

19:45:39 Was that we really needed to be thinking, even more about families and the people who are parents and children, that there were bigger questions that began to emerge for me.

19:45:50 So as I have visited and worked with friends here in the US and other parts of our larger quicker family outside of the US.

19:45:59 My work has become really sharing and collaborating on religious education ministry, and along with that there's always been this kind of twin theme of outreach and somewhere in the at the intersection between religious education and offering things for

19:46:34 young people in meetings and Outreach at that intersection our families, and the questions that I hear all the time. How do we attract more families, how do we get more young people to come and be part of our community.

19:46:29 How do we grow.

19:46:31 and the numbers of children and families in meetings and there are exceptions. This is not a monolith, but in many parts of the United States. They're really declining, and in my work both in New York and Philadelphia yearly meetings, it's really apparent

19:46:46 when we gather as a yearly meeting body that children and parents are not present as much in the same kind of numbers as they might be in some of our memories.

19:46:58 and it's really because their parents aren't as much there.

19:47:01 We've lost our tether in a way to the people who I fondly call second thirds and powerhouse. Emily likes this term that I use to describe people who are like, just out of young adult friends but not retirement age yet, my friend Jen Carsten who is the

19:47:20 executive director of Pendle Hill actually coined the phrase.

19:47:24 I've used it for a while now that these are second people in the second third of life.

19:47:29 They are people who may be working outside the home maybe parenting may have older parents who they are trying to also support.

19:47:38 And so there who were thinking about in some ways, and thinking about some of these questions around outreach. And for us today these they're both like Gen X and older millennials but that's going to shift a course with time.

19:47:52 So how do we attract families, and a question I think we might start with is the question of why, why do we seek to include families and children, why do we, Why does a family come to meeting for worship.

19:48:08 What are they looking for and what do they need and what will we learn if we ask them.

19:48:15 And are we prepared for what they tell us, and to offer that.

19:48:21 I sometimes heard and I'm sure others have heard Quakers described as activists mystics and spiritual refugees.

19:48:30 And I know the activist and mystic one is kind of a dichotomy that gets lifted up somewhere I heard that there was a third group spiritual refugees, I think it was Kevin Tibbles but I can't verify that.

19:48:42 And I think if that third group exists spiritual refugees people who come to Quakerism from other faith backgrounds from other experiences.

19:48:51 Oftentimes families fall into that category. There are people who are looking for something they're seeking a spiritual home for their family, they may be looking for something very different from the church community, they grew up in if they were church

19:49:03 does children themselves.

19:49:06 And so I think it also includes Quakers who maybe have grown up as friends, and then moved away kind of in the natural rhythm of college and young adulthood.

19:49:16 But when they have children come back seeking again to be in community, as they were as young people's children. So I think about when a family comes and crosses the threshold into our meetings, there are really three sets of needs that we're attending

19:49:31 to or being asked to attend to.

19:49:33 One is to welcome the adults.

19:49:35 They're on their own spiritual journey. And this is of course why, you know, grabbing them and asking them if they'll teach first day schools, not a great idea.

19:49:43 We want to attend to their, what are the spiritual needs of those people who are parenting.

19:49:50 The second one is to provide spiritual nurture, or religious education depending on how formal your meeting does something for the children. People are often really seeking something for their children.

19:50:02 They're, they're often cross the threshold into our meetings, looking for that it's sometimes it's the catalyst of what brings them to us. I had someone wants say to me I walked by this meeting house so many times but after I had children.

19:50:15 I wanted to come see what was happening here.

19:50:17 And of course children come in different sizes, shapes flavors and developmental stages and so it's it's big work to think about how to support them.

19:50:28 And then the third need is really one that's about the family unit, they may be truly seeking a spiritual home for their family, with the ways that we don't live quite as close to, grandparents, as we have in the past times and various things.

19:50:44 People are often searching for something so just looking at that list, that is not that does not say to me. Oh, a family walked in the door where's the clerk of the committee.

19:50:55 This is about the whole meeting, recognizing as a, as a group across committees across all those kinds of things. ways we serve that a family is really asking for support from across different parts of our meeting.

19:51:13 So I grew up in a household. My we became Quakers when I was like five I remember very vaguely the UCC church we went to that was like a family church.

19:51:22 I grew up on a family farm. But my parents had been in Washington in the 60s and wanted to be part of a peace church, and I look back now and realize it was doing pretty brave for them to leave the Family Church and go, you know, go to Quaker meeting

19:51:38 and seek out of Friends Meeting to be part of.

19:51:41 So I grew up in this household where we went to meeting on Sunday. That was what we did period.

19:51:47 I was raised by these convinced friends parents who they had grown up going to church on Sunday, period.

19:51:54 I married a person who was raised Catholic, and he has very funny things to say about Protestants and their church going as being optional. We had a funny conversation the other night where he was explaining to me what he grew up believing, but that when

19:52:07 we had children.

19:52:10 And he was the head of a French school and the French school that our meeting was in a care relationship with.

19:52:16 But we went and we took our first 123 children, all went to meeting on Sunday morning, it just was what we did, it was what our parents had done what we did as children and what we did with our own children.

19:52:28 And I just I'm naming that because I recently realized that it's different, and then I, I'm just sort of naming my own bias here that I sometimes get frustrated with people not coming on Sunday.

19:52:42 And I had realized I had to stop and think about the way I had been raised and what the choices I had been had been making based on that.

19:52:50 And that many people have not gone to church growing up.

19:52:55 But moreover, like in the here and now, what is the right path for them. Why is the path of coming to our meeting, the one that for them.

19:53:03 And so I'm going to back up for a second and think about the speaking part.

19:53:09 Why would a family come to meeting, what are they seeking.

19:53:13 So this slide is thinking about some of the work by Diana Butler bass who's an American historian of Christianity, and an advocate of progressive Christianity, and she talks about the great reversal that there has been for a long time, we have viewed

19:53:33 Below are our beliefs and the way that we become part of a faith community is being a pattern of belief behave belong, that you believe what you believe and therefore you are part of it you're in a church community or a meeting community unit learn the

19:53:49 ways of that community and therefore you belong.

19:53:53 And she suggests that.

19:53:56 That's not the way it's always been, and that it's time for us to rethink a reversal back to the way it was. And she's really talking about the way it was like in the beginning of Christianity, she talks about how faith in the beginning of the Christian

19:54:12 movement was a matter of faith. First, I'm sorry, a matter of community, whoops, community first practices second and belief was a result of the first two that are immediate our ancestors, you know, in the, you know, 19th century

19:54:33 turned it around so that it was that will you believed and therefore you knew how to behave in the practices and therefore you belonged.

19:54:40 But she says that Jesus did not begin with questions of belief He began his public ministry. When he formed a community, and that the early community that followed him was a community of practice together.

19:54:53 They did not sit around listen to lectures on Christian theology they listened to stories, and the stories that they listened to were told him about what to do and who to be in the world.

19:55:02 They are about healing and hospitality and prayer, challenging traditional practices comforting the grieving, and that by building a community, and then doing things together, they began to see a different way.

19:55:19 And in this biblical pattern of faith in the stories, believing comes last and experience leads to belief.

19:55:28 So she is suggesting that we might think about and start with community. Start with radical inclusion and welcome.

19:55:37 In order to create a beloved and beloved community where people can learn practices and come to be part of that, that faith community.

19:55:49 I think that's an interesting piece for us to think about.

19:55:54 So we did this, this program, this project while I was on staff in the yearly meeting, and lots of people who you know and probably love like Kelly Jana, and Emily province and Gabby savory Bailey were also part of this work, Steve Malky Christopher salmon

19:56:11 before.

19:56:14 Steve, so we did this project that was really a joint between New England in New York and it focused on staff support for local meetings.

19:56:23 It really was about a company meant and listening.

19:56:28 More compliment after that and so here's some things just a distillation of some of what we learned.

19:56:33 We learned that it is important in terms of trying to gather and attend to the needs of families and young people more to experiment with time and schedules to look at our spaces with fresh eyes to think about playing together and sharing meals and

19:56:53 Regina has described to me the lovely event it sounds like you're having on the 19th with sounds like just the thing that all ages worship, finding ways to talk and teach about the experience of worship across generations, is really valuable opportunities

19:57:11 to talk about spiritual gifts, inviting relative newcomers into participation and leadership.

19:57:18 And the meetings to find informal ways for exchanges between children and adults, about how we actually live our faith and individually and collectively are really rich and important, and much of this speaks to the idea of building community, welcome

19:57:35 and inclusion at the beginning.

19:57:38 As a way that then experientially we come to know each other, and be a community together.

19:57:46 We also identify it's not on the slide but we identify and I think this is important to say that it was really important to bravely address old conflicts and wounds.

19:57:55 Sometimes it working directly with the meeting I worked intensely with a number of meetings.

19:58:01 There we had to like kind of peel off a cover of like politeness and things that that kept us from getting a little deeper with each other and that's tender work and celebrating small successes changes slow.

19:58:14 It takes time, especially when you're Quakers.

19:58:18 So some of those things were practiced were kind of signaled some practical ideas that I want to talk a little bit about things that we might use to invite and welcome families into our let them know we're here, and made that first stage of invitation.

19:58:36 This slide if you don't know where this is that's worth more Hall in England, it's Margaret falls home where George Fox and many other early friends took refuge, where Margaret lived and her, the end of her life as well.

19:58:51 And I was so fortunate I was at Swarthmore Hall and there was this little table and chairs I just really loved that there was like little space for kids outside of Swarthmore Hall, I thought, Margaret thought might appreciate it too.

19:59:03 So thinking about signs and spaces and schedules, and some of the things that we say but also unspoken the messages that are in some of those things.

19:59:15 So, one place where we let people know who we are, when they go looking for us is on our websites.

19:59:22 So here are two examples of like a toolbar on a website, and I've made this you can't tell what meetings, these are I don't even remember who it was.

19:59:33 So there's no shade involved here I'm not going to identify them. And I think they were Philadelphia anyway but, you know, if you look at the two different tool bars, if you imagine going to a website and this is your, your menu your guide.

19:59:48 You know what do you notice about the difference between them.

19:59:51 The one across the top here begins with welcome worship children and youth. If we read from left to right, learning service giving is the one, the blue one.

20:00:03 What is a Friends Meeting about us calendar directions to get to us, donate to us. And then we get to our witness, our first day school. Our library and links.

20:00:17 So I think, I don't need to parse this out for you.

20:00:21 You know, something that begins with welcome as opposed to telling about ourselves. And I think this is a pitfall we fall into is friends with all the best intentions, is we like to we think we're pretty unique and we are we like to tell people about

20:00:37 that. So first day school is my is a good example, and a pet peeve of mine, and you'll forgive me if I get up on my soapbox for a minute, when we when a person comes to a meeting and has never been to a Quaker meeting before we talk about our first day

20:00:51 school they don't know what we're talking about. And we can start to explain to them oh well that's what we call our Sunday School, which is helpful.

20:01:00 Often we then want to explain why we use first day, and that point there, they're pretty dumb listening. It's not as interesting to other people, to us, I don't think.

20:01:12 And I'm a history teacher and I kind of like that stuff.

20:01:14 So there are a number of meetings in New York yearly meeting who've actually changed the name of their children's program because it was just conversations, I didn't believe them into this, I promise.

20:01:25 conversations about how to be more accessible. And some of that can begin with language that people hear and understand what you're talking about, you know, monthly meeting in Britain they call it local meeting, I tried to train, train my mouth to say

20:01:40 local meeting.

20:01:42 Because monthly meeting, while we understand why that we have that name, and it is important.

20:01:48 A visitor doesn't understand that I've had actually had people say to me, When I've suggested a meeting for them to visit.

20:01:55 They'll say well they only meet once a month, it's a monthly meeting.

20:02:00 And of course it's not at all what it means so language is important, there are unspoken messages in some of this to think about.

20:02:08 So websites should include helping people understand what to expect in worship.

20:02:14 If you have young people who can help you with putting pictures that they've drawn or other things, making them a presence on a website link into your quarter and yearly meeting and opportunities.

20:02:26 Local meetings really are the bridge for people to find the broader opportunities in the early meeting.

20:02:33 Here's another one I like to pick on.

20:02:35 So this is a beautiful new sign a meeting in the Philadelphia area was very excited it's a brand new spanking sign It's beautiful, it's clean.

20:02:45 And yet, if you were to look at this I've covered the name, but if you were to look at this would you have any idea like people here Friends Meeting and don't always know what friends means meeting for worship All are welcome.

20:03:01 What is fourth Sunday mean, like, I guess you could decipher it that it means on the fourth Sunday we have worship at 11am but it's not entirely clear.

20:03:10 So thinking about how what we put outside our meeting houses what goes up, we know what's outside on the website is important

20:03:21 information is welcome. The more information we can provide without, you know, within reason we don't overwhelm people.

20:03:29 It makes if people know what to expect it makes them feel more comfortable. So this is a little picture of Quaker meeting and me the little book that some people have a copy of fridge to give a child is visiting in their meeting.

20:03:43 This is an example of a meeting, having a handout for their visitor that says here's what happens for children at our meeting, so that it's really clear for parents what to expect and for children to know what to expect.

20:03:56 You know if you have information about powerhouse programs having that there for people to take home, some kind of a connection that can provide people with information to help them know what's going to happen there.

20:04:11 So this is really dense I'm not going to read all of it and I'm going to pass these slides along as a PDF to Regina, But just in general thinking about schedules and spaces.

20:04:20 These are too hard things for us friends.

20:04:23 If we have certain times when we do things.

20:04:34 We tend to really, you know, not want to rock the boat too much spaces also i mean you have a beautiful relatively new space and I, you know, really nice, nice pieces there.

20:04:39 So maybe less needs to be said there but, you know, thinking about how we can make things accessible for families to participate. You know I know you have childcare available during worship Me and childcare available for committee meetings for meeting

20:04:54 for business for adult re something that's happening on zoom these days.

20:05:00 You know how to help make that possible it that point it might be more is that a time that someone can participate because their children are taken care of by someone else.

20:05:11 Another one I want to lift about here is don't assume that people who are parenting can't participate.

20:05:18 Don't assume on one hand that anytime that you pick is going to work for them but also don't assume that they can't, you know, can you make it possible.

20:05:26 I worry and I'm going to go ahead and just name this as being a Philadelphia yearly meeting issue that that we find that we are less frequently calling those second thirds into leadership.

20:05:42 You know, and we have a pretty active young adult program and Pym.

20:05:48 But we're like there's this group of people who were not calling into developing their leaders as the emergent leaders, as people who are going to become clerks of committees is what I mean and that kind of thing.

20:05:59 So, one hand don't assume people's time. but on the other hand, don't know, I've had the experience more than one two people saying things like, well, she be so great at that but you know she has kids in a job.

20:06:11 That's not your choice. That's not your decision to make for her ask her, and see if she has space, ask how you can make it possible spaces or another place where there are a lot of messages and what space has happened.

20:06:34 and chairs, like, like they do at Swarthmore Hall, you know says children are really truly welcome here. You know, thinking about what's on your walls and your bookshelves images and illustrations aren't this opportunity for inclusion, and in this moment

20:06:43 for us. They are an opportunity to be quite intentionally anti racist as well.

20:06:49 And I'll call out my own meeting that we have a social room that we've actually not been in because we share space with a friend school.

20:06:57 We're getting back our social room after Christmas, they've been able to move but they're back into their classroom.

20:07:04 It's they were spreading Africa that, and our social room is the walls are lined with paintings of, you know, historic way Quakers you know there's a wonderful painting of Elizabeth fry with women in the prison.

20:07:19 There's a very stern one of George Fox that apparently the teacher asked to take to have taken down because he was scaring the children I don't know if that's really true.

20:07:27 He looks very, you know, serious I'm not sure he's frightening.

20:07:31 And you know there are no and peaceable Kingdom there a number of them, it's kind of what's on our walls. And so we've said like when we move back in and let's not just redo the floor.

20:07:39 Let's also rethink the space and think rethink what we want that space to say about our welcome and our inclusion and that's who we've been in the past and who we are today.

20:07:51 Byard Ruskin's grandmother, went to school at different school that our meeting is in a care relationship with West Chester's he's from West Chester, Pennsylvania.

20:08:01 So the like, you know, why do we have nothing that indicates you know our, our, you know, gratitude and pride for his work in the world, in our meeting house.

20:08:12 One year I recognize that my children were sitting on this like old horse hair furniture, with like tea cups, and I had to hover over them to make sure they didn't spill something on the old furniture, and we went to IKEA and got a little table and chairs

20:08:25 like the Margaret vol Swarthmore Hawaiians and it was transformative both because the kids could sit somewhere safe and comfortable and have their snack during coffee hour, but their parents didn't have to hover over them, they could talk to the other

20:08:38 adults, same was true we had high chairs that were like 1973 death traps that once we got some other high chairs, just having them there signaled that we were ready to walk on people.

20:08:55 How are we doing, I'm going to stop the slideshow for just a second and just check in with people. I can figure out how to, how to do that.

20:09:03 Everyone All right.

20:09:07 Anything rising that anyone wants to ask or say or give me a big push back on.

20:09:15 Before I go into part two.

20:09:18 I just want to say, I'm really interested in the slides, and I'm really glad that you're going to give copies of them to Regina. Yeah, you're on your phone I bet that's hard Chris Yeah, yeah, thanks.

20:09:30 Yeah.

20:09:32 All right, so I keep going.

20:09:35 Alright.

20:09:37 Thanks friends.

20:09:38 Alright so this is the slide that I call the slide, we wouldn't need it, if not for coded.

20:09:47 But I think that there is an open door, in a way here. So I love the word liminal. And this idea that we you know we continue to be in the sort of liminal place of.

20:10:00 It's not quite as cut and dry as it was when we were not able to be together but we're going through these periods of time where coven numbers rise and we're not in person again and so I think despite the time that's gone by, we remain kind of in this

20:10:18 liminal place of not being quite certain what we're stepping into next we haven't quite stepped through this threshold into a time after that may eventually come so you know it's it's a space we've been in for a long time now this disruptive and has been

20:10:36 interrupted and interrupted some of our regular patterns and ways of being together it's a little destabilized in that way.

20:10:44 But I think there are opportunities for the light to get in those places.

20:10:48 And this is where I am asking us to think about how we might rethink some of our practices and structures.

20:10:56 So that we're ready to kind of step into something that might look different and might serve us and a wider community.

20:11:06 More inclusively.

20:11:09 And this one a name because of thinking about children and families that there is a real grief, about the change in our relationships and our community in our practices, and the time of coded.

20:11:24 You know, really kind of looks different for families in meetings.

20:11:30 In many ways, and this has at least for me and for other people who either read about or hear from who work in children in youth ministry.

20:11:39 You know the fall has not been the fall we thought I keep calling it the fall we didn't, you know, not the fall we thought it would be. You know it saved in the summer like we were going to be going into a better situation this fall.

20:11:57 it's been more trying with the Delta variant and now another one. So I keep hearing a lot from people like, you know, our families having all come back people aren't coming back, we're not seeing them.

20:12:06 They stopped coming on zoom, we just feel like we're kind of losing some of them.

20:12:14 At one point I will admit to you all with some vulnerability that I was a little impatient someone told me well we've lost our families, as a little bit like well what did you misplace them like what do you mean lost them.

20:12:27 What were you doing to connect and stay connected to them but it's been hard it's been big work, and not so easy so I you know I had just kind of taught myself to take a seat.

20:12:38 Because it's been hard and then I watched something by a Presbyterian minister in Pittsburgh.

20:12:44 Brian Wallace, who he posted something on YouTube. In the fall and it was like the smartest thing I'd seen it made so much sense. He talked about loss of momentum.

20:12:56 He calls it, it's called like Where are the kids but he talks about, you know, first of all, that moment kids didn't have vaccines yet. We had to really, it was really but we were you know really called to be open and thoughtful about parents and families

20:13:11 and their comfort levels with being in person.

20:13:14 but he goes on to say, you know, next to that or maybe we know, more importantly than that.

20:13:29 We've had a loss of momentum and you know he talked about what will that require you know momentum means it's really hard to come to a stop quickly. And I think many meetings pivoted into online spaces, because there are momentum helped carry them into

20:13:49 spaces, but children and youth ministry has taken a bigger hit to its momentum because while everyone's been impacted by this disruption. It's a bigger deal because of percentages. By percentages I'm talking about age and time.

20:13:53 So if I'm six years old this fall, more, more than 25% of my life has been in the pandemic.

20:14:01 And if I'm 14, I have a 14 year old son, more than 10% of his lifetime has been impacted by the pandemic. So if I think about the years he has been part of a children's program at meeting like preschool kindergarten to now.

20:14:19 That's like 20%, of the time of the time he remembers going to meeting, like 20% of it has been disrupted.

20:14:28 Which, you know, for a 40 year old would be the last five years, it just in terms of ratio so it's a bigger thing for children and young people in terms of the disruption to their participation in a community.

20:14:42 And if I'm a parent of a four year old, half the time that my family has been taking that child have been in a quicker community with that child half of that time has been disrupted by the pandemic.

20:14:55 And two years and you know we're going to edge into the two year mark at some point, you know, in the new year.

20:15:01 It's a really big amount of time for a young person.

20:15:05 You know, if you were a sixth grader. In March of 2020 you're an eighth grader now, and I taught Middle School. Those years between sixth and eighth grade is like the time of the biggest development for children and next only to their first year of life.

20:15:22 So you're a different kid in the fall of, eighth grade, there's a lot about you that's grown and changed than when you were a sixth grader in the winter, two years ago.

20:15:35 So just being tender with that, recognizing this loss of momentum that it's no one's fault it is a matter of recognizing it's going to take time and patience and love for us to regain a sense of momentum is community, and that'll be a momentum like moving

20:15:54 fast but just the regular chugging along together that we do and community.

20:15:59 If you want to watch it there is a link to his video, I will warn you, it's a little sobering he thinks it's going to take three to five years.

20:16:08 And at one point I think he says, maybe even seven which I was like La la la I don't hear that.

20:16:13 But it's going to take time for us to kind of regain a sense of families, and their participation in some things at this point.

20:16:25 So, you know, if we're at we're being called to continue to be flexible. And this is a moment to think about how way, how might we be prepared to innovate, what are the possibilities.

20:16:36 What can be supported in a vision. Now, that might then take us into whatever the next time is.

20:16:44 And I like the way. Reverend Wallace and CC says God is more concerned about where we're going, then where we've been so let's look at where we might want to go.

20:16:56 So these are just some suggestions of things to think about as a meeting in thinking about

20:17:04 being together as an all ages community and in particular supporting families and children.

20:17:09 I think for all of us rest and reconnection are important to returning and rebuilding community there's some healing to be done.

20:17:17 If we can plan programs that center our why. It may help to reveal and reshape how we do things. If we ask why we always have a Christmas program if we ask why we offer children's religious education.

20:17:34 If we can articulate why it might create some new ways of doing the how, if we really thought about that first question asking parents for their comfort levels with being in person online and hybrid really lady parents now we're centering their needs.

20:17:52 And you may be doing and have done these things so and I apologize if I'm singing to the choir here on any of these but feel affirmed creating synchronous and asynchronous programs, so times a week can be in person and times when we can be doing it from

20:18:07 our own homes, it really supports flexibility and inclusion. And the last one is really dear to my heart, I guess, worship it with all ages together nurtures generational connection and religious identity.

20:18:27 So if we're kind of looking where we want to go with some of those questions in mind,

20:18:35 we might think about shifts that we might be up for and again this is like going way out there. If there's a step in a direction that feels right to you all, that's, that's movement.

20:18:48 But I think in terms of specifically.

20:18:51 They give us spiritual formation or religious education in a meeting, we have been doing age based groups.

20:18:59 For a long time, and it may be that this is a good moment when we have fewer children have fewer families to really scoop them in and think about multi generational or intergenerational meeting for learning.

20:19:12 Not every week.

20:19:14 People need their own a specific spaces as well.

20:19:18 But thinking about making a shift there.

20:19:22 The idea of age based scholastic religious education dates back to the mid 1800s for friends.

20:19:31 Before that, children were in meeting for worship with their family, it was a much more experiential thing, and sometime in the mid 1800s, there was a concern that that because fewer quicker kids went to friends schools, and because of just shifts in

20:19:49 the society that there was a need to create actual places of instruction for young people to know how to be Quakers, and they really work hard at schools.

20:20:01 And so we can we created age based curriculum. But that's not the way we've always done it. And so again, that that idea of reversal. Maybe there's something here for us that both takes us back to a way that we have done it before and also might be a

20:20:16 way of gathering people in. In this uncertain time.

20:20:20 And so again, same thing moving from instruction and lesson a scholastic model to things that are more experiential learning and practicing being friends.

20:20:29 Maybe there's an opportunity to move from thinking about our time together as being an hour on Sunday to other times in a week online spaces, make foot create flexibility things at home.

20:20:44 You know a lot of a lot of meetings did things that they sent things home for families to do together and how not to create one more thing for parents to have to do, but just recognizing that if getting a meeting was challenging.

20:20:57 And that home project that maybe everyone has a month to do might be something that speaks to people's condition, and minutes in worship.

20:21:05 Another pet peeve of mine.

20:21:08 We really very frequently friends.

20:21:12 Really don't think our children can be in worship much more than like kind of the classic 15 minutes at the beginning or the end. And that's often about the fact that if we're trying to fit in any kind of first day programming religious education programming.

20:21:27 If there's an hour of worship, then 45 minutes, we need at least that to do anything together and then we end up with the remainder being the time that children and worship.

20:21:38 So, again, is there an opportunity to think of religious at happening at different times in different ways. And not every week. But where's the opportunity for there to be all ages, community worship together.

20:21:53 And I'm going to talk about that more next but just to say that children who are not most of whom are not Quakers, And who got a friend schools.

20:22:04 They are in worship for 20 3040 minutes, depending on their age, every week. And so, I know it to be true, that our young people can in fact settle into worship, and I hold a real concern that we are short changing them and ourselves by not welcoming

20:22:24 them into worship, and we can talk about all the challenges of waiting worship for children but I, I've seen, I've seen the possibilities. So, that's kind of the next piece,

20:22:36 There's the sort of chicken egg nature of families and children and a meeting people will say, Well, what comes first, do we, you know, do we need families coming or should we create a program for them.

20:22:51 Should we be ready with a program like, do we create a program and that draws families to our meeting, or do we wait until families come to us before we figure out what we're going to do.

20:23:01 And I want to name that that's a question I get frequently, like what do we do to be ready for families. And I think you already have the thing you need.

20:23:10 And I think the thing that you have is worship, as I was saying with the last slide. I think the question really is how can we Well, welcome, families in worship.

20:23:24 I think, again, I'm not talking about like changing it so that every week. Children are like oh that is Starbuck, and in the books and sitting and looking desperately board for a whole hour on a hard bench sitting next to their parent children I think

20:23:39 need the children's table is like it family meals as well as the big table.

20:23:46 And, you know, but is there an invitation here, that, that there are times that we do this all together.

20:23:53 I think it's an invitation to community to practicing our faith together to lifelong spiritual growth that we do in each other's presence.

20:24:03 It is worship in which people of every age are understood to be equally important. There's a lot of conversation in the broader ecumenical world of Children and Family ministry about children and worship, and you know these are folks who sing and have

20:24:18 prayers and do various things that are different from from are waiting worship if you're an unproven grand meeting.

20:24:28 But one thing to take from their experiences is idea that it's not children's worship. It's not a kid service. It's a worship in which everyone is equally important no matter what their age or condition is.

20:24:42 And this is what connects us to each other, and our identity is friends and our experience of being friends.

20:24:48 And I'll just explain that this is a little corner in my meeting house that is been there for six months, maybe.

20:24:56 We had a we did a big project to create make our old old meeting house more accessible. We built a ramp and created handicapped accessible spaces for people to be able to get in and out where people have not been able to if you were rolling it was almost

20:25:10 impossible to get in and out of our meeting. So we created this, we did this big accessibility project. And one of the people who have been key in that project said to me one day.

20:25:20 What if we created a space in the meeting room that was for parents with young children.

20:25:34 I was like Tell me more. And so this was what developed we literally we got to, we went through all the right things into got approval and thought about it together and meaning for business.

20:25:36 And it's the it's the corner of our meeting room.

20:25:39 Very simple rocking chair rug a little table and chairs, a basket of books, some coloring stuff, and some pillows.

20:25:49 But there was this wonderful moment where we were still imagining it together and this gentleman and I were standing there and he is somebody who did not raise children himself but it's been a important part of our meeting from an elder in our meeting

20:26:00 for decades. And he was kind of gazing at this corner, that didn't have anything in it yeah and he said to me, You know, Melinda if if people see it there and then people walk into our meeting room you can have come in back here where the pictures back

20:26:15 the picture. If people walk in our meeting room and they turn and they see that there, and they know that we welcome children and babies and parents and all ages of people in our meeting.

20:26:29 It'll be if no one ever even uses it, it'll be worth it that we did it.

20:26:33 And that was a very profound moment that I'm still pretty moved even recounting the story for the dozen time.

20:26:42 You know, the idea of creating a space something so simple that says people are really are really welcome here.

20:26:53 So when we do community worship at our meeting and we do it a few times a year. We're really careful to prepare. We want to make sure that everybody is prepared for the fact that we're doing it and that the children are going to be invited to be there

20:27:06 the whole time.

20:27:09 We, you know are really clear about what it's going to look like. We, we, it's semi programmed.

20:27:15 We have a way of singing or a book read or godly player faith and play story.

20:27:22 And we, so we began with that semi programming and then we settle into worship together. And I put out a quote on the floor and we have some coloring and pipe cleaners are super quiet.

20:27:34 But, you know, even if the kids seem to have things that are keeping their hands busy.

20:27:41 There is this moment, that it's like we should we just like we downshift, and we sink into the silence together and then they'll be a moment of disruption again a little while later and sometimes it's an adult who dropped something or blue blows their

20:27:56 nose or whatever it's not always children who make noise and meeting.

20:27:59 But again, then we'll settle down again. And once had the experience of a child turning to be really loudly whispering like how much longer.

20:28:08 And instead of being like 10 more minutes.

20:28:10 I looked at him I said I it's a little while longer and I'm so glad you're here.

20:28:16 He kind of looked at me. But then he settled in. And so, you know, there's just there's this opportunity, and there are lots of places and times to talk about how to support children and their parents feeling comfortable with this, but I really quite

20:28:32 convinced from experience and research that thinking about how to make this time and worship together with some occasional or routine, this is really important.

20:28:49 some of the research is here that change and worship is the primary way in which congregations adapt and grow.

20:28:59 But congregations that don't eat won't even consider changes in the way that they structure and hold their worship will don't don't grow, they stagnate worship is central to collective identity and spiritual vitality necessary to grow, and there are other

20:29:17 things that sometimes can crowd out the core part of what it means to be together as friends, I think, I think Quakers this was written with a broader ecumenical lens.

20:29:29 I think we know worship is at the center for us. I think we often name that worship is at the center for us. So why are we not inviting everyone into that experience.

20:29:42 And last piece is, and there's a great book called Sunday schooling our kids out of church, which I remember talking to Gabi savory Bailey when she was the young adult field secretary, and her kind of rocking my world by telling me that she sometimes

20:29:57 encountered young adults in New York yearly meeting who said, oh yeah I never had to sit through a whole meeting for worship, I never was in worship for the whole time like throughout my entire growing up, like through teens.

20:30:09 And, you know, that's, that's their experience but the important part is that you if you don't worship with the body you belong to you are less likely to feel connected and to stay and to stay connected in some way.

20:30:26 So I think it's vitally important that we find ways for our young people to, to know that there's a place for them.

20:30:35 In, in our worship together as friends.

20:30:40 And it's you know it's finding a balance between what's what feels possible. And what's comfortable and how to do that.

20:30:50 So,

20:30:53 so that is the end, I think, I think these are really big thing is, and I think I probably I may have said things that were challenging in terms of ideas to consider but I guess I would lift up just thinking about this idea of all together.

20:31:10 Now, you know, some key pieces being.

20:31:13 How do we create community first. And that welcome and then inclusion and how might we be flexible with time and space.

20:31:26 In order to create that broad welcome and inclusion. And what is the what kind of what, what does beating for worship have as a role in some of that kind of work.

20:31:44 All right, are you still there are you alive, I couldn't see anyone I feel badly we do we lose someone we lost the one Oh no, you had to take a break and come back.

20:31:56 All right, so, thoughts, questions, Melinda I hate that idea.

20:32:06 We're small enough group go ahead and what struck me most is the idea that

20:32:15 children tend to stay connected if they have participated in the body.

20:32:21 And I thought back to myself I was I was raised Jewish I was not raised Quaker, but I went to a Quaker camp when I was a child.

20:32:30 And that was a profound experience for me. And, you know, as I look back on it. Well, I've always known the it's the experience of it. Yeah, that was so important.

20:32:43 Going to meeting for worship we sat outside in an area we call the Dell a little clearing in the woods.

20:32:49 And it wasn't meeting for worship it was an unproven Graham meeting, and we were invited to speak or read something you know when we wanted to basically it was the camp, which was maybe 65 children ages from about eight up a to 13 maybe, and their counselors.

20:33:10 And it just left such an impact on me.

20:33:15 I came back to it i mean i had no experience growing up after that beyond those two summers.

20:33:22 But when my husband and I bought a house in this area. Let's see 14 years ago I saw there was Powell house. And I, I said, I want to do this again.

20:33:36 I think as a meeting now.

20:33:39 We do a number of things that are intergenerational and the biggest problem is we have really been hit hard by coded that we can't be together.

20:33:58 We did a bow planting activity back in November October October still. It was lovely and the people who were inside the meeting has said gee, it was so nice looking out on the families that were planting.

20:34:07 And this was my idea is kind of model done what I grew up with at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden having this big daffodil Hill. So, you know, we started towards that, but there are constant interruptions so I you know it.

20:34:24 My concern is how do we maintain some continuity. When we can't be in the meeting house, so that there will be some way to get back in and not not lose these families.

20:34:41 Mm hmm.

20:34:41 Man, I had another. I know we we started doing some story reading I guess this was during coven Am I right, Regina. Yeah, Yeah.

20:34:52 So, I, there are a few of us who know who our teachers are no children's literature, a library and and so on. So, I had a lovely book that I read, and then people said to me afterwards well where would the kids, you know, curly.

20:35:08 And, you know, the parents do not want them their own zoom, they had, you know, a lot of a year or a year and a half of zoom schooling. This was not something they wanted on Sunday morning.

20:35:20 So I was, you know, we were prepared to do it and we're going to let people know that yes this is something we're going to do like a programmed worship at the beginning, but we haven't been able to do it.

20:35:33 Mm hmm.

20:35:35 Yeah, it's hard, I mean I.

20:35:45 There really isn't sort of I mean I know you're not asking for this there really isn't sort of a, an easy fix here. I was, I was both glad to hear that pastor in Pittsburgh, kind of lay it on the line.

20:35:51 Back in September October when I found his YouTube I found a little bit later but you know it was I was both like okay good it's not just me and I knew it wasn't.

20:36:02 But also, You know when he says it's going to take three to five years to kind of re gain some of that momentum, like that's that's hard to take that that I feel that.

20:36:13 And, and I will say, and I'm just going to speak to my own personal experience so I you know because I serve a yearly meeting. I have a lot of conversations with various local meetings about their condition and people are doing different things and have

20:36:24 done different things.

20:36:27 The meetings, who have stayed connected throughout the pandemic.

20:36:35 Trying to be creative, I mean there are lots of ways to do this.

20:36:38 Have and then have moved into outdoor spaces on returning.

20:36:43 Some of that has made a difference, but like it my meeting, it has and hasn't, so you know I did care packages four times last year and drove around I know how to get to every kid in my meetings house.

20:36:56 You know, and we tried to stay call this thing tethered like stay connected keep a line between you and the family.

20:37:04 And we did a lot of being like hey if you don't want to come online we get you like. So we're going to drop off things you could do with your family at home like a lot of grace was called for right.

20:37:15 And I really felt like well we're going to come back and because we've stayed so well connected they'll come back.

20:37:21 Some of them have some of them happens.

20:37:25 And I have found I mean, you know, I give people, you know advice and thrush this people all the time but for myself. It's been dispiriting.

20:37:36 So I really hear that.

20:37:38 And, you know, families are just as busy as they were before covered.

20:37:49 And in some cases, people are feeling like, Well, I mean, some of it, you know, some of it may be assuage to some degree with children being vaccinated I think that will help us some things.

20:37:59 But it's not necessarily going to bring people back to your door, right.

20:38:04 So part of what I really think we're called to do is also is think about parents and think about those second thirds and what do they need. Because kids don't drive themselves to meeting right like they rely on their adults to want to be there.

20:38:19 And that's why I think about second thirds, a lot like what is why, why does the path to a meeting house appeal to them what's happening there.

20:38:29 That is supporting them and their spiritual life.

20:38:34 You know, there's two things that can happen like kids are either like hey I want to go see my friends and meeting. And if children have a sense of community often the parents get on board with getting there.

20:38:45 But our kids have lost their sense of community and connection to each other.

20:38:51 And that's I think where the momentum has gotten lost his kids who were used to seeing their two friends at meeting, they haven't seen them in almost two years and in that capacity, they may see them in other ways.

20:39:05 was gonna have a lot of our kids and our meeting.

20:39:09 You had more who were there.

20:39:11 We got the traditional one draw come back to our meeting they interbred two big families interbred and our meetings are all related, you know, not ancestors going to be just do big famous.

20:39:22 So they're going to come and they're so QYV they go up their favorite pencil village. They'll film this will come back. There's no way they won't come back, all these other kids came in, they were in our meeting we had like six or seven kids.

20:39:40 So what I did, and your parents, you know, I bought a lot of them myself and other people bought them and.

20:39:49 So, what I did was, I got the parents you know after the worship. We got the coffee. All right, I took their parents over and I introduced the parents of the new kids to each other.

20:40:01 That's great. So they would get just what you said, because the kids, they want to come back because they made new friends. See, and they want to play with these kids.

20:40:12 They met, you know, and so that worked for quite a while.

20:40:17 But then you know people come and go out of a meeting anyway. Without go over it, you know.

20:40:32 But one thing we. Another thing we did was, and I didn't realize you're going to have so much outreach in this so soon as I found out I emailed my entire outreach committee just know what nobody came on, but I'm so I'm clear call reach so

20:40:42 uh but uh.

20:40:44 uh but uh. So what I did remember in the summer.

20:40:54 hey you know so here's awesome old jack. He's on my outreach committee, this guy's a total genius. Okay. He works Apollo's is the maintenance guy.

20:41:02 So,

20:41:05 I Joseph, So I went out to the restaurant, two miles from the house was just two miles and balls that's where I live, two miles and balls. I go in there.

20:41:28 I eat dinner every night. I eat outside.

20:41:20 Then I went down to the co op.

20:41:24 I had 30 families that wanted to come to our meeting 30. I know where they lived, they told me where they lived. I knew about their kids I met some of their kids because they're eating right and they were all kind of give it up the goal.

20:41:36 We had a poster and everything, you know, and then an immediate kind of cold feet they wanted to sort of coalesce among themselves first before going out and they said well we can't put a picture of it will be buddies face on it because some of those

20:41:51 are here and, well, I had a way around that you know just put the meeting house without pictures but anyway, we had to retrench and pull back because the dust on Colbert is like, you know, back and forth and back and forth and it's doing the same thing

20:42:08 with Regina Ballhaus, and it's all sorts, its first raver are kinda like on.

20:42:16 We don't want to rule. We're good at all reach, get all those little things. We don't want that little corner idea, I think we got a new way back, and we were thinking of doing that and the kids kind of hang out.

20:42:29 And I think that corner idea just the greatest thing, frankly, good.

20:42:33 And I took off.

20:42:37 I'm an inveterate note taker so I, I have a transcription of this entire conversation saved already on my computer.

20:42:47 Plus I maniacally I even old in Virginia is getting a slideshow So what are some admin so I'm doing print screens right now, after and I loved all the stuff you said I got, I thought it was a great.

20:42:59 Thanks, Bob. Thank you.

20:43:01 Yeah, we should have. We could have recorded it I guess like people go Sorry, I didn't do that because you know it's kind of it's kind of weird recording it now.

20:43:10 Yeah it is. Yeah.

20:43:11 Yeah, go ahead.

20:43:14 I don't want to interrupt but I just

20:43:35 that slot that slide where you had a community meetings, can you talk more about what was what happened. Whether there once a month.

20:43:27 What, no more about that. Yeah. Well, yes I will answer that and I'm gonna like you're gonna be like you're not answering my question I'm going to come back around to it and Hi Joe.

20:43:39 I think of you know, as soon as we talked about how the with Native American agriculture the three sisters corn, beans and squash.

20:43:49 I think that there's sort of I call them the three friends.

20:43:52 So religious education and outreach and worship and ministry that those three committees really have some serious ways to support and have conversation with each other.

20:44:05 I think we often really silo what happens with children and families away like it's like well there's the children's stuff and it's over here, and we do it in like the yearly meeting to I mean, so I, one of the things I hope is we think about being in

20:44:19 this liminal place and the threshold we keep thinking we're crossing but haven't yet, you know, whether or not there is an actual post coded world there'll be something that's more like normal.

20:44:32 I really wonder if we can think about how to break down some of the silos that we create around committees and their service and what their what their, you know what their particular call is and see some of the connection, because I think that helps us

20:44:48 to see and think about intergenerational community. So, we have community worship, Chris, four or five times a year, and sometimes it's a fifth Sunday, sometimes it's around a particular time of year.

20:45:02 We just didn't last weekend, and it is when we are all together for the whole time. All ages are together. And again, we're really careful to set this up with care so that nobody walks in us like what's happening, people should know.

20:45:17 It's community worship this week we tell them like eight times it but it starts even before that, because there are a couple of us who serve on our youth committee, and also serve on what we call worship and spiritual growth which is like worship ministry.

20:45:30 And so the connectedness between those committees, when we decided to community worship Sunday, it's not the children's programs saying hey can we have a community worship Sunday.

20:45:42 It's a decision that the people who hold care of worship. For all of us are making and so that's an I feel that goes like an important first step to name.

20:45:52 We have a childcare person available.

20:45:55 If a child was ever truly distressed or their parent was distressed by their being there and being you know whatever unhappy with it, there's a safety valve there's a little pressure valve that if, if a child needed to leave the space or childcare persons

20:46:09 around it hasn't happened yet though.

20:46:13 And again we do, we, we begin the time with something that is sort of a 10 minutes or so of semi programming. So we have some songs a couple times with someone who plays a guitar.

20:46:26 We have heard a story together.

20:46:29 One month, a couple years ago, I told.

20:46:33 Is it, it's a faith and play story that's in development it's based on the bill Tabor pamphlet four doors to meeting for worship.

20:46:40 And that's where it was just as much for the adults in the room as it was for the children, there was a lot of vocal ministry from adults that rose out of hearing that story and having that the materials for it there on the floor with us.

20:46:54 I love that we put a quilt down and there are grownups who come sit on the floor who are like, I would do this every week if I was allowed to.

20:47:09 And there are children who don't sit on the quilt, but come and get like a handful of pipe cleaners and go sit with their parents on a bench.

20:47:11 So there's a lot of fluidity in that, in that way.

20:47:15 But we stay together for the whole hour with the first part of it, having been had some programming and so yeah we try to do it a few times a year it's not even monthly.

20:47:27 But I recently had a conversation with a meeting that was really struggling, they were feeling like our families have left, they're not coming back. We're not sure what to do, and they were also feel like we don't have capacity to be planning, every Sunday

20:47:40 for a children's program that's not happening.

20:47:43 And so we decided they didn't need to do that. And they took ideas back and talked about it as a meeting, and they are having a program with some kind of experiential.

20:47:56 You know programming for their children twice a month.

20:48:00 And then the third week of the month, they're going to actually do community worship every month which I thought was amazing.

20:48:06 And then the fourth week, they're not planning anything, and if families want to come to worship. Fine. And if they don't, it sort of is, there's some grace and being like there's a week you don't, you know, you might come or not.

20:48:19 So, does that help explain community worship so

20:48:26 the other thing on that side is like a goofy it's like a recipe for, for all ages worship that you'll see when you get the size but it's like it's like recognize that there's noise, and then just settle yourself down again and then there'll be some noise

20:48:40 center yourself down again as part of the recipe, sorry Regina in terms of you know I just, it comes back to me again and again, that just because there aren't kids in the meeting, doesn't mean we shouldn't go ahead and tell a story or sing this song.

20:48:59 because that stuff seeds, the worship. And there have been some comments made in monthly meeting or ministry in Council I'm sorry about, you know, growing people

20:49:17 around their vocal ministry.

20:49:20 And, you know, that.

20:49:22 And I think that's one way you do that is that you have an experiential component and it's it's kind of distressing, I don't think we need to do it every Sunday but I think we should should do it at least one Sunday a month have a story or a song.

20:49:40 And again, you know the the idea of publicizing that and making, making sure that everybody knows that is important as well.

20:49:55 Go ahead, Joe.

20:49:58 Joseph.

20:50:02 You have to unmute yourself Jessica.

20:50:07 It's a full day I'm kind of fried but I just wanted to say that in OPJ we've encouraged ministry and council to do things like put up flyers.

20:50:20 We haven't we haven't really tried to do anything over the internet light on Facebook or stuff like that.

20:50:29 But I think we're very, very conservative in our, in our outreach efforts and you know now that we're in this coven situation people are locked down and the meeting is locked down and we probably need to start thinking a little outside the box, about

20:50:46 how we're reaching out to the community.

20:50:49 I mean many people are online we're online right now tonight.

20:50:53 And that's, that's one of the big ways that people find things.

20:50:57 And it doesn't have to be, you know, couch does proselytizing but just you know sharing me making people aware, who we are and that we're here.

20:51:08 And I love the idea of having a story or, or song. In fact, we spoke about this at OPJ at our last meeting where we were discussing.

20:51:19 You know why isn't there music at all in the meeting. I mean we could have.

20:51:23 I mean there's some meetings that have a piano.

20:51:26 You know, we could have, we could have a piano in there and people could play a beautiful piece of music as people center down and begin the meeting, there's just lots of ways to to work it.

20:51:41 I'll share an idea. Thank you, Joseph I'll share and I'm sorry you've had a long day, I hear that.

20:51:47 like, you know, I feel like I've thrown a lot of spaghetti at the wall in the last 18 months that we've been doing so they were calling giant children's meeting that once, once a month, we host, and it's an online program that it's pretty simple like

20:52:13 we gather we always ask the children to bring something to share this month in December, we're saying, bring a star of some kind. The best was when we said bring something that measures one inch.

20:52:25 I can't even begin to tell you the funny thing is that measured in inch. You know, it was you know one kid was like this is my book it's one inch wide.

20:52:35 But, we then we have a story, and, you know, we actually do slides like I just take pictures of the book and create a slideshow because it's easier to see.

20:52:43 We sing a song we wonder a little bit about the story we have some waiting worship a couple minutes, and then we sing a song, and say goodbye, we hold hands around the RG and boxes we all hold hands before we say goodbye.

20:52:57 So, yeah, it's really fun and.

20:53:01 And the idea was both to offer something online once a month that would connect children and families across the early meeting, and it was to give people who did children's already a break.

20:53:12 Like here's a week you don't have to plan the yearly meetings, got it. We're going to offer a program, and it's at nine in the morning, which means is before people go to meeting.

20:53:21 So, the idea being that families could log on do this and if a parent and wanted to go to meeting, they could still get there, and it wouldn't preclude that.

20:53:29 And we had like 100 people sign up for it, and we it's been yeah both do look excited, don't be too excited Scott it's been very much less attended, we have like 30 or 40.

20:53:44 Families signing on kind of the height of things last year when we were all stuck at home. And now it's more like 10 families every time.

20:53:48 Which again, it's just indicative of people not wanting to be online as much, but if you offered something once a month and like really made a rollout about it, you know like, once a month, we're going to do this, I've actually also had the question someone

20:53:59 said to me, Can we do giant children's meeting in person was like wow that's called going to meetings.

20:54:08 That's, that's called going to yearly meeting sessions.

20:54:11 But you know, we tried what we called porch programs this fall and I was like, bundle up, we're staying outside till it's you know sleeping and feeling sick or more comfortable with that but you know I think getting creative as Joseph just said and letting

20:54:28 people know.

20:54:30 You know how do you how do you reach out and rebuild. At this moment, and I think something like trying a once a month program, just to and really making people like feel like this is a thing we're doing for you.

20:54:42 And we hope you'll be there might be a way to begin to reconnect depends on if people are completely impatient with the idea of being online but this is like a half an hour program very specifically for the children.

20:54:57 They really invites them into some participation as well.

20:55:00 The guy that had to leave read.

20:55:04 You see things.

20:55:06 Peaches the songs.

20:55:07 He teaches us dancing, we always have. We have like dancing like maybe once every two months in the meeting house, you know the goat. Yes, a lot of a lot of them meaning members have all the different skills.

20:55:22 And it's fun to know one thing we were going to do with the first day we didn't do it yet but all I want our star party.

20:55:29 So we get the kids out at night see the meeting hall and see what this little mound behind the meeting house and Jen's knows all the stars I will do but he said he had all the stars I said I'll handle a myth.

20:55:40 Because I know the myth. Well we haven't done it yet because you know we had problems in a meeting house is going to cost 10s of thousands of dollars when I was on much, because we had a full of water in the bottom of the meeting house.

20:55:54 You know what I mean, it just got pushed off the way we didn't forget it just on the agenda, you know what I mean. And another thing I wanted to do was to other things is I wanted to run the kids up to dawn and Mary's after Colvin.

20:56:09 And because Don they got these great movies from all over the world that they been, you know, they've been everywhere and but they have all these cool movies and some of the kids are old enough to enjoy them now.

20:56:18 And the other thing I wanted to do was

20:56:24 we got a Quaker meeting house, a few miles down the road 1782 old Jerry GO JERRY, but we couldn't buy it, and we couldn't prevent them from we modeling after the guy stole it, but I got the pictures of all of it.

20:56:43 Every room. And I wanted to do a first a thing.

20:56:47 Because we used to take the first day kids there and go upstairs and look exactly like meeting all never changed, you know, and on but we can do it virtually.

20:56:57 That was another idea.

20:56:59 Above Laura's idea without bold thing I was like, Fantastic. And then before that I took the kids over to the pond.

20:57:21 expedition. So we're trying, you know.

20:57:24 Yeah, and I think I think thinking about that piece of how, how to gather community to start with community and things that are going to support both children and their parents wanting to be there.

20:57:42 Yeah, I mean, the other thing I know we're getting to the end of our time Regina is, you know, we have a, we have a you know we have a group of families and parents and kids, but they don't participate in meeting for business which may sound like, you

20:57:55 know, who wants to business anyway. But it is where we make decisions as a meeting, it's where our community, you know, there's important we know, even though we may roll our eyes and where we know it's in a really important part of our work and I just

20:58:12 visited a Richmond meeting in Virginia a few weeks ago.

20:58:16 To do a workshop for them, and they do meeting for business, once a month they don't have meeting for worship at the same time, it's meeting for worship with attention for to business.