PRISM

The Religious Society of Friends, Poplar Ridge

Poplar
Ridge
Information
Sharing
Monthly

November 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10:00am Meeting for Worship - Rebecca Schillenback	3:00pm M&C	10:30am Worship at Kendal	7:00pm Midweek Worship			9:00am Free Health Clinic 9:00am King Ferry Food Pantry
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:00am Adult Educational Sharing Program 10:00am Meeting for Worship - A.T. Miller 11:15am Social Hour		10:30am Worship at Kendal	7:00pm Midweek Worship			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10:00am Meeting for Worship - Ruth Ann Bradley 11:30am Monthly Meeting for Business at the rise of Meeting	7:00pm FSRM M&C Connect Call	10:30am Worship at Kendal 7:30pm Women's Spiritual Nurture	7:00pm Midweek Worship	December PRISM Content Deadline 7:00pm Men's Spiritual Nurture Group		9:00am Free Health Clinic 9:00am King Ferry Food Pantry
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
10:00am Meeting for Worship (unprogrammed)		10:30am Worship at Kendal	7:00pm Midweek Worship			
29	30					
10:00am Meeting for Worship - Song & Silence						

Birthdays: Birthdays: 7th Hannah Richter; 11th Zehan Nelson, Ted Rejman; 17th Kathleen Connelly; 18th Patsy Myers, Ella Pearl Gunderson; 19th Kevin Sullivan; 20th Larkin Aela Green; 22nd Scott Heinekamp; 29th Gopini Nelson

MINUTES FOR POPLAR RIDGE MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS OCTOBER 18, 2026

Attendance Online: John Reed, Merrie Elisens
Attendance In-Person: Dave Johnson, Andy Simkin, Rob Howard, Claire Howard, Sigrid Mortensen, Dillwyn and Sally Otis, Liz Johnson, Charlie Weld, Ruth Bradley, Christopher Sammond, Jeff Turney

1. Minutes from Meeting for Business from 20-Sep-2026 (read by David Johnson) - No corrections were noted.

2. Ministry & Counsel Report (Julie Lockhart, read by Andy) – Songs and Silence format planned for November 29 meeting for worship. Requests for hymns should be sent in advance to pr.prism@gmail.com. Full report attached to these minutes.

   Memorial Minute for Phyllis Bunker - Minute was read. Discussion included remembrances and gratitude regarding the minute, Phyllis' life, and the creation of the minute. Friends approved minute, which will be forwarded to the regional meeting. Copy of the memorial minute attached to these minutes.

   Christopher Sammond Travel Minute (read by Dave Johnson) - No changes requested. Friends approved minute to be signed and dated by Clerk of the Meeting and Ministry & Counsel clerk.

   Associate Memberships – Ministry and Counsel committee brought up the question of how to classify membership of persons who became Associate members as children and who are now adults. There was discussion of relevant guidance in NYYM Faith and Practice book, as well as past practice of PRMM. After extensive discussion, there was unity in support of asking M&C to attempt contact with Associate members who are now adults, and to explore discernment with those persons as to whether they are clear either to change their status to regular membership, or to withdraw from membership. Suggestion was made that it may be appropriate to form a clearness committee to support this conversation and process. No changes will be made without achieving such clarity. M&C will refer any changes of status of Associate members to be recognized by the monthly meeting for business and recorded by statistician. There was also discussion of including birth years in the membership database.



3. Treasurer's Report (Sigrid) - Spending remains below target (78%) and contributions below target (61%) on trend with the last several months. These represent changes vs previous years' percentage contributions. Treasurer noted that cost-of-living expenses have been passed along to the budget, but that contributions are lagging in comparison to previous years. Appeal letter to be drafted and sent out shortly.

Budget draft process to be initiated shortly. Request from Liz Johnson has been made to all committees regarding budget needs for next year—not all committees have responded yet. Full Treasurer's report to be attached.

4. Poplar Ridge Free Clinic report - 2nd free health clinic session was held at the Meetinghouse Oct 17th with a total of 2 patients for this session versus 6 persons from the first one. Good engagement from the meeting and volunteer medical staff were noted. Next clinic is scheduled for the 1st Saturday in November. A need for additional on-site signage was noted. Suggestion was made to clarify existing signage from noting "Free Clinic" to "Free Health Clinic". Additional signage in Spanish was suggested as well.



5. Building Committee – Andy reported on upgrades to the downstairs bathroom, cleaning out of the furnace room, addition of an exit sign in the back stairway and replacement of the upstairs thermostat with a new one that can be remotely controlled via a Wi-Fi connection.

6. Zoom information / cybersecurity for Meeting for Worship - Ministry and Counsel requested assistance from the Communications committee for a way to handle situations when more than one committee needs to schedule a Zoom meeting at the same time. This led to examination of security of zoom meetings. The Communications committee will meet to discuss these issues.

7. The Peace and Social Action Committee brought up a request for $500 to be donated to the Safe and Warm organization (assisting homeless persons in Auburn). The funds would come from the PRMM Racial Justice Fund. Treasurer noted that a contribution of $480 was budgeted for this year and is ready for distribution. This contribution will be processed and a check issued.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Johnson, co-Recording Clerk

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR OCTOBER 17, 2026

Summary

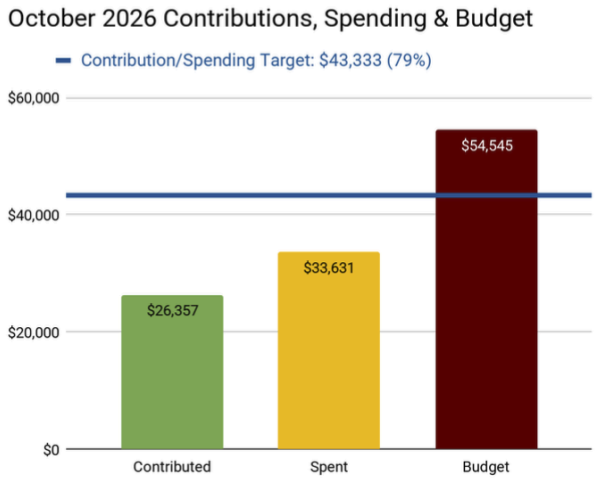
Our spending remains significantly below target for this point in the year (78% of target), with contributions still significantly below that target (61%). Contributions are below YTD spending by $7,274.

Contributions

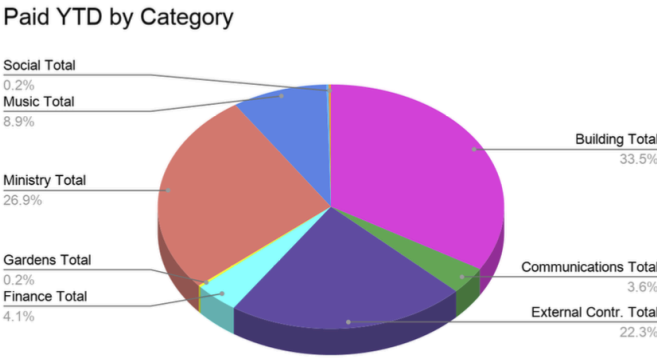
At 79% of our way through 2026, Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting has received contributions of $26,357 – or 48% – of our 2026 budget of $54,545, which is 78% of our year-to-date spending. This compares to $33,179 in contributions by mid-October 2025 (67% of budget) and $25,419 in 2024 (57% of budget).

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.



Spending
We have spent 62% of our 2026 budget ($33,631). Our largest spending categories are building (34%), external contr. (22%), ministry (27%) and music (9%). The total spent compares to spending of $32,088 by mid-Oct. 2025 (65% of budget) and $27,809 in 2024 (62% of budget).



MINISTRY & COUNSEL REPORT FOR OCTOBER 18, 2026

1. A program of "Songs and Silence" is planned for Sunday, 11/29 during Thanksgiving Weekend. Claire Howard has asked that requests for Songs & Silence be made in advance. From those requests, Claire will pick 5-6 to play. This should take about a half hour during meeting for worship. M&C will announce this plan through *Prism* and an email to the PRFM mailing list with instructions about where to send requests.

2. New York Yearly Meeting sent out a 2026 NYYM Information Sheet requesting that PRFM's entry be updated. This was done by several individuals, including M&C members, and has been submitted back to NYYM.

3. M&C has been considering how PRFM has utilized the category of Associate Members in the past, instructed by historical use of Associate Memberships by other meetings. We have requested that this conversation be continued at today's meeting.

4. In the recent NYYM Newsletter, *Topics of Interest*, there was an article about the proposed revision on how to make revisions to *Faith and Practice*. As changes to *Faith and Practice* need to be approved by monthly meetings, the proposed revision is on the agenda for today's Meeting for Business.

5. M&C has been working with Christopher Sammond's Care Committee to help prepare an updated Travel Minute for his ministry over the past year. This minute will be read at today's Meeting for Business.

6. A Memorial Minute for Phyllis Bunker will be read today for the meeting's approval.

MEMORIAL MINUTE FOR PHYLLIS BUNKER

Phyllis Rantanen Bunker, 87, a long-time member of Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting, died on October 10, 2025, at her son John's home in Newfield, New York.

Phyllis was born March 23, 1938, to Marshall and Bernice Heigele. She grew up in Moravia, New York. She met John Rantanen, Jr., and they were married in September, 1958. They moved to Richmond, Indiana, so John could finish his last year at Earlham College. They moved back to Sherwood, living at Wind Crest Farm, and Phyllis began attending Friends Meeting. In 1959 she travelled with Trudy Buxenbaum to SUNY Cortland to finish her college degree in teaching. She later received her Master's degree from Cortland.

Phyllis and John had four children: Debra, John III, David II, and Steven. Phyllis maintained a busy life as wife, mother, and full-time English teacher. Her teaching career in the U.S. included the following locations: Southern Cayuga, Hannibal, Union Springs, South Lansing School for Girls, the Navajo reservation in Pine Hill, New Mexico, and Auburn prison. In 1979 Phyllis moved to Guatemala, where she taught at the American School, the Mayan School, and the Evelyn Rogers School. She became an administrator at the Evelyn Rogers School and worked in that capacity until her retirement. In 2016 she returned to Moravia, where she truly enjoyed substitute teaching at Moravia High School. Phyllis was an ardent believer that a quality education had the power to improve the lives of all people – no matter their age or station in life. Thus, she devoted countless years to ensuring that all of the students she taught got the best she had to offer.

Phyllis was active over the years in Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting, serving on various committees. In her later years, the Library Committee brought her joy. Phyllis had a great love of reading. She always had a couple of books she was reading and loved to talk about them.

Between 2019 and 2022, Phyllis went into Cayuga Correctional Facility as a volunteer with the Alternatives to Violence Project, completing two three-day workshops as a participant and serving on the facilitation team for one. She accompanied Shirley Way for meetings with the four to six incarcerated AVP facilitators at Cayuga twice a month. She relished forming connections with the men, and with a sly smile and a twinkle in her eyes she would sometimes suggest something outlandish or silly that they all might try as an exercise or a "light and lively." When her breathing became labored with the walk from the front gate to the education building, she reluctantly gave up going in.

Phyllis's daughter Debbie commented, "My mom's biggest hobby was improving the communities she lived in." Helping with Cayuga-Owasco Lakes Historical Society and the Loc-Mor thrift store were high on her list. In earlier years she did educational work in the summer with the children of migrant workers in King Ferry. She offered enrichment activities to girls at the Lansing School for Girls, and took one of the girls in as a foster child. That girl grew up to graduate from college and have a successful life.

Phyllis believed that there is a Light in everyone and that people are good at heart and deserve to be treated accordingly. She had a joyful spirit that inspired others. Her upbeat cheerfulness was contagious. Her determination to enjoy life was a strong trait that was felt by those who knew her.

YOUTH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Plan ahead! The Annual Children's Christmas Pageant will be held December 20th at 4:00pm. This has evolved into a wonderful Intergenerational pageant! Children, grandchildren, parents, grandparents and extended family/friends are invited to participate. Please send names and ages of children/grandchildren who will most likely be participating or attending to Joanne at jbrummcac@gmail.com by early December so a gift donation list can be created.

Finger food supper, followed by a visit from Santa and presentation of gifts round out this special event.

Any one interested in portraying Santa or being a Santa helper? It's a fun gig! Let any member of youth committee know if you're willing to take on this role.



ADULT EDUCATIONAL SHARING PROGRAM

Ministry and Councel 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.

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.