them while acknowledging our own discomfort or disagreement?*