

CORVALLIS FRIENDS MEETING

SECOND MONTH FEBRUARY 2024

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 Chepeneña band of the Kalapuya speaking Nation.

THIS MONTH'S CALENDAR

Sunday February 4

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

11:2 am Adult Religious Exploration: Workshop on action toward reparations for indigenous lands, at the Meeting House.

Sunday February 11

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 Zoom and Meetinghouse together

Sunday February 18

10:00 am Meeting for Worship via Zoom and at the Meetinghouse and Silent Walking Worship starting at the Meetinghouse
11:00 Potluck at the Meetinghouse

Sunday February 25

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

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

11:30 Adult Religious Exploration: Becoming Friends

*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 2/26/24 Send to:

corvallisfriends@gmail.com

**Minutes Corvallis Friends Meeting
For Worship for Business
January 14, 2024**

Present: Bob Burton (Clerk), Esther Schiedel and Susan Easton (Recorders), Wendy Robinson, Jay Thatcher, Donna Geary, Laurie Childers, Laura Horsey, MaryBetts Sinclair, Nina Joy Lawrence, Carmen Brummet, Loreen Olufson, Dana Edwards, Kathy Miller, Nancy Ewald, Georg Stahl, Melanie Place

“We utterly deny all outward wars and strife, and fightings with outward weapons, for any end, or under any pretense whatsoever; this is our testimony to the whole world...

Therefore, we cannot learn war any more.”

*A Declaration of the Harmless and Innocent People of God, Called Quakers,...
Concerning Wars and Fighting*

“Those who propose to hold aloof from fighting and claim the privileges of peace must become devoted peace-makers. This is not to be construed to apply alone to those who bring wars to an end...nor does it mean (only) those who make public peace addresses or who sign petitions or who...attend peace conferences and conventions. It applies rather to a deeper and more continuous service of living an everyday life which is “in the covenant of peace”. It means a home life which exhibits the sway and dominion of love practised in the domain of the family life. It means a neighbourhood life which makes love prevail between man and man and between woman and woman. It means a business life which translates and interprets, as much at least as one individual can do it, the principles which underlie the sway and kingdom of God.”

Rufus Jones, 1927

Centering Silence

**11/12/2024 Meeting for Business: Minutes
Approved**

**12/10/2024 Meeting for Business: Minutes
Approved**

Treasurer’s Report

CFM charity donations are made in December every year. Donations to the various organizations are also possible directly from individuals.

POP is a pass-through account enabling donations to fill propane tanks for unhoused persons. Tanks filled last week ahead of the ice storm ran to over \$700. At this rate, there are enough funds in the account to carry the program into early March.

Insurance is carried through Church Mutual Co. It includes liability insurance for sexual assault/abuse, theft, and coverage of the building. Their web site explains in detail what is covered.

FWCC is under the umbrella of Right Sharing. Excess funds are held in the Friends Fiduciary account. It received a 4% dividend (\$270.38) which was automatically reinvested into the fund. It had an increase in market value of \$1,212.41.

The year end balance of 2022 was \$9000; the year end balance of 2023 was \$12,805. Treasurer thanked Bob Ward for his work in building an Excel program for tracking the treasurer’s files and databases.

The meeting accepted the treasurer’s report.

Treasurer’s Budget Report for 2024

Highlighted points:

- There is a small differential between donations and expenses.
- There is no budget item to set aside money for emergency expenses. One Friend noted that we used to have a Needs Arising category.

- Water expenses from the city are increasing.
 - Input for budget is requested from the Library Committee and from the Children's Program.
 - Childcare expenses were left in the budget although they are not currently being used. The Children's Volunteer Coordinator is working on developing the program.
 - Input was requested of the Adult Religious Education Committee (ARE) regarding CFM reparations for the native land CFM sits on.
 - ARE budget only shows expenses for Welcoming Friends, but no other programs.
 - At a previous threshing session, Friends supported applying most of CFM donations locally. This budget funds \$10,000 directly to Corvallis charities (total=\$12,400).
 - One Friend noted that in past years, CFM endeavored to achieve equity between expenses and donations. This budget funds CFM expenses at \$17,533 and charitable donations at \$12,400.
- Two hybrid meetings per month on the 2nd and 4th Sundays are appropriate.
 - On the 3rd Sunday, Walking Worship should start from the Meeting House at 10 am, and return in time to join Meeting for Worship at the Meeting House for closing and announcements, followed by potluck.
 - There are several technical things to try for dealing with Hybrid Worship issues.
 - There should be a meeting between the people who host Hybrid Worship and Virtual Worship to explore suggestions for change.
 - The chairs in the Meeting Room will be arranged in a horseshoe layout, facing the screen, with a second row of chairs behind, offset so faces can be seen on the screen. There will still be places where people who do not want to be seen on the screen can sit.
 - The next SCC meeting planned for February 7, 2024.

Meeting will season the projected budget until next Meeting for Business.

Prenominating Committee Report

No name was put forward to fill the nominating committee vacancy.

Spiritual Care Committee (SCC) Report

SCC and Friends are still seeking better ways to worship together. Friends are encouraged to speak individually to SCC members with their concerns. Resulting from these conversations, SCC feels that:

Adult Religious Education (ARE) Committee Report

ARE held a workshop January 7, 2024. Participants brainstormed practical steps toward restoring right relations with indigenous people. ARE intends to facilitate a 2nd Hour program February 4, 2024 to further explore tangible action(s). A request was made to look at the list of suggestions brainstormed. **Clerk of the Meeting will make a list available.**

ARE invites Friends to join a January 28, 2024, 2nd program exploring our journey in

“Becoming Friends.” The focus will particularly be on newcomers, while helping experienced/seasoned Friends share and explore ways to further this journey.

Meeting accepted the ARE report.

Grounds Report

A grounds volunteer has suggested changes to the back yard of the Meeting House (northwest corner). The grass under the grape arbor is hard to mow, without pruning back the arbor, which takes extra time and attention. Suggestions and comments:

- Pull out the grapes.
- Commit to keeping the grapes pruned back and mulched.
- Comments both supported keeping the long-lived grapes and taking them out.
 - The grapes have sentimental value to many Friends, though many are willing to forego them.
 - It is nice to have a fresh, sustainable snack available.
 - Some feel the grapes are extremely delicious; others feel they are not tasty at all.
- Build a meditation area (bench/benches, landscaping/hardscaping). The cherry and persimmon trees (and one other tree), will get bigger, affecting the use of the area.
- There is no railing around the steps and platform opening from the Meeting House exit. Although the city does not require a railing in this particular circumstance, several Friends thought a railing would make the steps safer to use.
- A visioning statement for the entire grounds of the Meeting House, should be

undertaken, so that decisions aren’t made piecemeal.

Clerk of the Meeting suggested a threshing session which was agreed. A time and date will be announced at a later date.

The next Meeting for Business will be on February 11.

Meeting closed in silent worship

Revised Minutes Corvallis Friends Meeting for Worship for Business 12/10/2023

held via Videoconferencing

Clerk: Bob Burton

Recording Clerks: Susan Easton, Esther Schiedel

Present: Wendy Robinson, Bob Burton, Donna Gerry, Bob Ward, Jay Thatcher, Dana Edwards, Georg Stahl, Nancy Ewald, Nina Joy Lawrence, Laura Horsey, Craig Sanders, Bob Henderson, Abigail Stoughton.

“Corporate Discernment - Through worship together, ministry in worship, group discussion and discernment, and daily interaction, individuals teach the Meeting and Meeting molds and teaches individuals.” NPYM Faith and Practice, p. 17 (16)

*“Clearly vocal ministry that we might dismiss as “popcorn” might actually be lifesaving to someone else - even if we never know about it. Thus, we are challenged by our faith to grant respect to ideas that we are tempted to label as meaningless or negative. Different individuals connect very differently with all that is holy. * * * Our Quaker practice of listening requires us to go deeper and learn how we might engage with the Life that dwells in places we would avoid.” Margery Post Abbott, 2014; NPYM Faith and Practice, p. 30.*

Meeting began in Silent Worship

Approval of the Minutes from 11th Month

Meeting for Business was deferred as some editing was requested by Donna Gerry. Susan Easton will follow up on this request.

A written **Treasurer's Report** was provided. Wendy noted that contributions included a donation to the Propane supply project which is an earmarked account. **Treasurer's Report was accepted with gratitude.**

Report from the Spiritual Care Committee: As a recent threshing session concluded, Friends knew there were others we still needed to hear from. The Spiritual Care Committee (SCC) is now having conversations with a couple of handfuls of Friends with hopes to gain a wider perspective on hopes, preferences and needs for how and where to hold worship. They invited Friends with something to add beyond what was shared during threshing, to offer perspectives to a Friend from the SCC. The next steps seem to be to continue these conversations with other Friends, then collect specific ideas from the threshing and these conversations for SCC to consider in the new year.

Following a suggestion from over a year ago to consider making two committees, one for pastoral care and one for helping foster worship and ministry in the Meeting. The Spiritual Care Committee has united on this prospect. This could leave the latter committee free to continue addressing the issues posed by our recovery from shuttering the Meeting House on Sundays while providing for more thorough and comprehensive attention to the pastoral needs within the Meeting. **The Meeting approved and asked Nominating Committee to implement this with the new terms of office.**

Next Spiritual Care Committee meeting is planned for 1/10/2024.

Prenominating Committee: Meeting approved Laura Horsey and Dana Edwards as a committee to nominate the next person to serve on Nominating Committee.

Adult Religious Exploration Committee

Report: The December 3rd 2nd hour program, Spiritual Book Reviews, was a tremendous success! 8 fabulous books were shared with 10 Friends & we all left inspired!

Coming up in the new year we will be hosting sessions called Becoming Friends in 1st (& possibly 4th) Sunday 2nd hours. Inquirers will lead the discussions. We hope both more & less experienced Friends (as well as children!) will come to deepen their knowledge of what embracing Quakerism means! Those folks interested please contact members of ARE: Georg Stahl georg_herbs39@yahoo.com 434-760-1982 Lisa Perelli lperelli730@gmail.com 302-542-7953 Abigail Stoughton sabigail@comcast.net 541-758-5057

Also, ARE wishes to resume discussions about "Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples". Georg suggested contacting speakers on Right Relations with Native Americans and shared that there will be a live In-Person event this Tuesday, December 12th at 7 pm at the OSU Alumni Center, 725 SW 26th Street *Winter Storytelling: Indigenous Stories of Place*. Bob Ward mentioned NPYM as a resource on Right Relations with Native Americans. Nina Joy shared that the children are working on planning a field trip related to Native Americans.

Children's program: Nina Joy reported that several children are now attending meeting. Several participated in selecting gifts for the Vina Moses giving tree.

Library Committee would like to purchase THE QUAKER WORLD but cannot afford to purchase it for the CFM library. They are asking for a "deep-pocketed Friend" to purchase it and donate it, if they choose. "One might ask, How many introductions to Quakerism do we need?" This one is different because it is much more than a history of 300+ years of white, English, American Quaker men & women. It encompasses (542 pages) all Friends of all stripes—from Evangelical to Liberal, worldwide, including Africa, Asia, and Latin

America. It shows, "some new facets of what it means to be in Quaker community." It is an example of "making the road while walking it." Of how Quakers are living "in the world" while resisting its values.

It is "less an introduction to the seasoned Quaker than it is an invitation to truly live with Quakerism . . . in diverse communities all over the world."

Next Meeting for Business: 1/14/24 will be hybrid, with the Clerk and Recording Clerk in the Meeting room.

orientation and identity, or class? • Is our meeting place physically accessible and welcoming to all?

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

Advices & Queries – Equality

We treat every person with respect and love, based on our belief in the fundamental equality of all of humankind.

We examine ourselves as individuals and in our meeting communities to be sure that we are practicing the testimony of equality in reality and not just paying lip service to it.

We cherish those parts of the history of the Religious Society of Friends that show us opposing slavery and refusing to doff our hats to superiors. We also acknowledge that Friends are not perfect in treating all human beings with equal respect and that there is work yet to do, both among Friends and in the world, to achieve the vision of a social order based on the testimony of equality.

- Do we regularly examine ourselves for evidence of privilege and prejudice?
- What are we, as individuals and as a meeting community, doing to overcome the contemporary effects of past and present oppression?
- How do we avoid being drawn into violent reactions against those who are destructive of human dignity? Do we reach out to the violator as well as the violated with courage and love?
- How do we make our meeting open to all, regardless of ethnicity, gender, sexual