

## JENNIE ISBELL & NEWELL PLEDGER-SHINN



Jennie's passion for spiritual hospitality grows out of her experiences and experiments in seeking to increase her own awareness of the Holy Presence. She is convinced that there are evidences of God's movement to be found in almost every wrinkle of daily life, and that our longings may in fact be invitations to joy. She is currently birthing a "ministry-at-large"-style small business to address the needs of those who dwell at the edge of church- and religious life, and long for something that's missing. She finds her call to service in the overlapping edges of the Christian movement and those who identify as spiritual but not religious. She works as a spiritual director, yoga teacher and body worker. (To learn more about Jennie and to see her new adventures in small business imagining, see [www.unfoldingjoy.com](http://www.unfoldingjoy.com).) Prior to coming to Woolman Hill, she worked most recently for Earlham School of Religion, in a variety of roles related to outreach, fundraising, leadership development and many, many other duties as assigned. When asked why she moved to New England, she almost always

answers, "For love." She is looking forward to being at Woolman Hill, as part of the Friend in Residence experiment, and is quite excitedly anticipating the traffic patterns of interesting Quakers who will come for program weekends this year.

Newell joined the Religious Society of Friends as a young adult with deep longing for spiritual sustenance and connection. He notes his orbit around the divine center is often elliptical, sometimes marked by a keen felt presence of the divine and sometimes marked by an equally keen sense of absence. He values Quaker waiting worship as among the most radically faithful and demanding of corporate spiritual practices. He is particularly excited to be a grounding presence in Mid-Week Meeting for Worship at Woolman Hill this year. Originally from Hardwick, MA, Newell returned to the area last year to take leadership responsibility for his family's timber frame construction business, Hardwick Post & Beam (for pretty pictures, go here: <http://hardwickpostandbeam.com>). Before the move, Newell worked at Earlham College in planning and fundraising and served as volunteer mediator and board chair at the Conflict Resolution Center. When not working, he studies net-zero energy buildings, hangs out with Quakers, plays with his nephew Isaac, enjoys outdoor adventures, watches birds, and dabbles just enough in new languages to say "Please stop the car, I see a bird!" anywhere he goes.

Newell and Jennie were married under the care of Clear Creek Monthly Meeting in Richmond, Indiana, where they remain members during this time of transition. They worship with Mt. Toby Meeting and are getting to know their neighbors in New England Yearly Meeting. In Clear Creek meeting, Jennie served as adult religious education coordinator for three years prior to moving north, and Newell served on the ministry and oversight committee of the meeting, was active in Young Adult Friends, and served on the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting executive committee. Jennie is also on the Friends General Conference Quaker Quest Travel Team, the steering committee for Quakers in Pastoral Care and Counseling, and the development committee for Friends General Conference. Together they have been blessed to visit and worship with Friends in England, Kenya, Rwanda, Costa Rica, and across the United States.