



PRISM

The Religious Society of Friends, Poplar Ridge

Poplar
Ridge
Information
Sharing
Monthly

April 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		10:30am Worship at Kendal	7:00pm Midweek Worship	7:00pm Peace and Social Action		9:00am King Ferry Food Pantry
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9:00am Quaker Basics 10:00am Meeting for Worship - Ruth Ann Bradley	3:00pm Ministry & Counsel	10:30am Worship at Kendal	7:00pm Midweek Worship			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10:00am Meeting for Worship - A.T. Miller Annual Meeting for Business	7:00pm Youth Committee Meeting	10:30am Worship at Kendal 7:30pm Women's Spiritual Nurture	7:00pm Midweek Worship	7:00pm Men's Spiritual Nurture Group		9:00am King Ferry Food Pantry
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10:00am Meeting for Worship - Christopher Sammond Easter Egg Hunt		10:30am Worship at Kendal	7:00pm Midweek Worship	7:00pm Peace and Social Action Committee		
27	28	29	30			

10:00am Meeting for Worship - unprogrammed		10:30am Worship at Kendal	7:00pm Midwee k Worshi p			
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Birthdays: 1st Samuel Simkin, Drew Schlichtmann; 4th Sally Otis, Cyrus Jack Schillenback, Mary Jo Granger; 9th Janet Otis; 13th Ryan Latham; 16th Jeff Turney; 23rd Howard Nelson; 26th Eddie Richter; 29th A. T. Miller; 30th Micheal Foulke

**MINUTES FOR POPLAR RIDGE
MONTHLY MEETING FOR
BUSINESS MARCH 16, 2025**

1. Meeting began at 11:45 with some silence. Present were: Larry Buffam, Howard Nelson, Sally Otis, Dill Otis, Anne Dalton, Scott Lockhart, Julie Lockhart, Andy Simkin, Charlie Weld, Ruth Bradley, Hannah Richter, Christopher Sammond, Claire Howard, Rob Howard, Sigrid Mortensen, Liz Johnson, Caroline Burch, Kathleen Connelley, Rebecca Schillenback, Maryanne Burch, Carl Burch.
2. The minutes from the February business meeting were read.
3. State of Society Report was read. The report was approved to be submitted to NYYM. (Report attached.)
4. State of Society Report from the Kendal at Ithaca worship group was read:

Query: how does your worship group listen to and respond to spirit in your community?

Our worship group will be entering its fourth year in the Fall. We meet every week. There are between six and 12 people who come to each meeting. Our format begins with half an hour of centering music. There are some residents who come only for the

music and leave before the next hour of worship.

After the music, we enter in to a few moments of silence. We sit in a circle and proceed in round robin fashion to update one another how our spiritual condition has been during the past week. There it's no discussion at this time. This portion of our meeting is confidential.

We then have a reading from Quaker literature, after which we enter into 20 minutes of unprogrammed worship.

Many readings come from Linda Hill Renner's book Daily Readings from Quaker Writings, Ancient and Modern. We are also reading Rufus Jones's Faith and Practice.

We usually spend a few minutes talking about the authors and Quaker practice.

After the unprogrammed worship, we enter into discussion about the reading, any thoughts which have come up, or what we shared during the round robin.

Members have commented that they like the format, the readings, and especially the 20 minutes of unprogrammed worship.

A spirit of unity and trust has grown within our group.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Dalton

Clerk Kendal at Ithaca worship group



5. Treasurer's Report: Sigrid Mortensen presented.

Contributions and spending are still largely near target for this time of year. Full report will appear in Prism.

6. Ministry & Counsel Report: Julie Lockhart read the report prepared by Anne Dalton:

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Ministry and Council report for March 2025

The 2025 State of Society query has been completed and will be read at Monthly Meeting before sending to New York Yearly Meeting.

Ruth Ann Bradley has agreed to bring regular messages to our meeting. The frequency is to be determined.

The Quaker Basics series begins this month on March 23, continues on March 30, and ends on April 6. They will be at 9am before the Meeting. The topics will be in the PRISM and announced at Worship. If needed, the children will be given activities, but, there won't be a designated childcare person. Soup and Sharing on April 27 will be held after Rise of Service. We will focus on the book the Parable of the Sower by Octavia Butler. This discussion will be led by River Vooris. The subject matter of the book may be disturbing to some children. We will determine how many children might be present and provide care as needed.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Dalton
Clerk Ministry and Council

7. Larry Buffam presented a minute prepared by Fayetteville, North Carolina Monthly Meeting, "A minute of intent to protect." We are asked to consider the minute and discern whether we want to endorse it. The minute concerns efforts to assist and protect people with immigration issues. Larry suggested that we refer this to Peace & Social Action Committee, which would arrange for an open discussion for the whole Meeting.

It was suggested that if we find ourselves in unity with the minute, it should be then sent to our elected officials. It was asked how far-reaching the minute would be—e.g., which people with immigration issues are covered by this intent? After further discussion, it was approved to refer the minute to P&SA as proposed.

8. It was noted that Annual Meeting will be held in April. Committees are reminded to prepare their annual reports.

9. Meeting closed with some silence at 12:36.

Respectfully submitted,
Howard Nelson, Recording Clerk



PRMM ZOOM MEETINGS

You can join any meeting by phone by calling the number **(646) 558 8656**. You will then need to enter the Meeting ID and Password for the meeting listed below. Join using a zoom app or website with the information below.

First Day Meeting for Worship:

Sundays 10am

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/855813646235?pwd=OGxRTlcyL3pUcVVVeU>

[9IczJ6YzlnZz09](#)

- Meeting ID: 858 1364 6235
- Passcode: 135575

Midweek Worship: Every Wednesday at 7pm. Meeting begins with check-in and support.

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87873154230?pwd=SHhPOWxHbG1FYU9xR093eFpXNXo0UT09>

- Meeting ID: 878 7315 4230
- Passcode: 584140

Spiritual Nurture group for men:

Every 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00pm

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85813646235?pwd=OGxRTlcyL3pUcVVVeU9IczJ6YzlnZz09>

- Meeting ID: 858 1364 6235
- Passcode: 135575

Spiritual Nurture group for women:

Every 3rd, Tuesday at 7:30p.m.

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85813646235?pwd=OGxRTlcyL3pUcVVVeU9IczJ6YzlnZz09>

- MEETING ID: 858 1364 6235
- Passcode: 135575

QUAKER BASICS DISCUSSION SERIES FOR SPRING 2025

We will be completing our Quaker Basics discussion series on April 6th. The discussion on “Quakers in the Community” will take place at 9 AM, in the basement and on Zoom.

There will be a facilitator for the discussion, but it is intended to be open forum and participants are invited to share their own views, experiences, and questions.

It is hoped that many friends new and old to Quakerism and our meeting will join in for lively and informative discussions.



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ANNUAL MEETING FOR BUSINESS

Annual meeting will be April 13th.

Please note that the annual meeting has been moved to the 2nd Sunday in April due to the 3rd Sunday being Easter.

PARABLE OF THE SOWER

“*God is Change*” writes Lauren Olamina, the 15 year old protagonist of [Parable of the Sower](#) by Octavia Butler. Lauren is creating Earthseed, a new religion that reflects her understanding of the dystopian world around her, and the values that she believes are necessary for survival. Published in 1993, Butler has been described as prescient for her description of the US society in the 2020s. It is in a state of societal, political and environmental collapse, with wide-spread violence. Readers should be forewarned that the book contains descriptions of death, sexual assault, drug-use, and destruction by fire, and the text can be difficult to read at times. (It is not appropriate for young audiences; parental guidance recommended for teen readers). However, it also provides a road-map for survival in difficult times, and emphasizes the need for faith, hope, community, trust and kindness. Given that we have had two Teachings this year that have quoted the book (mine and Katie Fong’s), I am excited about the opportunity to talk about this book with Friends on April 27th, during a Soup and Sharing after the Meeting.

-River Vooris

TREASURER’S REPORT FOR MARCH 16, 2025

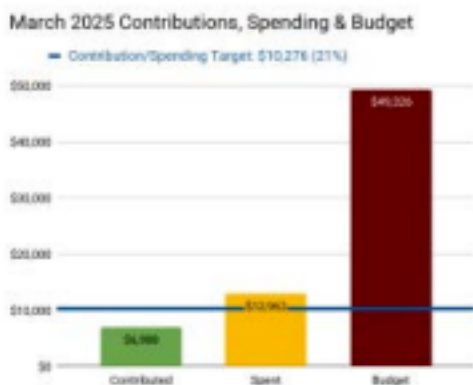
Summary

Contributions and spending are still largely near target for this time of year.

Contributions

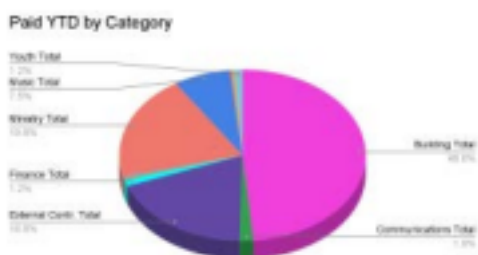
\$7,398 in contributions in the first quarter of 2024 (17% of budget) and \$3,385 up to this point in 2023 (8% of that budget).

At 21% of our way through 2025, the following chart shows our contributions (green) and spending (yellow) relative to the total proposed budget (brown), with the blue horizontal line showing the spending/contribution target for this point in the year (\$10,276).



Spending

We have spent 26% of our proposed 2025 budget so far (\$12,962). This includes our first quarterly contribution to NYYM (\$2,435) as per our 2025 budget. The other main spending categories are our building, ministry and music. The total spent compares to the first quarter spending of \$11,380 in 2024 (25% of budget) and \$9,677 in 2023 (24% of budget).



Additional information can be found at: •

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1agqC9p6HNltXwOa4li-51cTdlXe1Tm33VlmBCQh4cg/edit?usp=s_haring
• <https://docs.google.com/document/d/>

So far in 2025, Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting has received contributions of \$6,988 or 14% of our 2025 budget of \$49,326, and about half (54%) of our year-to-date spending. This compares to

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YOUTH COMMITTEE

The youth of Poplar Ridge will once again be holding the “All Ages” Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, April 20 th , after the rise of Meeting! Come join the fun! Individually wrapped Easter candy donations (trying not to use plastic eggs) are welcome and can be left in the refrigerator.

FOOD PANTRY EASTER BASKETS

Hello neighbors and friends of the King Ferry Food Pantry,
It's time for the much-anticipated annual Easter Basket Project at the Food Pantry. Those gorgeous baskets are a sight to see as they hop out the door to our neighbors who need assistance. Just this past Saturday the Pantry served 103 families!

Pre-assembled Easter Baskets OR candy and supplies to make baskets are welcome, to be dropped off at the pantry on April 17 between 2:30 and 5:00 pm at the north end of the school (the Ag Wing, near the greenhouse).

Thanks to you and your congregation, the Food Pantry continues to keep our community fed, healthier, and cared about when circumstances are not the best.

DIFFERENCE MAKER'S NIGHT

Please join us on Friday, April 25th at 6:00 pm

Please save the date for our annual Difference Makers' Night on April 25th, titled “*Hope In Everyday Life*”. The event will feature a panel discussion about

face of adversity.

The presentation and discussion will be preceded by a catered community dinner in the high school cafeteria at 6 p.m. which will be followed by the panel discussion and presentation of this year's Difference Makers Award (see nomination details below). Admission is free, and the



event is open to all who want to take part in it.

Learn more at [Anne Frank Tree Project Difference Makers](#).

SPRING SESSIONS IS APRIL 4-6, 2025

New York Yearly Meeting's Spring Sessions, April 4-6 at Oakwood Friends School and online. All are welcome to gather with other Friends from the NYYM area for worship, business, and fellowship. You must register to receive the Zoom links if attending online.

Saturday Night Plenary: Ministry and Witness in a Time of Discord.

Join Friends for a plenary program during Spring Sessions on Saturday evening, April 6, from 7-9 p.m., on "*Ministry and Witness in a Time of Discord*." We will hear from Amy Gottlieb of American Friends Service Committee

and Ravi Ragbir, an activist on immigrant rights who the first Trump administration tried to deport to punish him for his activism; Yohannes "Knowledge" Johnson, who recently was released from prison after 40+ years and who found Quakerism while in prison and served a leading role in the meeting in Green Haven Correctional Facility (as well as becoming a member of Bulls Head-Oswego Meeting); Daniel Seeger, who applied for conscientious objector exemption from the draft as a non-theist, and took his case all the way to the Supreme Court (where he won); and Jens Braun, a member of Old Chatham Meeting who will talk about his vision that "Another World Is Possible".

Find more details (and register to attend) at nyym.org/spring-sessions-2025.

Gather gladness from the skies; **LOVE THY NEIGHBOR MINUTE** [Love Thy Neighbor](#): A minute in support of the dignity and basic human rights of transgender and gender non-conforming people.

As NYYM of The Religious Society of Friends, we embrace that of God and the Light in every person. We are horrified by and opposed to the rising wave of legislation that demonizes transgender and gender non-conforming people in order to deprive them of life-giving treatment and their basic human rights. This statement was born from a place of deep love. We are called to love all our neighbors without exception. We urge our elected officials to support legislation protecting the rights, safety, and human dignity of all people regardless of their gender identity or gender expression. As Friends, we reject any legal restrictions that target transgender and gender non-conforming people.

*Take a lesson from the ground;
Flowers do ope their heavenward
eyes And a Spring-time joy have*

*found; Earth throws Winter's robes
away, Decks herself for Easter Day.
—Gerard Manley Hopkin*

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**STATE OF SOCIETY REPORT
POPLAR RIDGE FRIENDS MEETING
FEBRUARY 2025**

The query: *"How does your meeting listen to and respond to spirit in your community?"*

Our role in helping to organize workshops and outreach in conjunction with the Cornell Farm Workers program to help immigrants in our community in facing current challenges.

Our openness to diversity of spiritual values.

Our partnering with AME Zion Church and other churches to assist the homeless. The increased frequency of our work with other local churches in other areas of common interest. It was further mentioned that "...people worshiping, working, and playing together enhances feelings of community, trust, and respect."

Our adoption of Zoom technology has expanded accessibility to our meeting and its various activities. One person said: "This has made a huge difference in my life!" Another said: "I believe this is a significant accomplishment."

Spiritual Nurture groups continue, with a new group "Spiritual Nurture for All," initiated to enhance inclusiveness (though this new group has not yet formed). Other worship groups under our care include the Kendal at Ithaca worship group and a mid-week worship group. One person commented: "It is meaningful to have a group to share with in confidence and trust in a safe space."

The Pastoral Care Committee is an effort to reach out to people and their physical and spiritual needs.

We are intentional about our community, always attempting to reach out to our own community and the broader community beyond.

Our Sunday morning Quaker Basics discussions were especially mentioned. These programs respond to the spirit and promote understanding of Quaker principles and practices, and have seen high attendance. Sessions offered on membership have also been helpful in this regard.

Monthly gatherings to eat together at local restaurants is a new idea/practice to promote social interaction.

We have welcomed activities in the community such as tai chi classes to be held in the meeting house.

The San Pedro Sister Community project has grown to include many people beyond our Meeting.

A wide assortment of activities beyond meeting for worship promote a sense of community and trust.

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Celebrations such as the Christmas pageant, the Shepherds Play, the Halloween carnival, and memorial services are important to us and reach the community beyond our Meeting. One person expressed how moved they were over the past year during these events, whether actively participating or as an audience member.

Matter and energy; spirituality and action: In action, we can find spirit moving through it.

One of our members is active in leading workshops in the wider world on spiritual growth. We support his efforts, and he has been recently recognized as a recorded minister.

We maintain connection with NYYM and FSRM.

We have connection with and have given financial support to the Global Roots Pre-School for children of refugees in Ithaca.

Youth Committee continues to experiment with new ways to include our young people interactively in our worship. Although our meeting has been drawing more attention from adults of all ages, our community of young people needs continued outreach to stay connected with the meeting in this busy world.

The format of our meetings for worship varies from week to week, allowing for inclusion of different voices and personal leadings. One person said, “Our inclusive style is welcoming, invitational, and values all.”

Music is a significant force in helping us center in spirit. We are rich in members with musical gifts.



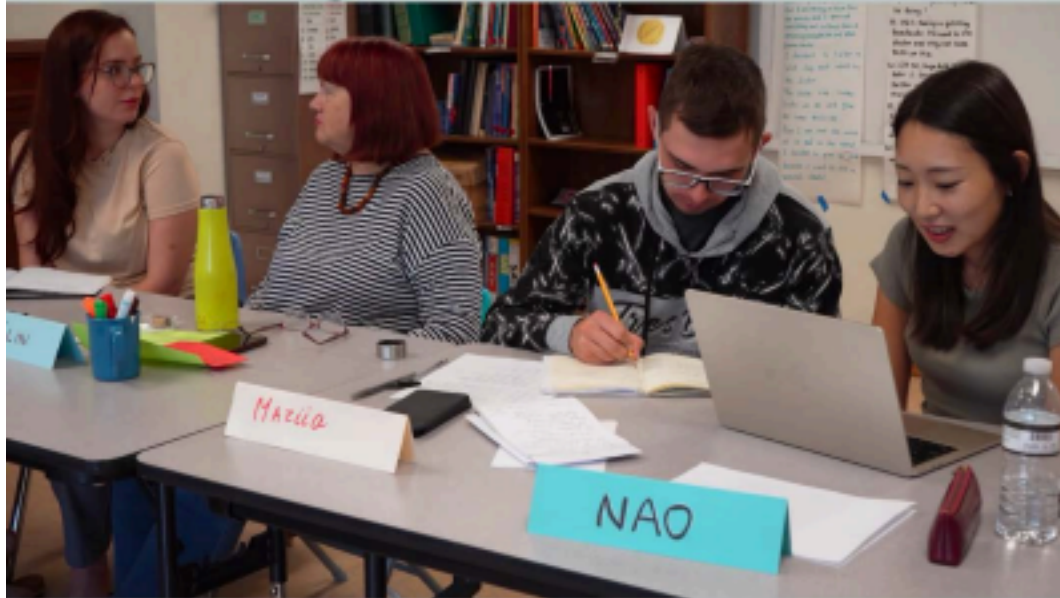
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OPEN DOORS ENGLISH
Dear Friends,

Come celebrate local immigrants at the Open Doors English Film Screening and Open House! Join us at 315 N. Cayuga St. on Sunday, April 13th from 4-5 PM for the first screening of a brand new, short documentary about Open Doors English – our students, our work, and its impact. We're super happy with how the film turned out and are very excited to share it with you all. The event is free, open to the public, and will include coffee and snacks. The film will begin at 4:15. After the 10-minute screening there will be a short Q+A with some of our students and staff, followed by a student-led open house in our classrooms. So come one, come all, to the First Presbyterian Church (315 N. Cayuga St.) on April 13th from 4-5 PM. Help us celebrate all the incredible immigrants in our community!

OPEN DOORS ENGLISH

Film Screening and Open House



ODE is a project of the Center
for Transformative Action

When: Sun, April 13th, 4-5PM

Where: 315 N. Cayuga St.

(the basement of the First
Presbyterian Church)

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Contact a care committee member if you could use support in your spiritual life or life situation, they can be there to listen or help point you to the resources you need.

The committee seeks to be present for our community and their families in whatever ways we can in times of both joy and trouble, and with help in each other's practical lives.

Poplar Ridge Friends Pastoral Care Committee

Merrie Elisens	315-515-3776, merrie.elisens@gmail.com
Craig Kukuk	734-717-7719, craigkukuk@gmail.com
Andy Simkin	315-237-3978, simkinat@msn.com
Hannah Richter	315-729-3784, hannahrichter79@gmail.com
Rebecca Schillenback	607-227-7462, rschillenback@nyym.org

Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting

Clerk – Larry Buffam

Ministry & Counsel Clerk – Anne Dalton

Assistant Clerk – Claire Howard

Recording Clerk - Howard Nelson

Treasurer – Sigrid Mortensen

Musicians – Claire Howard, Mary Jo Granger, Cathy Mullarney

Poplar Ridge Friends meet every Sunday at 10 am for worship. The fourth Sunday of the month is usually an unprogrammed meeting. The fifth Sunday has a variety of formats. Nursery is available during meeting. The meetinghouse is located at 1868 Poplar Ridge Road, Poplar Ridge, NY 13139.

See <http://www.quaker.org/poplar/> for more information

To change or correct a mailing label please contact Sally Otis at sotis3067@gmail.com or Scott Heinekamp at 315-246-7151. You can request PRISM electronically by emailing pr.prism@gmail.com.

To contribute items for PRISM contact us at pr.prism@gmail.com or

Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting: Attn PRISM

PO Box 146, Aurora, New York 13026

