

CORVALLIS FRIENDS MEETING

FIFTH MONTH (MAY) 2025

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

Willamette Quarterly Meeting: May 2-4, Camp Lutherwood

Sunday May 4

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

10 am Meeting for Worship at the Meetinghouse

Sunday May 11

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 May 18

10 am Meeting for Worship

11:30 am Potluck lunch!

Sunday May 25

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=L1hnbTBpU4RC9NSXdERUM3K3FrUT09>

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 3/31/25. Send to same email address. To learn more about Quakers and opportunities for worship and fellowship, visit our website and links at <https://corvallisfriends.org/>

Minutes for Corvallis Friends Meeting for Business

April 13, 2025

Friends present: Bob Burton (Clerk), Susan Easton (Recording Clerk), Gary Graupensperger, Nina Joy Lawrence, Nancy Ewald, Lou Glowaki, Georg Stahl, Dana Edwards, Craig Sanders, John Selker, Bob Ward, Bill Metz, Loreen Olufson, Wendy Robinson, Kathy Miller, Ann Fuller, Carmen Brummet, Laurie Childers, Abigail Stoughton.

Expectant Silence

Healing of the Earth is central to all our Quaker concerns. No peace without a planet. No justice without a planet. Those who care about the Earth must feel its woundedness as our own. How can we look our children and grandchildren in the eye unless we do all we can to give them a future? They need to know that we care and that we tried.

Elizabeth Watson 1991 F&P pg. 111.

* **Minutes** of the March 9, 2025 were **approved**.

Willamette Quarterly Meeting (WQM) Report

- Registration stands at 36, a lower number than usual, due to an early date and website delays. Normally, 10-20 more people sign up in the last 48 hours.
- Starting April 17, we need to activate other roles. The following are jobs and coordinators:
 - Attendee support including registration (Laurie)
 - Medical & emergency (Kathy and Bob B.)
 - Logistics and facilities (vacant)
 - Communication and tech onsite (vacant)
 - Volunteer recruitment to help with the above, registration, & final clean up. (Bob W) and volunteer coordination (vacant)
 - Clerking admin, e.g. SOS reports and budget (Bob B and Susan with Lynn Gordon)
- **Adults** The three sessions on Faith and Hope, Unity and Strength, Reaching Out will be available in outline form 4/16. The sessions will use Quaker and spiritual practices. **Needed:** Conveners.
- **Children** Only two are registered, so far. **Needed:** CFM may be called on to provide “organized childminding” rather than a full children’s program.

- **Teens** None are registered. Most are expected to go to the Pacific NW Quarterly Meeting in Ellensburg the preceding week.
- Ready to help on Friday night? Saturday? Sunday morning? Watch for invitations or contact Bob W corvallisfriends@gmail.com (with WQM volunteer in the subject line) or 541-908-7598.

*** Treasurer's Report March 9, 2025 accepted**

The treasurer particularly noted:

- The grounds expense is higher due to a tree needing to be pruned.
- The value of CFM's Friends Fiduciary account is down about \$2000 from the end of February.

*** Meeting approved setting up an account dedicated to donations for food distribution.** More on this in the PJE minutes.

Worship and Ministry Committee Report

- Hybrid technology has been problematic. Friends question whether to commit more money to it to make it work or to lay it down. Discussion revolved around how many people use it from home; the interference with centering and with Meeting for Worship; the anxiety it produces in trying to set it up; what the nature of the problems are; alternatives (check out South Mountain Friends Meeting in Ashland); getting volunteers to handle the technology; and the problem of doing sound checks before the start of silent worship. Clerk sensed the Meeting is not in unity and that more work needs to be done.
- CFM will host the interfaith network in June. We need to come up with two queries.
- Deepening Spiritual Connections (DSC) will continue on the third Monday 3-5 p.m. "How do we test our leadings?" There will be a hiatus on DSC until fall.

Adult Religious Education (ARE)

- First Sunday in April 4/6, questions about Quaker relationships finished up. We will next take up questions of Quaker education, First Sunday, June 1.
- We will skip Second Hour May 4 as many Friends will be at Willamette Quarterly Meeting.

Pastoral Care Committee (PCC)

- *** Consideration for membership of James Cox was seasoned for the past month. Meeting approved the request for membership.**
- PCC shared a request for membership from Laura Horsey. The request will be seasoned pending a clearness committee for Laura and be taken up at the next regular monthly Meeting for Business.

Nominating Committee (NC)

- Nominating Committee has been meeting weekly and should be able to present a list of nominations for 2025-2026 at the May Meeting for Business.
- With few exceptions, Friends this year want to continue in the positions that they are currently occupying. Nominating Committee thinks it is best to accept this state of affairs as various committees are engaged in ongoing projects that can benefit from continuity.

Additionally, PCC and W&M are still working out their roles and sorting out areas of overlap. Having said this, it is clear that committees benefit by a regular infusion of new energy and perspective. In particular, PCC and W&M are urged to discuss this matter and come up with a system of staggered terms before it is time for next year's nominations.

- In reviewing responsibilities of the "Meeting Records and Statistics" position, NC finds this position has no responsibility for archives and asks if this need to be addressed. The Clerk referred this back to NC with a request they draft a proposal.
- * Two greeters currently host Meeting for Worship. This is a burden for the two and NC suggests Meeting create a Greeters Committee to share the task of greeting, keeping track of visitors and engaging them, welcoming them, drawing them into our community, and informing the directory editor whenever someone gets involved and shifts from visitor to attendee. **Meeting approved establishing a four person committee of greeters who will inform the editor of new names to add to the directory.**

Peace Justice and Environment

- At the March Meeting for Business (M4B), a Friend brought forward a concern that our Meeting used to collect food and hygiene items for the food bank (toothbrush/toothpaste sponsorship, TP Christmas trees, etc. as well as food). This faded out during covid.

Friends got excited about renewing our commitment to food security outreach. Including the following ideas:

- Organization is needed, including selecting a monthly focus, placing notices in the newsletter and the Wednesday Digest, publicity for the art sale, etc.
- * The food bank's greatest need is money. The food bank is losing federal money which covered their rent. **Members approved** setting up a category in the budget for streaming tax deductible donations to the **food distribution programs**. This will also help make it explicit to ourselves that we're making progress on this goal.
- **In-kind donations** of items are not covered by SNAP benefits e.g. diapers, shampoo, detergent, toothpaste/toothbrushes. Each month Friends could contribute from one of these categories at the monthly potluck.

- John Selker and Laurie Childers are planning to hold another sale of their artwork at the Meeting House (TBA). Friends are encouraged to contribute their own artwork, to buy items, help with managing the event. Children will also be encouraged to participate. Lou mentioned they have artistic friends who could contribute items for the sale.
- There was discussion about getting children involved, but nothing definite was planned. Nina Joy will talk with the children to gauge their interest.
- Nancy Ewald will talk again to Cathy Zollinger (South Corvallis Food Bank director) about our plans. Maybe she could come to the art sale and talk about the SCFB. She might have other ideas for us to get involved with them.

Requests from North Pacific Yearly Meeting

An Ad Hoc Committee was appointed by NPYM in 2024 to explore a possible affiliation with Friends General Conference (FGC). The committee has reached out to three monthly meetings within NPYM independently affiliated with FGC, as well as the two western yearly meetings affiliated with FGC.

Clerk handed out two documents pertaining to this exploration. Friends from monthly meetings are asked to review the information gleaned by the Ad Hoc Committee.

*** Meeting will set up a threshing session** to discuss the proposal, on a 4th Sunday Second hour in May.

NPYM will make an announcement for a meeting with all its monthly meetings to discuss the issue of joining a lawsuit against government violating houses of worship in pursuit of visitors from other countries. The NPYM session may take place within 3 days of the announcement.

Directory Report

A preliminary directory is expected to become available in two to three weeks.

Grounds

Estimates are being sought for the arbor seating area.

Next Meeting for Business – May 11

Adult Religious Exploration (ARE)

No ARE meetings in May because of overlap with WQM. Upcoming next month: Sunday, June 22, a second hour zoom threshing session about NPYM (North Pacific Yearly Meeting, of which Corvallis Friends Meeting is part) joining FGC (Friends General Conference), a nation-wide gathering of Quakers.

Join the wider Corvallis community for a screening of
Farming While Black,
a film about the rising generation of young black farmers, featuring Leah Penniman, author of the book, "Farming While Black."

Panel discussion following the showing.

Thursday, May 15, 2025, at 6:00 pm

Oregon State University LINC Building Rm 210

(Learning Innovation Center, near SW 26th & SW Jefferson)

Award winning Kontent Films feature length documentary

Trailer: www.youtube.com/watch?v=JqMM2bKFiV8

Free, and free parking nearby

NPYM news: On 5/10/2025, there will be a called meeting for worship with attention to business of the Yearly Meeting. The purpose of the called meeting is to decide how NPYM will respond to the University of Montana's recently-established policy regarding gender. Annual session will be held at UM in Missoula, MT July 9-13.

For those unfamiliar with the term, a "called meeting" is one which is not on a group's regular calendar, but is held to handle an item of community business so urgent that it should not wait until the next regular meeting. To our knowledge, NPYM has never had a called meeting, but has recently anticipated the need.

Here is a link to additional information pertinent to this meeting:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/10XIWA4lf22OJL6KJdx1AgoKA-Yxhn7Ro/view>

In the Library: Quaker Quicks and Staff Picks

Rufus Jones and the Presence of God, by Helen Holt

Rufus Jones (1863-1948) was a public figure, an academic (he taught at Haverford College from 1893 until near the end of his life), an author, and a hugely influential Quaker. Among many other contributions, he "was instrumental in setting up the American Friends Service Committee". He also laid the groundwork for the liberal Quakerism of our time—for example, he promulgated the idea that Quakerism is a form of group mysticism.

This short book (79 pages including bibliography) includes a brief biography of Jones, a summary of the books and authors that influenced him, and a consideration of his own religious philosophy. Jones apparently never provided a comprehensive

account of his religious practices, but the author gleaned information about seven of these from his autobiographies. In the final chapter, she considers these practices at some length, quoting some of Jones's own remarks about them and offering suggestions as to how her readers could incorporate them into their own lives.

The author does not overpraise Rufus Jones. I knew very little about him before reading this book, but it seemed to me that she discussed his contributions in an objective and balanced way. I found this to be an interesting introduction to the life and work of an appealing and, from the perspective of liberal Quakerism, a critically important American Friend. *-Craig Sanders*

Deepening Spiritual Connections

These discussions will resume in the autumn.

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