After a year of Jubilee and discernment, our Meeting structure is more streamlined and we are seeing signs of new growth. Joy is present in our Meeting as we welcomed a new member and a pending transfer of membership this year. Sue Brooks comes to us by convincement after a long search and discernment time. She is the director of the International Friends School in Bellevue and has been part of our Children’s Committee for over a year. Susan Cozzens, a faithful attender and representative to AFSC, FCNL and Quaker Voice, is working on transferring her membership from Atlanta Friends Meeting to Eastside Friends. Longtime attenders Lize Williams and Leo Gertsenshteyn and their daughter Liat have a new baby in their family, William Ellis Gertsenshteyn, born in November 2019.

The Worship Groups and Preparative Meeting under our care have had significant changes during this year. Sky Valley Worship Group has been laid down. Jean Roberts, one of two consistent members, moved to Portland, Oregon. The other member, June Thomasson joins us in worship at EFM when she can. Walla Walla Preparative Meeting has suspended their annual budget process due to changes in circumstances of three out of four formal members, one of whom has moved out of the community. Daniel Clark is still a member of EFM and reports that Walla Walla Preparative Meeting continues to meet monthly on the second Sunday at 10am in space provided at no cost by Whitman College. Mid-Columbia Worship Group continues to meet. Our main contact with them, Kim O’Keefe, has been seriously ill this year and we need to broaden our connections with Mid-Columbia as we hold Kim and her family in the Light.

A number of new attenders are welcome additions to Eastside Friends worship and community. Our monthly potlucks on the last Sunday of each month are well attended and have sparked lively discussions around the table. We are grateful and proud of Children’s Meeting, led by Eric Godfrey (age 13) and Brody Newman (age 10), who have taken over hosting/set up preparations for the monthly potluck meal.

Other opportunities for lively discussion/worship sharing are our Bible Study group which meets before Meeting for Worship on the first Sunday of the month and the second hour adult education time after Meeting for Worship on the third and occasionally fourth Sunday of the month. Committees generally meet after Meeting for Worship on the first Sunday and Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business takes place during second hour on the second Sunday. The Hospitality Committee planned and hosted a Creativity Night this fall that was well received and we are planning another evening gathering in the spring.

Children’s Meeting echoes the adult schedule with a Bible study topic on the first Sunday, a discussion of the Faith and Practice advices and queries read in Meeting for Worship on the second Sunday, a project many times related to environmental stewardship on the third Sunday and the potluck prep on the last Sunday.
Our Operations Committee encompasses both property and finance issues. As the city of Bellevue gets more and more built up around our Meetinghouse, we increasingly treasure the trees, undercover, and the wildlife they shelter. With the new fiscal year, beginning in June 2019, we responded to our reduced income from the previous year by adopting a budget which barely covered essential expenses, prioritizing everything else. Our inability to promise donations to other organizations was especially stressful. Enhanced monthly treasurer's reports, graphically comparing year to date income with expectations based on previous years' experience has helped increase our financial mindfulness. Our income is now compatible with meeting our basic needs, so we hope that with careful expense management we will be able to joyfully support others' efforts again.

We are very supportive of several members/attenders of our Meeting who are following leadings of ministry in Criminal Justice and climate change issues; Alternatives to Violence programs and facilitator trainings, University Beyond Bars, and Quaker Voice. Paul Christiansen is moving forward with his traveling Ministry related to climate change and community.

Eastside Friends Meeting continues to be a centering space for spiritual nurture so that those who worship with us can go out in service with the strength they need to carry on the work of the Spirit.