

September 18, 2016

Details

A "SACRED SOJOURN" TO "BETHESDA FRIENDS MEETING"
SUN. SEPT. 18th, 10 AM - 1 PM. 5100 Edgemoor Ln, Bethesda, MD 20814.
<https://www.facebook.com/events/295071974203727/>

Dear Interfaith & Ethical Friends,

One way to discover our common threads as well as our diversity is to visit and experience the beliefs and practices of unique faith communities. Pilgrimages have always been ways to expand our vision, find healing and grow spiritually. This is especially vital in these times of polarizing rhetoric and increased religious & sectarian violence. It is also personally precious and life-giving to locate spiritual "oases" and refuges along the "Way."

Please consider joining with us in a "Sacred Sojourn" to the "Bethesda Friends Meeting" on Sunday, Sept. 18th to learn about Quakerism, their practice of Silent Worship, and their "Peace Testimony." The Meeting is located in Bethesda Maryland (4 blocks from Metro station). There is parking on grounds -- but please consider carpooling.

PROGRAM:

10:00 AM Orientation to Quaker beliefs and Quaker Worship

11 AM Friends Meeting for Worship (Approx. 1 hour)

Fellowship, Dialogue & Coffee following "Rise of Meeting"

TRAVEL: Bethesda Friends Meeting is about 3 easy-walking blocks from the Red Line Bethesda Metro stop. There is an adjacent parking lot next to meeting house. (Please plan to arrive before 10 AM so we can start our visit in a timely fashion.)

Meeting Website: <http://www.bethesdafriends.org/home.aspx>

WHAT IS QUAKERISM?: The Quaker form of worship is unique and has much to offer to our present times. In many ways it resembles a worshipful town meeting. The Quaker community gathers in a contemplative silence; but if a member of the congregation is moved to share a "message" from their deepest heart or mind, they may rise and share it with the assembled community -- this is followed by more silence, and perhaps additional messages. The Meeting can be very moving, sometimes

empowering, and a wonderful democratic experiment in faith community. George Fox (1624-1691), the founder of Quakerism, erased the distinction between clergy and laity, in that anyone could offer their verbal ministry to the congregation. Friends' emphasis has always been on the role of the immediate guidance of the Holy Spirit in their meetings. Friends are also guided by their "Peace Testimony" to be active witnesses to peace through their many social action works.



Omega Interfaith Forum meeting at BFM