



# WFM NEWSLETTER

## JUNE 2022

### Worcester Friends Meeting (Religious Society of Friends)

*WFM acknowledges that our Meetinghouse sits on the traditional territory of Indigenous peoples now known collectively as the Nipmuc Nation.*

901 Pleasant Street, Worcester, MA 01602

508-754-3887

[www.WorcesterFriendsMeeting.org](http://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=eDFxUjVyL2lISTl2NkxsZWlFUTE0QT09>

**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](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.

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## **Registration for 2022 NEYM Sessions is open**

Friends from across New England and beyond will gather for 2022 Sessions from **August 6 through 11, 2022.**

Annual Sessions provides many opportunities to connect with Friends old and new: vibrant youth programs, adult small groups for interpersonal connection, encouragement, and spiritual exploration, discernment of how Quakers in New England are led by the Spirit to act and serve, and guest speakers offering explorations of the Bible and sharing ministry responding to our condition and the challenges of our times.

The Yearly Meeting intends to hold Annual Sessions in person at Castleton University in Castleton, Vermont in August, with an option to participate in some portions via Zoom.

Visit [What Will Sessions Be Like](#) to get important information about participating in Sessions this year, including links to register to attend either in person or online.

Looking to register?

- [Registering for on-campus Sessions](#) includes important information for you to read before you proceed to the registration site (the link to register is on the page).
- [Register for online Sessions](#)



NEW ENGLAND  
QUAKERS

# Events for Youth 2022-2023

## Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM)

Retreats for youth in grades 2-6

- November 4th - 6th in Wellesley, MA
- January 27th - 29th on Zoom
- May 12th - 14th at Woolman Hill, Deerfield, MA

## Junior High Yearly Meeting (JHYM)

Retreats for youth grades 6-8

- Sept 30th - Oct 2nd in Framingham, MA
- Dec 2nd - 4th at Woolman Hill
- March 24th - 26th Bodyworks Retreat\*
- June 2nd - 4th\*

## Young Friends

Grades 9-12

- Oct 21st -23rd Fall Retreat in Portland, ME
- Jan 13th - 16th Midwinter Retreat at Woolman Hill, Deerfield, MA
- April 1st YFs attend Living Faith Gathering\*
- May 19th - 21st Spring Retreat in Providence, RI

March 4th is **Bread Day!**  
For all ages, at local meetings.

*\*location TBD*

# Have fun, make lifelong friends, and listen to that sacred song in your heart.

New England Yearly Meeting, the community of Quakers in New England, hosts a wide array of programming for youth who are interested in exploring the Quaker way and connecting with loving community. Check it out!



## Junior Yearly Meeting Grades 2-6

Come to a weekend retreat in person or online to make new friends, do hands-on spiritual learning, and have silly fun!

Contact for JYM and JHYM: Kara Price, [kara@neym.org](mailto:kara@neym.org)



## Junior High Yearly Meeting Grades 6-8

Find belonging and spiritual exploration at a weekend retreat or online event.

For middle & high schoolers:

- Racial Justice Group, meeting biweekly online
- Local Teen Meetups for small group connection, announced in program newsletters



## Young Friends Grades 9-12

Unplug, be your authentic self, and explore Quakerism more deeply at a weekend retreat, or connect with peers around a shared interest at an online event.

Contact: Maggie Fiori, [maggie@neym.org](mailto:maggie@neym.org)

[neym.org/nurture-youth](https://neym.org/nurture-youth)



**Worcester Friends Meeting**  
**Meeting for Business**  
**June 12, 2022**

Present: Daron Barnard, Katharine Barnard, Kathy Boger, Tom Brenner, Sheila Brenner, Lucy Candib, Jim Gleaton, Marcel LaFlamme, Michael Mallory, Ellen Perry, Karen Sargent, Richard Schmitt, Mike Shell, Matthew Shorten  
Clerking: Daron Barnard

The meeting opened with silence and a reading from NEYM Advices and Queries on making space in your daily life for communion with God and for spiritual nurture.

**Business Items:**

**Introduction to the new WFM website:** Marcel has been working on a re-vamp of the Meeting's website. Input was solicited through a survey of Meeting members, discussions and troubleshooting in PASCO committee meetings, and contributions from a number of Friends. Marcel also drew from our State of Society discussion in setting the tone. It was identified in the survey that the main target audience would be newcomers to the Meeting, as such there is a link directly from the opening banner to a page orienting to Quaker worship, with embedded "Quaker Speak" videos and answers to Frequently Asked Questions. There is also a desire for the website to serve current members and attenders and serve as a platform for connecting. There will be further discussion on how to actualize this aspect. Marcel presented challenges around getting WFM photos that are topical, and also photo permission, so for the time being has incorporated some appropriate stock photos. The "Events" page raises questions of how detailed we wish to be and how we would keep the information up to date. We wish to be careful in not overburdening any individual in this duty. In general, these questions will be ones to consider in the future as our experience of the website matures. It is identified that it will be useful to have a small committee that will commit to website upkeep and revisions. For next steps: Today, Marcel will email the link to this website draft for comments, as well as a link to the text answers to the FAQs so that Friends can contribute information. Friends agree that we are on track to launch the new website by the end of June, incorporating any further comments from Friends' review of the draft today. The website as drafted is clear, visually appealing, and well thought-out. Friends are very grateful to Marcel, Kathy and others who have contributed time and thought to this process.

**Successful Spring Market Day:** Karen reports that Spring Market Day was held June 4, 2022. The weather was excellent. Volunteers made 26 rhubarb and strawberry-rhubarb pies the night before. Special thank-you's to Diane for contributing rhubarb and Victoria for sharing her pie-making expertise. Appreciation for all who helped set up, staff, and clean up on Saturday. Karen estimates about \$700 in revenue, which is less than some prior years but still feels worthwhile. As always it was also worthwhile from the standpoint of community building and visibility. The Meeting is grateful to Karen for again coordinating the Market Day.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Practical:** Matt reports that the committee met last week. In addition to considering Market Day, the committee took up the following additional business items. Regarding the cemetery: Mike Mallory has been scrubbing graffiti off the rocks and is replacing the plexiglass of the sign. Daron has filed an incident report with the Leicester Police regarding the vandalism. The furnace and the boiler have been replaced by Garabedian Plumbers. However, there are unresolved issues: First, the heat is still not working on the 2nd floor. Daron will contact Garabedian regarding this issue. There are still stains on the meeting room ceiling which we will not clean up until we know the radiator work is complete. There is still work needed on the element in the basement. We have paid \$10,000 of the \$24,000 total bill, the remainder to be paid only after all the work is completed. Matt has had initial communication with FGC about assistance with the cost, but it does not seem promising. Practical committee therefore plans to write a fundraising appeal letter soon.

**Spiritual Life:** Ellen reports that, at Kathy's suggestion, Market Day included an "Ask a Quaker" table which generated 3 questions. The committee is still working on the memorial minute for Clarence Burley, and plans for a memorial tree or bush-planting and additional time for story sharing.

**Peace Social Concerns and Outreach:** Richard reports that there is no additional business from the committee at this time.

### **Announcements:**

WFM will be serving **dinner at the LGBT Asylum Task Force tomorrow**. Tom will be grilling chicken, and Karen, Lucy, Jim and Marcel are all contributing dishes. Volunteers are needed and should contact Tom for information.

1. **Providence Monthly Meeting hosting Quarterly Meeting next week (June 19, 2022).** Planned agenda for the day: 9-10am Juneteenth celebration, 10-11am worship, 11-12 fellowship and lunch, and 12-2pm business (which includes presentation of our State of Society report). WFM will also hold our usual 11am worship (virtual and in person) for those who wish to attend WFM in addition to, or instead of, Quarterly Meeting.
2. **COVID Precautions:** All are reminded that Worcester Friends Meeting has decided to use the CDC community COVID-risk level as a guide for whether to hold in-person worship or committee meetings. This will be monitored on a weekly basis and communicated through the weekly reminders. We have decided to stop contact tracing so the sign-in sheet has been removed from the entry way and the language about contact tracing has been struck from the information posted at the front door.

In the Light,  
Katharine Barnard, Recording Clerk

Fair Share Amendment is on the MA ballot in November and community support is needed

Save the Date:

Sunday July 24th 2:30 - 7pm

Green Hill Park Worcester

Discussion on Fair Share, relationship building, canvassing together, and a celebratory dinner



Massachusetts  
Communities  
Action Network

Brockton Interfaith Community  
Essex County Community Organization  
I Have A Future  
Pioneer Valley Project  
Prophetic Resistance Boston  
United Interfaith Action  
Worcester Interfaith

## FAIR SHARE INFO SHEET

We have an opportunity before us, to build the **public education** and **transportation** that we want for ourselves and for future generations.

- Imagine fare-free, carbon-free public transportation all over the state
- Imagine smaller classes, where teachers can focus on each student
- Imagine a wide range of innovative after-school programs for all kids
- Imagine getting to say what **YOU** want for our schools and our transit

*This opportunity was given to us by current and past leaders of MCAN (Pioneer Valley Project, Worcester Interfaith, Prophetic Resistance Boston, United Interfaith Action, I Have a Future, Brockton Interfaith Community, and Essex County Community Organization) - who collected 22,129 petition signatures in 2015, and pressed the Legislature for years to advance this cause.*

What would it do?

If voters approve it in November 2022, the Fair Share Amendment would raise **over \$2 billion annually** for education and transportation, by setting a tax of 4% on incomes over \$1 million.

Would \$2 billion a year go a long way?

The entire 2022 public school budgets of Boston, Worcester and Springfield combined equals about \$2.3 billion. The entire cost of MBTA trains, ferries, buses, handicapped RIDE programs, etc. across eastern MA is \$2.3 billion this year.

But what about those millionaires?

The very few people who make over \$1 million a year typically see their wealth grow far faster than anyone else. For example, 19 Massachusetts billionaires saw their **wealth increase by \$17 billion just in the first 3 months of the pandemic shutdown**

14 Cushing Avenue, Boston, MA 02125 [www.mcan.us](http://www.mcan.us) [mcan@mcan.us](mailto:mcan@mcan.us) 857-302-0848

## "SHOW ME THE MONEY"

Have you ever met with a public official about something your community needs, and heard them say, "We don't have the money"? Maybe they go on to explain condescendingly the "realities" of city and state budgets. This is our chance to show state and local officials exactly where the money would come from.

For example, some of our school superintendents are refusing to spend federal ARPA (COVID-relief) funds on more teachers to address learning loss, or counselors to support students in crisis, because ARPA funds will run out in 2024, and they don't want to have to continue paying salaries after that.

**If we pass Fair Share, there would be new funds available going forward after 2024 to pay salaries.**

But won't it pass anyway?

**No.**

Fair Share polls well, but billionaires and their lobbying groups are already lining up and spending money to oppose it. Some politicians, including Charlie Baker, are already saying we don't need the money - while also saying we can't afford smaller class sizes or greener, more accessible transportation.

**Join us to answer, what could we do together to pass the Fair Share Amendment?**



[devra@worcester-interfaith.org](mailto:devra@worcester-interfaith.org)  
[www.worcesterinterfaith.com](http://www.worcesterinterfaith.com)



Looking for a paid student fellowship opportunity? [Raise Up Massachusetts](#) needs folks for the Fair Share campaign. The Fellowship Program will aim to engage those who are new to electoral organizing and who are looking to gain experience working on campaigns. The fellowship program will include but is not limited to:

- Weekly voter contact events and the opportunity to take a leadership role in running them
- Regular professional development sessions with campaign leadership
- Focused work within specified campaign departments based on individual fellow interest
- Direct support and management from senior campaign staff and the opportunity to lead projects

They are looking for students in the Greater Worcester area in particular!

Here is info on [how to apply!](#)

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**COOKOUT – Sunday June 26, 2022, 12 Noon**

Progressive Labor Party, Mass. Human Rights Committee, and many other activists and progressives.

1. Discussions of political issues: ending disparities and inequities with communist economy, global warming, the fight for women’s rights, and the fight against racism. Events in Worcester.
2. Music by Jim and Charles
3. Pot Luck or just come on in.

Quinsigamond State Park, (Lake Park) Pavilion  
Lake Ave. and Coburn Ave. side gate, (do not go in Main gate)  
Worcester MA 01604

More info: Gordon: [Hellowithfire1@aol.com](mailto:Hellowithfire1@aol.com)

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***Watch for the new Worcester Friends Meeting website which is due to be online by the end of June. Many thanks to Marcel LaFlamme, Kathy Boger and all who have contributed.***

*Hold Friend Mary Chenaille in the Light as she recuperates from knee replacement surgery.*

## ***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](mailto:info@worcesterfriendsmeeting.org).

Donations are appreciated and can be mailed to Worcester Friends Meeting

901 Pleasant St.

Worcester, MA 01602.