

Query for November: Meetings for Worship

In what ways do I prepare my heart and mind to receive the power of God's presence and love? How does worship deepen my relationship with God? How is this inspiration carried over into my daily life? Are our meetings for worship held in expectant waiting for Divine guidance? How do activities of our Meeting find their inspiration in worship? In what ways does worship uphold Meeting activities?

November 2018 Calendar

Meeting for Worship is held at 11:00 a.m. every First Day. The meeting room is also available at 9:30 a.m. for those desiring a smaller, quieter Meeting for Worship, except on the first First day of the month, when Meeting for Business is held at 9:00 a.m. The Meeting Room is available for worship at BFM on Wednesdays, at 7:30 p.m., and a worship group in Boyds the second Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m.

3/4		10:00 a.m.	Junior Young Friends Conference, location t.b.d.
3	Sat	1:00 p.m.	Roots of Injustice; Seeds of Change, Adelphi Friends Mtg.
4	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Meeting for Business (All invited! Child Care is Provided.)
		11:00 a.m.	First Day School: Worship & Christmas Play Preparation
		12:30 p.m.	ARE Committee Meeting, Teachers' Lounge
		7:30 p.m.	Helping Refugees Group Meeting at Lee Ingram's House
4 to 8			Calling Women Writers of Color, Pendle Hill
9 to 11			Journey Toward Wholeness, Pendle Hill
10	Sat	1:30 p.m.	Quaker Book Group in the BFM Library
11	Sun	9:30 a.m.	ARE: Holding Someone in the Light
		9:30 a.m.	Nominating Committee, Teachers' Lounge
		11:00 a.m.	First Day School: Worship & Christmas Play Casting
		12:15 p.m.	Potluck (Please Bring a Dish to Share)
		7:30 p.m.	Experiment with Light
13	Tues	7:00 p.m.	Library Forum: Carbon Footprint Training
		8:30 p.m.	December Newsletter Deadline
16 to 18			Pendle Hill Workshop on Clerking
17	Sat	10:00 a.m.	Two Minutes to Midnight: Preventing Nuclear War Conf.
18	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Committee Day: Pastoral Care & Ministry & Worship
		9:30 a.m.	Committee Day: O&C, S&F, Religious Ed. & Nominating
		11:00 a.m.	FDS: Worship & Christmas Play Practice
		12:30 p.m.	Spiritual Leadings: What Brought You to BFM?, Mtg. Rm.
		12:30 p.m.	BFM Spiritual Formation Mini-Retreat
		12:30 p.m.	Christmas Orchestra Rehearsal, Music Room, SAM
		1:00 p.m.	Residential Segregation, Susan Strasser, FMW
23/25			Young Friends Conference, Homewood Friends Meeting
25	Sun	9:15 a.m.	Peace & Social Justice Committee, Teachers' Lounge
		11:00 a.m.	No First Day School: Worship & Supervised Play
		12:30 p.m.	Coordinating Gathering
		7:30 p.m.	Experiment with Light
29/30	Th/Fri		FCNL's Quaker Public Policy Institute

Details are also available on our website: [www.bethesdafriends.org](http://www.bethesdafriends.org)

**Social Concerns Box**

Action in Montgomery (AIM) is the recipient for the social concerns box for November. AIM is an organization that empowers us to put our faith into action through an interfaith coalition. AIM ( BFM is a member congregation) continues its advocacy for more affordable housing in the county and to push the

county to spend more for after-school programs in low-income neighborhood schools. Thanks to AIM's advocacy the number of programs has increased from four schools to six.

The September social concerns box for the Mary Jane Simpson Scholarship Fund received \$9,710. More is expected (and hoped for).

Please note that if you use Paypal to make a contribution to the social concerns box, the BFM treasurer has no way of knowing that the contribution is other than to BFM. So people using Paypal to contribute to a social concern, such as the Mary Jane Simpson Fund or the Interfaith Housing Coalition, should e-mail [treasurer@bethesdafriends.org](mailto:treasurer@bethesdafriends.org) to let them know what the contribution is intended for.

### **Religious Education for Children**

Children are invited to worship in the Meeting Room with their parents for the first fifteen minutes. At 11:15 a.m., children meet teachers for First Day School classes and multi-age activities and go together to the Lower School Groome Building.

The November theme is "Let's put on a show!" Join us for another fun year of creating an original play for BFM's holiday celebration on December 16. As we practice the script, we will learn also about the Old Testament stories predicting the birth of Jesus, the Nativity story, and Judea, during the time of Herod. Children can join the play at any point.

4th: The script will be introduced and put into Biblical, geographical, and historical context.

11th: We will assign parts and read through the script.

18th: Play practice.

25th: There is no FDS, but child supervision is available.

### **Events**

#### **3rd/4th: Junior Young Friends Conference**

The first Junior Young Friends (for 6th to 8th graders) Conference of the year is Saturday, November 3, to Sunday, November 4. The location is still being decided. The conference begins at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday and goes until 12 noon on Sunday. Bring a sleeping bag, pad, changes of clothes, toiletries, a mess kit (utensils for eating), and things for fun (games, sports equipment, or musical instruments). JYF conferences cost \$40 to attend. For the first conference during the 2018-19 school year, everyone is required to complete and bring a medical form. Registration can be completed online at:

[http://www.bym-rsf.org/what\\_we\\_do/jyfs/](http://www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/jyfs/) by sending forms via email to:

[youthprograms@bym-rsf.org](mailto:youthprograms@bym-rsf.org), or via fax to 301- 774-7087, or via post to 17100 Quaker Lane, Sandy Spring MD 20860. For details: Jocelyn Dowling, Youth Programs Manager.

#### **3rd: Roots of Injustice; Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with America's Native Peoples**

Adelphi Friends Meeting's Peace & Social Justice Committee is offering a two-hour workshop, on the Roots of Injustice; Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with America's Native Peoples, on Saturday, November 3, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Traveling Friend Paula Palmer of Boulder Friends Meeting will lead the workshop, tracing the 500 years of history shared by faith groups and Native Americans. She will lead attenders in looking at what is needed to begin rebuilding relationships between Quakers and Native peoples. Adelphi Friends Meeting is at 2303 Metzert Road, in Adelphi MD 20783. For details:

<http://www.adelphifriends.org/nativeamerican/> or [native-american-workshop@adelphifriends.org](mailto:native-american-workshop@adelphifriends.org)

#### **4th: Meeting for Business**

On Sunday, November 4, Bethesda F(f)riends will consider various business items. How the Spirit will lead us in discernment of issues both large and small is part of the mystery that is the Religious Society of Friends. All who come to Meeting for Worship are welcome and encouraged to participate in our worship. Child care is provided for children up to the age of 12. Meeting for Business will include reports from Nominating, Child Care, the auditors, Peace & Social Justice, and Yearly Meeting Interim Meeting. Please come if you can.

#### **4th to 8th: Calling Women Writers of Color**

We can often find it a lonely and daunting experience as we seek to make our contributions in fields dominated by white men, whether in academia or other genres of fiction or non-fiction. Let us come together at Pendle Hill as women of color to share our writing work in progress, celebrate our diverse voices, confront our common barriers, and build a sisterly community of support for the challenges ahead. Led by a black feminist scholar-activist, this workshop offers strategies for writing alternative epistemologies into, against, and through the canon. The facilitator is Melchor Hall, a faculty member in Fielding Graduate University's School of Leadership Studies, where she teaches social science courses and supervises doctoral research. As a Visiting Scholar at Brandeis University's Women's Studies Research Center, she works at the intersection of art and activism. For details: 800-742-3150 or [www.pendlehill.org](http://www.pendlehill.org) or John Meyer, [jmeyer@pendlehill.org](mailto:jmeyer@pendlehill.org)

### **7th/14th/21st/28th: The Meeting Room is Available for Worship**

On Wednesday evenings, at 7:30 p.m., the Meeting Room is available for worship. All are welcome! This is an opportunity for some to come for whom Sundays are just too busy. Others may appreciate the additional time for communal worship. Please come when the Spirit moves you. Childcare is not available.

### **9th to 11th: Journey Toward Wholeness, Pendle Hill**

Are you at a crossroads in your life? Are you seeking to bring your whole self to your work and relationships? Journey Toward Wholeness offers an opportunity to attain clarity in a supportive community of fellow seekers. We are fortunate to have such skilled facilitators as Valerie Brown and John Baird with us once again to co-lead this four-part series of seasonal Courage and Renewal® retreats based on the work of Parker Palmer and the Center for Courage and Renewal®. The first retreat in the series is November 9 to 11. For details about the program, 800-742-3150 or [www.pendlehill.org](http://www.pendlehill.org) or John Meyer, [jmeyer@pendlehill.org](mailto:jmeyer@pendlehill.org)

### **10th: Quaker Book Group**

The Quaker Book Group meets monthly, in the BFM Library from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Newcomers are always welcome (even if you have not read the book!). We read a mix of books by Quakers, books about Quakerism, and books that speak to Quaker values and concerns. Members have commented that the group has brought them much spiritual refreshment and growth and opportunities to know each other more deeply. There is a shelf in BFM Library dedicated to past selections, which also has a binder with summaries of our discussions of each book. The group is managed through an online mailing list to share announcements, summaries, and thoughts about the readings. The scheduled sections for the rest of this year are: Marilynne Robinson's *Gilead* in November and Henri Nouwen's *Life of the Beloved* in December. In November we will be choosing the books for the following months.

### **11th: Holding Someone in the Light**

On Sunday, November 11, at 9:30 a.m. in the Music Room, Adult Religious Education will sponsor a session on: What do Quakers mean when they say they will "Hold (someone) in the Light"? Is this just another way of saying we will pray for someone? Or is it just a way of saying we will think hopeful thoughts about that person? Or does it mean something different? This session, led by Stephanie Koenig, will be an opportunity for people to deepen our understanding of the phrase by hearing what Quakers have said and written about it and by sharing our own perspectives.

### **11th: Up-County Worship Group**

Live up-County? Our attendance would be welcome at the Up-County Meeting for Worship in Boyds MD at 11:00 a.m., the second Sunday of the month. Worship is followed by a potluck lunch.

### **11th: Potluck**

Please join us for feast and fellowship in the Groome Building at the rise of Meeting on Sunday, November 11. Potluck is a good way to make connections with people you don't know so well (newcomers and others), so please bring a dish to share and be ready to make some new friends. Members of the

Outreach & Communications Committee are hosting a table for people who are newer to Meeting and may not know so many people but would like to know more. The Peace & Social Justice Committee is hosting a letter- writing table for Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL).

### **11th/25th: Experiment with Light Sessions**

How do we quiet our brains enough to hear the still, small voice within us? How might we deepen our experience of meeting for worship? Experiment With Light is a meditative and centering practice based on Rex Ambler's book *Light to Live By*, which describes early Quaker meditative habits and translates them into a highly accessible process of clearness and understanding. All are welcome to attend. First- time participants find the process quite easy to follow and, often, richly rewarding.

This is an invitation to two sessions. One will be on Sunday evening, November 11, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. The second will be on Sunday, November 25, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

### **13th: Library Forum: Carbon Footprint Training**

Come to the Connie Morella Library in Bethesda, at 7400 Arlington Road, on Tuesday, November 13, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., for Carbon Footprint Training. As dire warnings abound regarding the threat of global climate change, have you stopped to examine your household's carbon footprint? Calculating your carbon footprint is simple, and we'll show you how. It's sure to be an eye-opener! BFM is sponsoring this free community event.

### **16th to 18th: Clerking Workshop at Pendle Hill**

Pendle Hill's annual Clerking Workshop with Arthur Larrabee and Steve Mohlke is happening soon, from Friday, November 16 to Sunday, November 18. The title says it all: Clerking: Serving the Community with Joy and Confidence. For many years, Arthur has led incoming and seasoned clerks of monthly meetings and Quaker organizations in the art of clerking -- listening and guiding Quaker meetings for worship with attention to business toward a sense of the meeting. In addition to Arthur's excellent modeling of clerking skills, participants will gain insights from each other in this nuts- and-bolts workshop, as well as walk away with a volume of Arthur's accumulated written work on clerking. For details about the program, 800-742-3150 or [www.pendlehill.org](http://www.pendlehill.org) or John Meyer, [jmeyer@pendlehill.org](mailto:jmeyer@pendlehill.org)

### **17th: Two Minutes to Midnight: What We Can Do to Prevent Nuclear War**

The Back from the Brink campaign in Maryland is hosting a conference, "Two Minutes to Midnight: What We Must Do to Prevent Nuclear War," on Saturday, November 17, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Goucher College in Baltimore (1021 Dulaney Valley Road). The goal of the conference is to build the movement in Maryland to abolish nuclear weapons by developing a plan of action for our coalition. The conference is envisioned as a way to energize, inform, and educate one another. BFM is a conference co-sponsor, and Ann Procter is our representative to the Back from the Brink campaign. The conference is free and open to the public, but space is limited! Register at: <https://secure.psr.org/page/29755/data/1> See full conference agenda here: <https://www.preventnuclearwar.md.org/>

### **18th: Spiritual Leadings: What Brought You to BFM?**

Friends are invited to pick up a snack and then gather in the Meeting Room at 12:30 p.m. for half an hour to talk about our spiritual leadings. (What is it that moved us to come to BFM?) All are welcome.

### **18th: BFM Spiritual Formation Mini-Retreat**

On Sunday, November 18, from 12:30 to to 3:00 p.m., there will be a spiritual formation mini-retreat for anyone interested in enriching our spiritual lives and enriching our Meeting. Are you yearning for more spiritual fellowship, for deeper conversations among F(f)riends in the Meeting? Or perhaps wondering how you might enrich your spiritual life? Do you have questions, concerns, reflections about Quaker faith and practice that you would like to share with others? We will have the opportunity to have a mini-retreat, focused on deepening our spiritual lives and on developing spiritual friendships, with retreat leaders Amy Schmaljohn and Alan Evans (who have led weekend retreats for Baltimore Yearly Meeting). We will share a simple meal together at 12:30, and then meet together for the rest of the program from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

## **18th: Christmas Pageant Orchestra**

If you play a musical instrument, consider playing in the Meeting's Christmas Celebration Orchestra and letting Ross Capon know of your interest, preferably by Tuesday, November 13. All ages are welcome to participate. Orchestra rehearsals are:

- Sunday, November 18, 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. (Music Room, in the basement of the SAM Building, across the courtyard from the meetinghouse).
- Wednesday, December 5, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. (Groome Building multipurpose room).
- Thursday, December 13, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. (Groome Building multipurpose room).
- Sunday, December 16, 9:30 a.m. (Groome Building basement); then 11:00 a.m. "dress rehearsal" (Groome Building multipurpose room); and noon performance.

## **18th: Residential Segregation**

Historian Susan Strasser will be giving her illustrated presentation, "A White Historian Confronts Residential Segregation," in the Meeting Room of Friends Meeting of Washington, 2111 Florida Avenue NW, at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 18. This is the fourth in her series entitled "A White Historian Reads Black History."

## **23rd to 25th: Young Friends Conference**

On the weekend of November 23 to 25, there will be a Young Friends Conference for high-school-aged Quakers at Homewood Friends Meeting, 3107 North Charles Street, in Baltimore. For information, check the Young Friends website: [www.bym-rsf.org/what\\_we\\_do/yfs/yfcon.html](http://www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/yfs/yfcon.html)

Or contact Jossie Dowling (301-774- 7663). Please remember that the deadline to register and be guaranteed a slot is two weeks before the conference (November 9). Any one registering after that date will be placed on a waiting list and may not be able to attend.

## **25th: Coordinating Gathering**

Representatives of most BFM committees meet during the week before Meeting for Business to discuss the upcoming agenda. These meetings are open to all who wish to attend. On Sunday, November 25, at 12:30 p.m., we will meet in the Meeting room.

## **29th/30th: 2nd & 3rd: FCNL Quaker Public Policy Institute and Lobby Day**

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) offers Quakers a toolbox for our advocacy, including guidelines for visiting members of Congress, calling our representatives, building an advocacy team, and more. See: <https://www.fcnl.org/action/advocacy>. For direct training on how to utilize that toolbox, consider going to FCNL's Quaker Public Policy Institute (QPPI) on Thursday and Friday, November 29 and 30. The QPPI will be at the Washington Court Hotel, 525 New Jersey Avenue, NW. First-time attendees as well as returning Friends can register at a reduced cost from \$50 to \$125, with most meals included. Do not let funding get in your way of attending this transformative Quaker gathering. For details about QPPI and the annual meeting agenda, see: <https://www.fcnl.org/updates/annual-meeting-quaker-public-policy-institute-2018-27>.

## **Into the Future**

### **End of Year Giving**

In this season of sharing and giving thanks, let us all remember Bethesda Friends Meeting with our tax deductible contributions. Our community and work depend on our combined financial support. You can slip your check in the collection box outside the meeting room or mail it to our assistant treasurer, Marion Ballard, 4413 Chalfont Place, Bethesda MD 20816. If you prefer online credit card transactions, go to our website at: [www.bethesdafriends.org](http://www.bethesdafriends.org)

Or consider setting up automatic transfers from your bank or as payroll deductions. Automatic contributions offer several advantages, including convenience for the giver and a degree of income predictability for the Meeting.

## Committee Notes

### Stewardship & Finance

We thank the Stewardship & Finance Committee for providing refreshments at the rise of Meeting and for managing potluck in November. S&F is responsible for preparing the annual budget, raising the funds to meet the approved budget, providing guidance and support to the Treasurer, and ensuring proper care and use of Meeting investments and property. It meets on the third Sunday of the month.

### Pastoral Care

Are you experiencing serious illness or death of a loved one? Please notify the co-clerks of the Pastoral Care Committee. They will try to activate help for you.

### Digitization Implementation Committee

New BFM membership database system administrator position: BFM has recently begun setting up a new integrated database system using a commercial package called Wild Apricot to manage membership, directory listings, our website, donations, and much more. The Meeting has decided to create a paid part-time system administrator position to oversee this database and provide technical support to the various Meeting officers and committee members who will be using it. We are now seeking applicants for this position. Duties include:

- Becoming conversant in all aspects of the Wild Apricot system
- Serving as contact point and technical assistance for all system users
- Overseeing the system as a whole, proofing the work of others and making corrections when necessary
- Regularly reporting the system status to Meeting for Business
- Bringing significant issues to the Meeting for discussion and approval

Qualifications include:

- Experience with membership-type databases, including development of screens and reports
- Detail oriented, with a demonstrated high level of accuracy and consistency in data entry
- Good communication skills and an ability to work cooperatively with others using the database
- Ability to set priorities and meet deadlines
- Ability to learn and become expert in all relevant functions of Wild Apricot
- Experience and knowledge of MS Excel and MS Word (including mail merge)
- A strong connection with the meeting community is highly desirable

### Book Table Holiday Specials

The Book Table will begin offering holiday-themed materials in November and will launch the full holiday special sale on Sundays in December. We will be offering new items, seasonal books, and selections particularly appropriate for gifts to children and adults.

## Meeting Notes

### Ramallah Friends School Shirts for Sale!

Ramallah Friends School T-shirts and sweatshirts (hoodies) are now available in small, medium, large, and extra large; maroon, black and grey. The prices are \$20 for T-shirts, \$40 for hoodies. All proceeds go to Ramallah Friends School. You are surely going to want an RFS sweatshirt to wear as the weather turns cooler!

Fair Trade Olive Oil will be on sale at the Meeting in November and December. Because the olive oil is fair trade, Palestinian farmers are ensured full market value. The Olive Oil Ministry, an ecumenical group, which includes Bethesda Friends Meeting, coordinates this sale through Westmoreland United Church of Christ. You can purchase a US certified, organic, 500 ml bottle for \$20 at the self-serve table at the entrance to Meeting. The olive oil makes great gifts for people. There are two types: Rumi (robust) and Nabali (fruitier). See:

[www.canaanfairtrade.com/products](http://www.canaanfairtrade.com/products)

### Thinking about Race

“You have to be careful not to think that you’re somebody else. I’ve had to avoid thinking that I’m Nicaraguan or, when I was in India, that I was Indian. I have a tendency to want to identify with people. I have to say to myself, ‘Look, Horton, get as close to people as you can, have as much interest as you can, but don’t get things mixed up. You’re white, and black people can’t say they are color-blind. Whites and white- controlled institutions always remind them that they’re black, so you’ve got to recognize color.’ This doesn’t mean that you feel superior, it’s just that you’ve got to recognize that you can never fully walk in other people’s shoes. You can be only a summer soldier, and when the excitement is over, you can go back home. That doesn’t mean that you don’t have solidarity with black people and aren’t accepted: it just means that you have a different role to play.”

From *The Long Haul: An Autobiography*, by Myles Horton with Judith Kohl and Herbert Kohl, 1998, p. 195. In 1932, Myles Horton founded, with Don West and others, the Highlander Folk Center in Mouteagle TN. See:

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

## **Peace Notes**

As Thanksgiving comes around, please think about the narrative we tell around that holiday. Thanksgiving can encourage mindfulness toward the indigenous communities in the United States today. It’s easy to learn more through the Baltimore Yearly Meeting Indian Affairs Committee:

[http://www.bym-rsf.org/what\\_we\\_do/committees/indian/factsheets.html](http://www.bym-rsf.org/what_we_do/committees/indian/factsheets.html) or through FNCL’s work with Native Americans: <https://www.fcni.org/about/policy/issues/native-americans>