

Eleventh Month 2023

Homewood Friends Meeting

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Newsletter

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Queries from Faith and Practice of Baltimore Yearly Meeting

The Eleventh Query: Education

DO YOU PROVIDE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION, INCLUDING STUDY OF THE BIBLE AND OF FRIENDS' HISTORY AND PRACTICES, IN YOUR MEETING? DO YOU ENSURE THAT SCHOOLS UNDER THE CARE OF FRIENDS EXEMPLIFY FRIENDS' PRINCIPLES? DO YOU SUPPORT AND STRIVE TO IMPROVE THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

Friends hold that specific instruction in religious topics is vital in the preparation of the human spirit for living a whole life. The goal of our religious education is to strengthen the awareness of the presence of God and so build Quaker spiritual values and conduct. We learn these through experience and study. Religious education begins early in the home as the child participates in family silence, prayer, readings from the Bible and other religious works, and in family discussions. We set an example in our own lives and seek actively to guide our children's development of sensitivity to God and the world. Thus children can learn to know how God works through and among all of us as exemplified in the life and ministry of Jesus. As children grow, they broaden their religious experience through participation in meetings for worship and for business. In First Day School classes conducted by the Meeting, the Bible, religious history and ideals, the world of nature, and the history, principles, and testimonies of Friends are more formally taught. As children are guided to an understanding of history and science, they are enabled better to understand religious Truth. A secure awareness of our role in God's world frees us for more sensitive responses to the leadings of the Inner Light.

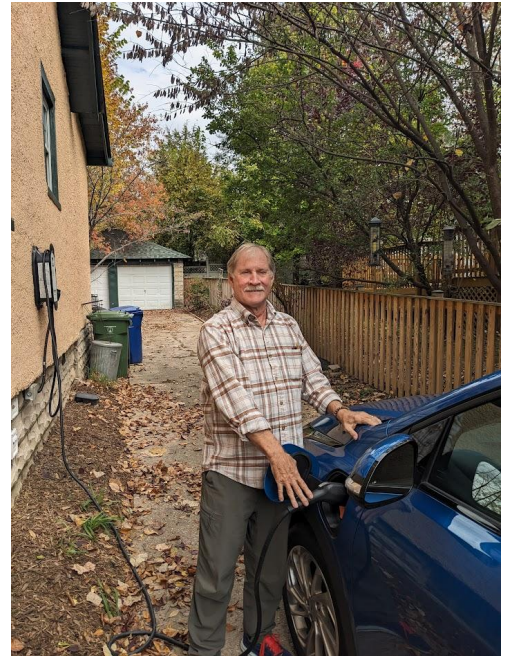
...Read the full Eleventh Query's advices and references: [BYM Faith and Practice](#), page 19.

Our Call: Ceasefire and Humanitarian protections in Gaza. [Read the Joint Quaker Statement.](#)

Homewood Helpers



Thank you to Bess Keller who has consistently gifted flowers and arrangements of natural foliage to our First Day meetings. Pictured here with Lily An, as they discussed the evolutionary merits of ferns.



Thanks to Gary and Bess for offering test drives in their e.v's at our Green Organizing Action Team transportation event. Other GOAT members provided tips on bus lines, bike lanes, and electric bikes. You can find some of that info on this new [Transportation Tips](#) webpage which GOAT will continue to update.

Ministry and Counsel wants to specially thank Andres Lobo for his work on improving the sound system in the meeting room. We have received lots of positive feedback both from attenders in the meeting room and on Zoom. Andres has also provided support to Henry Kennison in his new role handling tech for meeting. Many thanks to Andres!!

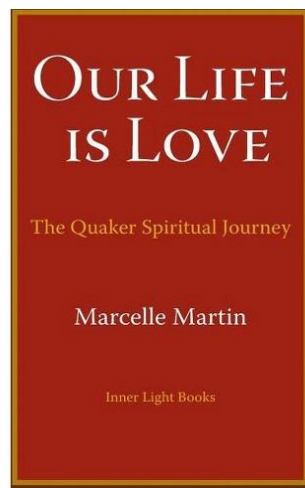
Homewood's little "sound booth" →



HOMWOOD SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Update from Susan Russell Walters

Homewood's Spiritual Formation large group gathered in the dining room on October 16. Seventeen strong, we shared a lovely meal and lots of conversation. We have some folks new to Quakerism and some not, as well as some people new to Homewood and some not; it was fun to get to know one another better! Afterwards we considered three queries about the first parts of Marcelle Martin's *Our Life is Love* in small groups. Coming back together we reflected on what our experience had been of the queries and the reading as a whole.



During November and December we will continue reading Marcelle Martin's *Our Life is Love*. Even if you haven't signed up for the Spiritual Formation Program, you are welcome to join us for our next large potluck and reflections on the reading on **Monday November 20 at 6:30 pm**. We will be considering the sections: Convincement (Openings, The Refiner's Fire, Community) and Faithfulness (Leadings) – pp 39-119. The queries we will consider this month are:

- What openings have I had, or what spiritual truths have become clear to me?
- How do I experience seeing things that need to change in me/my way of life?
- How has being part of a community played a role in my spiritual growth?

We'll also have an opportunity to discuss how early and contemporary Friends have experienced the elements of Convincement.

Spiritual Formation Participants, mark your calendars for 3rd Monday large group meetings.

Nov. 20 2023	Dec. 18 2023	Jan. 15 2024	Feb. 19 2024	Mar. 18 2024	April 15 2024	May 20 2024
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UPCOMING EVENTS

MEETING FOR WORSHIP: every Sunday 10:30 - 11:30 AM on Zoom ([link](#)) and in-person.

MID-WEEK MEETING FOR WORSHIP: Every Thursday, 7 PM Ministry & Counsel continues to offer Experiment with Light on Zoom ([link](#)). Please join us for this intimate form of worship.

HOLDING IN THE LIGHT PEOPLE AFFECTED BY VIOLENCE IN BALTIMORE (second Sundays): 10/8, 12:30–1:00 PM in-person and on Zoom ([link](#)). The Meeting for Healing format will continue with 2-3 names and brief biographies given into the silence in three groups: a) Those murdered in Baltimore — family and friends held in the Light; b) Persons arrested or convicted for murder; c) Unnamed persons touched by violence.

FRIENDLY FRIDAYS 11/17 6-8 PM A fellowship meal on every Third Friday of the month. Bringing a dish is encouraged but not required.

MEMORIAL FOR PHIL FURNAS: Saturday 11/18, 2 PM Homewood Friends and Phil's loved ones will celebrate his life on 11/18 at the Meetinghouse at 2 PM. [Link to Phil's obituary here.](#)

We appreciate anyone who can volunteer to help with the memorial: [Sign up to volunteer.](#)

BLACK LIVES MATTER INTERFAITH COALITION RALLY: Sunday 11/19, 1:30–2:30, 200 E North Ave (BCPS Headquarters) [Visit BLMIC website](#)


HOMEWOOD SPIRITUAL FORMATION: Monday 11/20 6:30 to 9:00 PM Large group gathering for potluck and worshipful reflection in the dining room. See previous page for reading recommendation.

Next Vigil: 11/3

VIGIL FOR NONVIOLENCE

SILENT WITNESS TO INJUSTICE
COLLECTIVE ENVISIONING OF PEACE TO COME
FOR OUR CITY AND BEYOND ALL BORDERS

Homewood Friends First Fridays 5-6 PM



Join us for 11th Month

Friendly Fridays

Friday 11/17 @ HOME
6 - 8 PM WOOD
 FRIENDS

A shared meal and fellowship.
Make Friendly connections beyond First Day
Bring a dish and/or an appetizer!

3RD FRIDAYS EVERY MONTH

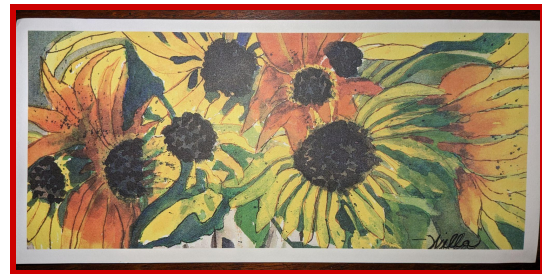
Community Aid: Viva House



Viva House, a Catholic Worker House that Homewood has long supported, is requesting food bags for their West Baltimore community. Please consider joining in the effort.

← How to pack a food bag.

...and then bring your bag(s) to Homewood. Drop packed bags in the little kitchen on the landing going downstairs. Sarah Bur and Gary Gillespie will be collecting on Sunday 11/12 and Sunday 12/9 -- drop them off any time before.



↑ Artwork by Willa Bickham, who, along with Brendan Walsh, has continued to help operate Viva House for [over 50 years](#).

What are your Green interests?

Our Green Organizing Action Team 🐿 is calling on ewe 🐑, new friends and old, to share your interests in discussion and workshop topics. Thanks for filling out this [green topics interest form](#).

As part of the Meeting's commitment with One Water Partnership and a grant from the Chesapeake Bay Trust, GOAT in 2019 – 2020 offered workshops on topics related to the installation of cisterns and our native plants garden on the Meetinghouse grounds. GOAT also offered or hosted workshops on reducing the use of plastics and wildlife gardening. *And then COVID struck.*

GOAT will resume offering workshops/discussions.. In order to help us select topics that will address Homewood Friends, we need plentiful responses to this [green topics interest form](#).

OTHER QUAKER EVENTS AND NOTICES

PENDLE HILL [Check here](#) for upcoming events at Pendle Hill.

>>> Join PH for [Daily worship on Zoom](#): half-hour Meeting for Worship every day @ 8:30 AM

BYM Fall Interim Meeting Saturday 11/11 at York Friends Meetinghouse and on Zoom

Homewood Friends Meeting is part of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, who will come together again for worshipful business, hosted by Friends in York, PA. [Agenda and Registration](#)

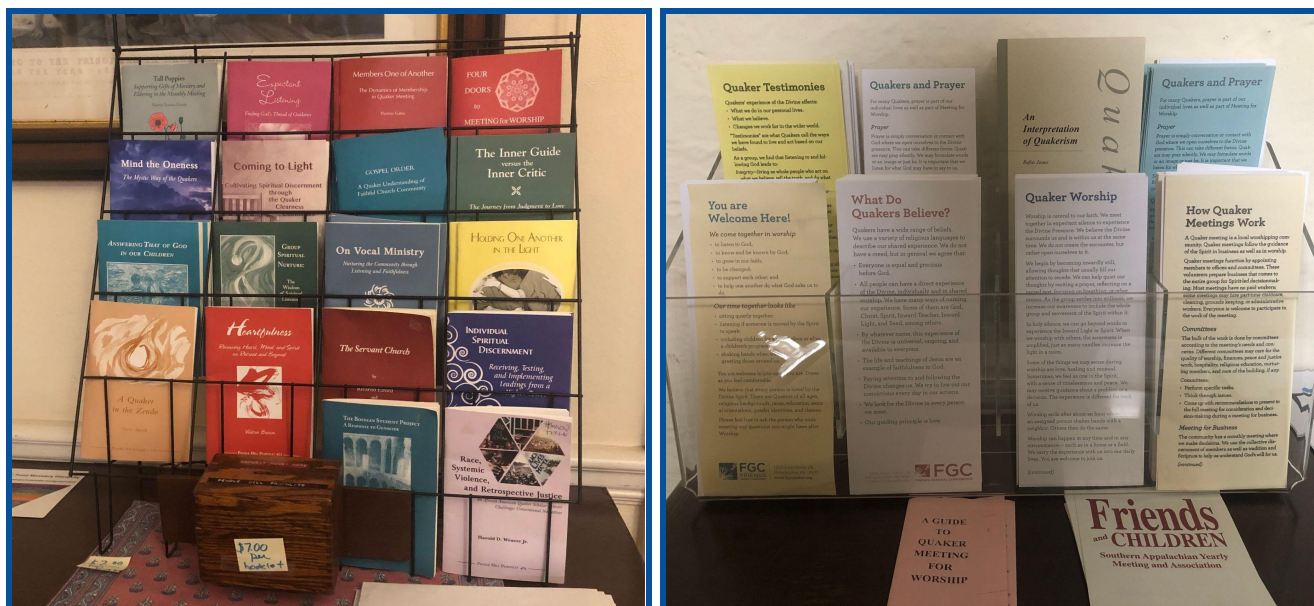
YOUNG FRIENDS TURKEY CON: 11/24--11/26 Alexandria Friends Meeting at Woodlawn

[More info and Registration](#)

QuakerSpeak Learn more about Quakerism by watching Friends share personal stories and perspectives. For instance, check out this recent interview with a Friend from Upper Susquehanna Quarterly Meeting as he heartfully works through the question: [What is Quaker Discernment?](#)

QUAKERS TODAY PODCAST: Check out the latest episode where some Quakers talk about their spiritual connections to [mental illness](#), [paganism](#), and [pentecostalism](#) (oh my 🤪).

—Friendly Readings Available at Homewood—



Our Pendle Hill Pamphlet rack is full of readings for sale, specially picked out by our Ministry and Counsel Committee and Outreach Team to supplement the spiritual journeys of our members, attenders, and newcomers. For a more basic introduction to different aspects of Quakerism, take some of the free tri-fold pamphlets, also newly restocked. Contact the office if you would like help obtaining any of these publications. And don't forget the many books that you can borrow from the Homewood Friends Library!

*Stony Run Friends Meeting's 12th annual benefit concert
Saturday, November 4th at 7 p.m.*

 <p>Marshall Keys Ensemble</p> <p>11/4/23 @ 7:00 pm</p> <p>Benefit Concert for Stony Run Friends Meeting & Great Kids Farm</p> <p>Tickets \$20</p>	<p>Enjoy an evening of jazz in an intimate setting, featuring the Marshall Keys Ensemble, with an informal reception to follow.</p> <p>This concert supports important humanitarian and social justice work of Stony Run and their 2023 Community Partner, Great Kids Farm.</p> <p>Tickets \$20, or livestream: pay as led. Questions? Contact Kathy Rogers kathy@stonyrunfriends.org or 443-703-2590 x4.</p>
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Updates from Unified Efforts

Unified Efforts provides out-of-school structured learning and enrichment for Baltimore youth, specifically in the Penn-North neighborhood. Stony Run Friends Meeting has played a large role in hosting their efforts, including their summer writing program, which also includes tutors from Homewood Friends.



About the Summer 2023 program for K -8th

- it's always completely free to families
- the kids learned CPR for children, Black hair braiding, and practiced yoga and ASL.
- they took field trips to the Reginald F. Lewis Museum, Walters Art Gallery and a horse rescue farm

About the high school students

- 13 boys & 2 girls wrote articles for the 2024 edition of I Belong Magazine ([2023 edition](#).)
- 9 tutors from Stony Run and Homewood Meetings worked with the student writers for half-days for one week at the Stony Run Meetinghouse.
- Students also wrote at the Goucher summer fiction program -- they'll be published in 2 places!

About activities after the end of summer

- UE took 30 students to the Hippodrome to see a dress rehearsal of The Wiz on September 30
- The 2024 edition of I Belong Magazine will be published online, and also in The Daily Record



[Donations](#) are always needed.

👍 State of Maryland employees and retirees can now give to U.E. through the [Maryland Charities campaign](#).

This type of regular support is very special. 👍

From Friends General Conference

—— Rashid Darden, Associate Secretary for Communications & Outreach

Dear Friend,

Since the debut of Alice Walker's novel *The Color Purple* in 1982, it has resonated with audiences for generations. The Pulitzer Prize-winning novel spawned a 1985 film produced by Steven Spielberg and a soundtrack produced by Quincy Jones; a Broadway musical first launched in 2005 and revived in 2015; and now a film version of the musical, debuting this year on Christmas day.

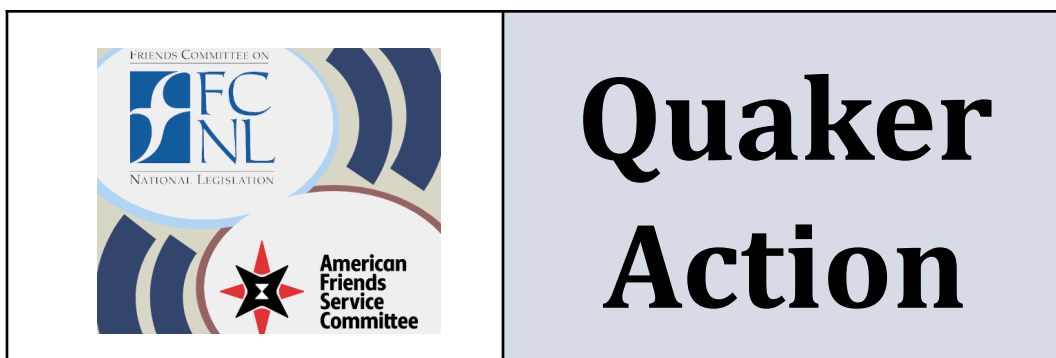
The Color Purple was a vital part of my childhood. As a boy, I was able to learn about the discrimination that Black people (especially Black women) faced just a few generations before my own. Prior to seeing the film, I only had a vague understanding of what life must have been like for my grandmother and her siblings in rural Northampton County, North Carolina. Seeing the classic film, both in theaters and in regular repeats on cable, helped me understand the kind of life my ancestors escaped by participating in the Great Migration.

Only later was I mature enough to read and understand the novel. By the time I'd gotten to college, I understood that the book was much more nuanced than I'd assumed. It was about discrimination, of course, but it was also about how society had failed to provide Black women with agency. It was about how Black men had the potential to keep the violence and abuse of plantation life alive in their households. It was about the romantic love between women. It was about the love shared between sisters and friends. It was about forgiveness in light of horrible things. And it was about God.

Friends General Conference has heard the call of *The Color Purple* once more and is offering a unique, interdisciplinary way of investigating the novel's themes as one community in many places. We are both proud and excited to present to you **God is Within Her: Quakers Experience *The Color Purple***. It is a hub on our website. It's a cross-departmental collaboration. It's a spiritual deepening tool. It's an outreach tool. It's a lot--and it's fun.

Visit the FGC webpage all about using Alice Walker's classic *The Color Purple* for individual and small group spiritual deepening. ↓↓

GOD IS WITHIN HER



Support Grows in Congress for Ending Transfer of Cluster Munitions

Lauren Evans, FCNL Peacebuilding 10/24/23

Over the last [18 months](#), there has been growing bipartisan movement in the House toward prohibiting the production, sale, transfer, and use of cluster munitions.

Recent amendment proposals to annual “must-pass” bills, along with congressional [letters](#) to the Biden administration, have highlighted the expanding support among U.S. lawmakers for the worldwide ban of these harmful, indiscriminate weapons.

Cluster munitions [are designed to scatter small bomblets over large areas](#), increasing the risk they fall in civilian areas and outweighing any military benefits of their use. Civilians and children are disproportionately harmed. In 2022, 96% of cluster munition casualties were civilians, and two-thirds of that number were children.

Currently, the U.S. is not among the [124 signatories](#) to the [Convention on Cluster Munitions](#), even with 18 NATO allies having signed or ratified the Convention. Despite this global consensus on the inhumanity of cluster munitions, the United States remains an outlier in allowing the continued transfer and use of these immoral weapons. The Biden administration’s initial decision in July to send stockpiled U.S. cluster munitions to Ukraine [further exacerbated](#) this concerning [state of affairs](#).

Positive Momentum in Congress

In April 2022, Reps. Bill Keating (MA-9), Jim McGovern (MA-2), and Sara Jacobs (CA-51) led 24 members of Congress in a [letter](#) urging President Biden to ban the use of cluster munitions and to take all necessary steps to join the Convention on Cluster Munitions [in light of](#) the harm caused by the weapons during the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Eight months later, Sen. Patrick Leahy (VT) joined the same lawmakers [in leading a bicameral letter](#) urging the administration to ban the development, sale, and use of these weapons. [...]

[→ Read the full briefing](#)

✨ **The Annual Meeting of FCNL is Nov. 15-19** ✨

--- [Registration for their DC and Zoom event](#) is still open ---

REGULARLY SCHEDULED

Meeting for Worship

Every Sunday
10:30 - 11:30 AM

At the Meetinghouse
and on Zoom ([Zoom link here](#))

Afterwards:

Join us for social time after Worship at the same Zoom link or in-person downstairs (for a simple lunch).

Experiment with Light

Part of the mid-week meeting for worship series.

=== Zoom only ===

free and open, no experience necessary

EVERY THURSDAY EVENING 7:00 PM

[Join Zoom Meeting \(click here\)](#)

Meeting ID: 874 1149 8198

Passcode: 976351

One tap mobile: 3017158592, 87411498198#

FOURTH SUNDAY MORNINGS 11/26 9:00 AM

[Join Zoom Meeting \(click here\)](#)

Meeting ID: 880 0619 5829

Passcode: 139231

One tap mobile: 3017158592, 84212168159#

[Learn more](#) about Experiment with Light on our website.

Meeting for Business

FIRST SUNDAYS 11/5 12:30 PM

In the Meeting Room and on Zoom

Use the [Worship Zoom \(click here\)](#)

✓ All are Welcome

Vigil for Nonviolence

FIRST FRIDAYS 11/3 5-6 PM

Outside of the Meetinghouse

✓ All are Welcome

Outreach Team

SECOND SUNDAYS 11/12 9:00 AM

In the Meeting Room and on Zoom

Use the [Worship Zoom \(click here\)](#)

✓ open committee

Holding in the Light Group

Holding in the Light People Affected by Violence in Baltimore

SECOND SUNDAYS 11/12 12:30 PM

In-person and on Zoom

[Join Zoom Meeting \(click here\)](#)

✓ open group

Library Committee

SECOND SUNDAYS 11/12 12:15 PM

In the Meetinghouse Library

✓ open committee

Quaker Bible Study

THIRD SUNDAYS 11/19 9:30 AM

In the Lucretia Mott Room (upstairs)

All are welcome, no prior readings or experience.

✓ open group

Green Organizing Action Team

THIRD SUNDAYS 11/19 12:30 A.M.

Instead of a committee meeting, GOAT invites all Meeting attenders to stop by the "How Do We Get to Meeting" stations after simple lunch.

✓ open group

Peace & Social Justice Committee

FOURTH SUNDAYS 11/26 9:00 AM

Zoom only

[Join Zoom Meeting \(click here\)](#)

✓ open committee

Schedule of Meetings for Worship

Every First Day (Sunday)	10:30 AM Homewood Meeting House
First Sunday of each month	12:30 PM Meeting for Business

Schedule of Committee and Group Meetings

Administrative	Odd months last Sundays 12:15 PM, hybrid
Green Organizing Action Team—OPEN	3rd Sundays , 12:30 PM, Meetinghouse
Outreach Team—OPEN	2nd Sundays 9 A.M. , hybrid
Hospitality—OPEN	As called
House & Grounds—OPEN	2nd Mondays at 7:00 PM
Library—OPEN	2nd Sundays 12:15 PM, Meetinghouse Library
Peace & Social Justice —OPEN	4th Sundays , 9:00 AM, Zoom
Ministry & Counsel	Last Wednesdays , 6:30 PM, Zoom
Religious Education--OPEN	2nd Tuesdays , 7:15 PM, Meetinghouse
Trustees	2nd Tuesdays 7:15 PM, location varies

Committees so-marked are OPEN to guests; contact the committee clerk or the Homewood office if you'd like to attend or have questions.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MEETING

You can [make a contribution online](#) or make a check payable to “Homewood Friends Meeting”, which you can mail or drop off at the office or put into the contribution box in the meeting room. Thank you for all that you give to and share with our Meeting.

