



PRISM

The Religious Society of Friends, Poplar Ridge

Poplar
Ridge
Information
Sharing
Monthly

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
		10:30am Worship at Kendal	7:00pm Midweek Worship			9:00am King Ferry Food Pantry
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10:00am Meeting for Worship - Larry Bell 11:15am Social Hour - welcoming Karen Epstein as a new member	3:00pm M&C	10:30am Worship at Kendal	7:00pm Midweek Worship			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
10:00am Meeting for Worship - A.T. Miller 1:30pm Jack Charles Memorial Service		10:30am Worship at Kendal 7:30pm Women's Spiritual Nurture	7:00pm Midweek Worship	7:00pm Men's Spiritual Nurture Group		Regional Fall Gathering 9:00am King Ferry Food Pantry
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10:00am Meeting for Worship - Ruth Bradley 11:30am Monthly Meeting for Business	7:00pm FSRM M&C Connect Call	10:30am Worship at Kendal	7:00pm Midweek Worship 7:00pm Youth Committee Meeting	October PRISM Content Deadline 7:00pm Peace and Social Action Committee		
27	28	29	30			
10:00am Meeting for Worship (unprogrammed)		10:30am Worship at Kendal	7:00pm Midweek Worship			

Birthdays: 1st Jim Frisch; 3rd Priscilla Berggren-Thomas, Tony Gaenslen; 6th Sarah Charles Seifert; 7th Bryn Grube; 8th Bess Simkin; 9th Edward Hayes; 10th Wystan Gunderson; 11th Samuel Buffam; 18th Peter Charles; 19th Sarah Richardson Green; 21st Auden Ferrari, Muriel Losey; 27th Jim Burkett; 28th George Schillenback

Anniversaries: 18th Jackie Dickinson and Ed Maassen

MINUTES FOR POPLAR RIDGE MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS AUGUST 16, 2026

Meeting began at 11:45 with some silence.

Attending in person: Andy Simkin, Howard Nelson, Claire Howard, Rob Howard, Charlie Weld, Larry Buffam, Sally Otis, Dill Otis, Ruth Bradley, Sigrid Mortensen.

On-line: Julie Lockhart, Scott Lockhart, Rebecca Schillenback, John Reed, Janice Burton, Laura Buffam.

1. Minutes from the July meeting for business were read. Two corrections were made: Maryann Nobbin's name was misspelled, and a change to the sentence, "Request from Sigrid to use a new website maintenance service for the PRFM website" should be "hosting," not "maintenance."
2. Treasurer's Report: Sigrid Mortensen reported: Our spending is below target for this point in the year (83% of target), with contributions significantly below that target (55%). Contributions are below YTD spending by \$9,449. Contributions as a percentage of the budget are way below the previous two years. (Full report in Prism.)
3. Ministry & Counsel Committee: Julie Lockhart reported. Christopher Sammond met with the committee; there was discussion of renewal of his travel minute, his current traveling ministry, and its impact on his life and how the Meeting might lend support. The importance of having other speakers in addition to our three regulars was also discussed. An Adult Education program on the theme "Where We Turn for Spiritual Guidance, Growth, and

Mentoring" is scheduled for November 8, with A.T. Miller facilitating. Several memorial minutes were discussed.

4. Howard Nelson read memorial minutes for Woody Peters and Jack Charles. (Texts of the minutes below.) Both minutes were approved.



5. Larry Buffam announced that Fall Gathering will take place at our meeting house on September 19, 9-3:30. He described the program. Work with immigrants in our area will be one of the topics. Snacks and coffee for morning and soup for lunch are being arranged. It is hoped that Zoom and child care will be available.
6. Andy Simkin noted a conflict with the new free clinic on that date. It was suggested that the clinic be postponed until October. Another possibility would be to move the location of the clinic for that day, perhaps to Instant Aid or to another part of our building. There was discussion. It was agreed to offer the front foyer as the clinic space for that day.
7. Andy spoke further about the Free Clinic to begin September 5, offered by Don Gentry. The clinic committee will be meeting on August 23 to discuss logistics. It was asked that clinic dates be added to the events calendar.

8. Andy noted that Liz Johnson has been our rep to AFSC. Liz has asked Karen Epstein to replace her in that role. Approved.

Meeting closed with some silence at 12:25.

Respectfully submitted, Howard Nelson



MEMORIAL MINUTE FOR ELWOOD “WOODY” PETERS

1931 - 2026

Woody Peters passed away on May 21, 2026, at The Commons in Auburn, New York, at the age of 94. His obituary says: “A gifted musician, proud Navy veteran, dedicated educator, and beloved family member, Woody touched countless lives through his love of music, teaching, and service.” His musical talent was central to who he was, as a teacher in the Ithaca School system, and as a performer: “A lifelong performer accomplished in multiple jazz styles, Woody was a great and hard-swinging improviser in any context. He played with countless jazz ensembles throughout his life, including the Soda Ash Six Dixieland Jazz Band.” He was also “a devoted volunteer with the Tompkins County Suicide Prevention Hotline and an active supporter of local theater. He proudly supported causes for global peace and justice.”

Raised in the Lutheran Church and later a member of the Unitarian Universalist

Society, Woody found a home with Poplar Ridge Friends late in life, which he attended for about twenty years. He was an active contributor in meeting for worship and in the Men’s Spiritual Nurture Group, where his comments and presence brought a lively and good-humored spirit. When asked once by a friend how he felt about dying, he said, “Well, I’m very curious about the afterlife. I have some questions that I want to ask God.”

His obituary says: “Woody will be remembered for his kindness, humor, and lifelong commitment to teaching and service. In keeping with his commitment to education, he donated his remains to the Anatomical Gift Program at Upstate University, wishing to ‘continue teaching after he was gone.’”

MEMORIAL MINUTE FOR JOHN “JACK” CHARLES

June 5, 1932 – May 25, 2026

Jack Charles was a long-time member of Poplar Ridge Meeting. He was a pillar of the local community. His activities included the Rotary Club and the Instant Aid ambulance service, where he served as treasurer for more than a decade. He and his wife Mary Lou lived for many years in the historic Jethro Wood House, where together they were its dedicated stewards and restorers. Some of that energy was also expressed in the stenciling that runs along the top of the walls of the meeting room in the Poplar Ridge meetinghouse, which he and Mary Lou applied, a job which required many trips up a tall ladder.

Jack was the devoted father of three children, Sara (Seifert), Jill (Gomez), and Peter (Charles). He was a dedicated teacher in local public schools, first in

Moravia and then in Auburn, teaching Social Studies and English. He enjoyed being around young people and was passionate about encouraging their love of writing. After retirement from teaching, he worked as a security guard at Nucor Steel for several years, where he relished the camaraderie with fellow guards; he loved sharing a good joke.

Wherever he went, Jack was known for his modest and thoughtful manner. He was also a writer, of letters and of two memoir collections, *Beyond the Chazy* and *More Tales from Beyond the Chazy*, which have those same qualities. Perhaps a good way to catch some of Jack's spirit is to quote one of his essays:

Sad Days

Bill Seymour was our barber after we moved to Clayton in 1944. He cut my father's hair and did the same for the four of us boys. Then I enlisted in the Air Force, and things were different when I came home in 1954.

You see, Bill's son-in-law had been killed in Korea, and Bill couldn't understand why that happened to a family man while young single guys like me served in peaceful areas of the world. He happened to mention this fact one day when I was in the shop, and I never went back after that.

I didn't believe his father understood my decision in the matter, but then again he may have forgotten how close I myself came to going to Korea when I was training for the air police, when, in the middle of the night, all five hundred of us had been called out to the quadrangle. Every other man was chosen and I just happened to be the man in the middle.

Looking back on Bill's resentment, I wonder if I should have acted differently, continuing to have him cut my hair. Ah,

the advantage of hindsight. Perhaps I understand life better today than I did then; perhaps I'm more sensitive to other people's feelings than I was before.



TREASURER'S REPORT FOR AUGUST 16, 2026

Summary

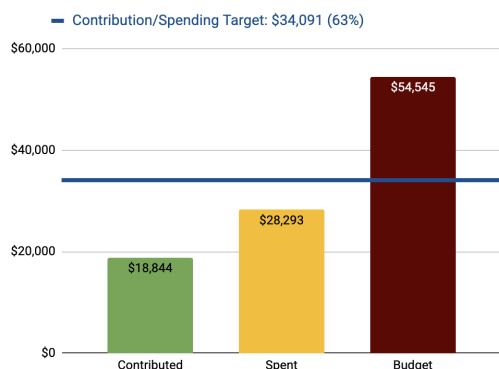
Our spending is below target for this point in the year (83% of target), with contributions significantly below that target (55%). Contributions are below YTD spending by \$9,449. Contributions as a percentage of the budget are way below the previous two years.

Contributions

At 63% of our way through 2026, Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting has received contributions of \$18,844 – or 35% – of our 2026 budget of \$54,545, which is 67% of our year-to-date spending. This compares to \$24,609 in contributions by mid-August 2025 (50% of budget) and \$21,482 in 2024 (48% of budget).

The following chart shows our contributions (green) and spending (yellow) relative to the total proposed budget (brown), with the blue horizontal line showing the YTD spending/contribution target.

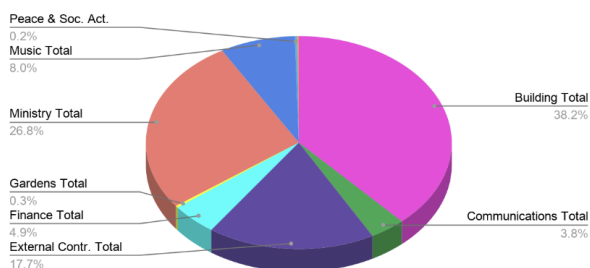
August 2026 Contributions, Spending & Budget



Spending

We have spent 52% of our 2026 budget (\$28,293). Our largest spending categories are building (38%), external contr. (18%), ministry (27%) and music (8%). The total spent compares to spending of \$25,573 by mid-Aug. 2025 (52% of budget) and \$21,228 in 2024 (47% of budget).

Paid YTD by Category



MINISTRY & COUNSEL REPORT FOR AUGUST 16, 2026

1. Christopher Sammond joined our August meeting to discuss finding speakers for Meeting for Worship. He finds the process to be spiritually fulfilling and, given his busy travel schedule, a way to contribute to Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting. Christopher and the committee agreed that it is important to keep slots open for speakers other than our 3 regular worship leaders.
2. M&C plans an Adult Education program titled "Where We Turn for

Spiritual Guidance, Growth and Mentoring." The scheduled date is Sunday, November 8th after rise of Meeting, and will be facilitated by A.T. Miller. The program announcement will be shared after Meeting for Worship for a few Sundays leading up to November 8th, and will be printed in the Prism. Details to follow.

3. Howard Nelson plans to read the Memorial Minutes he wrote for Jack Charles and Woody Peters during today's Monthly Meeting for Business. Memorial Minutes for Linda Simkin, Donald "Quack" Simkin and Phyllis Bunker are in process.

JACK CHARLES MEMORIAL SERVICE

All are welcome to attend a memorial service for Jack Charles on Sunday, September 13th at 1:30pm at the meeting house. The service will be followed by a reception downstairs.

ADULT EDUCATIONAL SHARING PROGRAM

Ministry and Council will be presenting an adult educational sharing program on November 8th at the Meeting House before meeting for worship at 9am. All are welcome to come and explore their experience of "Where We Turn for Spiritual Guidance, Growth, and Mentoring" as we seek to nurture and support one another and our collective experience. Are there particular readings, questions, experiences, locations, conversations, expressions, or other times and occasions that we find build for ourselves depth and understanding in Light and Truth or go some length to dispel doubt, drift, or disconnection? Please come having considered your own

resources and inspirations and ready to open to the ways and insights of others on our collective and individual paths. The morning session will be facilitated by A.T. Miller and will be available in person and via zoom link.

FARMINGTON SCIPIO REGIONAL MEETING - FALL GATHERING

You are warmly invited to our annual Fall Gathering for Farmington Scipio Regional Meeting at Poplar Ridge Meetinghouse, 1868 Poplar Ridge Road, Poplar Ridge, NY 13139, on Saturday, September 19 starting at 9 am.

The theme for the morning session will be Mutual Aid for Our Neighbors in Need. We are excited to have Larry Buffam and his colleagues from a local informal mutual aid group share with Friends the situation locally for our immigrant neighbors, the community's interventions and how regional Friends can be of assistance.

The schedule will work roughly as follows:

- 9 - 10 a.m. Fellowship and refreshments
- 10 - 10:30 a.m. Land Acknowledgement, Worship, and icebreaker
- 10:30 a.m - 12:00 p.m. Program on mutual aid in the Poplar Ridge Area and Opportunities to support mutual aid across our Region
- 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Lunch, including any interest group working lunches. Friends are asked to bring their own lunches and beverages. Poplar Ridge Friends will provide soup, coffee, and tea
- 1:15 p.m. - ?? Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (note this is the only part to be shared in hybrid mode on Zoom.)

We encourage everyone to register to ensure we have adequate refreshments, childcare, and special interest groups for lunch.

Please register through this link:

<https://forms.gle/RvM8dAjWEgWNzLGw7>

We only hold Gatherings 3 times per year. We encourage long-time Friends and new folks to come. Relationships start and are sustained by in person connection. It helps us to grow in our friendships, our faith and to get a sense of our region and what is happening in our Meetings.



KING FERRY FOOD PANTRY

Support the food pantry! Participate in this month's events. Learn more at <https://www.facebook.com/KingFerryFoodPantry>.

Kid's Snacks!

- crackers with cheese
- pudding or Jello cups
- granola or protein bars
- crackers with peanut butter

King Ferry Food Pantry, 2384 State Rt 34B, Aurora (Southern Cayuga High School). Donations may be dropped off at the pantry on September 3rd & 17th between 1:00-3:00 or call to schedule a drop off time (315) 497-2049. There is also a food collection box at the Aurora Library.

Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting

Clerk - Andy Simkin

Assistant Clerk - Larry Buffam

Ministry & Counsel Clerk - Julie Lockhart

Treasurer - Sigrid Mortensen

Assistant Treasurer - Jeff Turney

Musicians - Claire Howard, Mary Jo Granger,
Cathy Mullarney

Poplar Ridge Friends meet every Sunday at 10am 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 <https://poplarridgefriends.org/> 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 or with any questions, contact us at pr.prism@gmail.com or
Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting: Attn PRISM
PO Box 146, Aurora, NY 13026

Poplar Ridge Friends Pastoral Care Committee

Merrie Elisens - 315-515-3776, merrie.elisens@gmail.com

Craig Kukuk - 734-717-7719, craigkukuk@gmail.com

Ruth Bradley - 315-224-2721, rabradley33@gmail.com

Hannah Richter - 315-729-3784, hannahrichter79@gmail.com

Rebecca Schillenback - 607-227-7462, rschillenback@nyym.org

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.