



# WFM NEWSLETTER

## March 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)

**Hybrid Meeting continues with Friends welcome to join in person or online.** We ask that all who plan to attend in person wear a KN95/N95 mask. There will be masks available at the Meetinghouse. **Zoom worship also continues.** We ask that all enter worship in silence and stay muted except when voicing a message.

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

<https://zoom.us/j/93581663579?pwd=eDFxUjVyL2l1STI2NkxsZWlFUTE0QT09>

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=M2lyeWJjZVpqTHB4bTJNdWRyRnlhZz09>

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.



**“This is the comfort of the godly: the grave cannot hold them, and they live as soon as they die. For death is no more than turning us over from time to eternity.”**

**-William Penn**

**Clarence Burley**  
**March 8, 1927-March 16, 2022**

He was predeceased in 1988 by his wife of 30 years, Patricia J. (Gallagher) Burley, and earlier by two brothers, E. Keith Burley and Walter M. Burley. He leaves behind two daughters, Mary Jane Lombardi & her husband, Scott, with whom he made his home, and Margaret Mary Burley & her husband, Michael R. Collette, of Spencer. He is also survived by two grandchildren, Matthew S. Lombardi and his wife Raiza and great grandson Caleb and Sarah P. Lombardi, and any number of nieces & nephews, friends, and friends.

He was born, March 8, 1927, in Miami, Florida, the son of Clarence A. M. Burley and Helen M. (Moody) Burley, who divided their time between Miami and North Brookfield, Mass. A 1944 graduate of North Brookfield High School, he attended the then Mass. State College at Amherst until entering the army in 1945. He served in the occupation of Japan as a librarian and instructor in the Army Education Program, returning to college to graduate from the new UMass in 1949.

Clarence was employed at The Mechanics National Bank of Worcester, retiring as Vice President, Corporate Trust Officer, Secretary, in 1989. He then worked part-time as an interpreter at Old Sturbridge Village. He volunteered for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates, for children in the DSS system), for the Jewish Healthcare Hospice program and the Literacy Volunteers of Greater Worcester. He served for twenty-five years as lector at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Worcester and as Clerk of the Worcester Friends Meeting where the Spirit had led him.

An avid kayaker, Clarence interested himself in environmental concerns. He gave testimony before the legislative committee considering the bill to ban phosphates in detergents. He was a supporting member of the Greater Worcester Land Trust, the Opacum Land Trust, and the Friends of the Five Mile River. Among his other memberships were the Quaboag and the North Brookfield Historical Societies, the Friends Historical Association, the Thoreau Society, the Thoreau Sauntering Club, which he served as Inspector of Rainstorms and Snowstorms, the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society, the Nathaniel Hawthorne Society, the Haverhill Whittier Club, the Stop Continental Drift Society, the Shoeless Joe Jackson Society, and the Friends of Lizzie Borden.

Funeral services will be private for the family with a graveside service with full military honors in Walnut Grove Cemetery in North Brookfield. Please omit flowers, and, if you wish, make a contribution to the Benderson Family Heart Center at Boston Children's Hospital, in memory of Clarence A. Burley. Contributions can be made at [bostonchildrens.org/giveinmemory](http://bostonchildrens.org/giveinmemory). Or mail checks, payable to Boston Children's Hospital, to Boston Children's Hospital Trust, 401 Park Drive Suite 602, Boston, MA 02215-5301. Please include Clarence's name in the memo line. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home 44 Gilbert St. North Brookfield.

Obituary reprinted from Pillsbury Funeral Homes, Inc. To plant a beautiful memorial tree in memory of Clarence, please visit our [Tree Store](#).

### ***Crossing the Bar***

Sunset and evening star,  
And one clear call for me!  
And may there be no moaning of the bar,  
When I put out to sea,  
But such a tide as moving seems asleep,  
Too full for sound and foam,  
When that which drew from out the boundless deep  
Turns again home.  
Twilight and evening bell,  
And after that the dark!  
And may there be no sadness of farewell, When I  
embark;  
For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place  
The flood may bear me far,  
I hope to see my Pilot face to face  
When I have crost the bar.

-Alfred, Lord Tennyson



**Note:** Clarence loved poetry and frequently sent poems to be included in the Newsletter and Friendly Reminders. His constantly curious mind always emerged in his poetic choices and he opened up new ideas to me through his generous sharing of art, poetry, jokes and historical, usually Quaker, anecdotes and articles. I, like all in Worcester Friends Meeting, will miss him beyond words and will always remember him as a poem in my heart.

**Worcester Friends Meeting**  
**Monthly Meeting for Business**  
**March 13, 2022**

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

Clerking: Daron Barnard

We welcomed one another in person and on zoom. The meeting opened with silence, and a reading from NEYM Faith and Practice: *Attend to the Spirit at work in the ordinary activities and experiences of your daily life. There is inspiration to be found all around us, in the natural world, in the sciences and arts, in our work and friendships, in our sorrows as well as in our joys. Be open to and alert for how the Spirit may be speaking to you in fresh ways, leading you in new directions.*

**Business Items:**

1. **Website Development.** Friends working on the website propose signing up with Squarespace as a website host as it would be stable and would provide the scope that we need. The cost of this service is \$276 annually. Friends are in agreement with this expense. The treasurer will list this as a budget line item. Marcel announces that he hopes for the new website to go live in June 2022. There will be opportunities for review and consultation with PSCO and the Meeting as a whole. Marcel is seeking photos for the website and the link to his DropBox is <https://www.dropbox.com/request/RRE9JO8YYU62YSWbsP97>
2. **Registering with PFLAG as an Affirming Meeting.** It has been brought to our attention that Worcester Friends Meeting is not currently listed as an LGBTQ-friendly religious organization with Worcester chapter of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). The Clerk suggests that we seek to list our Meeting with the organization, as a step towards publicizing our stance with the wider community. This would be congruent with our longtime flying of a pride flag, participation in the Pride Parade, and welcoming members and attenders of all sexual orientations and gender identities. Jim Gleaton offers to contact PFLAG to see what the next steps are.
3. **Heating System.** Practical committee met this month and discussed ongoing issues with the heating system. The committee proposes updating the house's antiquated heating system which not only is inefficient but is also fragile. The committee asks for the Meeting's support to make serious investigations into options, understanding that this implies future expense once a new system is identified. In terms of our environmental impact, updating the system would be an opportunity to reduce use of fossil fuels. Friends agree and support Practical Committee in moving forward with investigating options for major update to our heating system.
4. **Technology solutions for hybrid worship.** We see that hybrid business and worship gatherings will be a longterm situation. While we do plan to buy a new laptop for the Meeting, we need better-functioning audio/visual solutions for worship and business gatherings. We would welcome outside input. One resource is David Colletta of Three Rivers Worship Group, who has received a NEYM Legacy Grant to support Meetings in their technology solutions. He would meet with interested people from the Meeting, and then take different advisory roles including advising on specific equipment. Karen Sargent's husband, Doug, also has expertise in sound set-up. Daron will reach out to David Colletta to set up a conversation, and Marcel and Tom offer to participate in the



meeting. The group will bring recommendations back to the Meeting, through a called meeting if needed so as to expedite process. Aaron will make the purchase of the new laptop, using the information Karen has already gathered. One aspect of today's discussion involved acknowledgment of those who have been doing the work and bearing the frustrations thus far, and how others can support them and support the forward movement of the Meeting's technology needs.

5. **Reopening the Meetinghouse for worship.** Spiritual Life proposes that we continue universal masking at in-person worship, with KN95 or N95 masks, and that the Meeting continue supplying masks at the door for those who do not bring their own. Mary, as house manager, will monitor that supply and order more masks as needed.

**Treasurer's Report:** There were scheduled income and expenses. Stock values are down, which impacts our Cemetery Fund.

### **Committee Reports:**

1. **Practical.** The committee proposes Spring Market Day be held on Saturday, June 4. Karen will contact our prior vendors, and also anticipates rhubarb pie-making for sale. She reminds people that we welcome donations of baked goods and plants. The other item is the stain on the ceiling of the meeting room which resulted from some water leakage during the radiator replacements that were done this winter. Karen has contacted the plumbers and they will inspect the site to determine what the damage is and whether they are responsible for fixing it.
2. **Spiritual Life.** Ellen reports that she has been approved as Clerk for Spiritual Life committee for this year. The committee held a threshing session for State of Society last week (March 6). Katharine has agreed to write a draft of the report and circulate that to those who were present at the threshing session. The Meeting lacks clarity about the name for the Saturday worship group, formerly the Christ-centered worship group, and Kathy will take the question back to that group for another round of consideration. The committee considered how to make sure that Friends who are worshipping on line are included at the rise of Meeting in knowing who are SL members, and Kathy will take this under her care.
3. **Peace, Social Concerns and Outreach.** Lucy reported back the results of the survey about the website. These suggestions will help inform the website reconstruction efforts. Sheila continues attending Worcester Interfaith meetings. She reports that Worcester Interfaith is welcoming applicants for a director, and also that there was continued discussion about police in school. Lucy reports that Ansaar, the organization supporting Afghan refugees in Worcester, primarily those who are yet unhoused and staying in hotels, has requested donations of sewing machines, and Lucy has been receiving donations of machines and cloth for the women. The PSCO committee continues to work on the practicalities of the land acknowledgment monument. Today's gathered Friends approved the font and size of the text for the plaque, and also approved adding "2022" to the inscription to acknowledge the date that the monument was placed.

### **Announcements:**

1. **The LGBT Asylum Task Force** is restarting their monthly in-person dinners, with the next dinner being tomorrow, March 14, 2022.
2. **Quarterly Meeting upcoming March 20, 2022.** SE Quarter will meet next week, virtually, with Worcester as host. Business will be considered prior to worship, and the fellowship and program will follow worship. The specific schedule is as follows: Business 9:30-11, worship 11-11:45, introductions and fellowship 11:45-12:30, and program from 12:30-1:30. The program includes a

talk by Betsy Cazden on land acknowledgment and a report from Rebecca Leuchak on the recent NEYM visit to Cuban Friends. The link for the entire day will be the zoom link for Worcester Meeting worship. Daron will clerk the business meeting as the Quarter does not have a Clerk at this time. He plans to clerk remotely, as it will be more manageable given that many Friends will likely join on line. Tom volunteers to be present in the Meetinghouse to set up the audio technology.

The meeting closed to transition to worship.

In the Light,  
Katharine Barnard, Recording Clerk

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The **#WelcomeWithDignity** campaign “seeks to reimagine our asylum system and defend the rights of those seeking protection to welcome families, children, and adults languishing on our doorstep, advocate for the restoration of asylum rights in the United States, and create a more just, humane, and dignified approach to protecting migrants fleeing danger.” #WelcomeWithDignity is currently leading a timely effort to end Title 42. Title 42 was implemented under the Trump Administration and has been kept in place by the Biden Administration. Although the Biden Administration recently lifted the restrictions in relation to unaccompanied minors, after pressure from a Texas-based federal judge, the ban remains in effect. Refugee advocates contend that the law is sometimes administered preferentially as is the case when some Ukrainian refugees receive a waiver while those from south of the border do not. According to the #WelcomeWith Dignity’s website:

- **Title 42** is an obscure provision of public health law that the Trump administration weaponized during the COVID-19 pandemic to deny families, children, and adults arriving at the southern border their right to seek asylum in the United States.
- **Title 42 is illegal.** The Title 42 policy deprives asylum seekers of their legal right to pursue protection, allowing border officials to rapidly expel them to Mexico or to their home countries with no process whatsoever.
  - The policy [violates the right](#) of people fleeing persecution not to be returned to danger, which is enshrined in the United States’ laws and international treaty obligations.
- **Title 42 does not protect public health.** The CDC order authorizing the expulsions was issued over [objections](#) by senior CDC medical [experts](#) that it lacked a public health justification. The Biden administration has continued the abuse of Title 42 over the objections of [more than 100 members of Congress](#), [public health experts](#), and [top advisors](#) from the administration.
- Dr. Fauci himself [has said](#) there is no rationale for expelling people seeking safety at the border.
- Practitioners have found Title 42 to [exacerbate](#) the spread of COVID-19 and other public health challenges.

Title 42 is under review until 3/30/22 and critics fear that it will remain in place unless public pressure brought to bear. Numerous churches and social justice organizations have written a letter to the administration asking that it be immediately ended. You can read the full letter here <https://welcomewithdignity.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Title-42-anniversary-letter.pdf> .

Please write to the Biden Administration and CC the following officials to end this discriminatory and dangerous law.  
Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, Department of Homeland Security  
Secretary Xavier Becerra, Department of Health and Human Services  
Secretary Antony Blinken, ,Department of State  
Ambassador Susan Rice, Domestic Policy Council  
Advisor Jake Sullivan, National Security Council

Additional talking points for letters can be found at  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Xf6lC5137wgH0WzyAFg8WeLKDPruh8S1qCLaCl0Wtzg/edit>  
<https://welcomewithdignity.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Title-42-anniversary-letter.pdf>

**Beginning March 27-Living the Quaker Way (LQW)** is an interactive, participatory workshop that brings folks together—longtime Friends, new friends, and everyone in between—to explore how our spiritual experience is embodied in our actions and woven into our daily lives.

How are our values informed by our sense of spirit? How do we put faith into practice with our family members, friends, colleagues, strangers, countries, and world? How do we choose a focus among the many ways the world needs us—and how do we know we have done enough? WFM's own **Mike Shell** will be on the panel for the 4/10 workshop.

Register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/living-the-quaker-way-reclaiming-jesus-registration-217979371167?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

**Living the Quaker Way - Reclaiming Jesus?** explores Quaker experiences of Jesus and Christ over its 350 year history, and today.

- Many Quakers are Christian, and yet many are not—how can this be?
- What's the difference between Christ and Jesus?
- What did we learn about Jesus that seems just plain wrong, and how do we make sense of it now?
- How might Jesus and Christ nourish our spiritual lives—whether we are Christ-centered in our Quakerism or not?

Through activities, presentations, and discussion, this course will delve into the varied history and attitudes while helping participants meet & connect with each other.

LQW: Reclaiming Jesus? will meet on three Sundays from 7-8:30pm Eastern time.

**3/27 Reclaiming Jesus? - Quakers and Mysticism**

**4/10 Reclaiming Jesus? - Universalism**

**4/24 Reclaiming Jesus? - Early church diversity and paths left behind**

WHO IS THIS FOR?

Some familiarity with Quaker faith and practice is assumed, whether that's through attending meeting for worship, or attending other offerings such as Exploring the Quaker Way or Quaker Basics. Newcomers and seekers are very welcome, however! This course is also appropriate for longtime Quakers who wish to deepen their Quaker practice.

**INTERACTIVE PARTICIPATION STYLE:** Get ready for a cameras-on, mics-on, participatory experience! Each Zoom session will include a mix of presentations, small group discussion, interactive activities, and introductions.

For more on our other offerings, visit: <https://fmcquaker.org/learning/adults/> or <https://www.eventbrite.com/o/friends-meeting-at-cambridge-33257273637>

ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSION:

- You may participate via Zoom or phone, with or without video. Live auto-transcripting will be enabled.
- You are invited to share your pronouns if you wish.

**The Black Quaker Lives Matter Film Festival & Forum:**

**Brother Outsider: The Life Of Bayard Rustin**



Virtual Screening on Saturday, 26 March, 1:00 PM EDT

Followed by Dialogue and Q & A with Guest Experts: Partner & Adopted Son Walter Naegle, Human-Rights Activist Dr. George Lakey.

12:40 PM Prelude: Mini-concert of Black Freedom Music by Rustin

Register here

<https://theblackquakerproject.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=44a4a6e184a38c568d41891d7&id=b1e1d77592&e=05e959cc01>



Dear Friends Camp community,

Are you a young adult, or do you know a young adult thinking about summer plans? Do you want the opportunity to do meaningful work while also having fun? Working at Friends Camp is a great choice! Being a camp counselor is one of the best jobs to help you decide what you want to do in the future, and provides unique work experiences like:

- Building skills that are applicable to any field: collaboration with other staff, creative problem solving, learning how to have difficult conversations, helping kids resolve interpersonal conflicts, public speaking, and group leadership.
- Spending the summer making lifelong friendships with other staff members!
- Having the opportunity to use and expand on the skills and creativity you already possess through programming and activities that you get to create and lead.
- Creating a magical camp experience for kids and teens where they can be themselves and have fun.
- Living in Quaker community and practicing values of peace, integrity, simplicity, and consensus.
- Spending your summer in the sun swimming, boating, making art, playing games, singing songs, and laughing every single day!

We are still looking to hire just a few more counselors (primarily to live in boys' cabins) and 1 more kitchen helper. Counselors are paid \$315/week, with the opportunity to get trained for free in lifeguarding and CPR/first aid. Housing, food, and laundry are provided all summer for staff. For more information about working at Friends Camp, [visit our website](#), or reach out to Anna at [director@friendscamp.org](mailto:director@friendscamp.org). Click below to begin your application today!![https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001bb8mAV7sMcDoKQMGGqcXgf-RjeMFhmH863RS8szbakuJadPzyGgKjXKgL8Asx\\_D\\_uG4\\_kS5ZYxS4zFkL8x5qEj5qzQqbh85523GkRpDKugiLEA4vXqq0T1f1uuA6TPeUbi\\_CXbF8g5iwhMMVHeRSB7Vv0F5W5XOntdPyoWdqjU=&c=MF9w7LtREOWxvlqLmJH9rOg0e\\_jv\\_sXsMzNJ9YOyMzgzN6wC90SYXw==&ch=Zpkfep\\_jscw92r3B7hOfF11CWEcv7qmaUWW7h0EssZ4sTVQC2Ka3bg==](https://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001bb8mAV7sMcDoKQMGGqcXgf-RjeMFhmH863RS8szbakuJadPzyGgKjXKgL8Asx_D_uG4_kS5ZYxS4zFkL8x5qEj5qzQqbh85523GkRpDKugiLEA4vXqq0T1f1uuA6TPeUbi_CXbF8g5iwhMMVHeRSB7Vv0F5W5XOntdPyoWdqjU=&c=MF9w7LtREOWxvlqLmJH9rOg0e_jv_sXsMzNJ9YOyMzgzN6wC90SYXw==&ch=Zpkfep_jscw92r3B7hOfF11CWEcv7qmaUWW7h0EssZ4sTVQC2Ka3bg==)

## **FRIENDS YOUNG AND OLD, SAVE THE DATES:**

New England Yearly Meeting intends to hold Annual Sessions in person at Castleton University in Castleton, Vermont in August 5-11 with an option to participate in some portions via Zoom. NEYM is in discernment about the current Covid conditions and how things might unfold between now and the summer. Further information will be posted in March on the NEYM website.

**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.