

Twelfth Month (December) 2021

# Homewood Friends Meeting *Newsletter*

3107 North Charles Street

Baltimore, Maryland 21218

Website: [www.homewoodfriends.org](http://www.homewoodfriends.org)

(includes calendar, no password required)

Phone: 410.235.4438

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Clerk: Sarah Bur

Assistant Clerk: Kathryn Munnell

Newsletter Editor: Kathy Rogers

We continue to bring back beloved traditions as our pandemic precautions allow. This month, Friends enjoyed Simple Lunch on the porch, and celebrated the new elevator as well as the clearing out and cleaning of multiple spaces in the building. Thanks to everyone who contributed to all of these endeavors!



**Homewood happenings in November 2021**

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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](#).

The building is also open for some committees and renters. There are use restrictions in place, namely requiring masks, encouraging physical distancing and capacity limits, and restricting active movement groups or events. 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.

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**WICKER BASKET CONTRIBUTIONS:** The Wicker Basket recipient continues to be CARES. The following items are consistently needed: **toothpaste, diapers (sizes 4,5 &6) and baby wipes, as well as household cleaners.** 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."*

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### ***NEWS OF FRIENDS***

Our beloved Friend **Rosetta Graham** continues to recover from her broken hip. She will be moving soon to a new location (yet to be determined). She has greatly appreciated the cards (& poster) she's received. Look for more updates in the weekly announcements.

**Exsul VanHelden** continues to recover at home as well. He would appreciate cards and/or calls. His contact information is 2605 Whitney Avenue, Baltimore, MD. 21215 and 443-752-5929.

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### ***WEBSITE CHANGES***

We've switched web hosting providers and our website will be under construction at times this month. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

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## ***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/>

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## ***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](http://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 AM 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 AM 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 PM on Zoom**. Please join us for this more intimate form of worship.

### **FRIDAY PEACE VIGILS CONTINUE:**

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

**BUSINESS MEETING:** Sunday, December 5 at 12:45 PM on Zoom (using the Meeting for Worship link). NOTE THE NEW TIME (15 minutes later than before to allow travel time for Friends who wish to attend Meeting for Worship in person).

**YAF (YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS):** Sunday, December 12, 4-6 PM The details are still being finalized for this month's YAF in person gathering. For more information please text, call or email Ben Rogers. [benjamin.j.rogers.14@gmail.com](mailto:benjamin.j.rogers.14@gmail.com) 410-622-5671

**WORKING FOR CHANGE:**

Even though Homewood's Change Group has been laid down for now, important work continues to support Homewood's approved commitment to anti-racism.

Homewood is a member of the local Black Lives Matter Interfaith Coalition ([BLMIC.org](http://BLMIC.org)). The new website will be advertising rallies which are multi-congregational, multiracial, interfaith. They provide an opportunity for Homewood members and the Meeting to build relationships outside our white-dominant patterns and space.

**HOLDING IN THE LIGHT PEOPLE AFFECTED BY VIOLENCE IN BALTIMORE (second Sunday):**

**December 12, 12:30 - 1:00 AM 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.

**QUAKER BOOK CLUB:** Sunday, December 12 at 9:00 AM on Zoom. Please make sure you're using the *updated Zoom link*.

**EXPERIMENT WITH LIGHT (fourth Sunday):** December 26, 9:00 AM on Zoom, led by Susan Russell Walters. Please make sure you're using the *updated Zoom link*.

**PEACE & SOCIAL JUSTICE: (fourth Sunday):** Will not meet over Christmas weekend.

Questions or issues to bring up? Contact Malachy Kilbride at 301.283.7627 or [malachykilbride@gmail.com](mailto:malachykilbride@gmail.com)

**FIRST DAY SCHOOL:** The First Day School will present it's Christmas pageant at the rise of meeting on **Dec. 19**. This will occur in accordance with safety requirements, either in person or using Zoom to present it in the meeting room. The children are working with Maddie to create a pageant that suits this year's moment.

If you would like to be added to the list of families, please contact Kendall Kennison [kendall.kennison@goucher.edu](mailto:kendall.kennison@goucher.edu).

**WORK SESSION:** Join us for a Meetinghouse Clean Out work day (to sort, inventory, and reorganize all over the building) **SATURDAY, Jan 8, 9 AM - 12 NOON**. All committees need to assess what they have, where it is, and how much storage space they actually need going forward.

**GREETERS: Nametags!** The nametags have been moved into the front vestibule (Charles St entrance). Please wear your nametag when attending in-person Meeting for Worship. It helps welcome guests and newer Friends.

Do you happen to have any name tags at home? In your car? Please return them to Homewood. If you have any extra plastic name tag holders that have accumulated (even from other organizations), we're happy to repurpose them. Please give them to a greeter. Thank you.

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### **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!

Please increase our visibility on social media by engaging with our posts (that means liking, commenting and/or sharing them).

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

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### ***GREEN ORGANIZING ACTION TEAM:***

### ***"GOAT NOAT" FOR DECEMBER 2021***

As 2021 wanes, we look ahead to 2022 and in mid-January, the opening of the Maryland General Assembly. It is hard to know how the upcoming election in November 2022 will influence the political calculus of decision-making in the Assembly that closes on April 11<sup>th</sup>. However, many observers believe that the Maryland Environmental Human Rights (MDEHR) Amendment has a better chance of passing the Assembly than ever before. If passed the Amendment would be sent to the voters for a decision in the November 2022 General Election. **GOAT is very interested in and supportive of this effort. There will be a discussion on the Amendment and follow up at the upcoming Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business on 12/5/21.**

**MDEHR Amendment Petition** <https://mdehr.org/actions/petition/> (accessed 11/29/2021)

We, the people of Maryland, call upon the Maryland General Assembly, commencing January 12, 2022, to pass the Maryland Environmental Human Rights Amendment and thus add this amendment to the ballot at the next general election on November 8, 2022.

This amendment to the Declaration of Rights section of the Maryland Constitution would guarantee that every person, as a matter of basic human dignity, has a fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful, stable environment. It would codify that the State is trustee of Maryland's natural resources, including its



air, lands, waters, wildlife, and ecosystems, for the benefit and enjoyment of both present and future generations.

“Each person’s fundamental and inalienable right to a healthful environment” was established in the Maryland Environmental Policy Act that the Maryland General Assembly passed in 1973.

We, the people of Maryland, believe this right needs to be protected in our state constitution for the following reasons.

1. It is a moral imperative to protect the basic human dignity of having a healthful environment
2. The health of the people of Maryland is negatively impacted by environmental pollution and degradation. The health disparities are more egregious in communities of color and low-income neighborhoods where environmental pollution and degradation is concentrated.
3. An Environmental Human Rights amendment would empower all Marylanders, local governments, and the state to protect and defend this fundamental right.
4. A constitutional right would be the foundation for improved laws and regulations, and act as a true guardrail to prevent the most egregious forms of harmful actions now and for future generations, providing environmental justice in our state.
5. A constitutional right, as opposed to a regular law, would ensure that environmental protection is considered among the highest obligations of the government, pursued as “a matter of the highest public priority,” (per MEPA) and not merely “good public policy”.

We, the undersigned people of Maryland, ask the leadership of the Maryland General Assembly to bring this amendment to a vote on the floor in both chambers and support passing the Environmental Human Rights Amendment during the 2022 legislative session. Give the people of Maryland the right to decide whether the right to a healthful environment is a constitutional priority.

**Members of GOAT are:** Carol Beck, Gary Gillespie, Luke Mayhew, John McKusick, Rachael Neill, and Heather Ravlin

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## ***OTHER QUAKER EVENTS AND NOTICES***


**PENDLE HILL:** As we approach the end of a deeply challenging and full year, Pendle Hill is excited to be welcoming participants back to campus with two of their traditional, beloved New Year’s programs: [Open Heart, Peaceful Mind with Valerie Brown](#) and [Music and Vision of Inspiration with Karl Middleman](#).

Pendle Hill has an *online reading group* which focuses on PH Pamphlets and other Quaker writings. Free and open to the public. [Details and registration here](#). Wednesday November 10, 6:30 - 8:00 PM. Guest host Brian Wilcox. This month’s selection is [Living from the Center: Mindfulness Meditation and Centering for Friends](#) (PHP #407) by Valerie Brown.


**JOIN PENDLE HILL FOR DAILY WORSHIP:** Pendle Hill has resumed daily worship in person in the Barn. There is an online option as well if you wish to join Friends for a half-hour Meeting for Worship every day from 8:30 to 9:10 a.m. Eastern Time. Details [on their website](#).  
Zoom: +1 312 626 6799 Meeting ID: 432 071 090

**BYM:**






Sing Christmas carols and other spirited tunes around a bonfire!




**Sunday, December 19th, 6-8pm**  
In a north-central Baltimore Backyard TBA  
This is an all-outdoor event




**Songbooks, snacks and warm beverages provided!**  
Suggested donation: \$10

*Can't make it? Request a custom "carol-gram" for you or a friend for a suggested donation of \$30! Fill out [this form](#) to sign up for your "carol-gram!"*



All donations support  
**Baltimore & DC STRIDE's** work to increase genuine diversity at Baltimore Yearly Meeting summer camps and access to Nature for all!



**FGC:** Save the date for the **2022 FGC Gathering**, which will be held in Radford, VA from Sunday, July 3 - Saturday, July 9, 2022.

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## ***QUAKERS AND THE LARGER COMMUNITY***

### **FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION (FCNL)**

If you couldn't attend the virtual Annual Meeting in November, you can [watch the recap](#).

FCNL has announced that Bridget Moix will be their new General Secretary. [Details here](#).

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### **Healing Resistance: The Radical Legacy of Nonviolent Organizing** **A talk by Kazu Haga. Monday, December 13 at 7:30 via Zoom**

We are living in a time of compounding crises, and we need to organize a response that has the power to match the escalation of the violence and destruction we are facing. But social change does not happen overnight, and it does not happen spontaneously. Throughout history, transformative change has happened through deep study, training and preparation.

Join us for this informative session as we explore frameworks on building a movement that has the power to stop injustice while healing relationships and bringing us one step closer to Beloved Community. Registration information to follow

**Kazu Haga** is the founder of the East Point Peace Academy, a core member of the Ahimsa collective and the Yet-To-Be-Named Network and author of *Healing Resistance: A Radically Different Response to Harm*. He is a practitioner, trainer and teacher of nonviolence, restorative justice, organizing and mindfulness and works with incarcerated people, youth, and activists from around the country. He has over 20 years of experience in nonviolence and social change work, and has been an active trainer since 2000. He resides in Oakland, CA.

To purchase Kazu's book *Healing Resistance* click [www.healingresistance.com](http://www.healingresistance.com)

Organized by Central Maryland Ecumenical Council and The Baltimore Peacebuilders

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### **Thinking About Race – (December 2021) My Grandmother's Hands**

The 2017 book **My Grandmother's Hands** by Resmaa Menakem is being widely read in Quaker circles. Its subtitle is "Racialized Trauma and the Pathway to Mending Our Hearts and Minds." Each of its 24 chapters contains exercises to help with the mending. These passages are from chapter 20, "Cultural Healing for African Americans."

***"Practice and teach the art of disruptive healing.*** Genuine healing is a temporarily disruptive process. This is true not only for individual bodies, but for the collective Black body—and the collective American body—as well. Just as the human body creates inflammation to health, wise social activism creates the social and cultural disruptions needed to help a culture heal and grow up. These disruptions might also be called *compassionate agitation*.

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"It's often said that Americans care little about history. 'That's in the past,' white Americans often say. 'Let's focus on the here and now—or, better yet, on the future.' This is just another dodge created by white-body supremacy. It is yet another attempt to avoid growing up and healing from racialized trauma. History matters, and an awareness of it puts our lives into a context. A disdain for history sets us adrift, and makes us victims of ignorance and denial. History lives in and through our bodies right now, and in every moment."

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, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, currently via Zoom. If you would like to attend, contact the clerk at [david.etheridge@verizon.net](mailto:david.etheridge@verizon.net).

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### ***Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting*, the Twelfth Query: **Environment****

*Are you concerned for responsible use of natural resources and their nurture for future generations? Do you try to avoid wasteful consumption and pollution? Do you seek to preserve the beauty and balance of God's world?*



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

### **Humankind and the Environment**

Population growth and technological abuses are threatening the planet. Millions of people are malnourished or starving, unable to obtain food, homeless. Our faith that there is that of God in every person calls us to concern over this tragic situation. Friends are advised to set the example in living simply so that others may have the wherewithal to live. We are called also to work for public policy aimed toward conserving the world's resources on one hand and sharing them fairly among all God's children on the other.

### **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.

Friends have supported the state as long as its requirements have not opposed the leadings of the Inner Light. They have generally believed that:

*...if any be called to serve the commonwealth in any public service, with cheerfulness it be undertaken, and in faithfulness be discharged unto God.* (Meeting of Quaker Elders at Balby, 1656)

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.

### ***Schedule of Meetings for Worship***

Every First Day (Sunday)	10:30 a.m. Homewood Meeting House
First Sunday of each month	12:45 p.m. Meeting for Business, virtual
	<b><u>BUSINESS MEETING: December 5 at 12:45 p.m.</u></b>

### ***Schedule of Committee and Group Meetings***

Administrative	<b>Odd months last Sundays</b> 12:15 PM
Green Organizing Action Team (GOAT)-- OPEN	<b>3rd Sundays</b> , 1:30 PM; contact <u>Gary Gillespie</u> , 443.208.2757
Hospitality—OPEN	<b>As called</b> ; for now, contact the office, 410.235.4438
House & Grounds—OPEN	<b>2nd Mondays</b> at 7:00 PM; contact <u>Susan Johns Smith</u> , 410.458-1835
Library—OPEN	<b>As called</b> ; contact <u>Meri Robie-Craven</u> , 410.207.3903
Peace & Social Justice Committee—OPEN	<b>4th Sundays</b> , 9:00 AM; contact <u>Malachy Kilbride</u> , 301.283.7627
Ministry & Counsel	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Wednesdays</b> ; contact <u>Donna McKusick</u> , 410.426.5836
Religious Education--OPEN	<b>2nd Tuesdays</b> , 7:15 PM, Meeting House; contact <u>Kendall Kennison</u> , 410.830.9225
Trustees	<b>2nd Wednesdays</b> ; 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](http://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](http://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=UDNxVnlVSktZQOHlXWlc3NHpHeHdhZz09>

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.

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**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  
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**Topic: Experiment with Light (Sunday mornings) NEW LINK as of 11/1/21**

Time: 9:00 AM Eastern Time

Fourth Sunday of each month

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88006195829?pwd=T0xESkdGcmVTcGFZ0lrRnVtUzlhUT09>

Meeting ID: 880 0619 5829

Passcode: 139231

One tap mobile: 3017158592, 88006195829# US (Washington DC)

Phone number: 301 715 8592  
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**Topic: Holding in the Light People Affected by Violence in Baltimore NEW LINK as of 12/2/21**

Time: 12:30 PM Eastern Time

Second Sunday of each month

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89966007788?pwd=WjBkUnFSV3d2WVQ1N0JPRmViN1BhQT09>

Meeting ID: 899 6600 7788

Passcode: 943260

One tap mobile: 3017158592, 89966007788#

Phone number: 301 715 8592  
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**Topic: Homewood Quaker Book Club NEW LINK as of 11/1/21**

Time: 9:00 AM Eastern Time

Second Sunday of each month

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82663801938?pwd=aVlxMVlM0JlTcE5SQmdWUTlxeTBpZz09>

Meeting ID: 826 6380 1938

Passcode: 109924

One tap mobile: 3017158592, 82663801938#

Phone number: 301 715 8592 US  
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**Topic: Homewood Peace & Social Justice Committee NEW LINK as of 11/1/21**

Time: 9:00 AM, Eastern Time

Fourth Sunday of each month

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85688289550?pwd=bjFjTzU0ZDN0VmNKQnoreVB0VHI2QT09>

Meeting ID: 856 8828 9550

Passcode: 213715

One tap mobile: 3017158592, 85688289550#

Phone number: 301 715 8592

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**Topic: Trustees**

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88668338386?pwd=UDZabDZ1emZjdzkzVFJjZHIwelpudz09>

Meeting ID: 886 6833 8386

Passcode: 975670

One tap mobile: 3017158592, 88668338386#

Phone number: 301 715 8592

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**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:  
301 715 8592 US

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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