

Ninth Month (September) 2021

Homewood Friends Meeting

Newsletter

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Baltimore, Maryland 21218

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(includes calendar, no password required)

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Effective **Sunday, June 13, 2021** Homewood is open for in-person worship. We worship together in-person with an option to worship with us remotely via Zoom (blended Meeting for Worship). We have found that Zoom has allowed us to incorporate Friends into the fabric of our worship life who otherwise are unable to participate in-person. We want to continue this option indefinitely.

Homewood's **Reopening Plan** addresses specific details about Meeting for Worship. It is available on the information tables in the Meetinghouse and [on our website](#).

Portions of the building are also open for committees and renters. The elevator construction project is not yet finished, and the dining room is still a construction zone. The second floor is not accessible until the new elevator is functional. Questions or concerns? Does your group or activity want to return to Homewood in person? Please contact the office and we'll be happy to discuss.

WICKER BASKET CONTRIBUTIONS: The Wicker Basket recipient continues to be CARES. The following items are needed: **bar soap, healthy snacks, hearty soup, & household cleaners - particularly dish & laundry detergent.** Drop off times are Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays 9:00 a.m.- noon, and Saturdays 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. CARES is located at the rear of St. Mary's Church, 5502 York Rd, 21212. You may also send checks.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MEETING are needed and gratefully accepted, particularly during these difficult times when our rental income has disappeared. Contributions support the maintenance of the Meeting and our contributions to designated service organizations. **PayPal** is available on the Homewood Meeting website. Look for the word "Donate" in our Website's menu bar, which is near the top of every page. If you prefer to pay by **check**, it is very helpful for you to make arrangements for your bank to send regular checks. This method provides the Meeting with a predictable cash flow. *Please make all checks payable to "Homewood Friends Meeting."*

TRUSTEES FUNDING TO PARTICIPATE IN QUAKER EVENTS

The Davis Fund is available for adults who would like to participate in Quaker gatherings such as the FGC Annual Gathering, Pendle Hill, or BYM's Annual Session. These funds are intended to supplement resources available to the participant from other sources. For more information and for the application form, please see our website page:

<https://homewoodfriends.org/memberresources/scholarships/>

UPCOMING EVENTS AT HOMEWOOD

PLEASE NOTE: Aside from blended Meeting for Worship, most of our regularly scheduled activities are meeting on Zoom until further notice. For more information about accessing Zoom, please go to the homepage on our website at www.homewoodfriends.org. **Please see the list of Zoom URLs and phone numbers for regularly scheduled groups at the end of the newsletter.**

MEETING FOR WORSHIP: every Sunday, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. on Zoom & in-person blended worship.

SOCIAL TIME BEFORE AND AFTER WORSHIP: Before worship: from 10:10 until 10:20 the host will unmute all, to allow time for greetings and socializing. Worshipping in silence with everyone muted will begin at 10:20.

11:30 a.m. after worship: announcements and more socializing. The Zoom URL is the same as for meeting for worship, so you can just stay online or, if you missed meeting, you can join us.

In-person Meeting for Worship will follow Baltimore City (& CDC) guidelines. Please refer to the Reopening Plan for details.

- **Masks are still required** inside the Meetinghouse. Friends have the option of removing their mask while speaking in Meeting for Worship.
- Physical distancing will be observed
- F/friends are encouraged to socialize outside whenever possible.
- In deference to those who are not comfortable with physical contact (e.g., handshakes or hugs), please secure permission before touching others.
- Access to the rest of the building will be limited. We're still (yes, still) a construction zone with the elevator replacement.

MID-WEEK MEETING FOR WORSHIP: Ministry and Counsel Committee continues to offer **Experiment with Light every Thursday at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom.** Please join us for this more intimate form of worship.

FRIDAY PEACE VIGILS CONTINUE:

- **5:00 p.m. Fridays** in front of the meetinghouse.
- **6:00 p.m.:** Information and resource sharing on meetinghouse steps.
- Physical distancing applies. Masks optional.

THE OFFICE IS CLOSED: Monday, September 6 in observance of Labor Day.

BUSINESS MEETING: Sunday, September 5 at 12:30 p.m. on Zoom (using the Meeting for Worship link).

WORKING FOR CHANGE: Sunday, September 12 at 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. on Zoom (using the link at the end of the newsletter) See article later in this newsletter.

QUAKER BOOK CLUB: Sunday, September 19 at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom (using the link at the end of the newsletter) will discuss the Carey Memorial Lecture by Carl MacGruder. Lecture can be viewed through [this link](#),

HOLDING IN THE LIGHT PEOPLE AFFECTED BY VIOLENCE IN BALTIMORE (second Sunday): September 12, 12:30 - 1:00 p.m. on Zoom. The Meeting for Healing format for the group will continue with 2-3 names of persons and a brief biography given into the silence sequentially in three groups: a) Names of those murdered in Baltimore and we hold family and friends in the Light; b) Names of persons arrested or convicted and in prison for murder; c) Unnamed persons touched by violence in Baltimore. If you have questions, please contact Susan Smith, Cathleen Hanson or Stan Becker.

YAF (YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS) GATHERING: will not occur in September due to Labor Day. First Sunday virtual gatherings will resume in October. Contact Ben Rogers benjamin.j.rogers.14@gmail.com) for details.

EXPERIMENT WITH LIGHT (fourth Sunday): September 26, 9:00 a.m. on Zoom, led by Susan Russell Walters. Please note the *time has changed*.

FIRST DAY SCHOOL:

- Ice Cream Social sponsored by RE and First Day School for everyone soon after the rise of Meeting on Sunday, September 12th.
- Fall Opening of First Day School on Sunday, September 19th.

If you would like to be added to the list of families, please contact Kendall Kennison kendall.kennison@goucher.edu.

ADULT EDUCATION: Barbara Bezdek is organizing a short course series on *Exploring Anti-Racism while White – a Collaborative Inquiry in a White-dominant Meeting*. This online course will meet for 4-5 weeks on Monday evenings, beginning September 20. The format will be

- short readings for each session (taking less than 30 minutes)
- short awareness/journaling assignments between weekly sessions
- discussion, sharing or reading from journals
- identifying questions and foci for next sessions;

Registration preferred. blbinbmore@gmail.com

HOMEWOOD IS ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM

Remember that our committees and teams can share with the wider community our events and announcements on Facebook and Instagram!

Additionally, tag Homewood with any Facebook or Instagram posts with relevant things you are doing. We also have a hashtag: **#HomewoodQuakers**.

WORKING FOR CHANGE

A Change Group has been meeting at Homewood for the past year. Its purpose is spelled out below.

Under the care of Homewood's Ministry and Counsel committee, and attending to guidance from the BYM Working Group on Racism, the Change Group provides leadership and offers resources, discernment and concrete actions that support the Meeting on its journey in becoming an active anti-racist faith community.

In Spring of 2021, Homewood approved the following statement:

Homewood Friends Meeting seeks to be a diverse community which comes together in worship and action. We open ourselves to that radically loving spirit which guides us to live justly and peaceably. Homewood Friends Meeting affirms the worth and dignity of each person. We strive to actively dismantle systemic racism and its harmful effects within our community and the larger society.

Meeting-wide Forum on Becoming an Active Anti-Racist Faith Community

It is now our task to discern how to fulfil this commitment. For this purpose, we are holding an all-meeting forum on **September 12 from 1:00 to 2:30** on Zoom. We will update participants on the work of the committee, worship share on how the Spirit moves us to move forward, and briefly discuss the structure of the committee.

Please put this important meeting on your calendar and plan to attend.

Congratulations to Sarah Szanton for her appointment as the new Dean of the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing. Dr. Szanton currently serves as the Patricia M. Davidson Health Equity and Social Justice Endowed Professor at the SON and is the director of the school's Center for Innovative Care in Aging. She also has a joint faculty appointment in the Department of Health Policy and Management in the Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Dr. Szanton is deeply committed to advancing diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives at the SON and in nursing more broadly, and she has a record of accomplishment in promoting health equity, social justice, and antiracism in her research and education.

GREEN ORGANIZING ACTION TEAM:
“GOAT NOAT” FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

The monthly GOAT Noat is back after a summer break with more news **about the pilot program to collect residential food scraps in Baltimore City at five Department of Public Works Residential Drop-Off sites serving the City.** City residents can now take their scraps to any of the collection sites (see locations below). Food scraps make up about 25% of the residential waste stream. Redirecting these materials to composting programs will make a major contribution to the multipronged efforts by the City to reach zero waste as described in the “Less Waste, Better Baltimore” 2020 plan.



The pilot program began on July 12 and will be in effect for 3 to 4 months, until sometime in October or November when the program will be evaluated. **Materials that are accepted include fruits and vegetables, eggshells, grains, coffee grounds, tea bags and bread.** This list of accepted items is the same as the list that collections at the City’s Farmer’s Markets have used since 2019.

Compost Crew will haul the food scraps from the five sites and transport the material to the Prince George’s County Organics Composting Facility. Compost Crew is one of a handful of companies in the area providing curbside food scrap collection for a monthly fee.

Please consider supporting this pilot program so that collecting and composting materials will become part of the City’s service program and residential culture.

The GOAT will follow up with an update this fall.

News from the Garden:

The Garden Workday on August 28th was very successful. The garden looks better and the composter is installed. Figs continue to grow & ripen. Bees and butterflies are flying around many of the plants. Here are a few pictures from the past month in the garden.



Photo credit: Kathy Rogers

Members of GOAT are: Carol Beck, Stan Becker, Gary Gillespie, Bess Keller, Luke Mayhew, John McKusick, Rachael Neill, and Heather Ravlin

OTHER QUAKER EVENTS AND NOTICES

QUAKER VOICE OF MARYLAND: In preparation for the 2022 MD General Assembly, Quaker Voices of MD is gathering input from Friends to identify top legislative priorities. Please respond to this quick survey: <https://t.e2ma.net/click/gfgylj/45ox7t/s0kt9lc>

BYM ANNUAL SESSION VIDEOS: Are now available.

<https://www.bym-rsf.org/publications/speakers.html#workshop>

BYM CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR WORKSHOP: Selective Service System (SSS) registration for a possible draft into compulsory U.S. military service, now, is automatic in most states when getting a state driver's license. If the draft is reinstated, they could have as little as nine days to prepare a CO claim before having to go before a local draft board. Thus, Quaker youth could easily miss the chance to claim status as a conscientious objector (CO).

If your meeting (or other BYM unit) has youth ages 15-18 who could want to find out how to claim conscientious objector status in Quaker-based "how-to" workshop, please email Phil Caroom (pcaroom@gmail.com) of BYM Peace & Social Concerns and Annapolis Friends Peace & Social Concerns for more information.

Such workshop(s) would be interactive and offered via Zoom on some date(s) t/b/d during fall 2021. An email was sent to all potentially impacted Homewood families but **Young Adult Friends should take note if they are under 25.**

If you are seeking spiritual growth, please consider enrolling in a 10 week online course on Spiritual Disciplines offered by Marcelle Martin through the New England Quakers. This is being offered through BYM and has a suggested price of \$150 but it is pay as you can. Here is more information:

<https://lu.ma/exploring-spiritual-practices>



PENDLE HILL: Stephen G. Cary Memorial Lecture 2021: Radical Transformation - Long Overdue for the Religious Society of Friends. **September 13, 7:30 - 9 p.m.** via Zoom.

Vanessa Julye, co-author of "Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: Quakers, African Americans, and the Myth of Racial Justice" How have Friends collaborated with and sustained the global system of White Supremacy? George Fox, the founder of the Religious Society of Friends envisioned a revolutionary religion which professes the belief that every person has a direct relationship with God. Early Friends proclaimed our capacity for spiritual wholeness comes from the seed of God

planted in our hearts. What structures are preventing Friends from living into these beliefs and growing God's seed?

Free and open to the public (registration required!). [Details and registration link here.](#)

JOIN PENDLE HILL FOR DAILY WORSHIP: Our international circle of Friends meeting for daily worship via Zoom continues to expand. We invite you to join over 150 Friends and seekers for a half-hour Meeting for Worship every day from 8:30 to 9:10 a.m. Eastern Time. On Wednesdays and Saturdays, we follow worship with 15 minutes of worship sharing in small groups. Zoom: +1 312 626 6799 Meeting ID: 432 071 090

As Pendle Hill's campus is slowly reopening, they are offering a limited number of spaces for overnight sojourns and small groups. Details on their [website](#).

Pendle Hill has an *online reading group* which will focus on PH Pamphlets and other Quaker writings. Free and open to the public. [Details and registration here.](#)

QUAKERS AND THE LARGER COMMUNITY

FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION (FCNL) Sept 8, 2021 01:30 PM

20 Years After 9-11: A conversation with Congresswoman Barbara Lee, Amy Goodman, Tope Folarin, Diane Randall, and Stephen Miles.

Join Congresswoman Barbara Lee in conversation with Democracy Now's Amy Goodman, as well as leaders from the Institute for Policy Studies (Tope Folarin), the Friends Committee on National Legislation (Diane Randall), and Win Without War (Stephen Miles).

[Details and registration link.](#)

Save the date for FCNL's (online) Annual Meeting and Quaker Public Policy Institute 2021. November 17 - 21, 2021. [Details here.](#)

UNIFIED EFFORTS had a busy, and wonderful, summer. Their adventures were chronicled in [this report](#), which unfortunately couldn't be included in the newsletter due to technical issues. They were also recently [featured in the Washington Post](#). We are thrilled to see this group, which we've long supported, get such (well deserved) good press.

Thinking About Race – (September 2021) “Race Manners”

Race Manners: Which Black People Should I Believe?

June 28, 2021, The New York Times

By Jené Desmond-Harris

As you know, there's no committee that gets a consensus from the over 41 million Black people in this country and issues proclamations about the right way for white people to think about racism.

For what it's worth, the fact that you care at all — that you value what Black people have to say and that you take seriously the idea of listening — puts you ahead of plenty of Americans who wholly disregard what Black people experience or simply want the worst for us. So, in my opinion, you're on the right track.

And I have empathy for you because I've been there — wanting to do the right thing when it comes to marginalized groups to which I don't belong, while encountering conflicting takes about what the right thing is. Is it helpful to transgender people or cringeworthy for cis people to put pronouns in our bios and email signatures? Are straight people a supportive or annoying presence at Pride? Am I honoring or alienating people if I use "Latinx" instead of "Latino"? Is "fat" a straightforward descriptor that I should use to support people who have reclaimed it, or is the pain the word still causes for some reason enough to avoid it?

I've had to accept that there won't be a single clear answer and that I have to take responsibility for wherever I land on these questions. To get to a similar place, here's what I think you should do: When you're thinking about this, start by replacing "Black people want racism to stop playing such a big role in their lives, and I want to make sure I'm listening to the right ones so that I can feel like a good ally" with "I want racism to stop playing such a big role in all of our lives, and I'll support things that I believe will make that happen." You've heard the expression about how we need co-conspirators, not allies, right? Even if you're not personally a victim of racism, you can — and should — still think of yourself as someone who has skin in the game.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/06/28/opinion/race-america-defund-police.html?searchResultPosition=1>

This column is prepared by the BYM Working Group on Racism (WGR) and sent to the designated liaison at each local Meeting. The BYM WGR meets most months on the first Saturday from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, currently via Zoom. If you would like to attend, contact clerk David Etheridge, david.etheridge@verizon.net.

Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting*, the Ninth Query: **The Social Order*

Do you promote social justice and make your life a testimony to fair dealing? Do you seek to understand and appreciate differing cultures and social values? Do you support fair treatment of all regardless of race, gender, age and other differences? Are you concerned for those in our society who are disadvantaged? Do you take your full share of civic responsibility by voting and giving service? Do you oppose the use of land, labor, technology and capital for human exploitation or in ways destructive to other living things?

***Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting*, Advices for the Ninth Query:**

Civic Responsibility

Friends believe that the aim of government is to preserve a community in which justice, peace, good order and individual development are possible. Members of our Society are also citizens of the community and the nation. Quakerism is not intended to be a refuge from the disturbing events of our times, but rather a source of strength and support in facing them. The free institutions under which we live give many of our members a direct share in the responsibilities of government and in forming a healthy public opinion. ...

Whether or not directly involved in government, we need to consider carefully our responsibilities in influencing legislation and educating fellow citizens on public issues. Friends

should work with people in other churches and in the community to bring about desirable ends through the institutional resources of society.

From the beginning, Friends have found that loyalty to God results at times in refusal of the demands of the state, as in opposition to war and unjust laws, and have supported decisions of conscience taken by individual Friends. Before deciding on a course which involves civil disobedience, a Friend should consult with persons of trusted judgment who have sympathy with the individual's sense of duty. Clearness committees within the Meeting are valuable in such situations.

Vocational and Financial Decisions

The relationships, decisions, and actions of our working lives should reflect a calling to the service of God. Our witness will be unconvincing unless we seek and heed Divine guidance. Individual leadings vary with differences in talents and interests. Each Friend's talents, however, should be fully used.

Investment of assets and consumption of resources require our careful stewardship. As Friends we can direct our investments toward socially desirable ends, avoiding speculation and activities wasteful or harmful to others. We seek to participate constructively and without greed in the economic life of the community. We should refrain from undue accumulation of wealth as well as irresponsible borrowing.

Friends' Meetings and concerns require money and time. Non-pastoral Meetings do not need as much financial support as churches with paid ministers, but our concerns do call for considerable funding. We are required to give generously of our time, since our way of serving the Spirit depends on our personal efforts. For every Friend, the responsibility to give generously of both money and time is real. Monthly Meetings should provide regular opportunities for us to discuss our practices in the use of money and time. Wills should be made and periodically revised with care. This avoids difficulties for heirs and beneficiaries. The needs of our own family members and the merits of contributions to worthy causes should be considered in a spirit of love. Selection of a capable and understanding executor is encouraged.

Social Responsibility

The basic Quaker trust in the Light within leads to our trust in the inherent dignity and sacredness of each person. This trust, combined with our Society's own history of persecution, underlies our social witness.

Some concerns which once drew the witness of Friends are obsolete today, but still we have many challenges. War, violence in streets and homes, injustice in the justice system, prejudice and discrimination, the plights of starving, homeless and disadvantaged people, and business conduct which involves exploitation of people or nature's resources all these still call us to action in obedience to the Spirit.

Schedule of Meetings for Worship

Every First Day (Sunday)	10:30 a.m. Homewood Meeting House (may hopefully return downstairs later this summer)
First Sunday of each month	12:30 p.m. Meeting for Business, Homewood Meeting House <u>BUSINESS MEETING: September 5 at 12:30 p.m.</u>

Schedule of Committee and Group Meetings

Administrative	Odd months last Sundays 12:15 p.m.
Green Organizing Action Team (GOAT)-- OPEN	3rd Sundays , 9:15 a.m.; contact <u>Bess Keller</u> , 410.302.3425
Hospitality—OPEN	As called ; contact <u>Ned Worth</u> , 443.600.9380
House & Grounds—OPEN	2nd Mondays at 7:00 p.m.; contact <u>Susan Johns Smith</u> , 410.458-1835
Library—OPEN	As called ; contact <u>Mandy McMahan</u> , 443.756.0601.
Peace & Justice Committee—OPEN	As called ; contact <u>Peter Phelan</u> , 206.371.1107
Ministry & Counsel	1st Wednesdays ; contact <u>Donna McKusick</u> , 410.426.5836
Religious Education--OPEN	2nd Tuesdays , 7:15 p.m., Meeting House; contact <u>Kendall Kennison</u> , 410.830.9225
Trustees	2nd Wednesdays ; contact <u>Bess Keller</u> , 410.302.3425

These are the regularly scheduled meeting times for each committee or group. Changes and special meeting times will be announced and/or committee members will be notified (see calendar at homewoodfriends.org). Meetings are virtual until future notice. Committees so marked are OPEN to guests; contact the committee clerk if you'd like to attend.

MOST OF OUR REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES other than Meeting for Worship are still meeting on Zoom until further notice. For more information about accessing Zoom, please go to our website homepage at www.homewoodfriends.org. Below are the Zoom URLs and phone numbers. They are also available in the weekly announcements.

These links should take you -- unless you're dialing in on a phone -- into the meetings without the need to enter the passcode separately.

The use of "virtual backgrounds" has been turned off for security.

Topic: Sunday Worship

Time: 10:30 AM Eastern Time

Every week on Sunday

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/255867065?pwd=UDNxVnlVSklZQOHlXWlc3NHpHeHdhZz09>

Meeting ID: 255 867 065

Passcode: 438589

One tap mobile: 3017158592, 255867065#

Phone number: 301 715 8592

Sunday worship is followed at **the same URL** by

- **Administrative Committee** (12:15) on the last Sunday of odd-numbered months, and by
- **Meeting for Business** (12:30) on the first Sunday of each month.
- **Social Time after Worship** (11:30) every Sunday, length depending upon subsequent regularly scheduled meetings.

Topic: Experiment with Light (Thursday evenings)

Time: 7:00 PM Eastern Time

Every week on Thursday

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87411498198?pwd=bWZlM0tCZlJ2ZE5WU0FzR0R5RUlqZz09>

Meeting ID: 874 1149 8198

Passcode: 976351

One tap mobile: 3017158592, 87411498198#

Phone number: 301 715 8592

Topic: Experiment with Light (Sunday mornings)

Time: 9:15 AM Eastern Time

Fourth Sunday of each month

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84212168159?pwd=T3ZsRmFlNWYwVHJnYjJON3hLY25oZz09>

Meeting ID: 842 1216 8159

Passcode: 694102

One tap mobile: 3017158592, 84212168159# US (Germantown)

Phone number: 301 715 8592

Topic: Holding in the Light People Affected by Violence in Baltimore

Time: 12:30 PM Eastern Time

Second Sunday of each month

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/902429904?pwd=TTR1dHZERGJxbG9mWGNlL1JRcHFDdz09>

Meeting ID: 902 429 904

Passcode: 943260

One tap mobile: 3017158592, 902429904#

Phone number: 301 715 8592

Topic: Homewood Quaker Book Club

Time: 9:00 AM Eastern Time

Second Sunday of each month (3rd Sunday in September)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87679969602?pwd=OFI0QGFQblZqamtEd05XcnVBeFNLUT09>

Meeting ID: 876 7996 9602

Passcode: 811552

One tap mobile: 3017158592, 87679969602#

Phone number: 301 715 8592 US

Topic: Homewood Peace & Social Justice Committee

Time: Noon, 2nd and 4th Sundays

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87882210468?pwd=SExyeHlvQm1nSVZ6T1BXMUFoSDgwQT09>

Meeting ID: 878 8221 0468

Passcode: 804715

One tap mobile: 3017158592,,87882210468#

Tel. #: 301 715 8592

Topic: Trustees

Time: 7:00 PM every month on the second Wednesday

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88668338386?pwd=UDZabDZ1emZjdzkzVFJjZHJwelpudz09>

Meeting ID: 886 6833 8386

Passcode: 975670

One tap mobile: 3017158592, 88668338386#

Phone number: 301 715 8592

Topic: Ministry & Counsel

Time: 6:00 PM every month on the last Wednesday

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/487422834?pwd=VG9kV3VOdi96VEFoZlo2Q2lTeEQrdz09>

Meeting ID: 487 422 834

Passcode: 869880

One tap mobile: 3017158592, 487422834# US (Germantown)

Phone number: 301 715 8592

(Toll) numbers for voice-only telephone access:

646 558 8656 US (New York)

312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

253 215 8782 US

301 715 8592 US

346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Enter the meeting ID (the 9-digit number at the end of the URL above) followed by the # sign.

To mute and unmute your phone during the session, you can press *6.

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