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November 2019 Calendar

Meeting for Worship is held at 11:00 a.m. every First Day. The Meeting Room is also available for worship at 9:30 a.m., 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. A worship group in Boyds the second Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m.

2	Sat	10:00 a.m.	Baltimore Yearly Meeting Interim Meeting, Stony Run
3	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Meeting for Business (All invited! Child Care is Provided.)
		11:00 a.m.	First Day School: Worship & Supervised Play
6	Wed	7:00 p.m.	ARE Committee Meeting
9/10		10:00 a.m.	Junior Young Friends Conference, Langley Hill Meeting
9	Sat	1:30 p.m.	Quaker Book Group in the BFM Library
10	Sun	9:15 a.m.	ARE: Living in the Light of Death
		11:00 a.m.	First Day School: Worship & Classes
		12:15 p.m.	Potluck (Please Bring a Dish to Share)
		7:30 p.m.	Experiment with Light
13	Wed	8:30 p.m.	December Newsletter Deadline
14/15	Th/Fri		FCNL's Quaker Public Policy Institute
16/17	Sat/Sun		FNCL's Annual Meeting
17	Sun	9:00 a.m.	Committee Day: Pastoral Care and Ministry & Worship
		9:30 a.m.	Committee Day: Outreach and Stewardship
		11:00 a.m.	FDS: Worship & Supervised Play
		12:30 p.m.	Environmental Sustainability Group, Meeting Room
		12:30 p.m.	Christmas Orchestra Rehearsal, Music Room, SAM
24	Sun	9:15 a.m.	Peace & Social Justice Committee, Teachers' Lounge
		11:00 a.m.	First Day School: Worship & Classes
		12:30 p.m.	Coordinating Gathering
		12:30 p.m.	Christmas Orchestra Rehearsal, Music Room, SAM
		7:30 p.m.	Experiment with Light
29/Dec 1			Young Friends Conference, location t.b.a.

Details are available on our web site: www.bethesdafriends.org

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?

Social Concerns Box

The Social Concerns Box for November is for Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area (LSS) which provides wide-ranging services and support to children and families under stress and to refugees in partnership with faith communities and other organizations. LSS welcomes new refugees, shepherds them through the transition to a new country, and helps them prepare for their new life. This work is desperately needed with the UN's Refugee Agency reporting unprecedented numbers of refugees worldwide, almost 26 million people, half under 18. LSS worked with BFM's Helping Refugees Group in finding and supporting our Afghan family through their successful journey to becoming our neighbors.

The September Social Concerns box for the Mary Jane Simpson Scholarship Fund received \$25,255.95.

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 December 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 15. As we practice the script, we will learn also about the birth of Jesus, the Nativity story, and the experience of young Quakers. Children can join the play at any point.

Dec. 1st: Introduction of the script and its Biblical, geographical, and historical context. Children will confirm their parts, and develop their lines.

Dec. 8th: We will try an initial run-through of the production

Dec. 15th: Final dress rehearsal and the play at the rise of Meeting.

Dec. 22nd & 29th: There is no FDS, but child supervision is available.

Events

2nd: Baltimore Yearly Meeting Interim Meeting

Get to know Yearly Meeting Committees and Friends from other Meetings! Be a part of important decision making. Join Friends for morning committee meetings and the afternoon's Interim Business Meeting. Baltimore Monthly Meeting, Stony Run will host the Eleventh Month Interim Meeting. Friends will begin gathering at 10:00 a.m. Committee meetings will begin at 10:30 a.m. For details: www.bym-rsf.org/events/interim/eleventh19.html

3rd: Meeting for Business

On Sunday, November 3, 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, and Peace & Social Justice. Please come if you can.

6th/13th/20th/27th: 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/10th: Junior Young Friends Conference

The first Junior Young Friends (for 6th to 8th graders) Conference of the year is Saturday, November 9, to Sunday, November 10, at Langley Hill Friends Meeting, 6410 Georgetown Pike (Rte. 193) in McLean VA. 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 2019-20 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/ by sending forms via email to: 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.

9th: Quaker Book Group

The Quaker Book Group meets monthly, in the BFM Library from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. In November, it will be on November 9, 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.

10th: ARE: Living in the Light of Death

Please note the time and place: 9:15 a.m. in the Groome Building multi-purpose room. Denial of death pervades many cultures, reflecting our fear of the inevitable and perhaps our illusion of immortality. It denies the essential unity of death and life, which Richard Rohr calls “two sides of the same coin.” As Etty Hillesum, echoing countless spiritual teachers from many traditions, once wrote: “[B]y excluding death from our life, we cannot live a full life, and by admitting death into our life we can enlarge and enrich it.” This forum will explore how a healthy awareness and acceptance of our mortality empowers us to reclaim life’s essential wholeness and freedom. Through presentation, small group discussion, and experiential learning we will look at what our fear of death and dying might have to teach us about our fear of living (or, as Richard Rohr, suggests, our fear of God). Lastly we’ll look at practices that can help us integrate our living and dying towards living more freely, courageously, and compassionately. The session is sponsored by the Adult Religious Education Committee. All are welcome.

10th: Up-County Worship Group

Live up-County? Our attendance would be welcomed at the Up-County Meeting for Worship at Breezy Hollow Farm (19701 Bucklodge Road, Route 117) in Boyds MD at 11:00 a.m., the second Sunday of the month. Worship is followed by a potluck lunch.

10th: Potluck

Please join us for feast and fellowship in the Groome Building at the rise of Meeting on Sunday, November 10. 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.

10th/24th: 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 10, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.; the second will be on Sunday, November 24, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

14th/15th & 16th/17th: FCNL Quaker Public Policy Institute and Annual Meeting

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 14 and 15. On Saturday and Sunday, November 16 and 17, FCNL will host its Annual Meeting. Both events 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://act.fcnl.org/act/annual-meeting-2019?t=16&utm_campaign=am&utm_source=ak&utm_medium=email&akid=10677%2E1479%2E8uRH05

Diane Randall, Executive Secretary of FCNL, writes that she is especially excited about Thursday evening's plenary this year. FCNL Senior Strategist and Legislative Director for Foreign Policy Diana Ohlbaum will speak about "Changing the Militarist Paradigm." This is a new project that Diana is leading for FCNL. Three former FCNL staff members, who are leaders for a more progressive and peaceful foreign policy, will be on the discussion panel with Diana, following her remarks:

- Kate Gould: Congressional fellow working for Rep. Ro Khanna (CA-17). In her previous role as FCNL's first legislative director for Middle East policy, Kate was named a "Top Lobbyist of 2018" by The Hill.
- Wardah Khalid: Congressional fellow, and founder and president of the Poligon Education Fund, which amplifies the Muslim American voice in Congress. Wardah was a Scoville Fellow with the FCNL Education Fund in 2015.
- Madeline Rose: Director of coalition campaigns and policy at the Alliance for Peace-building. Previously, she worked for Mercy Corps and was the lead advocate behind the Global Fragility and Violence Reduction Act, which passed the House in November. Madeline was a legislative representative in our peacebuilding program from 2013-2014.

This Annual Meeting presentation will publicly launch this new project: Changing the Militarist Paradigm to reorient U.S. foreign policy to be more ethical and people-centered.

17th & 24th: 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 12. All ages are welcome to participate. Orchestra rehearsals are:

- Sunday, November 17 and 24, 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. (Music Room, in the basement of the SAM Building, across the courtyard from the meetinghouse).

- Saturday, December 7, 9:30 to 11:00 a.m. (Groome Building multipurpose room).

- Sunday, December 15, 9:30 a.m. (Groome Building basement); then 11:00 a.m. "dress re-hearsal" (Groome Building multipurpose room); and noon performance.

24th: 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 24, at 12:30 p.m., we will meet in the Meeting room.

29th to December 1st: Young Friends Conference

On the weekend of November 29 to December 1, there will be a Young Friends Conference for high-school-aged Quakes. The location is still being decided. For information, check the Young Friends website: 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. Any one registering after that date will be placed on a waiting list and may not be able to attend.

Into the Future

End of Year Giving

In this season of sharing and giving thanks, let us all remember Bethesda Friends Meeting. 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, 4413 Chalfont Place, Bethesda MD 20816. If you prefer online credit card transactions, go to our website at: 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

Appreciation. 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.

How do I get reimbursed for expenditures? When you incur expenses while carrying out committee functions and activities for Bethesda Friends Meeting (for example, when buying food for hospitality), please submit an expense form along with related receipts. You can choose to be reimbursed or to count the expense as an in-kind contribution to BFM. Submitting an expense form

is encouraged because it provides information that could be useful to the Stewardship & Finance Committee when planning the annual budget. Expense forms are available in the Treasurer's pocket on the first floor of the Meeting building and online (as a pdf) at:

<https://www.bethesdafriends.org/resources/Documents/expense-reimburse-form.pdf> The form can be mailed, along with copies of your receipts, to 4413 Chalfont Place, Bethesda, MD 20816. Receipts are required for all expenses. For expenses over \$50, please ask your Committee Clerk to send an email confirming your request.

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 and Palestinian Olive Oil 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

Peace Notes

Please ask your members of Congress to chart a new course toward peace. Since 9/11, three different administrations have used the 2001 and 2002 Authorizations for Use of Military Force (AUMF) to bypass the constitutional power of Congress and wage war across the world. To bring about the peaceful world we seek, we must repeal the 2001 and 2002 AUMFs. The House of Representatives has already passed bills repealing both AUMFs. It is imperative to get the Senate to take up these bills. For a model letter, see:

https://www.fcnl.org/documents/1094?utm_campaign=contacts&utm_medium=email&utm_source=ak You can also call the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121 to be connected to your members' offices. You can leave a message if they do not answer, or if you are calling after office hours.