



# WFM NEWSLETTER

## February 2022

Worcester Friends Meeting (Religious Society of Friends)

*WFM acknowledges that our Meetinghouse sits on the traditional territory of the Nipmuc Nation.*

901 Pleasant Street, Worcester, MA 01602

508-754-3887

[www.WorcesterFriendsMeeting.org](http://www.WorcesterFriendsMeeting.org)

**WFM Meetinghouse is closed for in person worship. Zoom worship continues.**

We gather in silence and ask that Zoom attenders enter worship muted; please unmute your microphone only when speaking.

**Sunday Meeting for Worship 11:00 am.**

<https://zoom.us/j/93581663579?pwd=eDFxUjVyL2IISTi2NkxsZWIFUTE0QT09>

Meeting ID: 935 8166 3579

Passcode: 661048

**Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business** is held on the second Sunday of the month at 9:00 am. Please contact Daron at [daronbarnard@yahoo.com](mailto:daronbarnard@yahoo.com) with items for Business.

**Zoom Link for Business Meeting:**

<https://zoom.us/j/92774446613?pwd=M2IyeWJjZVpqTHB4bTJNdWRyRnlhZz09>

Meeting ID: 927 7444 6613

Passcode: 253544

**Saturday Worship of Worcester Friends Meeting** meets on **Saturday Mornings at 11:00 am.**

<https://zoom.us/j/98621922427?pwd=S1hKZ1hZQmp0MW5hRW9XMjN3TzdHQT09>

Meeting ID: 986 2192 2427

Passcode: 983394

**Friendly Bible Study** continues on **Wednesdays 9am-10am.**

<https://zoom.us/j/99835123902?pwd=dGVPRnFCWit4RIUzMUN4c09xc0FLQT09>

Meeting ID: 998 3512 3902

Passcode: 436310

Please contact [mjchenaille@yahoo.com](mailto:mjchenaille@yahoo.com) for more information.

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Worcester Friends Meeting  
Monthly Meeting for Business  
12 February 2022

Present: Katharine Barnard, Daron Barnard, Tom Brenner, Lucy Candib, Mary Chenaille, Jim Gleaton, Marcel LaFlamme, Mike Mallory, Ellen Perry, Aaron Sakulich, Mike Shell, Karen Sargent, Richard Schmitt, Matthew Shorten

Clerking: Daron Barnard

The meeting opened with silence and a reading from NEYM Faith and Practice - Advises and Queries: What calls us into a Religious Society? Do we grow together in faithfulness?

**Business items:**

**Worcester Interfaith:** Sheila and Tom Brenner bring a question about our Meeting's financial contributions to Worcester Interfaith. Previously we gave 1% of our annual operating budget. Some years ago, the Meeting decided to pause contributions due to transitions and lack of clarity within Worcester Interfaith, and subsequently we have not restarted contributions. Friends let us know today that Worcester Interfaith is now well organized, we are regular participants in their meetings, and the group is doing meaningful work on issues that we care about. As such there is support for restarting annual contributions, and agreement to contribute \$350 annually which would be 1% of our projected operating budget rounded to the nearest ten dollars. Friends would like to consider increasing the donation amount in future as our budget allows. There is also support for using our social media and website to publicize Worcester Interfaith's work and to make visible our connection to the group.

1. **State of Society:** It is time for our annual State of Society report. Spiritual Life Committee will take ownership for the report, and asks that we plan a threshing session to consider our Meeting's activities and priorities of the past year. Today we set the date of March 6, 2022, for the threshing session. As March 6 is the first Sunday of the month, it will necessitate Practical Committee meeting at a different time if desired, and the committee is in agreement.
2. **Quarterly Meeting:** Next Quarterly Meeting will be hosted by Worcester on March 20, 2022. It will be a virtual event. Daron will be clerking the business meeting as the Quarter is lacking a clerk at this time. As the host Meeting, we would present a brief program. Any Worcester Friends with suggestions for a program are asked to forward suggestions to Daron.
3. **House Manager position:** Daron brings discussion about the House Manager position. This position was created approximately 2 years ago, with a plan to approve a clear job description and reporting relationship. We have not followed through with those discussions. Friends feel that the House Manager should be a regular participant in Practical Committee so as to facilitate bidirectional communication. This could mean being a member or ex-officio member of Practical Committee. The House Manager should report to and be supervised by the clerk of Practical Committee. The Practical Committee is asked to take up the task of creating a job description and bringing it to Business Meeting. We ask that the job duties be revisited annually as these have shifted and will continue to shift with the pandemic. Mary Chenaille brings a question about how the House Manager can pay expenses, as she has been paying out of pocket and getting reimbursement, which is not sustainable. Practical Committee is asked to consider this issue as well.

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4. **Reopening for Worship:** We are currently holding all worship and meetings virtually due to the local spike in COVID cases in December-January. Cases are dropping but still are higher than they were last summer when we reopened the Meetinghouse. As much as we miss gathering in person, Friends feel that we are not ready to restart in person worship at this time. We will continue to monitor the local COVID numbers on a weekly basis and reevaluate the decision for virtual vs in person gathering. When we do meet again in person, we expect that we would continue universal indoor masking (regardless of vaccination status), and we have the air purifier available for use.
  5. **Renting the Meetinghouse:** Over the past year, we have allowed our renters to make their own decisions about gathering and about mask use. We do have our COVID guidelines posted on the front door of the Meetinghouse, and also have received the air purifier which can be used by worshippers or renters. Given all of this, we agree that we can invite our renters to restart use of the Meetinghouse as they see fit.
  6. **Impending War in Ukraine:** Richard and Lucy, as co-clerks of PSCO, bring concern about our silence and inaction in the face of impending violence in Ukraine. It is felt urgent that we speak out at this time against this possible war and in support of pacifistic options. Friends point out that while there is lack of clarity of the exact positions of different officials of the US Government, we can still clearly express our stance as a pacifist organization, decrying any action by the US Government that would make violent conflict more likely. Various actions are suggested such as a public stand-out, a position statement sent as a letter to the paper, communication with the Quaker representative to the UN, and communication with elected officials. While we see Center for Nonviolent Solutions and Worcester Interfaith as potential local collaborators, the urgency of the situation may necessitate us to move forward as an individual Meeting, as forming a joint statement would take time. Friends agree that the best course of action would be to send a letter (position statement) to the editor of the Worcester Telegram, with cc to the Boston Globe and other papers, and to notify Worcester Interfaith, CNVS, FWCC, FCNL and other Quaker organizations for ongoing collaboration and amplification of efforts. Lucy and Richard agree to draft this letter on behalf of the Worcester Friends Meeting. We agreed on a quick turnaround process that will allow Richard to have a final draft by tonight. Ellen also suggests a conversation with Alex Betley, recent graduate of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, who may have knowledge of nonviolent efforts within Ukraine that we could also support.

**Treasurer's Report:** Aaron reports that this month we had major expenses (insurance, and NEYM contribution) and also income (first half of the year NEYM rent). Aaron also notes that the gas consumption has been very high. There is discussion about how high the thermostat is set and whether this might be responsible. Practical Committee is asked to look into our gas usage.

**Committee Reports:** Note, only additional items above and beyond those business items above.

1. **Practical:** Karen reports that the radiator repairs are done, except for one radiator left in the back of the house. Karen has agreed to stay as interim clerk but the committee will be naming a different clerk for this year.
2. **Peace, Social Concerns and Outreach:** Marcel has surveyed Worcester Friends regarding preferences and utility of the website. The goal was to gain an understanding of what Friends would like to see in the website, rather than specifics of website design. He received 23 responses to the survey, with representation among people with varying length of involvement

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with the Meeting, and varying involvement with committees. He will compile the results for further work by PSCO on website design.

The meeting closed with silence and transition to worship.

Katharine Barnard  
Recording Clerk

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### **Letter to the Worcester Telegram**

To the Editor:

Russia is amassing troops on three sides of the Ukrainian border. The US is sending weapons and some troops to fortify Western Europe. Each party to the conflict professes its peaceful intentions while uttering blood-curdling threats in words or in actions. We appear to be on the brink of war. Facing this situation, the Worcester Meeting of Friends (Quakers) feels the need to publicly reassert its belief that only peaceful action is justified. We believe that there is that of God in every person and that, therefore, every human life is infinitely precious. There is no moral justification for shedding human blood. We call on all parties involved to cease their talk of possible violence and to do everything they can to avoid war.

We call on the members of other Faith Communities in the Worcester area to join us in opposing the moves towards war and killing.

For the Worcester Meeting of Friends (Quakers),  
Lucy Candib and Richard Schmitt



## THE BLACK QUAKER LIVES MATTER FILM FESTIVAL

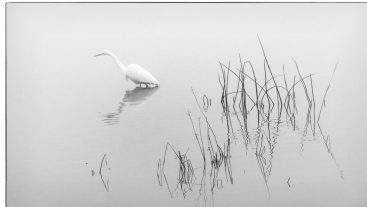
**The Black Quaker Lives Matter Film Festival**, a first-of-its-kind film festival that endeavors to educate all about the importance of Quakers of Color who for too long have remained within the margins of the Society of Friends and the wider world is online weekly through 4/9/22. During Black History Month until Paul Robeson’s birthday on 9 April 2022 a film centered on a Quaker of Color with an introduction from a guest expert and a follow up discussion facilitated by BQP Director Dr. Harold D. (Hal) Weaver will be screened. Screenings are free and will take place every other Saturday on Zoom at 1pm ET.

Those celebrated include: Mahala Ashley Dickerson, Howard Thurman, and Bayard Rustin, African American Friends included in [Black Fire: African American Quakers on Spirituality and Human Rights](#) (2011) (edited by Harold D. Weaver Jr., Paul Kriese, and Stephen W. Angell); as well as [Quakers of Color International Archive](#) (QCIA) Interviewee, South African political leader, anti-apartheid activist, and newly appointed QUNO-Geneva Director Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge. Prolific artist and human rights activist “Paul Robeson and his Quaker Ancestors” round out the festival honorees.

The final screening on 9 April will also be presented at the Coolidge Corner Theater in Boston for a simultaneous online and in-person event.

For more information on individual films and to register:

<https://neym.org/events-calendar/2022/02/black-lives-matter-film-festival>



**Quaker Earthcare Witness** is hosting monthly online worship sharing groups in partnership with Friends General Conference. This month's group will meet on **Thursday, February 24, 2022, 8:00pm-9:15 pm**. Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW) is the largest network of Friends (Quakers) working on Earthcare today. We work to inspire Spirit-led action toward ecological sustainability and environmental justice.

In worship sharing, we gather in small groups to focus on a particular question (or questions) to explore our own experience and share with each other more deeply than we would in normal conversation. It seeks to draw us into sacred space, where we can take down our usual defenses, and encounter each other in "that which is eternal." We welcome all to join us!

Together we are creating more opportunities for Friends to be in spiritual community with one another.

[Register here.](#)



NEYM youth ministers Gretchen Baker-Smith and Maggie Fiori invite Friends of all ages from across New England to a day of connecting with each other and Spirit through baking bread together! This is a hybrid gathering, meaning that Friends can participate by gathering in person in their monthly meeting communities and connecting to the wider community online. Gretchen will share her ministry of baking bread as a practice of listening for Spirit, which she has shared with youth for decades. Save the date, March 5th, tell Friends at your meeting, and look out for registration opening this winter. Contact Maggie at [maggie@neym.org](mailto:maggie@neym.org) with questions. Register here:

<https://neym.org/events-calendar/2022/03/bread-day>



## WELCOMING ALLIANCE FOR REFUGEE MINISTRY

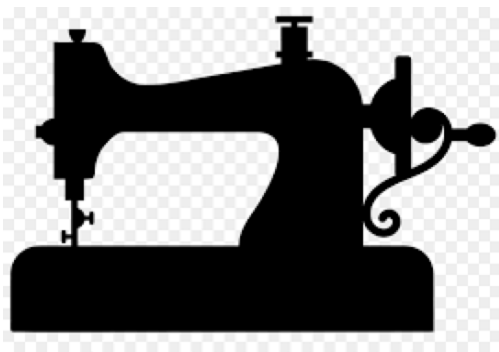
Building a bridge between the Church  
and our city's refugees

We have been able to set-up many homes for Afghan refugees like this one these past few months, thanks to the support of Fresh Start Furniture Bank! However, we have been informed that they are starting to run low on donated furniture and household goods.

Less inventory at the furniture bank means less apartment setups that we are able to do! Can Help:

1. Donate furniture and household goods ([CLICK HERE FOR INFO](#))
2. Purchase needed items ([Amazon](#) and [Target](#) wish lists)
3. Donate funds ([CLICK HERE FOR INFO](#))

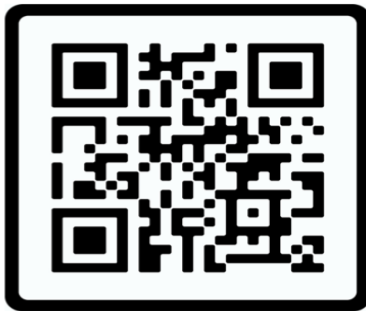
Would you prayerfully consider supporting Fresh Start Furniture Bank so that WARM can in turn continue to set-up homes for refugees? Thank you!



Ansaar of Worcester is seeking sewing machines for refugees to make clothing for themselves. Do you have an old sewing machine gathering dust which could be put to good use to newcomers to Worcester? Arrangements can be made to pick up your old machine. Contact Lucy at [lmcandib@gmail.com](mailto:lmcandib@gmail.com) for more details/to arrange for pick up. Thank you.



LOOKING FOR MEANINGFUL & FUN SUMMER WORK?  
**Friends Camp in SOUTH CHINA, MAINE is hiring counselors** for girls, boys, and gender-expansive cabins. Working at camp is rewarding, builds important life skills, and is the most fun job you will ever have!



SCAN ME

Friends Camp is a Quaker overnight camp in South China, Maine, located on China Lake. Counselors have the opportunity to shape the lives of young people ages 7-17 while gaining experience in leadership, Quaker practices of consensus, community building, problem solving, and so much more. Camp jobs prepare you for anything! **Counselors are paid \$315/week plus free housing, food, laundry, and training in CPR/First Aid and lifeguarding.** For more information, scan the QR code, or contact our camp director Anna Hopkins Buller at [director@friendscamp.org](mailto:director@friendscamp.org).

Counselors must be at least 19 and have some experience with kids. Summer dates are June 17th - August 20th. Apply today to spend your summer outdoors and make lifelong friendships with your fellow staff!

Work at Friends Camp!  
[www.friendscamp.org](http://www.friendscamp.org)  
[director@friendscamp.org](mailto:director@friendscamp.org)

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### **Scheduled Meetings**

**Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business** Second Sunday, 9AM

All are invited via Zoom.

<https://zoom.us/j/92774446613?pwd=M2lyeWJjZVpqTHB4bTJNdWRyRnlhZz09>

**Meeting ID: 927 7444 6613**

**Passcode: 253544**

**Spiritual Life Committee**-Tom Brenner Third Sunday, 9:30 AM

**Practical Committee**-Karen Sargent

All are invited via Zoom.

First Sunday, 9:30 AM

**Practical Committee**

Time: This is a recurring meeting 1st Sunday at 9:30 am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://wpi.zoom.us/j/94987779468>

**Meeting ID: 949 8777 9468**

**Peace, Social Concerns and Outreach**-Lucy Candib & Richard Schmitt

All are invited via Zoom.

Fourth Sunday, 9:30 AM

**PASCO Meeting**

Time: This is a recurring meeting 4th Sunday at 9:30 am

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/94128999438?pwd=NkM3TmRoQ2JZSDhtKzItSUI2eFRxdz09>

**Meeting ID: 941 2899 9438**

**Passcode: 948220**

Clerk of Worcester Friends Meeting-Daron Barnard

Recording Clerk-Katharine Barnard

Corresponding Clerk-Mary Chenaille

First Day School-Michelle Flint, Matt Shorten

Newsletter-Sheila Brenner

Please send general correspondence to [info@worcesterfriendsmeeting.org](mailto:info@worcesterfriendsmeeting.org).

Donations are appreciated and can be mailed to Worcester Friends Meeting

901 Pleasant St.

Worcester, MA 01602.