

Morningside Matters

The Newsletter for Morningside Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

www.morningsidemeeting.org

May 2020

Calendar

Weekly	Sunday	Meeting for Worship	virtual	11:00 am
Regular Meeting events	First Sunday	Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business	virtual	12:30 pm
	Second Sunday	Peace & Social Concerns Committee meeting. Everyone welcome. Info: Corona Machamer	virtual	12:45 pm
Monthly, Quarterly, Yearly Meeting events	May 9	Bible Study: Genesis. Info: Jerry Reisig	virtual	10:00 am
	May 23	Bible Study: Genesis. Info: Jerry Reisig	virtual	10:00 am
	May 23	Powell House: Quaker Sampler	virtual	10:00 – 12:00 2:00 – 4:00
	May 28	Pendle Hill: Poetry Coffeehouse (virtual)		7:00 – 8:00 pm
	May 30	Racial Justice Study Group. Info: Karen Taborn	virtual	10:00 am
	May 30	Powell House: Quaker History: Where Did Quakers Come From?	virtual	10:00 – 12:00
	June 6	Powell House: Clerking by Zoom	virtual	TBA
	June 27	Powell House: Persuade, Don't Preach	virtual	10:00 – 12:00
	June 28 – July 4	FGC Gathering	virtual	
	July 18	NYQM meeting	virtual	1:00 pm
	July 19 – 25	NYYM Summer Sessions	TBD	
	August 1	Ribbon International Peace Walk, NYC. Info: June Tano		
	October 17	NYQM meeting	Flushing Meeting	
	October 23 – 25	Morningside Fall Retreat	Stony Point, NY	
	November 6 – 8	NYYM Fall Sessions	Shrewsbury & Plainfield, NJ	
November 12 – 15	FCNL Public Policy Institute and Annual Meeting	Washington, DC		

Explore websites of Powell House and Pendle Hill, respectively, at <https://powellhouse.org/> and <https://pendlehill.org/contact-us/>

Remember to check the Calendar and the Bulletin Board at www.morningsidemeeting.org

Newsletter Submission Guidelines: The purpose of the newsletter is to inform members, attenders and other interested people of Meeting news, including member interviews, news of Friends, other Quaker-related subjects, news of Quaker organizations, upcoming events, Meeting-sponsored projects, book reviews, etc. Articles and pictures are welcome. The deadline for the newsletter is the Sunday of the Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. Please e-mail your material in Word or text format to morningsidequakermeeting@gmail.com by the end of that day. Past issues of the newsletter are archived at www.morningsidemeeting.org.

Reflection:
When to the sessions of sweet silent thought (Sonnet 30)
William Shakespeare

When to the sessions of sweet silent thought
I summon up remembrance of things past,
I sigh the lack of many a thing I sought,
And with old woes new wail my dear time's waste:
Then can I drown an eye, unused to flow,
For precious friends hid in death's dateless night,
And weep afresh love's long since cancelled woe,
And moan the expense of many a vanished sight:
Then can I grieve at grievances foregone,
And heavily from woe to woe tell o'er
The sad account of fore-bemoanèd moan,
Which I new pay as if not paid before.
But if the while I think on thee, dear friend,
All losses are restored and sorrows end.

Morningside Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Minutes of the Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
May 3, 2020

The meeting opened with worship at 12:45.

Jane Alexandre read a selection on "The Joy of Quaker Committees."

Quaker committees exist not only to accomplish tasks, but also to build community. At their best, committees are cells of centering and faith that strengthen, bond and deepen the spiritual life of the Beloved Community. When participants strive to discern and serve Divine will, each task becomes an act of worship.

The Joy of Quaker Committees
Quaker Cloud, a service provided by FGC

TREASURER'S REPORT

Report submitted by Stephen McDonnell. A copy of the report is attached. The Spring Appeal will be delayed, but donations may be sent to the Treasurer's address listed in the Morningside Directory. Electronic payments may be used via the bill payment function with their bank or by using wire transfers.

Friends accept the Treasurer's report.

PEACE AND SOCIAL CONCERNS

Report submitted by Corona Machermer. A copy of the report is attached.

Peace and Social Concerns last met March 1st, 2020. A meeting for discernment of FCNL's legislative priorities for 2021 was scheduled for March 15, but this was not held. FCNL posted links for Friends to submit their ideas for priorities.

The next meeting of Peace & Social Concerns will be a virtual one, via Zoom, possibly on May 10th. Details will follow. The P&SC budget will be reviewed, with the aim of possibly making changes to respond to needs caused by the pandemic.

Friends accept the Peace and Social Concerns report.

MINISTRY AND COUNSEL

Report submitted by Ed Elder. A copy of the report is attached.

Ministry and Counsel has been meeting weekly to figure out how to continue meetings for worship, and address the technical issues that arise. The Spring Retreat has been cancelled. The Fall retreat is scheduled for October. Currently Ministry & Counsel has 8 clearness and support committees.

Friends accept the report.

Friends approve the change in the line item for Scholarship, to have it include Relief funds for Friends in financial distress. (current budget is \$1,000).

Friends approve the transfer of membership of Rob Stevens from Morningside to Scarsdale Meeting.

MEETING WITH CHILDREN

[Revised minute to be approved at Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business on June 7, 2020]

Friends accept the report.

COMMUNICATIONS

Report submitted by Bryan Oettel. A copy of the report is attached.

The Committee met via Zoom on March 26, April 9, and April 22 and plans to meet biweekly in the future. The Communications Committee provides technical backup for virtual meetings for worship.

Friends accept the report.

ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Prison committee report given by Ernestine Buscemi.

The clerk of the Woodbourne Prison Quaker worship group sent a letter with an update as to the status of the meeting at Woodburne. To the best of their knowledge, the facility is Covid-19 free at this time. The letter is as follows:

Dear Friend Walter,

We hope and pray our Friends are healthy and safe amidst these troubling times. We here at Woodbourne are still able to meet due to our small number and our ability to maintain social distancing. As of today, there are no cases at Woodbourne, a blessing we are thankful for.

As you are in the midst of the storm in the city, we pray God will grant safety to all as he did with Paul and everyone in the ship (in Acts).

Peace and Comfort to you in the Light,

Brad, clerk Woodbourne Worship Group

MINUTES

Friends approved these minutes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Advance Directives Crash Course:

In response to the pandemic many Friends are reminded anew of the need to have our worldly affairs in order. In fact, everyone over the age of 18 needs to have completed a health care proxy form and talked with their proxy about what they would want in a life-threatening situation if they could not speak for themselves. The next two Mondays will be a crash course in what you need to do, what being a Quaker might have to do with it, and how to talk about it with the people closest to you.

Mondays, May 4th and 11th at 7-8 p.m.

Join by computer or smart phone:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/481557227>

Join by phone: dial 1-646-558-8656 and enter Meeting ID 481 557 227

2. As approved at the February 2020 Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business, in its capacity of pastoral care Ministry and Counsel is offering Morningside Meeting Friends and attenders the option of providing emergency contact information that will be held by the clerk of the Meeting and the clerk of Ministry and Counsel. In this way, we have a way to notify or seek help in case of an emergency, and/or to reach out to those who have been absent for some time. If you would like to provide the meeting with such information, please request a form from morningsidequakermeeting@gmail.com.

3. The Barrington Dunbar Fund for Black Development was established in 1969 as New York Yearly Meeting's response to the needs of Black and Latino communities. At this time, the Dunbar Fund would like to offer assistance to Monthly Meetings, Friends, and attenders who are addressing food insecurity during the COVID-19 pandemic. If you are supporting food banks, shelters, and/or food insecure individuals and would like to request financial assistance, please let a member of the committee know. Our information is in the Yearbook.

Helen Garay Toppins - Convenor

4. Jerry Reisig announced that Bible Study will meet Saturday, May 9 at 10 a.m. For information please email morningsidequakermeeting@gmail.com.

5. Helen Garay Topping announced that the Racial Justice Study Group will meet on the 5th Sunday in May. Information will be sent out to the meeting list.

The meeting ended with worship at 1:50 p.m.

Present:

Bryan Oettel, Scott Blumenthal, Ed Elder, Pam Wood, Jason McGill, Jane Alexandre, Bernard Winter, Dan Seeger, Tom Goodrich, Stephen McDonnell, Corona Machemer, David Fletcher, Sally Campbell, Dave Britton, Nancy Britton, Joyce Richardson, Richard Schmidt, Robert Renwick, Helen Garay Toppins, Ralph Zito, Joseph Soto, SY, June Tano, Ernestine Buscemi, Charlene Ray, Wallace Boyd, Jon Mehlhaus, Dylan Groves, Charlotte Ehrman, Ron Rieder, Carol Wilkinson, Peter Mays, Kathy Stackhouse.

Treasurer's Report

Our Checking Account Balance as of 4/28/20 is: \$50,665. All of our Peace and Social Concerns budgeted commitments through April, 2020 have been sent out. We have \$2,350 out, yet to be cashed and deducted from this balance.

We have also sent our NYYM Quarterly Covenant payment of \$4,461.15, yet to be cashed and deducted from our balance.

We have sent a deposit of \$725. to TD Bank, yet to be received and added to our balance. (With the local branch

closed, and without an ATM card, the Treasurer is mailing checks for deposit.)

From January to April we have received an average of \$1402.80 monthly in donations from 11 Friends and visitors, including a small amount of cash.

Our Spring Appeal will be delayed. Please send deposits to the Treasurer, at his home address listed in the Member Directory, or by requesting it by email.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen McDonnell Treasurer

Peace & Social Concerns Committee

Peace & Social Concerns has not met since we last reported to Business Meeting on March 1; this is a report on various things that have happened in the past couple of months, and on plans for our next (virtual) meeting.

1. As reported in March, the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), the Quaker lobby in Washington DC, asked Morningside to join other U.S. Friends meetings, churches, and organizations in helping discern FCNL's legislative priorities for the new Congress (the 117th), which convenes in January 2021. A meeting for discernment was scheduled for March 15, but this proved impossible to hold. The clerk, along with Kathy Stackhouse, Morningside's liaison with FCNL, having decided that a virtual meeting for discernment via Zoom would be problematic for us, sent out an email to all Morningside Friends inviting each of them to submit their priorities to FCNL directly, as individuals. Instructions and the relevant links to the FCNL website were included. (FCNL extended the deadline for submissions to May 1.) We hope that many Morningsiders took the opportunity to submit their priorities. Perhaps at some point we can hear from those of you who did and make a compilation to share among ourselves.
2. World Conference 2020 (worldconference2020.org) on abolishing nuclear weapons; resisting and reversing the climate crisis, and furthering social and economic justice, which was to be held at Riverside Church the weekend of April 24-26 became an online webinar titled "World Conference: Peace, Planet, Justice" held on April 25 at 9 a.m. EDT (3 p.m. Eastern European time; 10 pm in Tokyo.) The conference was recorded, and anyone who would like to view some or all of the proceedings may go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RKUYU6xfhQ>.
3. June Tano reports that the ad hoc Ribbon 2020 Committee "has been meeting every two or three

weeks these days." A press release has been drafted (to read it go to <https://docs.google.com/document/u/0/d/1jO-a56MX-EFH9Akpya-qhPgEgG1SVsaOmMaUjtBRqY4c/mobilebasic>).

The Committee plans to invite Friends who want something to engage them during these days of "staying home" to make a Ribbon panel. An email will be going out to Friends in the next couple of weeks with instructions. Friends may take photos of their creations for posting on the Ribbon International Facebook page.

If the in-person Event planned for August 1 must be postponed, a virtual event will be held on that date. Ribbon Tokyo and, it is hoped, other groups and organizations, will join in. (Note that the in-person event will not be cancelled.)

4. The next meeting of Peace & Social Concerns will be a virtual one, via Zoom. The exact date and time will be determined in consultation with Ministry and Counsel and the Communications Committee, but if possible it would be nice to have it on the second Sunday in May (May 10) following Meeting for Worship. This would put the committee back on schedule!
- The P&SC budget will be reviewed, with the aim of possibly making changes because of the pandemic. It has already been suggested that we reschedule certain contributions to earlier dates (contributions to Right Sharing and Progressa Guatemala, for example) and that we support a new cause: helping supply face masks to incarcerated college students so they can continue their educations. Since P&SC is a committee of the whole, all are invited to attend *and bring their concerns to the meeting*.
5. ANNOUNCEMENT: The Sane Energy Project, which we support, is asking Friends to sign a petition to Governor Cuomo demanding that he and

the state Department of Environmental Conservation decide once and for all against the proposed Williams North East Supply Enhancement (NESE) fracked gas pipeline. While the pipeline has been rejected before (see www.nytimes.com/2019/05/15/nyregion/williams-pipeline-gas-energy.html) it keeps reappearing on the state's radar.

We are also invited to join an online rally and press event on May 4 at noon. An email including a link to the petition and an RSVP link for joining the rally on Zoom will be sent to the Google Group.

Respectfully submitted,
Corona Macheimer (Clerk)

Ministry and Counsel Committee

1. Ministry and Counsel has been meeting weekly on Tuesday mornings at 10 as we all work to figure out life and worship with physical distancing.
2. We have been working with the Communication Committee to organize the technical aspects of holding Meeting for Worship on the new Zoom platform. For the moment we have asked Jason McGill to clerk our meetings, with at least one member of the Communication Committee available to help attenders navigate sound, video, entrance, etc., problems that may arise. We are trying the idea of every other week having everyone in attendance introduce themselves in some brief way. We also have some members of M&C staying after the gathering is done to be available to chat with anyone who wants to stay after and ask questions of us.
3. Moving with Spirit has been postponed.
4. Bible Study is meeting on Zoom. Anyone interested in attending should contact Jerry Reisig for the topic.
5. We have postponed the process of planning for a Spring Retreat this year.
6. We are forming two Spiritual Nurture Groups, one on Tuesday night, coordinated by Jason McGill and one on Thursday morning, clerked by Charlene Ray. We are planning them to meet every other week for 8 weeks.
7. We have been reaching out to Friends who might be feeling more isolated than usual and helping (when possible) to connect them to Meeting for Worship.
8. Megan Maurer has offered to act as someone available for physical help for Friends unable to get out due to health concerns. She has the names of other Friends and Attenders who are also available to help with physical tasks, like shopping.
9. M&C is available to help Friends navigate the process of asking for relief funds from the Quarterly Meeting. This Quarterly money is available for members of Meetings and long-time attenders.
10. M&C is requesting that the Meeting create a change in our line item for Scholarship. We would like to have this also include Relief funds for Friends in financial distress. We are currently budgeted at \$1000.00
11. M&C received a request from Rob Stevens to transfer his membership to Scarsdale Meeting. After meeting with Rob about this request, M&C forwards this request to the Meeting with our recommendation to approve the transfer of membership.
12. The dates for our Fall retreat are October 23, 24, 25.
13. Currently Ministry & Counsel has 8 clearness and support committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Ed Elder, Clerk

Meeting with Children Report

Even though since the beginning of the year we have not had a paid childcare provider, we did have enough coverage by the committee members (Ernie Buscemi, June Tano, Tom Goodridge, Sally Campbell) so parents could go down to worship if they wished. Specific attendance records are in a notebook we can't retrieve but most weeks we did have one or more children and a lot of fun.

We had advertised for a new childcare provider at Barnard before we could no longer meet in person due to the COVID19 virus. We have just recently gotten a very promising response from a Barnard sophomore who is a Quaker, has experience with children and is excited about the possibility of working with our children. Tom Goodridge will be keeping in touch with her for whenever we can meet again.

Communications Committee

The Committee met via Zoom on March 26, April 9, and April 22 and plans to meet biweekly for the foreseeable future. We were joined by Jane Alexandre, clerk (April 9), and Jason McGill, representing Ministry and Council Committee (April 9 & 22).

1. Virtual meeting for worship:

- 1.1 We have set up and continue to monitor the Meeting's Zoom meetings for weekly worship. A member of the Communications Committee is present in the Zoom meeting for 15 minutes before and 15 minutes after meeting for worship. A member of Ministry and Council Committee opens and closes the meeting, with technical backup from the Communications Committee.
- 1.2 Each week we post a message from the clerk on the Meeting website home page, send an email reminder of the virtual meeting for worship to our distribution list, and post an invitation to worship to the Meeting's Facebook page. Distant Friends and visitors are joining us.

- 1.3 We are beginning to think about how the Meeting might use Zoom once we can again gather in person. Suggestions are welcome.
2. Social Media: We are keeping the Meeting Facebook page fresh with new content and are garnering "likes" and comments. We continue to look for sources of new content. Suggestions are welcome.
3. Website: We are reviewing website platforms – Square Space and Wix – to determine if another platform might create a more friendly user experience while better supporting the meeting's needs.
4. Survey: a second invitation to take the survey garnered additional responses. Friends' input will guide the next steps in updating the website.
5. The newsletter did not appear in April as there was no meeting for business. There will be a May newsletter.

Respectfully submitted,
Bryan Oettel, acting as clerk