

CORVALLIS FRIENDS MEETING

TWELFTH MONTH (DECEMBER) 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 December 3

8:30-9:30 am Silent Walking Worship Willamette Park
10 am Meeting for Worship via Zoom* and at the Meetinghouse

Sunday December 10

8:30-9:30 am Silent Walking Worship Willamette Park
10:00 am Hybrid Meeting for Worship Zoom* and Meetinghouse together
11:40 am Online Meeting for Business via Zoom

Sunday December 17

10 am Meeting for Worship
10 am Silent Walking Worship Meet at Meetinghouse
11:30 am Potluck

Sunday December 24

8:30-9:30 am Silent Walking Worship Willamette Park
10:00 am Hybrid Meeting for Worship Zoom* and Meetinghouse together
Holiday celebration, details to be announced

Sunday December 31

8:30-9:30 am Silent Walking Worship Willamette Park
10 am Meeting for Worship via Zoom* and at the Meetinghouse

Second Hour programs will be announced in the Wednesday Digest

*Join Zoom Meetings:

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

Meeting ID: 864 1766 6994

Passcode: 959966 or phone (253) 215 8782

Minutes: Corvallis Friends Meeting for Worship for Business

Nov 12, 2023

Friends present

Bob Burton (Clerk), Susan Easton (Recording Clerk), Loreen Olufson, Nina Joy Lawrence, Bob Henderson, Bob Ward, Lisa Perelli, Nancy Ewald, Donna Gerry, Jay Thatcher, Laura Horsey, Abigail Stoughton, Craig Sanders, Carmen Brummet

Readings: “There is a spirit which I feel that delights to do no evil, nor to revenge any wrong, but delights to endure all things, in the hope to enjoy its own in the end. Its hope is to outlive all wrath and contention, and to weary out all exaltation and cruelty, or whatever is of a nature contrary to itself...”
James Nayler, 1660.

“We must abide the slowness of the organic. An inanimate bomb reaches its goal swiftly, annihilating whatever is in its way. A living object is soft and pliant, slowly adjusting its environment to itself. It must always depend on small beginnings, aimed at the distant future. Violence works quickly, but in the realm of life results are never swift.”
Howard Brinton, 1943

Meeting opened with Silent Worship

Treasurer’s Report

Bob Ward reported for the treasurer.

A donation of \$8000 was recently made. Regular contributions are usually in the range of \$715.

POP account has opened for the season. This is not a CFM obligation, but is a service provided by CFM for those providing propane for the houseless. There is \$3,500 in the account as of Nov. 2. It is expected that \$14,000 will be needed to cover costs for the winter. Friends may donate to this account as they are led.

The **Meeting approved** 3 recommendations for action requested by the treasurer:

- The treasurer be allowed to pay out the year-end Meeting donations as there is unity on the amounts agreed on earlier in the year.
- M4B hold to next month approval for changes to We Care.
- M4B hold to next month other new proposals, urgent, or critical needs.

Treasurer reminded Friends that they may make donations to the Meeting designated to particular organizations and she will pay them.

Spiritual Care Committee (SCC)

Taco Potluck and grape juice pressing were resounding successes. New families joined the group and expressed interest in coming again.

Tuesday (11/14) 7-8:15 pm, there will be a zoom threshing session with Mary Ward, Friend from Medford, who is offering to help us with our hybrid worship. Link is, and will be, in the Wednesday Digest. The agenda includes: what we’ve done and learned so far, what we can experiment with now, and how the whole process will proceed.

Potluck, Sunday 11/19 – Walking Worship will walk in the Meeting House neighborhood, while silent Meeting for Worship is taking place at the Meeting House (10:00-11:00 am). Potluck will be after the Meeting for Worship.

Newly revised “Final Affairs” forms will be available at and after potluck, with ARE members available to assist filling them out.

Jay Thatcher explained a proposal to change the process for terminating membership of Friends who have not had contact with the Meeting for extended periods of time:

Every five years, automatically drop all members unless they contact the Meeting

requesting to maintain membership. Friends had reservations:

Some Friends might fall through the cracks, especially the old and infirm; this could discourage Friends who are angry at the Meeting for whatever reason, to drop out rather than bear with the Meeting over the long haul.

Friends might see this as a draconian step.

Would Friends be informed by the newsletter/ Wednesday Digest only? Or would Friends receive a letter?

Friends decided to season this decision until 12th Month M4B.

Friendly Sevens (meeting for dinner) - Three groups are currently meeting. More Friends are encouraged to participate. New groups will be formed if there are enough participants, or Friends can be absorbed into one of the current groups.

Stay tuned for a Christmas event. Time, place, activities TBA.

Adult Religious Education (ARE)

Sunday 11/19, during and after potluck, "Final Affairs" forms will be available. Friends are invited to chat and ask any questions about it and get help filling it out. The form will be reformatted in accord with edits suggested at M4B. The form was pulled together from a prior CFM form and Faith and Practice. **Members approved the following edits.**

Replace Meeting will "carry out" with "to be involved with . . . "

Replace "Are you a member of the Memorial Society" with "a member of Oregon Memorial Association or other memorial society . . . "

Include member number. (<https://www.omaoregon.org/>)

Discussion about the need for detailed information e.g. parents names. Friends thought it should be left in in the event this information is unavailable elsewhere. If a

Friend does not want to fill any information requested, that is their choice.

Sunday 12/3, 2nd Hour, ARE invites Friends to share their favorite spiritual books. Come and be inspired!

ARE requests suggestions for topics to be discussed in the coming year for First Sunday 2nd Hours.

We Care Report

Donna Gerry provided details of the increased need seen by We Care:

- We Care has seen increased numbers of requests for assistance.
- We Care has had a decrease in the number and amount of donations. As a result, the average household in 2023 received \$374 versus \$575 in 2021.
- In her report, Donna noted the cumulative rate of inflation is 18.7% and the cumulative rate of local rent increase is 33.9%.
- We Care has
 - Taken on a paid intake employee to reinforce volunteer intake staff.
 - Is recruiting for 3 new intake volunteers.
 - Is recruiting three new board members to bolster grant writing and communication with the larger community.
 - Plan to find a larger office space to accommodate increased office staff.

Friends agreed to hold changes for We Care in the Friends budget until 12th Month.

Library

Donna requested how to know when access to the library is possible.

She was referred to the Library Committee to work out arrangements to access the Meeting House.

It was noted that Jeff Kline keeps the schedule and can provide access to it.

Announcement

The children/parents are making plans to shop for the Vina Moses giving tree the Sunday after Thanksgiving. If anyone wants to contribute/participate in this project, contact Nina Joy Lawrence.

Names and contact information for the Spiritual Care Committee 2022-2023:

CFM Spiritual Care Committee members are available to receive comments, concerns, and requests in regard to the spiritual life of the Meeting, in all its current forms, and the care of members and attenders. A private meeting may be arranged via Zoom, phone, or email if so desired. Contact any of the following:

Jay Thatcher, jthatch@peak.org

Wendy Robinson, robburton@comcast.net

Dana Edwards, nondo99@yahoo.com
541-232-3214

Abigail Stoughton, sabigail@comcast.net or
541-758-5057 (home and cell)

Carmen Brummet, brummetc@peak.org

Advices & Queries - "Be Not Afraid"

Courage is a fundamental act of faith.

As Friends we examine our fears and have the courage to release those that prevent us from growing in the Spirit and following our Guide. As we continue letting go of our fears and following the motions of love, we are led into a new, more abundant and joy-filled life. Although this life is not always free of pain, it is graced with a courage that will endure any adversity.

We ask those in authority to employ their power to reconcile and unify us, rather than to exploit fear to divide us.

It takes courage to reach out to those who are creating fear and to those who are controlled by fear. We work to restore harmony through peacemaking and reconciliation based in mutual love. Disharmony is a manifestation of fear; it

results in separation from God, from ourselves, from our fellow human beings, and from all of creation.

- *How does fear influence our lives? Are our decisions based on fear, or do we trust the Spirit's urging toward love and reconciliation? How do we let go of our fears, trusting the Spirit so that we can restore peace in our meetings and communities?*
- *Do we encourage each other through love to act in faithful witness? How do we identify and confront fears that deceive, enslave, and stop us from living faithfully?*
- *In times of trial and terror how can we open our hearts, return to God's love, and move forward with courage?*
- *What would we do, as individuals and as a community, if we were not afraid?*

*From North Pacific Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice.
Copies are available from the Meeting and online at
npym.org.*

Meeting Family Activities

The Grape Juice making and Taco Party, especially for Meeting families with children was held on Sunday November 5 in the afternoon at the meeting house. Grapes were harvested, juice was steamed out and bottled, and a taco assembly line set up. Several meeting adults hosted 4 families with 10 kids participating. After eating, several games were crowded into the kids room and a train set up happened in the library area. amongst visiting of adults.

At the end of November 10 Meeting kids became consultants for adults, picking out presents for the Vina Moses Giving Tree, paid for with \$300 of specially collected donations from the adults.

Holiday Giving Tree Project

The Meeting's annual Holiday Giving Tree project starts in the middle of November. Please join in the fun. Purchase gifts for families in need. Take them to the meeting house and place them, unwrapped, under the Christmas tree by sundown on 12/7. Or take them to the [Vina Moses Giving Tree \(https://www.vinamoses.org/giving-tree-program\)](https://www.vinamoses.org/giving-tree-program) Store, where families can shop from 12/10 to 12/15 at no cost to themselves. The store will open soon at

934 NW Kings Blvd, in the shopping center with Rice's Pharmacy.

You will find a good supply of tags (listing various ages of children) on the tree at the Meeting House. Jay Thatcher is willing to take tags to Friends or share tag information on request. Tags are also available digitally on the Vina Moses website: vinamoses.org and at many businesses in the area.

Don't know what a child of the age on your tag would like? We suggest books, puzzles, games, STEM/STEAM activities, and toys that promote active play. You could also consult some expert advisors, such as children in your family or in the Meeting.

The Vina Moses Center needs your help in other ways and at other times of year, as well. Perhaps you'd like to contribute money or invest some time at the Giving Tree Store. For more information, visit vinamoses.org or contact Jay at (541)758-9333 or <jthatch@peak.org>.



Second Hour 12/3

Are you reading or have you read any spiritually inspiring books? Come share them with Friends! We're having a book review party Sunday, 12/3, 11:40 (2nd hour)! Let's inspire one another! This is sponsored by your own ARE (adult religious exploration) committee.

Coffee & tea & treats will be available!

Photos by Nina Joy Lawrence, from the juice pressing party! Above: Emily Barry and Annaliese Watson; below: James Cox, Kathy Miller, and Susan Easton





Painting the Meetinghouse in September:

Top left: Bob Henderson and John Selker; top right, Jay Thatcher; bottom left: Wendy Robinson; bottom right: Charles Kettenring. Photos by Esther Scheidel.



Announcement:

North Pacific Yearly Meeting (NPYM) Annual Session 2024

will be in Missoula, Montana. Save The Date: July 10-14