

CORVALLIS FRIENDS MEETING

TWELTH MONTH (DECEMBER) 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 Chepenefa band of the Kalapuya speaking Nation.

THIS MONTH'S CALENDAR

Sunday December 1

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

10 am Meeting for Worship via Zoom* and at the Meetinghouse

11:30 ARE Second Hour program: Questions on Procedures and Etiquette

Sunday December 8

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

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

11:40 am Hybrid Meeting for Business via Zoom

Sunday December 15

10 am Meeting for Worship

10 am Silent Walking Worship Meet in front of Meetinghouse

11:30 am Potluck

Sunday Dec 22

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

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

Sunday December 29

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

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

Silent Worship every Wednesday at 7 pm, 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

CFM newsletter comes out on the first Sunday of each month. To subscribe by mail or email, contact corvallisfriends@gmail.com The next deadline to submit items is 11/25/24. Send to same email address.

Minutes: Corvallis Friends Meeting for Business 11/10/2024

Attending: Susan Easton, Don Groom, Nancy Ewald, Loreen Olufson, Bob Henderson, Bob Ward, Ann Fuller, Wendy Robinson, Bob Burton (clerk), James Cox, John Selker (taking minutes), Kathy Miller, Nina Joy Lawrence, Jay Thatcher, Carmen Brummet, Esther Schiedel, Donna Geary

1. The meeting commenced with a brief centering silence and the reading of a quotation.
2. The Minutes of 10/13/2024 Meeting for Business were accepted without alterations.
3. Treasurer's Report and Budget Update: Nothing unusual was reported. The report was accepted with thanks. In November we make decisions about annual donations. There were unexpended funds from the annual budget, so the excess was allocated on a pro-rata basis to the 8 charitable organizations chosen by the meeting. This year the donations were moved from a total of \$12,400 to \$17,099. The concern about Gaza brought up the idea of using some of these funds to address these urgent needs. A discussion brought up that the AFSC is doing work in Gaza, and is deserving of donations. This is seen as an urgent need. The meeting decided to fulfill the decision of last spring with respect to the pro-rata increase in donation, and that the Gaza discussion will be put on the agenda promptly. It was decided that we take half of the \$4700 to go to AFSC dedicated to their work in Gaza/Palestine, and the remainder (\$2350) to be distributed pro rata, to the remaining 7 organizations.
4. Nominating Committee Report-ARE committee member: There was a request for an additional member to be nominated to Adult Religious Education. This seems to be headed for resolution via improved communication between current members.
5. Worship and Ministry Committee (W&M) Report: We have had two deepening spiritual exploration meetings. A third is planned for Nov. 18, 3-5 PM – the program will include a getting to know each other and a worship sharing session with attention to the recent election, and understanding what is a “gathered meeting.” The walking meeting will attend the silent meeting on third Sunday's at 10 followed by potluck, so the walking meeting will join with meeting house Friends on third Sundays.
6. Adult Religious Exploration (ARE) Committee: Georg say they are sharing books for people to consider.

7. Reports of Volunteer Coordinators: Jay reports from the outreach effort. He does not plan on printing business cards. A welcoming leaflet was shared for first-time attenders that resulted from a community effort. This will become available soon for greeters, etc.
8. Hosting WQM Spring 2025-Update: Bob Ward presented. People read a handout on planning for the May 2-4, 2025. We have a venue! Camp Lutherwood (15 miles west of Junction City). A second handout was shared that laid out two parallel paths of planning: Hosting, and Program. The scope of work to be done and the sequence of efforts included on the handouts was reviewed. Bob Ward is the external liaison, Bob Burton is the local liaison, and the meeting is seeking a person to be the project manager, and wish that all people think about their interest in assisting this effort.
9. We currently have Peace, Justice, Environment (PJE) as a Committee of the whole. The clerk presented that the committee of the whole format is not responding dynamically to the changing challenges to peace in the world. He wonders, does this suggest further threshing is needed? Should we consider change to a volunteer coordinator, or committee structure for PJE? Further coordination was suggested, perhaps a single person as a volunteer coordinator who could bring actionable work to the community. This was welcomed by the business meeting. It was discussed whether to focus just on Peace, or if Justice and the Environment should be maintained in the title. The title was left unchanged. The nominating committee will be asked to address finding a person called to this task. The nominating committee accepted this task.
10. Announcements: Some timely announcements were made for upcoming events.
Next meeting for business: 12/8/2024

WQM: Save the dates for Willamette Quarterly Meeting: Friday May 2 (4pm) through Sunday May 4 (2pm). Location: Camp Lutherwood, NW of Eugene.

ARE: Hey questioning Quakers! Come to ARE's (Adult Religious Exploration's) 2nd hour (11:30) on Dec. 1! We will be exploring the rest of your questions about MfW (Meeting for Worship) procedures & etiquette. On the first Sunday in January (1/5) ARE is hosting another spiritual book review session! Read up over the holidays & come share with your Friends!

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?

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Quote submitted by our clerk:

For too many of us, democracy has become a contact sport where the score is tallied at the ballot box. We proceed as though there is just one winner and then the game is over, at least until the next election rolls around.

It doesn't, and shouldn't, work that way. As Philadelphia City Council member Nicolas O'Rourke said on Wednesday: "Voting is the last thing we do in a functioning democracy." In other words, democracy is not defined by who we elect. It is defined by what we do and how we show up for each other. Our votes select our leaders, but our actions shape our communities, our culture and the future we pass to our children. That's why the greatest danger to our nation's future isn't any particular leader or policy. The greatest threat is having communities so divided and discourse so intolerable that we throw up our hands in despair and disengage.

Sara Gelser Blouin 11/24