



PRISM

The Religious Society of Friends, Poplar Ridge

Poplar
Ridge
Information
Sharing
Monthly

October 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
						9:00am Free Clinic 9:00am King Ferry Food Pantry
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10:00am Meeting for Worship - Charlie Weld	3:00pm M&C	10:30am Worship at Kendal	7:00pm Midweek Worship			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
10:00am Meeting for Worship - A.T. Miller 11:15am Social Hour		10:30am Worship at Kendal	7:00pm Midweek Worship 7:00pm Youth Committee Meeting	7:00pm Men's Spiritual Nurture Group		9:00am Free Clinic 9:00am King Ferry Food Pantry
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
10:00am Meeting for Worship - Sara Nelson 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	November PRISM Content Deadline 7:00pm Peace and Social Action Committee		6:00pm Potluck Supper
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
10:00am Meeting for Worship (unprogrammed)		10:30am Worship at Kendal	7:00pm Midweek Worship			

Birthdays: 4th Kathy Tyler; 5th Lydia Benton Simkin; 8th Bronwyn Losey; 9th Maddie Mortensen; 10th Chris Babcock; 13th Perry Gorgen, Rosalina Maassen, Laura Sullivan; 14th Claire Howard; 16th Harriet Losey; 17th Karen Simkin; 18th Helen Hebben; 22nd Gabriel Myers-Hayes; 28th Stephanie Nelson

Anniversaries: 11th Kara & Jesse Otis, Carly & Eddie Richter

MINUTES FOR POPLAR RIDGE MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

Attendance Online: Dave Johnson, Andy Simkin, Rob Howard, Scott & Julie Lockhart

Attendance In-Person: Claire Howard, Larry Buffam, Sigrid Mortensen, Dillwyn Otis, Hannah Richter, Suzanne O'Hara, Sally Otis

1. Minutes from August 16 Meeting for Business (read by Claire Howard) - No corrections were noted.
2. Treasurer's Report (Sigrid) - Spending 81% of target, contributions 61% of target (improved but still below historic norms). Preliminary analysis shows contributions by individual members have declined, and that the change is not primarily a result of attrition of membership. Full report attached in PRISM and available in Library.



Finance Committee has suggested creating a balanced budget for next year by introducing cuts to the budget. Meeting Clerk made a comment that spending cuts may not necessarily be needed due to previous years' surpluses. The Finance Committee will prepare a draft budget to be considered in future Meetings for Business.

Treasurer followed up with historic perspective regarding budgeting under-runs, patterns of contributions, etc. that suggest that contributions will be below spending for the year. Annual appeal letter was discussed including whether the possibility of spending cuts should be mentioned (advice was "No"). There was some discussion of seeking additional contributions from younger members. The topic will be discussed further in committees (Ministry and Counsel and Finance).

Treasurer proposed a multi-scenario budget draft. Meeting clerk will discuss further with Finance Committee clerk.

3. Ministry and Counsel (Julie) - Noted upcoming programming Sunday Nov 29 for songs and silence. Memorial minutes update presented. Status update on Travel Minute for Christopher Sammond's ministry was also given. Status update on meeting's recommendation of A.T. Miller as a recorded minister was given. NYYM is working on this. Full report attached.

A memorial minute for Donald "Quack" Simkin was read. The minute was approved. Ministry and Counsel will forward this on to the regional meeting.

4. Request Use of Meeting House (Hannah) - Access and use of the meeting house for the annual Shepherds' Play was requested for Saturday, December 19 as well as Sunday afternoon rehearsals leading up to the performance. Approved.

5. Grant Application Request Support (Claire) - The Safe and Warm Organization requests PRMM support for its request for a grant from NY Yearly Meeting (Witness Activities Fund Grant). Minute was discussed and approved as follows: Safe and Warm is a three-year old organization established and supported through Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting in coalition with five local churches to serve the homeless population of Cayuga County. We as a meeting support Safe and Warm's request to the New York Yearly Meeting Witness Activities Fund for a grant of \$700 to assist 20 homeless families for laundry over a three-month period.
6. Free-Clinic Update (Andy) - A brief status update was given on the upcoming free health clinic (Saturday Oct 3, 9-1). Medical services will be provided free of charge at the meetinghouse by a not-for-profit corporation led by Nurse Practitioner Don Gentry. Clinic hours are planned for the first and third Saturday of each month. A discussion followed on whether funding is needed beyond utilities, space, and infrastructure at the meetinghouse. Currently no direct funding from PRMM is needed/being requested.
7. Green Cards (Welcome to Poplar Ridge Meeting cards) - Suggestion was made to amend the cards to reflect updated web site address, contact form, and donations (how to give). The Communications committee is asked to draft an updated card to be reviewed at a future Meeting for Business.
8. Treasurer Status Report post Meeting for Worship (Sigrid) - Request for guidance made regarding whether the Treasurer should periodically give a financial status update to the general meeting (as part of announcements). It was agreed that doing this occasionally would be a good idea. The update may include information as to how to make donations.
9. Recording Clerk - A request made to publish/share the list of recording clerk signups for each month (potentially as part of the rest of service roster, e.g., "Zoom Host", etc.). To share with Howard Nelson for further action.

Respectfully submitted by Dave Johnson,
co-Recording Clerk



MEMORIAL MINUTE FOR DONALD SIMKIN

1941-2026

Donald Simkin was born on March 31, 1941, in Sherwood, New York. Donald was the third child of Chester and Clara Simkin. From his early childhood and throughout his life, Donald, whose life-long nickname was "Quack," had the ability to mix humor and his love of sports with his desire to serve. As a "Birthright Friend" he was a member of Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting. During those early years young and old attended

"programmed worship." Following worship, those gathered divided into various age groups. After an hour class all groups gathered for closing exercises. The young shared a memory verse. Donald at his early age attempted to suggest that "'Be good' would meet the requirements," defending his choice as a "verse" easy to remember. This was but a preview of a man who could lighten up the day with the unexpected.

In 1959 Donald graduated from Sherwood High School, Aurora, New York. He attended Earlham College from 1959 to 1963. When Donald spoke of his years at Earlham he often had quotes from Earlham's football coach. Donald was a fan of contact sports.

After college Donald worked at a child development center in Albany and at Hillside Children's Home in Rochester. This employment fulfilled his "alternative service" requirements.

Donald met Nance Needham in Albany at the Children's Home, and they were married 5th month 1st 1965. Donald continued to carry out his work as an alternative to military service at Hillside Children's Center.

In 1966 Donald began his 44 year career as a Monroe County Probation Officer and was assigned a case load mainly inner city Rochester. In addition to his professional work, Donald, with support from Nance, began an amateur boxing program at St. Martin's Center in Rochester. That program was widely recognized as a vehicle to uplift young people and strengthen community.

Donald's boxing skills sometimes came in handy in his probation officer work. He would tell stories of when on occasion someone would resist and take a punch at

him, and he was very well able to defend himself, he would say with a chuckle.

Camp Casper Gregory, located on Cayuga Lake near Aurora, hosted a camping program for youth. In the late 1960's this interdenominational youth camping program faced a critical staff shortage. Donald and Nance used their vacation time to direct camp and fill shortages so that the camp could continue. They invited and transported children from Rochester to experience a week of camp life at Camp Gregory.

In 1972 Donald and Nance welcomed a set of twins into their family. Sonia and Mark continued to brighten their lives. In their later years Donald and Nance were blessed with grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Living in Rochester never lessened Donald's love for Poplar Ridge. He had an artistic gift, and created charcoal drawings of many local landmarks. After the passing of his wife, Donald would travel the 60 miles to Poplar Ridge each Sunday to attend Meeting for Worship, and bring two bags of groceries to support the local food pantry. In his return to Poplar Ridge Donald's unique, lively spirit enriched the meeting and gave others an example of what it could mean to "be good."



**TREASURER’S REPORT FOR
SEPTEMBER 20, 2026**

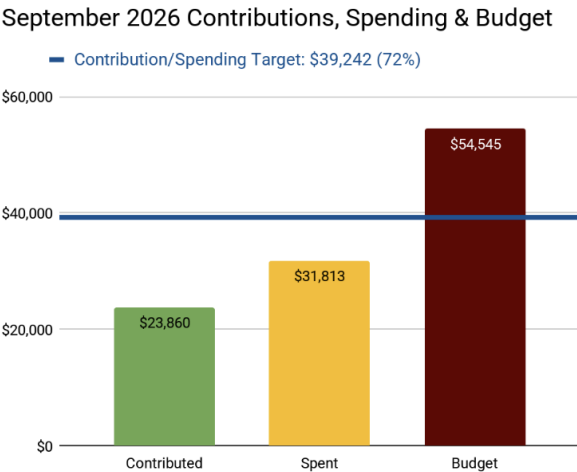
Summary

Our spending is below target for this point in the year (81% of target), with contributions significantly below that target (61%). Contributions are below YTD spending by \$7,952. This is an improvement over last month but still less than other years, both in percentage of budget and in total contribution dollars, even though our spending continues to increase.

Contributions

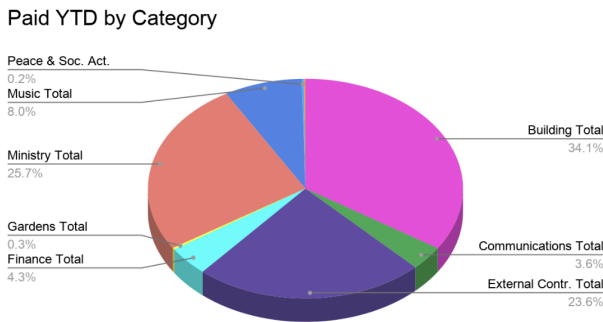
At 72% of our way through 2026, Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting has received contributions of \$23,860 – or 44% – of our 2026 budget of \$54,545, which is 75% of our year-to-date spending. This compares to \$32,601 in contributions by mid-September 2025 (66% of budget) and \$24,185 in 2024 (54% of budget).

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 58% of our 2026 budget (\$31,813). Our largest spending categories are building (34%), external contr. (24%), ministry (26%) and music (8%). The total spent compares to spending of \$27,531 by mid-Sep. 2025 (56% of budget) and \$25,526 in 2024 (57% of budget).



RECORDING CLERKS

The position of Recording Clerk is now being shared by four people. It is hoped that this plan will work smoothly, distributing the work and providing scheduling flexibility. The four clerks are: Dave Johnson, Howard Nelson, Christopher Sammond, Charlie Weld. (The schedule so far: August— Howard; September— Dave; October— Dave; November— Charlie; December— Christopher.)

NEW PRFM WEBSITE

The new Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting website can be found at <http://poplarridgefriends.org/> It has an up-to-date calendar, provides access to archived copies of the PRISM, and many archived messages given at Meetings.

YOUTH COMMITTEE UPDATES

Youth Committee has determined it is no longer feasible to host the Halloween Carnival. We find competing with all the

other community Halloween events results in low turnout for the carnival. We are actively looking at donation options for responsibly dispersing the decorations and items used for the carnival and freeing up space in the furnace room.

We will continue to present the Children's Christmas Pageant and finger food supper with Santa. This year it will be on December 20, 2026. More information to come in November.

POTLUCK SUPPER OCTOBER 24th AT 6PM

Come enjoy one another for a social evening in our newly painted basement gathering room. Bring a dish to pass and your own place settings. There will be a program of poetry readings by Howard Nelson and (possibly others) to follow the potluck. The social committee is looking forward to getting together again at least once before the snow flies.



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.

KING FERRY FOOD PANTRY

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

Harvest Time!

- canned corn
- canned beets
- canned potatoes
- canned green beans
- canned kidney beans

King Ferry Food Pantry, 2384 State Rt 34B, Aurora (Southern Cayuga High School). Donations may be dropped off at the pantry on October 1st & 15th 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.