Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

Newsletter

First Month, 2021

- **Monthly Query:** How do I live in the power of that Light and Spirit that takes away the occasion of all wars?
- Monthly Worship Tip from the M&W Committee: Waiting in silent expectation and prayer for guidance from the Light Within is the basis for our Meeting for Worship.



NOTICE

All CHFM Quaker-related activities at the meetinghouse and in the school house have been canceled until later notice, pending reassessment.

The Building and Grounds committee has requested that those who rent on the premises find alternate options until we reopen.

Virtual Meetings

Meetings for Worship; Meetings for Worship with Attention to Business; and Weekly Forums:

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting has been using Zoom software as an online platform to hold Meetings for Worship; including meetings with attention to business, forums, social hours, and committee meetings. Friends are doing our best to sustain spiritual connections and support the life of the Meeting during the pandemic.

Ministry and Worship and the Zoom ad-hoc committee (<u>zoom@chapelhillfriends.org</u>) wish to make this experience as rich as possible. Even apart, we wish to come together in the Light. To aid this, we advise those attending of the following:

- · On entering the Meeting for Worship via Zoom, everyone's microphone will be muted (you do not need to mute yourself on entry). We suggest remaining muted when not speaking to avoid background noise.
- · If led to share vocal ministry, the "Unmute" button on the bottom left of the Zoom screen is pressed. When finished speaking, the "Mute" button may be pressed in the same location.
- · We recognize you may need to move around and settle. If doing so Friends are asked to use the "Stop Video" option (bottom of screen next to Mute) your name or profile picture will display until pressing "Start Video" again. This will minimize visual distraction for others,
- There is an option on the upper right of your Zoom screen to select "Speaker View" for a large window for the current speaker or "Gallery View" that shows small windows for all participants.

The Ministry & Worship Committee reminds Friends that our traditional Quaker practice in Meeting for Worship, in-person or online, is to refrain from sharing vocal ministry more than once in the hour to give others space for messages. Though it may be more challenging online, we strive to listen deeply in the silence and be open to the leadings of the Spirit that may move us to speak.

More information about Zoom is available on the Meeting's website:

https://www.chapelhillfriends.org/zoom.html

The link to Zoom for the Forum and Meeting for Worship is sent weekly via the listserv. If you wish to visit with us for the first time or are a regular attender but do not have access to the listserv please contact us at zoom@chapelhillfriends.org. Comments are warmly appreciated at the same email address. See you online!

Forum: The winter solstice and finding the Light, Sunday 9:45-10:45am

Through science, poetry and worship sharing, we will reflect on and respond to the query "How do we look at the world around us and find the Light?" Please bring your own experiences in finding the Light to share. We will end with the song by Janis Ian "Better times will come." (Lyrics will be provided) Led by Peter White and Carolyn White. Moderator: Deborah Gibbs

Upcoming Zoom Forums

January 3: Ringing in the new year -- what we've gained from this unusual last year, and intentions going forward.

January 10: Quaker Testimonies Series 1. Simplicity. We'll reflect on some passages from Faith and Practice, hear from a panel that lives this testimony, and share in small groups and together.

Visiting the Meetinghouse During Covid

Building and Grounds shares with Friends:

As you know we've curtailed use of the meeting house during the pandemic. Occasionally, people have, and needed to, gone into the meeting house to support the few essential tasks of the meeting. We appreciate that those visits have been brief and infrequent. We do ask though that anyone that needs to go into the meeting house to please notify John Hite, by phone or text, prior to going. Thank you.

Food Delivery to IFC While Meetinghouse is Closed

The meeting's IFC committee has devised a plan to make Friends' donations of food items to the IfC more convenient. You can find a <u>list of recommended food items</u> on the IFC website (and you can purchase food online).

- 1. Please bring food items to the meetinghouse porch on first and third Wednesdays of each month. Canned goods are to be placed in cardboard boxes labeled "IFC." Place bags of food in the plastic bin with a secure top. Members of the IFC committee will pick up the donations at 3:00 pm on first and third Wednesdays and deliver them to the Rosemary parking lot. This system will eliminate the need for individual Friends to drive to Rosemary street with food contributions, though you are still welcome to do that. The first day of food delivery to IFC from our meetinghouse porch will be Wednesday, June 17th.
- 2. Please do not leave food on the meetinghouse porch on days other than the designated delivery days first and third Wednesdays. Bring your food donations prior to pick-up time of 3:00 pm.
- 3. From the IFC website, requested food contributions include pasta, spaghetti or pasta sauce, canned tuna or other meats, macaroni and cheese mixes, canned fruit, oatmeal, baking mixes (cornbread, muffins) and crackers (saltines and others). Other items would be welcomed as well. Link for pantry needs: http://www.ifcweb.org/needs#pantry

Questions? Contact Carolyn Stuart (919.929.2287 or stuartc@elon.edu)

Recurring Events

Online Social Event, Thursdays, 7pm

Chris Stanley shares with Friends:

As we have been doing recently, we will have a time to gather and touch base to see how everyone is doing. Last week, we looked at Catherine Alguire's garden during the call. Feel free to bring pictures of your garden or current project to share. There is no agenda and it is just a time to see a friendly face and say hello. Join us, if you are interested. - Chris

Parallel Meeting at Home, Sunday, 11am-12

Many of us on First Day are doing what one Friend called "simultaneous sitting" and could be called "ethereal" worship - that is, we are sitting in our own homes having worship between 11 and 12, calling to mind other Friends, but not taking part in any techno forum. We miss the benefit of wider ministry, but can add that angle in our own way. It can be quite magical.

QuakerCraft Online Game, Sundays

Sam Leeman-Munk shares with Friends:

Hi everybody,

This email is about a Minecraft server that Finn and Henry have set up for us.

It is a peaceful server with no player versus player and no monsters, so it is appropriate for young Quakers. The server is available 24/7, but we particularly encourage people to log in at the same time so we can play together. This event started April 19 and happens every Sunday between 1:30 and 3:30.

We are playing Minecraft: Java Edition

https://www.minecraft.net/en-us/store/minecraft-java-edition

An account costs about \$27, but anyone who identifies as a child may reach out to Finn James, Tom Munk and me to get an account. For best results, include all three of us on the email so we can work together. Finn James runs the server, and once you have a screenname you can give it to him and he will give you access. For how to access the server, click here.

https://www.chapelhillfriends.org/assets/hospitality/quakercraft.htm

DISCORD SERVER

We may be Quakers, but what fun is playing with friends if it's all in silence? I have set up a discord server for chatting while we play. This server will be your first lifeline when navigating the vibrant, potentially overwhelming world of MineCraft, so be sure to join!

https://discord.gg/F2Jf9MQ

For more detailed discord instructions, click here:

https://www.chapelhillfriends.org/assets/hospitality/quakercraftDiscord.htm

Sloth Radio Goes Online, Tuesdays and Thursdays

Kathleen McNeil shares with Friends:

Hi Friends/friends.

The First Day School Middle POD (the Sloths) will be sharing our Sloth Radio Hour every Tuesday and Thursday evening at 8PM. You don't need to be in the middle pod to join us. All are welcome. We are reading the first book of the Harry Potter series. We will read for 30-60 minutes depending on interest level. The program will continue to be on zoom at the same address.

[Zoom meeting link available]

Prayers for Healing/Holding in the Light, Wednesdays, 7-9pm

YOU ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN Virtual Prayers for Healing/Holding in the Light, Wednesday evenings, 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Join us when you can for a long as you wish-from your own home. Do you have a name or a group of people to add to - or remove from - the list of those we will hold in our hearts and prayers? If so, please send to Lynn (linda.drake100@gmail.com) or Matt (matthiascdrake@gmail.com). We'll send an updated list on Wednesday afternoons. Thank you for joining us!

Pendle Hill Daily Worship via Zoom, Daily

Pendle Hill Quaker Study, Retreat, and Conference Center is now opening their daily morning worship to everyone, by way of Zoom or phone. A lovely opportunity for gathered worship every morning. "A handful of Pendle Hill residents continue to gather daily in the Barn – from 8:30am to 9:10am Eastern Time – expanding the 90-year-long tradition of daily worship here on campus. Beginning the week of March 16, 2020, we started an experiment of opening the circle of worship to YOU in your home. You can join us here via Zoom."

https://pendlehill.org/explore/worship/join-us-online-for-worship-in-the-barn/?bblinkid=210290749&bbemailid=19903873&bbejrid=1408822779

Adult Young Friends Meet via Zoom

Alice Carlton (CHFM rep to PFYM) shares with Friends:

The first meeting of the Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting Adult Young Friends (AYF) went well with eight in attendance and more coming. They decided to meet every First Sunday of the month at 5:30-7pm via Zoom.

Contact Faith Josephs (<u>faith.josephs@gmail.com</u>) for the Zoom link for the December 6, 2020 meeting 5:30-7pm.

Note: The following announcement appeared previously in eNews:

My name is Faith Josephs and I attend Charlotte Friends Meeting. At Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting this summer I noticed there were a handful of other Adult Young Friends and thought it could be neat to get together over zoom to get to know each other. I've had the opportunity previously to be a part of some very powerful and supportive groups of Quaker peers my age (I grew up in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting then went to Guilford College) and I would love to create that sort of community among Adult Young Friends in the Carolinas.

Addiction, Homelessness, and Incarceration: Faceless No More

Asta Crowe shares with Friends:

Mark Hall, whom many of us know from his visits when he was incarcerated at OCC, has a formed an organization -- Addiction, Homelessness and Incarceration: Faceless No More (www.facelessnomore.org) – "AHI advocates for them and shares their stories, working with individuals and organizations in North Carolina and beyond." He has recently partnered with the Human Kindness Foundation (https://www.humankindness.org/) to further expand the educational and outreach work of of the "Faceless No More" organization. Please go to the November and December newsletters to get more information about their work and Mark's goals. You can contact astacrowe@gmail.com if you have questions

Conscientious Objection Workshops. Dec 27, Jan 3, Jan 10, Jan 24

Betsy Brinson shares with Friends:

Now that the Selective Service System (SSS) registration for the draft in most states is automatic when getting a state driver's license, Quaker youth and other youth of faith rarely consider making a claim as a conscientious objector (CO). Youth miss the opportunity to discern and articulate their nonviolent beliefs and opposition to war. If a draft were ever reinstated, they could have as little as nine days to prepare a CO claim before having to go before a local draft board.

This workshop is an opportunity for youth (both young men and young women) to consider their beliefs and to learn the process for documenting a CO claim if they feel led to do so. This workshop is

also an opportunity for other people of faith (parents, grandparents, and community mentors) to learn how they can support youth to consider these important questions.

Workshop Leaders:

- Curt Torell of Chapel Hill Friends Meeting
- Andrew Wright of Durham Friends Meeting
- Will Strayer of Durham Friends Meeting

Workshop Sessions include watching a film on one's own time before Dec 27 and then participating in four Sunday evening Zoom sessions from 7-8:30 pm on Dec 27, Jan 3, Jan 10 and Jan 24.

Registration:

All participants must register by filling-out this Google Form.

 $\underline{https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf8B-Z668WZQOzj5nqZQwYB-zNttLoWNRcN7EfpaqVmqZYs-w/viewform}$

A suggested donation of \$5 (to help cover the cost of the license to watch the film Soldiers of Conscience) will be collected by PayPal once the workshop has begun.

Resources:

We will provide access for participants to watch <u>"Soldiers of Conscience"</u> and will provide a folder with various documents from Curt's curriculum "Conscientious Objection: Is This for You?".

https://quakerhouse.org/resources/

https://lunaproductions.com/soldiers-of-conscience-the-movie/

Watch the <u>QuakerSpeak interview with Curt</u> to learn more. <u>https://quakerspeak.com/video/how-to-become-conscientious-objector/</u>

Teach-In On The NC General Assembly, Jan 13, 7-8pm

Pam Schwingl shares with Friends:

Join Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation (FCNCL) for a teach-in. Bill Rowe (General Counsel & Deputy Director for Advocacy at the NC Justice Center) will join FCNL advocates to offer insight and strategies on interacting with our state Representatives during the upcoming General Assembly sessions. The event will include an open Q&A session. The evening will conclude with a brief training on next steps to contacting your representative.

When: January 13 at 7-8 PM

Where: Zoom! Registration details coming

Who: You and interested F(f)riends

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Chapel Hill Friends Meeting

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Minutes, 9 am, Sunday December 20, 2020

Chris Stanley, Clerk; Alice Carlton, Recording Clerk

Attendance: Alice Carlton, Lynn Drake, Matt Drake, Jeff Brown, Tom McQuiston, Betsy Brinson, Chris Stanley, Michael Jokinen, Carolyn Jokinen, Jennifer Leeman, Susan Inglis, Bob Durovich, Ken Grogan, Carolyn Stuart, John Bell, Hank Elkins, Rich Godfrey, Carolyn White, Tom Munk, Tom Ludlow, Ellen O'Brien, Joe Groves, Faye Stanley, Hart Pillow, Buzz Borchardt, Lloyd Kramer, John Hite, Dottie Heninger, Catherine Alguire, Ben Ray, David Schneider, Gwynne Pomeroy, Kitty Bergel, Monteze Snyder, Tom Fogarty, Kurt Hein, Gwyn Hein, Ann Miller, Emilie Condon, Naveed Moeed, Max Drake, Wendy Michener, Paul Munk, Nancy Milio.

- 1. Opening worship and query: How do we look at the world around us and find the Light?
- 2. Welcome, review of agenda.
- 3. The Minutes of the November Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MWAB) were approved as written.
- 4. The Carolina Friends School Annual Report will be presented in January.
- 5. John Bell, on behalf of the Peace & Justice (P&J) Committee, presented a letter to the Trustees of Guilford College (appendix 1). P&J are in unity and ask that the Meeting send this letter. Friends proposed adding a sentence affirming Chapel Hill Friends Meeting's (CHFM) long relationship with Guilford College. We approved the letter with the proposed modification.
- 6. Carolyn Stuart, Co-Clerk of the Care & Counsel Committee (C&C), presented the Annual Report. (appendix 2.) The report was accepted with thanks.
- 7. Jeff Brown, Clerk of the Ministry & Worship Committee, presented the Annual Report (appendix 3). The report was accepted, after minor revisions, with gratitude.
- 8. The Clerk received a request from the Nominations Committee for two new members. A naming committee of Jeff Brown and Matt Drake has been formed by the Clerk. The naming committee is usually first approved by MWAB and will be done this way in the future. The naming committee presented Emilie Condon and Susan Inglis to serve on the Nominations Committee. Their service was approved.
- 9. Rooftop Solar Discussion. The Rooftop Solar Subcommittee has done excellent work researching and presenting a proposal. However, we are not yet in unity. Friends spoke in support of investing in solar panels for our meetinghouse. Others raised concerns about the economic effects of the pandemic. Another suggested we wait until the uncertainty of the pandemic becomes more resolved and not propose alternatives to installing solar panels on our meetinghouse that have not been researched. Another shared that the Inter Faith Council (IFC) wanted to install solar panels on their new building but ran out of funds. A member of the Rooftop Solar Subcommittee proposed we do both, CHFM and IFC. Another pointed out that helping IFC would be a benevolence and in a separate category. A long discussion ensued. The Rooftop Solar

Subcommittee has a plan to survey the membership about contributing financially to this project. A proposal was put forth to form a new subcommittee to investigate alternative projects but was not approved at this time. Unity was not achieved to move forward with the Rooftop Solar Project.

10. Next Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be January 17, 2021.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Christmas Eve Candlelight worship will be virtual this year but we hope meaningful. Details to follow.

The Alternative Gift Mart can be reached online at chapelhillfriends.org/alternativegiftmart.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Minute of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting, Accepted in Unity at Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, December 20, 2020

We cherish Guilford College, and hold its community in the Light as it confronts severe financial difficulties. We honor the lives and work of those who came before us and the College's rich history.

We also note the enduring connections between the College and numerous members of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting, recognize Guilford's historic service to Quakers throughout North Carolina, and appreciate the College's valuable collection of archival materials from different Quaker communities as well as our own Meeting.

We affirm the College's mission [to]:

"Provide a transformative, practical, and excellent education that produces critical thinkers in an inclusive, diverse environment that is guided by Quaker testimonies of community, equality, integrity, peace, and simplicity and emphasizes the creative problem-solving skills, experience, enthusiasm, and international perspectives necessary to promote positive change in the world."

In embracing its core values we encourage Guilford's leadership to listen to and engage the entire community in the search for greater understanding as it discerns the way forward and pursues the community's common good.

We believe in an education in which relationships are central, and that embraces the whole person. We prioritize a learning environment encouraging spiritual growth and leading to vocations of deepest meaning. In pursuit of these, we affirm that an individual's calling is of greater importance than temporal success in the marketplace, whose demands are often incongruent with genuine need, and that discerning one's calling can be enhanced through broad academic and experiential learning, and most importantly relationships and modeled lives.

We encourage members of the College community to be as fully transparent as possible, and to recommit to honesty and plain speech in all communication and inferences.

We likewise encourage humility in assessing and administering the complex responsibility that is Guilford's resource stewardship and governance. In the leadership's decisions, we encourage an emphasis on community cohesion, the stewardship of all resources including finances, shared sacrifice, a long-term vision, and drawing creatively from all parts of the community to find a sustainable way forward.

Finally, we give thanks to all those now engaging in this painful discernment process and recommit ourselves to greater attentiveness to the College's circumstances and to seeking divine guidance in this matter.

Appendix 2

CHAPEL HILL FRIENDS MEETING

CARE AND COUNSEL COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT—2020

The Care and Counsel committee's mission is to address the pastoral care needs of the Meeting, from the individual needs of members and attenders to the corporate needs of the Meeting as an entity. This year proved to be particularly challenging due to the presence of the Covid 19 pandemic which has affected us all in many different ways.

Early on in the pandemic, we made contact with each member and attender of our Meeting listed in our current Directory (2018-19), first to ascertain that he or she was well or needed our help, and second (with the help of both Ministry and Worship and Publications), to update, if necessary, the information in the Directory for the publication of our next one. This necessitated the addition of some extra C&C meetings during the late spring and early summer months.

In addition, we convened more than our usual number of clearness and support committees, several via Zoom, to address issues ranging from personal welfare, medical problems, loss of employment, life transitions to membership or interpersonal relationships within our meeting. Many of these committees are still in progress, while others have been laid down. We strive at all times to remember both the need for listening beyond the words and maintaining confidentiality.

We provided the meeting with a number of forums, including two on mental health issues and two on coping with the pandemic.

This summer, two of our members (Tom Munk and Tom Ludlow) rotated off the committee, both of whom we miss and thank sincerely for their impressive efforts in the Meeting's behalf, and acquired two new ones in August: Leslie Rountree and Jim Palmer. Other members of this committee include Lynn Drake, Pat Mann, Ann Miller, Jasmine McKewen, Julia Cleaver, Chris Stanley (ex-officio), Bonnie Raphael (co-clerk) and Carolyn Stuart (co-clerk).

Ministry and Worship Annual Report 2019-2020

The Ministry and Worship Committee (M&W), made up of members of the Religious Society of Friends, supports the spiritual life of the Meeting. It also fosters understanding of Friends' principles and practices, in collaboration with other committees.

The 2020 Covid-19 Pandemic caused us to close the Meetinghouse after our last in-person Meeting for Worship on March 8, 2020. We began using Zoom video conferencing with the help of a newly formed Zoom subcommittee under the care of M&W. Because of the subcommittee's excellent efforts, we continue to worship together regularly. For this we are deeply grateful.

The committee...

- Oversees the quality of Meeting for Worship and Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business (MWAB), mindful of the living silence and vocal ministry.
- Opens and closes each Meeting for Worship and organizes announcements.
- Stimulates reflection through queries, with one read each month at MWAB and each week during Meeting for Worship as well as printed in the newsletter.
- Arranges activities (with other committees) to enhance the spiritual life of the Meeting, including small discussion groups, worship groups, retreats, and workshops.
- Provides responses to questions about the Religious Society of Friends and arranges clearness committees as requested by individuals seeking clearness on spiritual issues.
- Receives letters requesting membership, convenes the related clearness committees and reports recommendations to MWAB. This year we welcomed Desmond Conklin (familial), Rich Godfrey, Annalee Harkins and Bonnie Ludlow as new members approved by Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business in 2020
- Attends to the needs of visitors and new attenders.
- Participates in clearness committees organized by the Care and Counsel Committee leading to the marriage of couples under the care of the Meeting.
- Nurtures other committees as they do the Meeting's work.
- Plans (with other committees) celebrations of significant events in the spiritual life of the Meeting. These include our annual Christmas Eve Worship, in-person last year, and online this year; Worship Sharing with Attention to Animals (guided by the Animal Welfare Subcommittee); Meeting for Worship with Attention to Graduating Seniors (three seniors this year).
- Plans the annual September Clerks' Retreat, attended virtually by 25 this year. The retreat's agenda is created in collaboration with the Clerk of the Meeting with ideas from Committee Clerks on topics of interest. Focus is on helping old and new clerks gain skills in the process of discernment and the spiritual nature of clerking a committee.
- Organizes the October Spiritual State of the Meeting gathering, attended virtually by 24 in 2020. The Spiritual State of the Meeting allows us to reflect on issues while sharing deeply with others on queries from the Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting. The committee reports the results to MWAB and to Piedmont Friends Yearly Meeting (PFYM). The report to PFYM includes a count of the overall number of Friends and attenders in attendance at Meetings for Worship, Forum, and First Day School throughout one month. This October we averaged 43 in our online Meeting for Worship. We note, sadly, the absence from Zoom worship of young families, attenders from Orange Correctional Center and returned citizens.
- Presents Forums, including in 2020, "Spiritual Practice" (pre-pandemic) and "Spiritual Practices for Uncertain Times" in November.
- Sends our monthly minutes to the Library Committee for eventual inclusion, digitally, in the Archives at Guilford College.
- Works with Children and Youth Religious Education Committee (CYRE) to coordinate the teens closing Late
 Meeting in months having Five First Days and offering an experiential and informational program on
 membership to the teens.
- Consults with the Peace & Justice Committee on benevolences.
- Cares for the Zoom working group, formed in April 2020, under the care of M&W.

After much discernment and in cooperation with M&W and CYRE, an ad hoc music committee initiated and enabled five minutes of singing prior to Late Meeting for Worship for a three-month trial period beginning in October 2019. Although well received, this practice was interrupted by the pandemic.

The current most challenging responsibility of the Ministry & Worship Committee involves the question of when it will be safe to reopen the Meetinghouse. Input from relevant committees (Buildings & Grounds Committee, Hospitality Committee, and Children and Youth Religious Education Committee), along with close attention to recommendations from the Governor and the Centers for Disease Control as well as suggestions by members of our Meeting community continue to guide M&W. Nonetheless, the continuing community spread of the Coronavirus and the high level of risk for face-to-face worship continues to trouble M&W members. Continued caution about reopening seems a wise approach, probably until a vaccine becomes widely utilized.

Some of the ongoing concerns of M&W about our worship include: quality of vocal ministry, effective wording for beginning and ending worship via Zoom, and the brevity of shared announcements.

M&W expresses gratitude to Publications and Communications Committee for the ongoing maintenance of the Chapel Hill Friends Meeting website.

With great appreciation, we thank departing members Jan Hutton and Leslie Rountree for their faithful service through June. We are grateful for new members Carolyn White and Matt Drake.

Jeff Brown, clerk for the Ministry and Worship Committee, Madelyn Ashley, Kitty Bergel, Alice Carlton, Carolyn White, Matt Drake and Chris Stanley, *ex-officio*.

Newsletter & eNews Reminder

Please send items for the weekly eNews email and the monthly print Newsletter to news@chapelhillfriends.org.

Chapel Hill Friends Meeting
Chapel Hill Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
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