

2021 IMYM Clerks' Report

Most humans are often troubled, lost, and traveling with grief or pain. But we're not alone. We travel in community. We listen to each other's deep concerns and we bandage each others' wounds. Walking together, we find there is a Spirit that joins us. Faith and hope build with every step we take together.

Rob Pierson, *Walking in the Light* (from IMYM Daily Bulletin, Friday, June 18, 2021)

Recently, we have heard or read too many reports and conversations that begin like a Scott Peck book ("Life is difficult."), or a bad novel, ("It's been a dark and stormy year.") Unfortunately, over the last year and a half, for many people, including Friends, the first has been too true. Similarly, the second statement is not simply a cliché, but has been a reality that we have each lived.

- We lament the world's losses.
- We lament the conflict and strife in the world, in the US, and within IMYM.
- We lament our loss of trust in the infrastructures that uphold our health and safety.
- We lament our inability to offer our youth an opportunity to join together safely and confidently.
- We lament the loss of too many Friends and attenders who were beloved parts of their monthly meetings and of our yearly meeting.

We lament our losses. At the same time, we recognize that the challenges we have met, whether personal, financial, or emotional, have left us stronger, with confidence that we **can** persevere. When it has been too much for us alone, we have rediscovered the gift of our communities. We have been able to hold each other in the Light, and lift each other up.

- We celebrate our growing strength and resiliency.
- We celebrate seeing Friends, old and new, on Zoom, and in-person whenever possible.
- We acknowledge and celebrate the passage of a federal law establishing Juneteenth as a US holiday.
- We celebrate new members accepted into our community, and weddings both hybrid and zoom.

- We celebrate the Supreme Court’s ruling, which rejected a challenge to the Affordable Care Act.
- We celebrate summer solstice, the longest day of the year.
- We celebrate [a new Canadian law](#) that will align that nation’s policies and laws with the 2007 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- We also celebrate a number of birthdays among IMYM Friends this week, this month, and this year. Happy birthdays, Friends!
- We celebrate the likelihood that next year, we will be able to gather in person at Fort Lewis College, where we can all connect with each other, and maybe even hug!

Both Valerie and Gale, your Presiding co-Clerks, have been channeling past Presiding Clerks over the last two years. We give thanks that we have been able to see how clerking should “really” be done, and are able to use those skills, both virtually, and (we hope) in person next year.

As Molly Wingate said to our Yearly Meeting in 2019:

I remain optimistic. It is the nature of faith, I think.

As we seek the Light while we do our work, engage in our activities, and provide mutual support, our optimism will grow. Let this time together renew us and show us the way.

May we all walk in the light as we move forward, through this weekend, and into the future. We’ll all walking this road together...

Gale and Valerie
