

Newsletter of the
Ithaca Monthly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

October 2011

IMM CONTACTS

Meetinghouse:

120 Third Street • Ithaca NY 14850
607-229-9500

Clerk:

Steve Mohlke
52 Gray Road • Ithaca NY 14850
607-216-8411
clerk@ithacamonthlymeeting.org

Treasurer:

Mike Simkin
3137 Jacksonville Rd • T-burg, NY 14886
607-387-5174 • mes13@cornell.edu

Ministry & Worship:

Marin Clarkberg
607-279-4722 • clarkberg@cornell.edu

Pastoral Care:

Emily Williams
703.297.9849 • ewy310@gmail.com

Childcare Requests:

Kathy Beissner • beissner@ithaca.edu

Burt House:

Mary Balfour, Friend in Residence
227 N. Willard Way, Ithaca, NY 14850
607-273-5421

Listserv:

To join our email list for solely for meeting-related announcements, send an email message addressed to:

IMMRSF-L-request@cornell.edu

with body of the message as simply:

join

Scheduling:

To set up or schedule a program or presentation for the meeting and/or to reserve a room at the meeting-house, please see the instructions on the website.

Website: ithacamonthlymeeting.org

Growing in Spirit Together: GrIST Groups Forming

Are you interested in meeting regularly with a small group of people to share what is happening (or not happening) for you spiritually? GrIST (Growing In the Spirit Together) may be for you. We are organizing a second round of groups of 3-5 people to meet and share. Most of the 17 people that participated in the first round found it to be a very rewarding experience. Like last time, people will be asked whether they want to meet every week, every second week, or every third week. If participants wish, there may also be an opportunity to form groups around a particular interest. We won't put spouses or partners in the same group unless they specify that they would like to be together.

The groups will begin meeting in October and will meet through mid January. The first time a group meets, the members will schedule the rest of the dates. Attendance should be taken seriously; if possible, notice should be given if a meeting has to be missed, and a member who misses a meeting should make meaningful contact with at least one other group member before the following meeting.

The underlying questions each meeting are "What are the spiritual qualities of the everyday events in your life?" and "How has the Spirit been at work in your life since the last time we met?" Since these questions

can be difficult to answer, material has been prepared to help make it easier.

Groups generally start with opening silence and brief check-ins followed by reading the material prepared for that week. Then each person is given up to 10-15 minutes to share their answers to the questions or responses to the material. Most groups then shared more informally before closing.



The groups can use the prepared material and agenda or adjust to their liking – with one caveat. If left unchecked, groups tend to drift toward ordinary conversation, which is often more comfortable than the kind of spiritual sharing we hope these groups will nurture. To help with this, each group will be assigned a facilitator who will take primary responsibility for helping the group decide on a direction and to stay true to its intent. Care will be taken to avoid the common pitfalls of group dynamics: domination of a group by a single individual, the

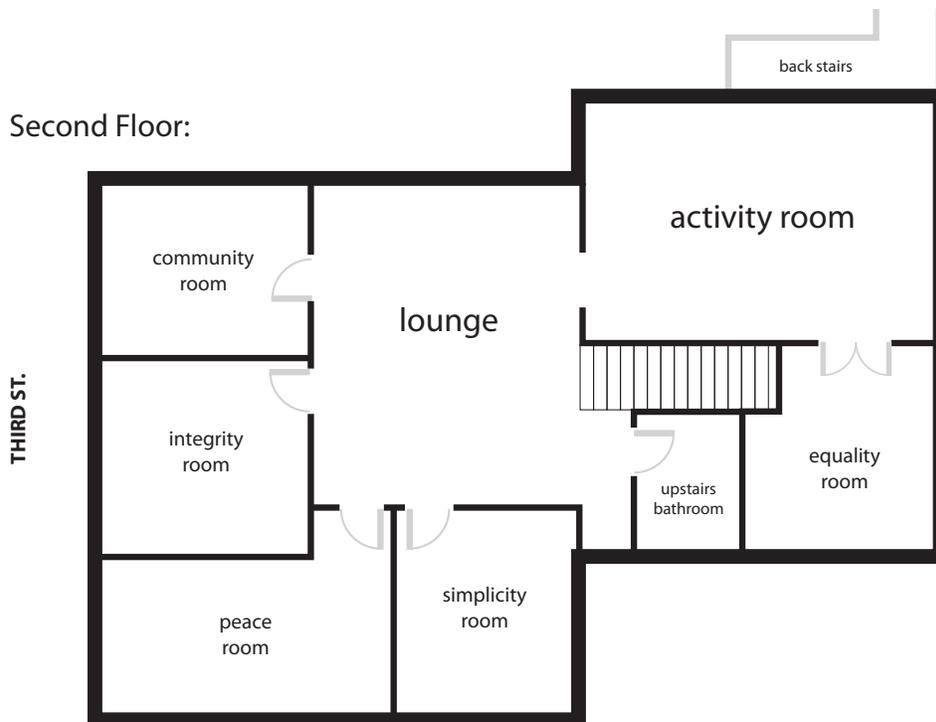
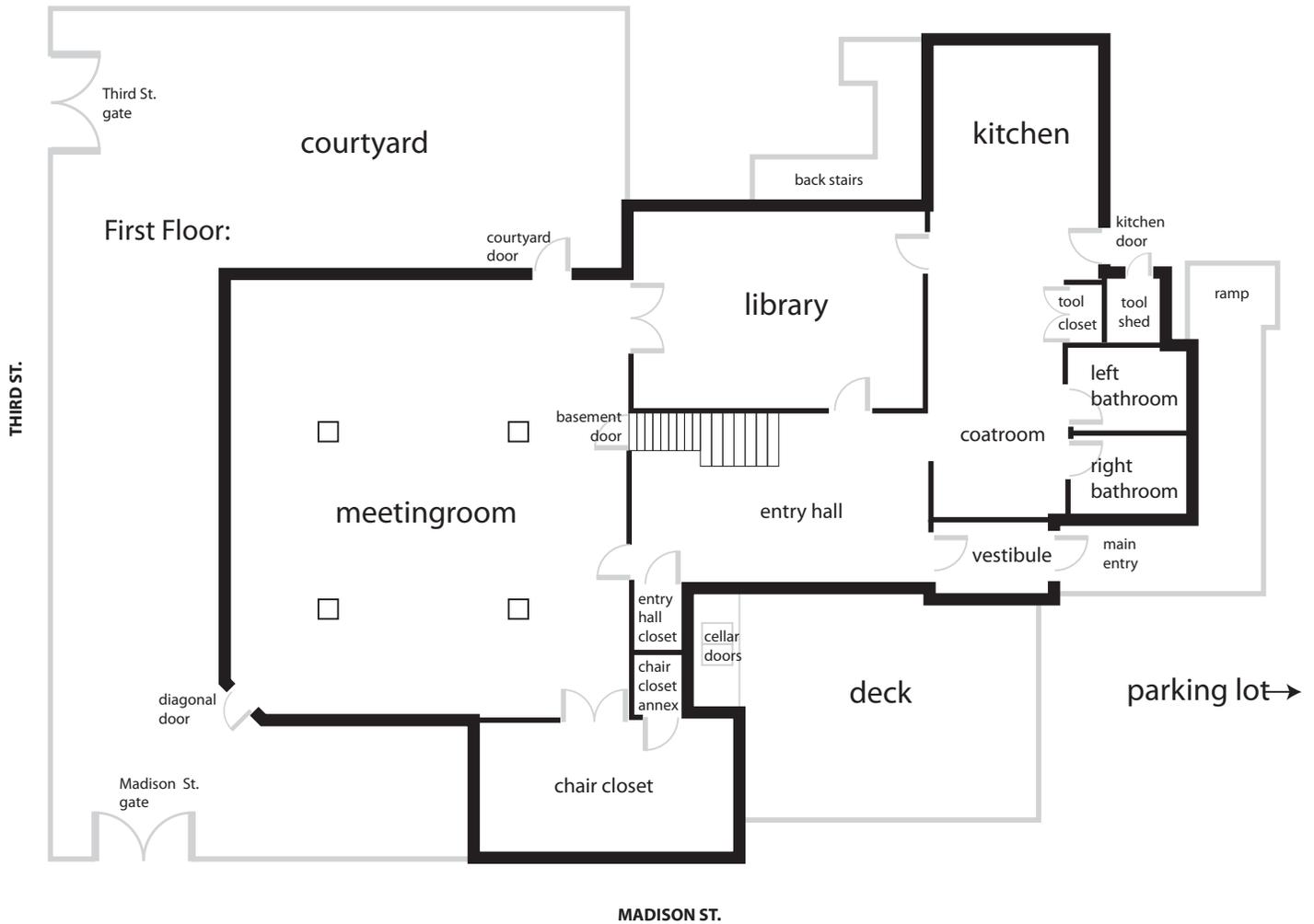
offering of advice, over-thinking, and so on.

You can register on-line:

<http://tinyurl.com/3kts7y3>

If you have questions you can contact Steve Mohlke (see Clerk contact information, left).

How Shall I Call Thee? The Third Street Meetinghouse Committee presents: names of the rooms.



The five upstairs classrooms have been named after five Quaker testimonies sometimes referred to as SPICE. Standing at the top of the stairs and starting at the left, the rooms are labeled in clockwise order as:

- Simplicity
- Peace
- Integrity
- Community, and
- Equality

Signage may come after painting and other work is complete upstairs.

October in Ithaca Monthly Meeting History

Ithaca Monthly Meeting has a rich history that now exceeds 80 years. Our meeting historian, Tom Brown, has obtained, digitized, and summarized the minutes of past business meetings. Below is Tom's selection for October.

5 Years Ago

IMM approved the Social Justice Committee's request that \$250 of their funds be used to aid in the cosponsoring of an event titled "Environmental Life of the Children; How Early Life Exposures to Environmental Contaminants Threaten Our Children." The event is to be in Ithaca's Women's Community Building on November 14, and presented by Dr. Sandra Steingraber.

Meeting entered a worship sharing period as it considered two properties for a future meetinghouse: a new structure on the Route 79 property and an existing building on Elm Street.

— *Minutes of October 8, 2006*

15 Years Ago

Peace & Social Action decided to give the \$471 in funds collected from contributions toward rebuilding burned churches in the South to Washington Quaker Work Camps.

— *Minutes of October 14, 1996*

20 Years Ago

First Day School started on October 6, with two classes numbering about seven children each. The six-to-nine year olds are focusing on finding the meanings of "reflective silence." The 11-16-year olds have expressed their preference for Quaker-related activity involving action rather than talk, meeting interesting people, and sharing their favorite books.

— *Minutes of October 14, 1991*

Recruiting More Sweepers

The sweepers have been enjoying our work, as we help to keep our meetinghouse sparkling! We could use more volunteers. We usually work in teams and our rotation has been once every eight weeks. The job takes about 2 hours. We encourage everyone to only do what they are able to and to send all of us a report, so the following week we can get to whatever still needs to be done.

Each team schedules their own time to sweep, it can be anytime during the week, but as the meetinghouse becomes busier, it might be a good idea to check the schedule.

It would be good if some of our older children were involved as well, so they can fully appreciate the work that goes into maintaining the meetinghouse. They were so helpful during the clean out and the demolition! I know they value our new building, as we all do, and spending time taking care of it has been a joy we'd like to share.

— *Melody Johnson*

25 Years Ago

After several months of discussion about IMM's financial quota to NYYM and the benefits we receive, Elspeth Rhodin, IMM clerk, drew up a two-page statement of summary points and queries. This material was presented to Regional Meeting, and after minor revisions, IMM approved forwarding it to the Budget Review Weekend of the NYYM Financial Services Committee.

— *Minutes of October 13, 1986*

30 Years Ago

A committee for clearness for Joanne Sturgeon joyfully recommended her and she was accepted into membership of IMM.

— *Minutes of October 12, 1981*

65 Years Ago

Upon the recommendation of Grace Mekeel and Ruth Freeman, who visited with them upon their application, Edmund and Virginia Cranch were welcomed into membership of IMM.

— *Minutes of October 14, 1946*

80 Years Ago

Joshua and Edith Cope opened their home for a reception for Dr. Rufus Jones, who was to preach the next day at Sage Chapel. Dr. Jones as usual brought us inspiration and courage to carry on.

— *Minutes of October 10, 1931*

Powell House: Caregivers Weekend, Nov 18-20

Are you doing more than you used to in order to keep a loved one safe and in the community? Are you visiting, calling, concerned, accompanying to the doctor's, picking up groceries, worried about a loved one's driving? You are a caregiver and this weekend is for you.

Whether it's a parent, a partner, or a sib, increased responsibilities for their care can be hard on you, and, often, the caregiver is at a loss to know how to get the loved one's needs met, what services are available, or how to evaluate behaviors that are new.

This weekend you will have an opportunity to tell your story, ask questions, seek support, learn of resources, be among others who are on this same journey and understand.

The Caregivers Weekend is co-sponsored by ARCH: Aging Resources, Consultation and Help. It will feature outside resource people in addition to ARCH staff and ARCH Visitors.

Extensive financial support is available to enable you to attend this weekend. Register by Nov. 4th: \$220 adults, \$110 ages 13-22, \$55 infants-12, & \$110 commuters. After November 4th: \$240/\$120/\$60. Visit powellhouse.org to register.

For more information about IMM scholarships, contact Barbara Ganzel.

Join "Healing Ithaca" at our Meetinghouse

On Tuesday October 4, *Healing Ithaca* will meet in our meetinghouse, from 5:15 to 5:45pm. It will be a short Meeting for Worship with attention to healing the pain and seeking a way forward in the Ithaca community. All Friends are asked to welcome our neighbors and join in this effort.

In February 2010 at Pete's convenience/liquor store Shawn Greenwood, a young black Ithacan, was shot to death by Bryan Bangs, a young white Ithaca Police officer. In July 2010 Bryan Bangs was exonerated of any use of excessive force, and that night the Bangs home was set on fire. A call went out from and to religious leaders to come together in prayer for our community, and dozens of people have continued to meet monthly over the last year, in a group called Healing Ithaca. The gatherings have taken place at different places of worship each month.

Though a year has passed since the arson, it remains an unsolved crime. A group called the Truth and Reconciliation Committee has examined the findings of the independent investigation into the events surrounding Shawn Greenwood's death, and in public meetings has called into question the investigator's conclusions which exonerated Bryan Bangs. The issue simmers in our community. There is no resolution, no peace. I believe that Friends have more than the hospitality of our meeting space to offer, and hope that many of you will come and contribute to this call to the Spirit to guide us.

— Nancy Gabriel

Workdays Coming Up

The Third Street Meetinghouse Committee has been busy lining up materials and expertise for various projects at the meetinghouse this fall. Come help! We will soon need people with carpentry experience to help us put up soundproofing tiles on the meeting room ceiling. If you can help contact Lynn Truame.

Also see the calendar on the last page of this newsletter and note the upcoming workday involving painting and gardening on October 15th from 10am to 2pm.



Third Street Meetinghouse Use in September

The October Newsletter seems to be as good a time as any to begin, what might become, a monthly column on how our new meetinghouse is being used by community groups - and how we are "being knit" into to our new neighborhood.

On the last Sunday of September, the Third Street Meetinghouse is being used as a music venue, bake sale and bathroom stop for Porchfest, the Fall Creek and Northside neighborhoods' fifth annual musical celebration of community.

Also on this day, Larry Clarkberg is offering his first monthly Friends Bike Clinic, competing for space with the meeting's karaoke singers, a fiddle band, and the Gay Men's Chorus.

Earlier, on September 20, approximately 25 participants from the Natural Leaders Initiative (NLI) used the meetinghouse for the first of seven leadership training workshops they are holding on Tuesday evenings between now and early January. NLI is a collaborative effort of GIAC, the Multicultural Resource Center, Tompkins County Action and Cornell Cooperative Extension, and is funded by grants from the Park Foundation and the City of Ithaca, as well as the collaborating partner agencies.

The NLI workshop participants come mostly from downtown, and include two work-study students from Ithaca College and Cornell. Many are parents, ranging in age from mid-twenties to late forties or older, and several brought their children. Their enthusiasm for the opportunity as well as their appreciation of the space was obvious. Marion DaGrossa, Karen Friedeborn, Carolyn Kenyon, Barbara Barry and Garry Thomas have all agreed to take turns as "sponsors," being on hand, doing split shifts, opening and closing the building.

Advices & Queries from NYM Faith & Practice

Advice 9. Care should be taken that all of our members avoid participation in lotteries, gambling, and betting, including such schemes of chance that appeal as benevolences. Friends should refrain from hazardous speculation and are cautioned against engaging in business that may be questionable. They are responsible for the manner of acquiring, using, and disposing of their possessions.

Advice 10. Friends are advised to observe integrity in their living and to inspect frequently the state of their temporal affairs. In their dealings with everyone they should endeavor to maintain a truly

Christian character, ever bearing in mind the Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Query 5. Do we keep to moderation and simplicity in our daily lives? Have we allowed the acquisition of possessions to interfere with God's purpose for us? Are our homes places where the presence of God is felt by those who live there and those who visit there? Do we choose such recreations as are wholesome and consistent with Christian character? Are we careful in our choice of ways to use our time and energy?

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, September 11, 2011

2011-09.1 Gathering

Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends met in Worship with Attention to Business on September 11, 2011. At 12:15 PM, 9 Friends settled into open worship. Clerk reviewed the agenda of the day's business, and noted that Nancy Gabriel would be holding the Meeting in the Light. Clerk opened the meeting by asking for a brief spiritual check-in from those present. After some further silent worship, we turned our attention to the day's business.

2011-09.2 Third Street Meetinghouse Committee (TSMC)

Marion DaGrossa reported that the Committee now meets every 10 days to pursue its full agenda. She stated that the members of the Committee work very well together, willingly sharing the tasks. She read the Committee's proposed Building Use Policy.

The following are among the suggestions for revisions to the Building Use Policy: (1) the opening sentence could be made more Quaker-specific rather than very general as it is presently; (2) policies are needed for on-going events that use the Meeting room, for outside groups' use of the 2nd floor, and for how scheduling conflicts between groups in Meeting will be resolved; and (4) we need a definition for what constitutes a "meeting event."

Larry Clarkberg, member of TSMC, said the Committee is proposing a trial period for the recommended policy and that the Committee is continuing to work on the following: pricing for meetinghouse use by outside groups; rates for memorial services and weddings; getting a feel for the cost of running the new building; whether Meeting events need advance scheduling; what would happen if an outside event has been approved that later comes into conflict with a Meeting event; whether we should have a space and time slots reserved for Meeting events; and how to handle exclusive use of the whole building. In addition there are some ambiguities that they are working to resolve.

Clerk proposed the following Minute:

Meeting received a draft of the proposed Building Use Policy and offered input. The Committee will bring a revised policy to a later Monthly Meeting. APPROVED @

2011-09.3 Finance Committee

Mike Simkin, treasurer, reported that the Finance Committee is beginning to work on the 2012 budget. Also NYYM has requested an estimate of the amount of the IMM covenant donation to the NYYM 2012 budget. He proposed the following Minute, which was APPROVED:

We will inform NYYM that we will be donating at least \$14,000 in 2012, as we did on 2011. @

2011-09.4 Treasurer's Report

Mike Simkin reported that at the end of August, we had received 46% of our budgeted donations for the year. Our gifts for witness so far this year have totaled approximately one-half the budgeted amount. We have received donations to the TSMH of \$277,500 to date.

2011-09.5 Clerk's Business

- a. Clerk received an inquiry from NYYM about whether IMM was interested in hosting the Spring 2012 Meeting for Discernment. A Meeting for Discernment provides an extended period of worship to discern the movement of the Spirit within Monthly Meetings in NYYM, and each Monthly Meeting is invited to send representatives to the meeting. The meeting would include two segments of roughly two hours each. Hosting this meeting, to be scheduled for a Saturday in March, would include providing lunch for 50-100 Friends, arranging for some overnight hospitality, and perhaps childcare during the morning and afternoon.

Those present felt we have the capacity to do this and welcomed the opportunity; Meeting APPROVED having the Clerk reply affirmatively. @

- b. Clerk shared a general observation about the process for creating an agenda for MM. He said that setting the agenda was not about what is allowed to be on it, but rather about helping a Committee discern whether an item it was thinking about bringing was ready for the agenda.

2011-09.6 Other Concerns

Clerk invited other concerns but none were shared.

At 12.15PM, 11 Friends settled into worship before adjourning the Meeting. We will gather again for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on October 9, 2011.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilyn Ray, Co-Recording Clerk

CROP Walk October 2nd at Cass Park

Those concerned about the present hunger situation in our country and the world over will gather at the Cass Park picnic pavilion (near the giant turtle in the children's garden) for the annual crop walk. The walk will be on the waterfront trail, about a two mile loop, which can be walked many times or just as much as desired.

To register or donate, please visit <http://tinyurl.com/3mkkucs>

Or, register and donate at Cass Park at 2pm.

October 2011 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

Please also see the online calendar at
<http://ithacamonthlymeeting.org/calendar/>

Quakerism 101

Sundays, October 2, 9, 16 and 23, 8:30am

Contact Carolyn Kenyon or see September newsletter for more details.

Pancake Breakfast Continues!

Sunday, October 2 & 9, 9am

We are having so much fun, Ministry & Worship will be hosting a few more breakfasts in October, including October 2nd and 9th. Please join us. Contributions to breakfast (food or monetary) are welcome but not necessary.

IMM Hosts "Healing Ithaca"

Tuesday, October 4, 5:15-5:45

Friends are encouraged to attend this very short Meeting for Worship with attention to healing the pain following from the Shawn Greenwood shooting and arson of Brian Bangs' home. Community members from other churches will attend. For more information, please see September's newsletter.

Floating Meeting Dish-to-Pass

Friday October 7, 5:30 p.m.

Come celebrate autumn with good Friends, good eats, and (weather permitting) a stroll along the South Hill Recreation way. Dish-to-pass-dinner at the Beissner/Kaiser home, 107 Crescent Place.

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Sunday, October 9, 12p

Agenda items should get to our clerk, Steve Mohlke, on or before the preceding Wednesday.

Workday at Third Street

Saturday, October 15, 10a-2p

There will be at least two work parties at the meetinghouse: a grounds crew party led by Nancy Gabriel and an interior painting party led by Larry Clarkberg. Please RSVP to Larry or Nancy in advance if you can help. Soup and pizza will be provided.

Every Sunday

- 10:30a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages at the Third Street Meetinghouse
- 10:45a Friends participating in First Day School gather outside the meeting room. Please be mindful of the sounds.

Earthcare Committee

Sunday, October 16, Rise of Meeting

All are invited to join in this meeting in the Library of the Meetinghouse at about noon.

Women's Fellowship

Friday, October 21, 7p

Join Friends at the Ithaca Bakery at 7pm for dinner, dessert, and/or hot tea.

Brunch

Sunday, October 23, Rise of Meeting

Bring a dish to share and stay after worship to enjoy fellowship with Friends.

Friends Free Bike Clinic

Sunday, October 23, 1-3p

Bring your bike to the meetinghouse for a free tune-up. Repairs can be as simple as a quick tune-up: cleaning a chain, pumping up tires, and adjusting brakes. (These little things can make a big difference in the ease and safety of biking!) Or repairs could be more involved: ordering and installing parts or even ordering whole bikes. Contact Larry Clarkberg, 277-9364 or larry@knowledgetown.com, for more information.

Newsletter submissions due

Thursday, October 27, 5p

Please provide your newsletter contributions to Marin Clarkberg: 150 Giles St., 14850, 607-279-4722, clarkberg@cornell.edu.

Rise Up Singing Dish-to-Pass and Sing-a-Long

Sunday, October 30, 6:30p

A warm invitation is extended to all to attend an evening of singing in the Third Street Meetinghouse. The dish-to-pass begins at 6:30p. The sing is a monthly gathering of those who enjoy singing from the Rise Up Singing book and other sources. If you want, bring your instrument and join others in accompanying the singing. Carol and Chuck Mohler are hosting. Contact Carol or Chuck at 539-6454 or at cmkmohler@frontiernet.net with questions.

Other Weekly IMM Events

- Wed 7:30p **Midweek meeting** for worship at the Burt House
- Thurs 5-5:30p **Peace Vigil** at the bottom of East State Street near the Community School for Music and Arts
- Thurs 5:30-6:30p **Meeting for worship** at the Third Street Meetinghouse