

A Guide to What's Inside!

Query: Social Concerns
Calendar
The Social Concerns Box
Personal Notes
Religious Education
Events
Into the Future
Committee Notes
 Religious Education
Meeting Notes
BFM 2020 Directory

Query for March: Social Concerns

How have I expressed my faith in action? How are my actions grounded in my faith? To what extent is my sense of justice based in love? In what ways do I endeavor to respond to my own pain and suffering, that of others, and in the wider world? How do we teach our children, and show through our way of living, that love of God includes our affirming the humanity and dignity of everyone and seeking that of God within every person? How do we prepare ourselves and our children to play active roles in a changing world?

March 2020 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 opportunity for worship, except on the first First day of each 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 meets in Boyds MD the second Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m.

1	Sun	9:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 12:30 p.m.	Meeting for Business (Child Care is Provided) First Day School: Worship & Multi-Age Activity Bible Study, New Testament, Teachers' Lounge Annex Catocin Weekend Coordinating Team
3	Tues	8:00 p.m.	Online Bible Study
7/8		10:00 a.m.	Junior Young Friends Conference, Adelphi Friends Mtg.
8	Sun	11:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 7:30 p.m.	First Day School: Worship & Classes Potluck: Please Bring a Dish to Share Experiment with Light
10	Tues	8:00 p.m.	Online Bible Study
13	Fri	7:00 p.m. 8:30 p.m.	Fanning the Eternal Flame, Sandy Spring Meeting April Newsletter Deadline
14	Sat	1:30 p.m.	Quaker Book Group in the BFM Library
15	Sun	9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 12:30 p.m.	Committee Day: Ministry & Worship and Pastoral Care Committee Day: Outreach & C. & Stewardship & Finance FDS: Worship & Cooking for the Men's Shelter Hunger Relief in Montgomery County, Jackie DeCarlo Spring Fling Coordinating Meeting, Groome Building Living into Wholeness eRetreat (March 15 to April 10)
17	Tues	8:00 p.m.	Online Bible Study
21	Sat	10:00 a.m.	BYM Interim Meeting, Hopewell Friends Meeting, VA
22	Sun	9:15 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.	Peace & Social Justice Committee, Teachers' Lounge First Day School: Worship & Classes Experiment with Light
24	Tues	8:00 p.m.	Online Bible Study
28	Sat	10:30 a.m. 12:00 noon	Anti-Racism: Intersectionality & Racial Equity, FMW Friends Com. on Nat'l Legislation Spring Lobby Weekend
29		9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m. 12:30 p.m.	Effective, Spirit-led BFM Committees, Groome Building First Day School: Worship & Supervised Play Coordinating Gathering, Meeting Room

31 12:30 p.m. Spring Fling Coordination Meeting, Groome Building
 8:00 p.m. Online Bible Study

For details, see www.bethesdafriends.org

The Social Concerns Box

The March Social Concerns Box is for three hunger relief programs in Montgomery County: Bethesda Help, the Manna Food Center, and Bethesda Cares. Hunger in our community comes in many forms and is probably more wide-spread than most of us realize. (Approximately 63,000 of our neighbors in Montgomery County are not always sure where their next meal is coming from.) The Social Concerns Box this month will be special in that we are collecting both monetary and food donations. The most helpful food donations are whole grain pasta, oatmeal, and rice; canned tuna, chicken, or salmon; beans (canned or dried), no- or low-sodium vegetables; cooking oil, and baby food. A box for food items will be on the landing near the door for the month of March.

Bethesda Help offers immediate short-term food and financial assistance for rent (to prevent eviction), utility bills (to prevent service interruption), and prescription medicines (as needed) to residents in southern Montgomery County. See: www.bethesdahelp.org

Manna Food Center (www.mannafood.org) provides nutritious food to approximately 6,000 families each month through its Smart Sacks bag program in 58 MCPS schools and 28,000 others across the county, especially in its new Silver Spring market. To learn more, please come to the presentation at the rise of Meeting on March 15.

Bethesda Cares serves the homeless in Bethesda. Its Housing First Program provides safe spaces for people to live before providing other social services and seems to effectively deal with many of the issues resulting in homelessness.

Please support the range of efforts to make our County hunger-free.

In January, Chesapeake Climate Action Network received \$280 via the Social Concerns Box.

Religious Education for Children

Young people are encouraged to join Meeting for Worship with their families at 11:00 a.m. and stay for the first fifteen minutes in the Meeting Room. At 11:15 a.m., children leave the Meeting Room to meet teachers for multi-age activities or classes (K-3rd grade; 4-8th). For children ages infant-four years old, child care is available each week in the nursery, located downstairs in the Meeting House. Parents or guardians are always welcome to come with their children, especially for the first visit.

1st: Multi-age group activity

8th: Classes

15th: Cooking for the Men's Shelter

22nd: Classes

29th: Supervised play

Events

1st: Meeting for Business

Meeting for Business will take place on Sunday, March 1 at 9:00 a.m. Meeting for Business is open to all who attend BFM. It is an opportunity to meet worshipfully and for business in a special way. We will hear the draft of our Spiritual State of the Meeting report and an update from our Treasurer. Please come! Your participation is welcome. Child Care is provided.

1st, 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th, & 31st: Bible Study

A Bible Study class using Great Courses lectures on Understanding the New Testament began in February. On the first Sunday of the month at 12:30 p.m., we will meet in the Teachers' Lounge Annex to discuss the lectures of the previous month. Every Tuesday at 8:00 p.m., there will be an on-line Zoom meeting with a new lecture. Lecture notes will also be distributed. This Bible Study is designed to allow for maximum participation by offering a variety of times, places, and learning modes. Please join anytime.

7th/8th: Junior Young Friends Conference

The third conference for 6th to 8th graders will be on Saturday and Sunday, March 7 and 8, at Adelphi Friends Meeting, 2303 Metzert Road in Adelphi MD. The conference goes from 10:00 a.m. on Saturday to noon on Sunday, and costs \$40. The phone number during all events is 301-5000-BYM. JYFs should bring a change of clothes, toiletries, sleeping bag, pad, and anything they think will help them make new friends (a game, musical instrument, or sports equipment). Please register as soon as possible. For details, please contact Jossie Dowling (youthprograms@bym-rsf.org, 301-774- 7663). Future dates are May 1 to 3 at Catocin Quaker Camp and at Annual Meeting, July 27 to August 2 in Frederick MD (at Hood College).

8th: Up-County Worship Group

Live up-County? Our attendance is welcome at the Boyds 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.

8th: Potluck: Please Bring a Dish to Share

Please join us for potluck at the rise of Meeting on Sunday, March 8. We gather in the Groome Building multipurpose room for feast and fellowship. Your contribution of a dish to share with others adds greatly to the occasion.

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 postcard- writing table for Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL).

8th/22nd: 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 upon 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. There will be two Sunday evening sessions in March, on March 8 and 22, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

13th/14th: Fanning the Eternal Flame

Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting Ministry & Counsel Committee is bringing Marcelle Martin, author of *Our Life is Love*, to Sandy Spring on March 13 and 14. She led the opening retreat at Baltimore Yearly Meeting annual sessions last August. Using early Friends as guides and elders, Marcelle's workshop is designed to assist us on our spiritual journeys today. Bethesda F(f)riends are invited to register for the workshop with Marcelle. There will be an evening session on Friday, March 13, from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m., followed by a Saturday session from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The suggested donation is \$50, which covers the workshop, snacks, and lunch on Saturday.

14th: Quaker Book Group

The Quaker Book Group meets monthly, in the BFM Library from 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. on the second Saturday of the month. 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. The group is managed through an online mailing list to share announcements, summaries, and thoughts about the readings.

15th: Hunger Relief in Montgomery County

On Sunday, March 15, at the rise of Meeting in the Meeting Room, the head of the Manna Food Center, will talk about new trends in hunger relief in Montgomery County and how her participation in the life of the Meeting shapes her professional journey. One aspect of the new trends is that social justice organizations are focusing on "zip code destiny," the phenomenon in which where you are born and raised shapes your ability to realize your full human potential. Manna Food Center has been implementing a place-based strategy focused on the dignity of choice, the role of "Food as Medicine," and addressing root causes of hunger and poverty through community engagement. The center currently reaches 34,000 of the approximately 63,000 of our neighbors in Montgomery County who don't always know where their next meal may come from and has made a number of major changes in an effort to reach the rest.

15th to April 10th: Living into Wholeness eRetreat

The Living into Wholeness eRetreat invites you to explore and practice what it means to live into Beloved Community, the ways we are called to recognize patterns of marginalization and exclusion and to act toward justice, and tools for transforming and vitalizing our meetings and communities.

Week 1: Living into Wholeness

Week 2: Community Calls Us to Justice

Week 3: Patterns of Exclusion and Marginalization

Week 4: Tools for Transformation & Vitality

This eRetreat has been previously offered under the name Beloved Community. The Living into Wholeness eRetreat will be offered from March 15 to April 10, 2020. By signing up for the Spiritual Deepening email list, you will get an email advising you about the opening of registrations: www.fgcquaker.org/sdinterest

21st: Baltimore Yearly Meeting Interim Meeting

The BYM Interim Meeting will be hosted by Hopewell Friends Meeting on Saturday, March 21. Attendance offers a chance to get to know Friends from across the Yearly Meeting and be part of the decision-making at the afternoon session. Friends will begin gathering at 10:00 a.m. Committee meetings will begin at 10:30 a.m. For other details, see www.bym-rsf.org

28th: Anti-Racism: Intersectionality & Racial Equity

Baltimore Yearly Meeting's STRIDE program and the Friends Meeting of Washington Racial Equity Change Committee are hosting a five-part monthly anti-racism series on Saturday mornings in February through June 2020 at Friends Meeting of Washington. The sessions will be led by Khalila Lomax, the coordinator of the STRIDE program, which is committed to ensuring that young people from all racial, geographical, and economic backgrounds have the opportunity to benefit from the Quaker camping programs. The sessions will be from 10:30 a.m. until noon on the following Saturdays: March 28, April 25, May 23, and June 27. Pre-registration is not required, but, to help prepare for the program, please RSVP to the STRIDE Coordinator (khalilalomax@bym-rsf.org)

28th to 31st: FCNL Spring Lobby Weekend

From March 28 to 31, the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) will host a Spring Lobby Weekend, drawing approximately 450 young adults to Washington from across the country to be trained to listen, learn, and act to address climate change. We will tell Congress that a price on carbon is a crucial first step to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prevent injustices related to climate change, both in the U.S. and abroad. For details, see: <https://www.fcnl.org/updates/spring-lobby-weekend-2020-739>

29th: Effective, Spirit-led Quaker Committees

How do we run committees that are both effective and Spirit-led? On Sunday, March 29, at 9:30 a.m., in the Groome Building classroom behind the stage, we will use queries to bring both our collective wisdom and challenges to bear on how we discern our work in BFM committees: as clerks, members, and potential participants. Potential queries include: What is the optimal blend of good secular meeting management and the additional elements that self-governing Quakers bring to such work? What kind of clerking encourages the best contributions and broadest engagement by committee members? What are pitfalls in clerking? Which Quaker traditions encourage and which hinder effective committee deliberation and the well being of the Meeting as a whole in the current age? What is the balance between individual initiative and group process? Please bring your own questions to the workshop.

29th: 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. There will be one at 12:30 p.m. in the meeting room on Sunday, March 29.

Into the Future

April 14th to 20th: Purchase Silent Auction Items Early from the On-Line Buy It Now Sale

Our Silent Auction (part of Spring Fling, see below) includes a wide variety of interesting fun, helpful services, delicious food and restaurant offerings, and a wide array of other items. Each year, some items from the Silent Auction are selected for an early buying sale called "Buy-it-Now." This gives you an advanced opportunity of some special offerings, and the chance to bid on them before the day of Spring Fling. The list of possibilities will be sent out by e-mail the middle of April. If you have an item or service or talent to offer for the Silent Auction, we would be most appreciative.

April 26th: Spring Fling for Ramallah Friends School

Spring Fling is BFM's celebration of our community and the season. It's also our Meeting's biggest fund raiser. Proceeds go to the scholarship fund for Ramallah Friends School in Palestine. Founded in 1869, its mission is to provide "educational excellence based upon the Quaker values of equality, simplicity and peace." The school is a beacon of hope in a troubled land, and is immensely grateful for our support. Spring Fling, which engages scores of us, is built around four main activities, all of which welcome volunteers, donations, and customers.

The activities are:

- Silent Auction: This wide array of donated goods and services includes many kinds of items, such as household goods, jewelry, art work, photography, gift certificates to restaurants or theaters; services such as gardening consultations, handyman services, music lessons, home-made food or baked items; social events such as a dinner and/or discussion in your home, a wine and cheese gathering, or a film and discussion in your home. Donation of time at someone's vacation home can result in a major contribution. Be imaginative, and think about what you have in your home and no longer need, and about the talents and gifts you offer that could be helpful to others. We need to know about your contributions or donations for the silent auction as soon as possible. We would like your donations by April 1 to prepare them for the online Buy It Now Sale from April 14 to 20.

- Middle Eastern Buffet.

- "Bazaar" Rummage Sale. This is a chance for you to declutter your house of items you no longer use. We help you find someone else who can put them to good use. Note: any child attending Spring Fling receives a \$5 gift certificate to the sale. Donations of items for sale should be brought to BFM on Saturday, April 25, between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., so we have a chance to price them. Please donate items valued at \$5 or more.

- Perennial Plant Sale.

- Ramallah Friends tee-shirts and Palestinian olive oil will be sold as well.

- If you are willing to work but don't have a strong preference where, check with various coordinators to see where the need is greatest.

- If you can't come to the event, donate via the Social Concerns Box for April. See:

<https://www.bethesdafriends.org/Spring-Fling>

Committee Notes

Religious Education

We thank the Religious Education Committee for providing hospitality at the rise of Meeting and at potluck in the month of March. The committee organizes the First Day School religious education for children in the Meeting, including recruiting teachers and getting appropriate educational materials. It also organizes the Christmas pageant each year.

Meeting Notes

Thinking About Race

(From How To Be an Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi, 2019)

Martin Luther King, Jr., disagreed with Brown vs. Board of Education, 1954. "I favor integration on buses and in all areas of public accommodation and travel.... I think integration in our public schools is different," King told two Black teachers in Montgomery, Alabama, in 1959. "White people view Black people as inferior.... People with such a low view of the black race cannot be given free rein and put in charge of the intellectual care and development of our boys and girls." (p. 177)

After Brown, the integrated White space came to define the ideal integrated space where inferior non-White bodies could be developed. The integrated Black space became a de facto segregated space where inferior Black bodies were left behind. Integration had turned into a "one-way street," a young Chicago lawyer observed in 1995. "The minority assimilate into the dominant culture, not the other way around,"

Barack Obama wrote. "Only white culture could be neutral and objective. Only white culture could be nonracial." Integration (into Whiteness) became racial progress. (p. 178)

BFM 2020 Directory

New BFM directories were mailed out in mid-February. Additional copies will be available on the hall table and the literature table. The directory includes important dates, a schedule of reports to Meeting for Business, which committee serves hospitality, committee memberships, and addresses of Friends Meetings, organizations, and publications. In the back are: 1) a listing by first names which may help avoid confusion about which Dan or Marion or Jane one is trying to reach; and 2) the resource guide for committees, which describes how to reserve a room for a meeting, how to get announcements in the weekly bulletin or monthly newsletter, etc. There have already been some changes in the 2020 directory: