



WFM NEWSLETTER

MAY 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

Worcester Friends Meeting offers weekly virtual worship and hybrid (combination of both in-person and virtual worship options) when it is safe to do so. We continue to monitor safety of in-person worship as related to fluctuating community COVID risk. The CDC's color-coded community risk levels provide a guide to respond flexibly and appropriately to changes in COVID prevalence.

- Green = low risk: We will continue hybrid worship, requesting that in-person worshippers mask, and using air purifier in the Meeting room
- Yellow = medium risk: As above, plus noting that higher risk individuals may wish to choose virtual worship
- Orange = high risk: We will suspend in-person worship and continue virtual worship until risk level falls.

Spiritual Life committee members will monitor the CDC site on a weekly basis and provide updates for the Weekly Reminders as to whether our community risk level allows for in-person indoor worship. Friends are urged to monitor community risk levels individually as well and make decisions about their personal attendance. We will try to broadcast any changes in status that may arise between Wednesdays and Sundays, but people may also choose to individually monitor the COVID community risk level using the CDC weblink:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/covid-by-county.html>

Sunday Meeting for Worship 11:00 am.

<https://zoom.us/j/93581663579?pwd=eDFxUjVvL2lISTI2NkxsZWlFUTE0QT09>

Meeting ID: 935 8166 3579

Passcode: 661048

If attending via Zoom, please enter worship in silence and keep audio muted until moved to speak.

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 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=S1hKZ1hZQmp0MW5hRW9XMjn3TzdHQQT09>

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 for more information.



Congratulations to Olivia Mikkelsen (left) who graduated from high school with an AA degree from St. Petersburg College and will attend the New College of Florida and Andreana Brenner (right) who graduates from University of IL at Champaign-Urbana with a BA in Psychology and will attend University of IL Chicago for graduate studies in Public Policy. Young Friends walking in the Light wherever they may be!

Worcester Friends Meeting for Business

May 8, 2022

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

Clerking: Daron Barnard

The Meeting opened with worship and a reading from NEYM Faith and Practice - Advises and Queries:
“You will say, Christ saith this, and the apostles say this; but what canst thou say? Art thou a child of Light and hast walked in the Light, and what thou speakest, is it inwardly from God?”

Business Items:

1. **Memorial meeting for Clarence Burley:** The Meeting records that yesterday we held a worship in memorial for our Friend, Clarence Burley. It was attended robustly in person and virtually, by Friends near and far and also by members of Clarence’s family. We especially appreciated Clarence’s family being present and sharing photos from his life, as well as the time to sit together and reflect with great affection on our time with Clarence.
2. **In Person Worship** has been temporarily suspended due to high COVID risk in Worcester County. Thank you to Sheila for spreading the information. Tom will also post a notice on the door of the Meetinghouse today for attenders who might miss the email notification.
3. **Plumbing Improvements:** Practical committee reports that, despite recent plumbing work, there is more to be done. There are ongoing issues with a leak from the boiler in the basement and heat not reaching the second and third floor.
 1. Practical Committee requests approval to replace the boiler and the water heater units. It is sensible to do both at the same time as they are of the same vintage and are connected via piping. Practical committee reports that they have obtained three quotes for the work. The best of the three estimates is from Garabedian Plumbers for \$24,500 for labor and replacement of both the boiler and water heater, and this quote is guaranteed for 30 days. They could start work within two weeks of our signing a contract. We expect that the plumbers would want 30-50% up front. The business meeting is in favor of proceeding with the work. Mike Mallory and Mary Chenaille plan to meet tomorrow with the plumbers to look at hot water heater options and some other specifics.
 2. We considered how we could pay for the work and the timing of the project. Friends would ideally like to get this done before this winter. The short-term guarantee of the estimate also spurs us to move on this sooner than later. There are three main options that we see for funding. FGC accepts applications for grant or loan funding for Meetings’ buildings and grounds projects, though we do not yet know specifics of whether they would fund this type of project, how much funding might be granted, and what the timing would be. Another option would be a special appeal, either mail or electronic (crowd-sourced) platform, or some combination. The third option for funding would be using money from our accounts. Aaron reviewed the logistics of using money from our portion of the NEYM Pooled Funds, which can be withdrawn only quarterly, the next option be requesting now with payment in late July. Aaron notes that if we were to remove more than ends up being needed, we could invest some or all of that back into the pooled funds after. Our cash account cannot comfortably cover the cost of the work,

but could cover the downpayment, with the assumption that we would replace the amount withdrawn once other funding is obtained. Some combination of all of the above may be the solution. After much discussion, we have approved that:

1. Daron will speak with Garabedian Plumbers to find out how much they would want as downpayment, determine the timing of the work, and see when the complete payment would be due, to make sure that aligns with what we are able to offer.
2. We will plan to pay the up-front cost from our bank account, to be replaced in the account when we receive grant funding, the NEYM pooled funds, or fundraised monies. Members of Meeting may offer to loan money to meeting to provide “cushion” with our bank account if we find ourselves with an uncomfortably low balance for a time.
3. Matt will contact FGC to investigate the grant funding option.
4. Aaron will contact the manager of NEYM Pooled Funds now to request withdrawal of \$25,000 via sale of stock. Requests are due mid-June, with payment late July.
5. Marcel offers to look into the logistics of crowd-sourced funding options.
6. Mary and Mike as above to meet with the plumbers to determine specifics (which we note might adjust the estimate for the work).

4. Quaker Action:

1. **Supporting end to war in Yemen:** We have received a letter via Cambridge Meeting with a request for our Meeting’s endorsement. The letter asks US politicians to end US complicity and support of the war in Yemen. The letter comes from Mass Peace Action and Friends Committee on National Legislation, and specifies the ways in which US actions amplify the suffering in Yemen, and specific congressional resolutions which address this concern. The business meeting wholeheartedly supports our signing on as “Worcester Friends Meeting”. The full letter is visible here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdCXk-6M1b1_mSkLrANzxOmay1o2HoIBWBrY-30zSVVr7U2aw/viewform
2. **Support for Ukraine:** We continue to be concerned by the crisis in Ukraine. Diane Jones announced that her Ukrainian-American friend Stefan is involved in fundraising for a nonprofit (Plast USA Aid - Scouts for Ukraine) that provides humanitarian aid. We determined that, to support expeditious action, it would best be that individuals donate as they see themselves able. Friends can find the organization at: <https://aid.plastUSA.org> Karen will also post this link on our Worcester Friends Meeting Facebook page to help with publicity.

5. Committee Reports:

1. Practical: Matt Shorten announces that the committee is working to address Cemetery vandalism. Market Day is planned for June 4. Please contact Karen if you are available to help out. The new computer has been obtained for the Meeting, and is still getting some final set-up done.
2. Spiritual Life: Pending business items are writing up a paragraph for the new website, and planning for the writing of Clarence Burley’s memorial minute.

3. PSCO: Cambridge Meeting has a member who is interested in helping to fund Quaker Meetings' efforts in support of refugees. Lucy has connected with Ansaar who is working with Afghan refugees in Worcester, and has contacted Cambridge Meeting regarding the offer. Committee members continue work on the land acknowledgment monument, and there are still some logistics to work out. The committee announces that they will be providing dinner at the LGBT Asylum Task Force on Monday June 13.

The meeting closed with silence and reflection on our members and attenders who are experiencing personal challenges. We transitioned to virtual worship.

In the Light,

Katharine Barnard, Recording Clerk



**JOIN US FOR
A Racial Wealth Gap Simulation
Tuesday, May 17th at 7pm Eastern**

REGISTER HERE: <https://quakerearthcare.org/event/racial-wealth-gap-simulation-experiment/>

Quaker Earthcare Witness co-clerk Beverly Ward is hosting a Racial Wealth Gap simulation. The simulation is an interactive tool that helps people understand the **connections among racial equity, hunger, poverty, and wealth.**



In the simulation, participants learn how **federal policies created structural inequalities**—property ownership and education are just two among many areas affected—and how these policies increase hunger and poverty in communities of color.

The simulation guides participants to an understanding of why **racial equity is so important to ending hunger and poverty in the United States.** The hope is that participants, in becoming more aware of structural inequality, can support policies that undo and/or reduce disparities.

All are welcome - we especially encourage Steering Committee members to attend as part of our ongoing efforts to become an anti-racist community.

About Beverly Ward

Beverly is the field secretary for Earthcare at Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends and the co-clerk of QEW. Her related experience includes conducting research and providing technical assistance to communities and local state and federal agencies on environmental and social justice, housing, and transportation issues. Beverly is an experiential workshop facilitator trained in conflict management, mediation, responses to violence, strategies on healing for trauma and Alternatives to Violence Project.

Beverly is a member of Tampa Monthly Meeting and an attender of Deland Worship Group. She lives on lands once inhabited by the Timucua (Ocklawaha River Watershed) and the Tocobaga (Hillsborough Bay Watershed).



Spring Market Day is Saturday June 4, 2022. Home baked goods, vendors and many, many books will be for sale to raise money for the Meeting's expenses. It's the biggest fundraiser we hold and all are invited!

All are also invited to contact Karen at kegs_mail@comcast.net to help on the day or the afternoon/evening before for pie making and set up.



In early April FGC announced the decision that the 2022 Gathering, " ...and follow me," would move online. The virtual Gathering will be held on Zoom from Sunday, July 3 through Saturday, July 9. Leslie Manning (Durham, ME, Friends Meeting) will present the Bible Half Hours, and Jackie Stillwell (Monadnock, NH, Friends Meeting) will be a plenary speaker. The schedule also includes extended worship, worship sharing, week-long workshops, affinity groups, hang-out spaces, afternoon activities, and plenary sessions. You can participate in a lot or a little of the virtual Gathering from wherever you are this summer from your laptop, phone, or tablet! Learn more:

https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcprograms/the-gathering/?mc_cid=1560b8a41e&mc_eid=12b76536d2

TITLE 42 ACTION ALERT: When the Biden administration announced that it would terminate the inhumane Title 42 expulsion order, it marked a critical — and long overdue — step towards restoring access to asylum and protection in the United States. The weaponization of Title 42 has effectively shut down access to asylum for more than two years, putting thousands of people in harm's way.

Since then, we've seen a wave of politicians announce that they will do everything in their power to derail our progress and revive Title 42 expulsions, including by blocking crucial COVID-19 relief legislation.

We need all hands on deck. Urge your senators to oppose any forthcoming anti-immigrant amendments to the COVID-19 relief bill. NOW is a *critical* moment in our fight to end Title 42.

We MUST send Congress and the White House a strong message that any efforts to keep Title 42 are unacceptable and a betrayal of their promise to undo the harms of the Trump administration and restore humanity and dignity to our asylum system. Use the form at this link to connect to your legislators.

<https://www.nilc.org/action-oppose-anti-immigrant-amendments/>

Action Alerts:

- ACLU: <https://bit.ly/3K94RJg>
- AFSC: <https://bit.ly/3K80Vsa>
- Amnesty International: <https://bit.ly/3k0Bzlv>
- CWS: <https://bit.ly/37yJ1BL>
- Jesuit Refugee Services: <https://bit.ly/3MBkyL6>
- LAWG: <https://bit.ly/3EzIm05>
- NILC: <https://bit.ly/3v1IZex>
- Public Health Awakened: <https://bit.ly/3JYbXQQ>
- Quixote Center: <https://bit.ly/T42Congress>
- Vets for American Ideals: <https://bit.ly/3vz5c2K>



Members and Attenders:

- 1) We shared the good news about two of our Young Friends in this issue and we would love to share your stories. Do you have more good news to share to the community? Please send your updates, photos and news to info@worcesterfriendsmeeting.com
- 2) During our discussion while discerning our State of Society report, we discussed sharing our individual favorite causes or charities which enrich our lives and support our Quaker values. Do you have a particular charity which you would like to boost/share with our community? Send information (and website addresses) to info@worcesterfriendsmeeting.com and we can share them.

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

- **Practical Committee-Karen Sargent** All are invited via Zoom.

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

<https://zoom.us/j/94128999438?pwd=NkM3TmRoQ2JZSDhtKzltSUI2eFRxdz09>

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.

Donations are appreciated and can be mailed to Worcester Friends Meeting

901 Pleasant St.

Worcester, MA 01602.