



THE FRIENDLY LIGHT

November 2025

The Best Kind of Witness

On my way to the meetinghouse this morning, I drove my regular route and standing on a corner at one of the major intersections was a fellow with a cordless microphone and portable speaker, and he was preaching to anyone who was driving slow enough or taking the corner slow enough to hear him. I could tell he was preaching since he had a bible in one hand and a small sign with a bible verse sticking out of the ground. I give the guy credit since it was a cold and damp morning, and it was also early. And I don't want to sound as if I am judging his intentions since, to be fair, if that's how he's led, then certainly he needs to be faithful to those leadings. *But the question did rise to the surface in my mind – is this the best kind of witness? Is this the best way to proclaim the gospel and the good news?* I couldn't hear him, and I was not sure anyone was able to slow down long enough to hear him. It all runs the risk of being more performative than transformative.

I began to wonder if the best kind of witness really shows up in the simple Quaker phrase, *let your life speak*. Quakers have often held this phrase close to their souls since it speaks to a way of witnessing that has the potential to be more transformative than performative. In other words, instead of just telling folks that God loves them, *we make God's love real through our actions of generosity, giving, welcoming, and accepting*. Instead of just telling folks that God has a wonderful plan for their life (an often-used phrase on evangelistic tracts), *we come alongside folks and help them discern God's intentions and purpose for their life through being a listening presence and offering our own wisdom when it's helpful*.

Birthdays

11/10

Fred Sams

11/12

Linda Everhart

11/16

Myra Clodfelter

11/20

Lauren Malpass

Vickie Sheets

11/21

Terry Venable

Anniversaries

11/17

Eddie & Kathy
Solomon



Instead of yelling and shouting about the injustices in the world, *we show up in the places where we know there is injustice, and we offer our presence in solidarity with those who are oppressed as well as our influence to make sure that policies and laws treat others fairly and with dignity.* There is a familiar quote that goes this way: **“Preach the Gospel at all times, and if necessary, use words.”** Sometimes it’s easy for words to become a substitute for action.

In this November issue of our newsletter, you will see a few ways in which we can let our lives speak. These ways involve presence, generosity, giving, and contributing in ways that help to lift others up. As a Quaker faith community, we offer these opportunities and needs and trust that you will listen to your soul and following God’s leading and be faithful to those leadings. *I always like to say that giving brings us much joy when it’s done from a place of compassion rather than compulsion.* In other words, we are going to trust that you will open your heart and soul to God’s guiding grace and let your life speak from a place of compassion and not compulsion.

I don’t know if I will see my friend on the corner preaching any time soon. If I do, I will pray and hope that his words can be heard and even received in a way that possibly transforms someone’s life. In the meantime, I’m going to trust that letting our lives speak as individuals and High Point Friends will also produce fruit – the kind of fruit that will last. Because, in the end, it’s all about *making God’s love real*, which is exactly what God did when God came to us in the form of human love named Jesus.

Blessings

Scott

Quaker Corner

Quaker Query/Advice of the Month

Take time to reflect on this query throughout the month and pay attention to how it speaks to your condition and how it challenges us as a Quaker community. Especially during this busy time of year and season, how are you being invited to pay more attention to the world around you and your own “inner landscape”?

“Every stage of our lives offers fresh opportunities. Responding to divine guidance, try to discern the right time to undertake or relinquish responsibilities without undue pride or guilt. Attend to what love requires of you, which may not be great busyness”.

(Britain Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice)



O Spirit of that early day,
So pure and strong and true,
Be with us in the narrow way
Our faithful fathers knew.
Give strength the evil to forsake,
The cross of Truth to bear,
And love and reverent fear to make
Our daily lives a prayer!

~ John Greenleaf Whittier, 1807-1892

A note from Karin.....

Dear Friends,

October has been a wonderful month at High Point Friends School as we've learned more about the importance of community and identifying our own unique gifts and contributions. On October 18th, some of our middle school students led all-school worship and shared images of community that they'd created using Canva, as well as good old fashioned pencil and paper. I've included some of those images below.

During November, we are focusing on Stewardship. We will also spend some time celebrating World Kindness Day on Friday, November 14th. This will be a joint meeting and school celebration. During the celebration, we are planning a brief (30 minutes) shared worship, followed by lunch and a variety of activities in Ragan Fellowship Hall (kindness rock painting, warm fuzzy making, kindness stories, making gratitude journals, and cooking or baking).

Parent Council members have already volunteered to help with this event, but we would love to have meeting members join and volunteer as well. Specifically, we are hoping a few members will be willing to lead cooking or baking from "The Quaker Cookbook" with small groups of children. Staff, teachers, and several parents will all be available to support these efforts. The small groups are mixed age, most with at least one middle schooler to lend a helping hand too. Please let me know if you plan to join us and/or are willing to assist with this exciting event. I hope to see you there!

Last but not least, please join us on November 9th for Godly Play. Like last month, I plan to bring tea sandwiches. If you are able to bring a fruit/veggie tray, or some other snack, please let me know.

You will find flyers for both events in this newsletter.

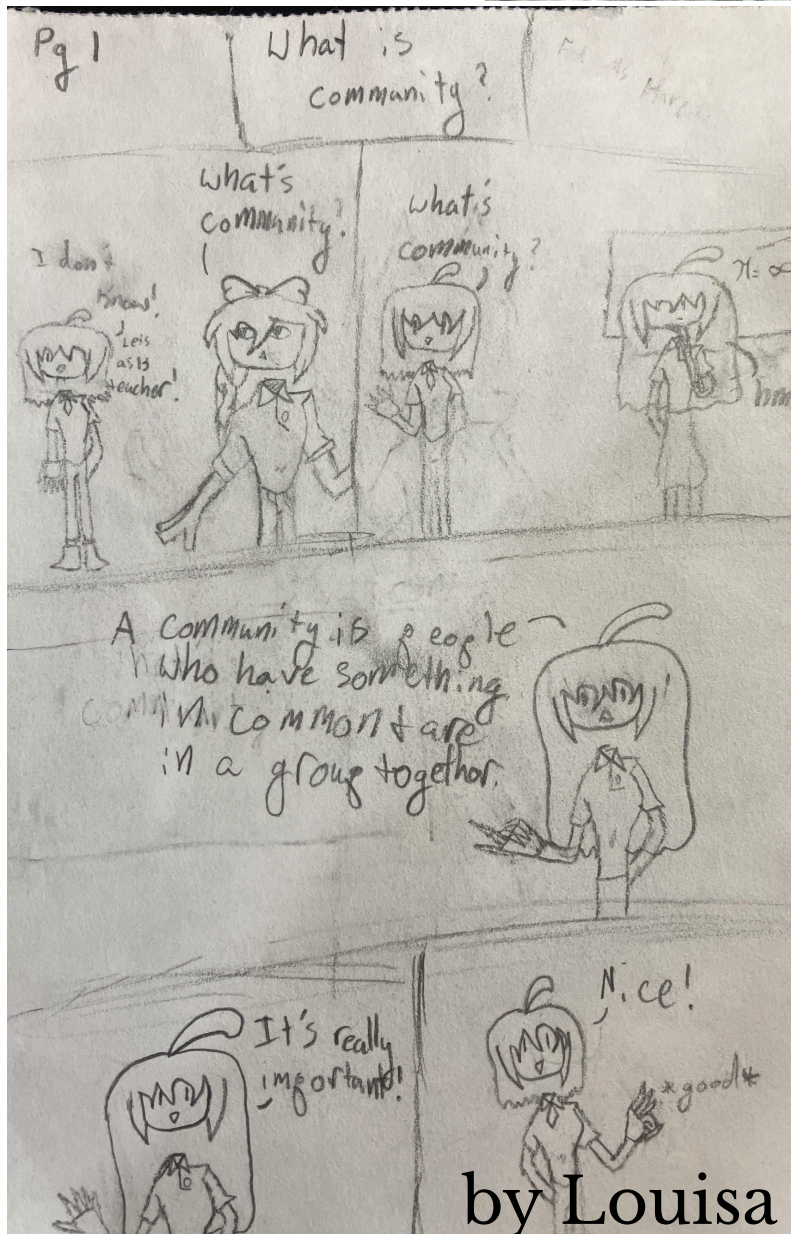
Warmly,
Karin Heller
kheller@hpfs.org



What is Community?

created by High Point Friends Students

by Addy



Community!

we are a community because we work together and come together to help each other



by Alayna

GODLY PLAY
WITH FRIENDS
HIGH POINT FRIENDS MEETING
800 Quaker Ln. High Point, NC 27262

Please join us on *Sunday, November 9th* at 11 a.m. in *Ragan Fellowship Hall* for fellowship, refreshments, and Godly Play. This month we will share, "The Parable of the Good Shepherd & the Lost Sheep"

Please join us, and bring a friend!

This is an intergenerational offering. We welcome and encourage Friends of all ages to attend.

You can learn more about Godly Play on their website,
<https://www.godlyplayfoundation.org>

**For more information, email Karin Heller at
kheller@hpfs.org**



Mark your calendars!

- **December 9**
Meeting the Christ Child
- **January 11**
Parable of the Mustard Seed
- **February 8**
The Leaven
- **March 8**
The Great Pearl
- **April 12**
Parable of the Sower

**Join us for these Godly Play events
at High Point Friends Meeting**

**All sessions take place at
11a.m. in Ragan Hall**



Choir Rehearsal Schedule



The choir is back to its regular rehearsal schedule. They rehearse every Wednesday beginning at 5:15PM and meet in the Worship Room (Sanctuary). They are all ready working on pieces for Thanksgiving and Christmas. If you can give a little time (and your voice), the choir welcomes new singers! We appreciate what they and Wanda bring to our time of worship.

Thanksgiving Carry-In and Meeting for Business Sunday, November 23

On Sunday, November 23, we will have our Annual Thanksgiving Carry-in followed by our Quarterly Meeting for Business in Ragan Fellowship Hall.

We invite everyone to join us for this time of thanksgiving, fellowship, community building, and gathering to attend to the business of the Meeting. It's also a great opportunity to invite a friend to worship!



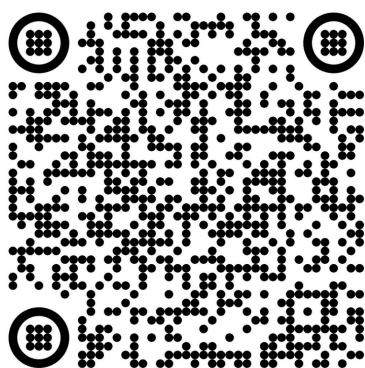
High Point Friends Online Giving Portal

← Scan the QR CODE
or go to the website below to donate
securely from your phone or other smart device.

<https://giving.servantkeeper.com/highpointfriends/1902>

Your support helps High Point Friends
Meeting continue to fulfill its mission and
ministry effectively.

Thank you!





Every donation to HPFS, no matter the amount, makes a difference. 100% of HPFS faculty and staff have already contributed, we hope you'll join them in support! We are grateful for your belief in the transformative power of an independent, Quaker education.

Learn more at: hpfs.org/support

Donate via Venmo (HPFSGiving), Paypal (HPFriendsSchool), or by check. Contact Rob Kelley (rkelley@hpfs.org) with any questions.



HIGH POINT FRIENDS SCHOOL

Annual Fund

Your donation makes an impact.

A Quaker education offers a distinctive and deeply meaningful approach to learning that nurtures both intellectual and moral growth.

A gift of any size supports our investment in technology to support learning, additional playground equipment to inspire collaborative fun, and curriculum resources to strengthen our early literacy program.

Give today!

Learn more at hpfs.org/support



Santa for Seniors



High Point Friends Meeting will be collecting items throughout the month of November in partnership with Senior Resources of Guilford to help make a difference in our community this Christmas. Items collected at High Point Friends will be included in over 900 gift bags that will be distributed to local seniors this holiday season.

**Please drop off items to the Meeting House by
Friday December 5th.**

Needed items

- deoderant
 - bar soap
 - hand soap/dish soap
 - toilet paper
 - paper towels
 - tissues
 - shampoo
 - conditioner
 - body wash
 - lip balm/chapstick
 - socks(large mens sizes)
 - small blankets
 - individually packed snacks(granola bars, chips, cookies, crackers, etc)
 - easy open microwavable foods
 - tuna/chicken pouches
 - fruit cups
-

**High Point Friends School
&
High Point Friends Meeting**

World Kindness Day Celebration

JOIN US
**for Worship, a shared meal, fellowship,
and kindness crafts & stories.**

**Ragan Fellowship Hall
14 November 2025
11 a.m.-2 p.m.**

Let's show together
that kindness can change
the world!

kheller@hpfs.org

**Join us Friday November 14th
for a World Kindness Day
celebration!**

*This is open to members/attenders
of High Point Friends Meeting
as we continue to nurture the
partnership with High Point
Friends School. If you have
questions, please feel free to reach
out to Karin.*

FUM GENERAL BOARD ENACTS CHANGES AT FRIENDS UNITED MEETING – An update on the recent financial situation at FUM as reported in their recent FUM Enews

Over the past few weeks, the Financial Task Force, Finance Committee, Executive Board, and General Board of Friends United Meeting have each met to carefully review our current ministries, financial realities, and future directions. Together, these bodies have sought to steward FUM's resources faithfully while preparing FUM for a more sustainable future. Many Friends have also received a letter from the General Board, making Friends aware of FUM's concerning financial position and the difficult decisions that this reality has required. On Friday, October 24, 2025, the General Board met to receive and consider the Fiscal Year '26 budget for Friends United Meeting. The Board discerned that the pathway forward will require a period of restraint, creativity, and strategic restructuring. The following represents some of the significant changes that result from the approval of this budget.

PAUSE OF QUAKER LIFE MAGAZINE

After nearly seventy years of publication, the Board has made the difficult decision to pause future editions of Quaker Life. This decision was not made lightly but reflects current budgetary realities. FUM deeply appreciates our dedicated subscribers, and our office will be in contact with readers in the coming weeks regarding options related to this suspension. The General Board will also be discerning whether Quaker Life will fit into FUM's ongoing communications ministries as we seek more sustainable forms of storytelling and outreach.

STAFF REDUCTIONS AND TRANSITIONS

The FY26 budget also includes a reduction in staffing levels, one of the most difficult decisions by the board and administration. We are saddened to announce that Kathleen Wooten, our Web and Social Media Specialist, will no longer be employed with Friends United Meeting, effective December 1. This decision in no way reflects on the quality of her work or the depth of her dedication. Kathleen has served FUM with excellence, expanding our social media presence and strengthening our communications ministry. She will be greatly missed. Please hold our staff in your prayers as they navigate this period of transition with courage and grace.

DEEPER PARTNERSHIP WITH AFRICAN MEMBERS

The FY26 budget also reflects a \$2000 per month reduction in the funds sent to support FUM's African ministries office in Kisumu. This adjustment arises not only from budgetary necessity, but also from an emerging priority for African Friends to participate more fully in funding the shared budget of FUM. African Friends have been building fundraising capacity for some time, and this reduction is not an abrupt change in policy but a next step toward long-term global partnership.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

The FY26 budget also reflects FUM's deep commitment to completing outstanding audits and strengthening financial accountability procedures. We believe that this investment will serve Friends United Meeting well in the long run by ensuring greater transparency and better reporting for our board and members.

OTHER MEASURES

In addition, FUM has implemented a set of temporary measures to remain in effect until the financial position of Friends United Meeting becomes more stabilized. These measures include a pause on staff international travel, a freeze on new hires, and a temporary suspension of salary or compensation increases.

LOOKING FORWARD

This is a moment for renewed focus and faith. Even as we simplify and restructure, our calling remains clear: to build relationships of faith across cultures, to nurture spiritual leadership, and to extend the love of Christ through the ministries we share. The board continues to work on FUM's longer-term financial sustainability. A balanced budget for the current fiscal year will provide the necessary spaciousness for evaluation and discernment. In mid-November, we will host a budget presentation for the wider FUM community. The date and time of this virtual gathering will be announced soon through the FUM e-news. We ask for your ongoing prayers and partnership as we walk forward together, trusting that even in seasons of change, God's Spirit is preparing us for new growth.

Center for Spiritual Deepening and Development

High Point Friends Meeting

“To live contemplatively means simply to approach life with openness, availability, and growing responsiveness to the God who speaks in everything, to the God who speaks from the depths of our very selves, to the God who spoke us into existence.”

(Roger Owens, *Everyday Contemplative*)

Dear Friends,

It is my dream and hope to begin to offer experiences and gatherings (half-day retreats, book studies, Zoom gatherings, etc.) that offer opportunities for folks to explore the spiritual life in a deeper way if one feels led to do so. The Quaker author, Richard Foster, wrote many years ago, “*The desperate need today is not for a greater number of intelligent people, or gifted people, but for deep people.*” I believe that to still be true today. Over the next few weeks and months, I’ll slowly introduce opportunities for Friends to participate in offerings that invite us into that deeper experience as well as the abundant life Jesus offers us.

With Gratitude

Scott

Still Waters Contemplative Call - Every Wednesday and Sunday evenings from 8:00PM - 8:30PM, I offer a simple contemplative prayer call via Zoom for anyone that would like to participate. I’ll include the links in our regular emails. Please feel free to join the call any time.

Intentional “Pause & Pray” Wednesdays - This is simply a day I invite each of us to give intention to pray for one another and the concerns for our world. We often open our Haworth Chapel from 10AM - 4PM for anyone that would like to use the space to sit and pray in the silence.



WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

Tuesday Bible Study at 10AM in Ragan Hall.

Our weekly Bible Study meets every Tuesday morning in Ragan Fellowship Hall. This study is open to anyone and study guides are provided. We use the *Illuminate* study guide published by Barclay Press (Quaker publisher) There is always a lively discussion and conversation and plenty of space for each person to explore their own spiritual journey as well as support one another in their spiritual journey.

Join us at 10AM on Tuesdays

Everyone is Welcome

& Coffee is always on!

Intentional “Pause & Pray” Wednesdays

We are opening our Haworth Chapel and Meeting Library from 10AM-4PM for anyone that would like to avail themselves of the space to simply be present and pray. We invite Friends to take time on these Wednesdays to pray for our world, one another, and our own personal needs and concerns.

Please keep these Friends in prayer

Candace Heer continues to reside at Piney Grove Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. If you would like to send her a card, their address is **728 Piney Grove Road, Kernersville, NC 27284**. She would welcome and appreciate your cards!

Lynda Wagoner -As she continues her chemotherapy treatment at Duke University Hospital. Her next treatment cycle is scheduled for **November 7-12**.

Keith Lambeth - As he meets with Doctors and prepares for open heart surgery which is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 11**, at Duke University Hospital.

Catherine Warren - As she recovers from recent knee replacement surgery.

Eloise Farlow - Please continue to offer prayers for her and her ongoing health concerns.

Gerrie Bowles - Gerrie Bowles has been at High Point Hospital in the ICU for issues related to her lungs. Please continue to pray for Gerrie and her husband, Carroll, as well as Greg and Vickie.



**HIGH
POINT**
friends
MEETING

**800 Quaker Lane
High Point NC 27262
Phone: 336-884-1359
www.highpointfriends.org**

Meeting Clerk-- Hanna Moore

Pastoral Minister-- Scott Wagoner

Piano & Choir Director-- Wanda Simmons

Office Administrator-- Nichole Looney

Dir. of Intergenerational Ministries & Community Life -- Karin Heller

**Established in 1892
133 Years of Service in the High Point Community**