

First Month 2025

Homewood Friends Meeting

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Newsletter

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Baltimore Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice

First Query: Meeting for Worship

Are meetings for worship held in expectant waiting for Divine guidance?

Are Friends encouraged to share spiritual insights?

Are special gifts of ministry recognized and encouraged?

Do you come to meeting with heart and mind prepared?

Are you careful not to disturb the spirit of the meeting by late arrival or in other ways?

From the BYM Advices

1) Meeting for Worship The meeting for worship is the heart of every Friends Meeting. Baltimore Yearly Meeting generally has unprogrammed worship based on waiting in silence, and founded on faith that human beings can commune directly with God. In expectant silence we strive to center inwardly. Each is aided by the seeking of others, so that worship becomes a corporate experience.

Friends approach the meeting for worship confidently, believing that God speaks directly to us, revealing Divine Will and guiding those who listen. Each worshiper becomes a listener ready to receive God's message, which may come in the silence or in spoken words. [...]

2) Vocal Ministry Waiting upon the Holy Spirit in silent expectation and prayer is the basis of our meeting for worship. Vocal ministry should arise out of a sense of being inwardly moved to share a message aloud. Sometimes a message is not ripe yet, or comes clearly but is meant only for the person receiving it, not for the group. Some Friends are led to speak frequently, and others only rarely; yet the timid or brief message of one who seldom speaks may be as moving and helpful as that of a more practiced speaker. [...]

Read the full 1st Query advices and references: [BYM Faith & Practice](#), page 27.

Background: Each month, we consider a set of queries around a new topic, as set forth in our Baltimore Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice. Advices related to the topic are also included in the Faith and Practice, that may help unlock the queries, or provide key definitions. Highlights are included in the Homewood Friends newsletter to encourage people to [read more at the Faith & Practice link](#).

Viva House



Clothing drive 🧤❄️

Drop off winter clothing in the meetinghouse foyer by Sunday 1/12. Hats, gloves, and socks, new and lightly-used that will mostly go to men. We are supporting Viva House's MLK Day celebration for the housing-insecure population they serve. Thanks to those who have already contributed!

Regular monthly food support:

[Viva House](#) is the Catholic Worker soup kitchen in West Baltimore that we support with monthly food bags. As usual, drop those bags off in the small kitchen. This month's **drop-off deadline is the first Sunday 1/5**, soon! Fill a reusable grocery bag with the following items (exact contents):

1 - box Cheerios	1 - jar peanut butter	2 - Rolls Toilet Paper
1 - jar jelly/jam	1 - box spaghetti	2 - boxes mac & cheese
1 - can vegetables	1 - jar spaghetti sauce	3 - cans meat
1 - can soup	1 - packet gravy mix	(all in...1 reusable bag)

from the Library Committee

We are actively looking for Friends to participate in the Library Committee. We meet on 2nd Sundays at 12:15pm in the Meeting House Library. Our next meeting is 1/19. If you are interested, please reach out to either:

Polly Heninger: peh616@msn.com or

Jason Eshleman: misterjeshleman@gmail.com.



GOAT's Noats

For the next few months, the Green Organizing and Action Team (GOAT) will focus on **environmental proposals in the Maryland General Assembly**. We know the likely provisions of two important pieces of legislation that could have major impact on the environment: the Bottle Bill and the RENEW Act.

1) A Bottle Bill: Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program

This bill was filed in 2024 and will be back in 2025. Its goals include achieving a bottle redemption rate of at least 90% for the approximately \$5.2 billion single-use beverage containers sold annually in the State. The bill would:

- **Add a deposit** - Charge a small deposit on beverage containers made of glass, plastic, or aluminum.
- **Offer a refund** - Customers would receive a refund when they return the container to a redemption facility for recycling. This could be at the store where the container was purchased or elsewhere.
- **Establish a stewardship organization** - A nonprofit organization would be selected to represent beverage producers in the state. The organization would develop and implement stewardship plans.
- **Create a grant program** - Ten percent of unclaimed deposits would fund a grant program to encourage recycling and reuse.

GOAT presented information on a Maryland Bottle Bill to Homewood's Meeting for Business on December 1st. The minutes conveyed Homewood's general support for a Bottle Bill. Further discussion is expected at the January 2025 Meeting for Business. [Bottle Bill info sheet here.](#)

2) The RENEW Act (Responding to Emergency Needs from Extreme Weather)

This proposal would allow Maryland to fund billions of dollars of critical infrastructure projects needed to adapt to a warming world. The RENEW Act is based on a policy that was first introduced in the U.S. Congress by Senator Chris Van Hollen (D-MD). A Renew Act has now been introduced in four states and has passed in Vermont.

This proposal enables Maryland to levy a one-time fee on the largest fossil fuel companies doing business in Maryland. Funds raised would fund infrastructure projects and mitigate the impact of climate change on Marylanders especially in low- and middle-income communities that are the most vulnerable to climate change. [RENEW Act info sheet here.](#)

Quaker Voice of Maryland (QVM)

QVM, representing Monthly Meetings in Maryland that are in Philadelphia and Baltimore Yearly Meetings, is conducting a survey to assist in the determination of Maryland's legislative priorities for the environment and for racial justice. The results are anticipated later in January and will help provide valuable guidance for legislative advocacy by Friends through the end of the General Assembly.

GOAT is an open committee and welcomes members or attenders with an interest in the environment. We are currently modifying our committee meeting time in 2025. Please contact Gary Gillespie, Clerk, with questions. Other GOAT members are Carol Beck, Rachael Neill, Heather Ravlin, Bess Keller, Jamie Sumague, and John McKusick. 🌱🌱

UPCOMING

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

MEETING FOR BUSINESS: Sun. 1/5 (First Sundays) 12:30 PM on Zoom ([link](#)) and in-person.

EXPERIMENT WITH LIGHT: Every Thursday, 7 PM on Zoom ([link](#)) [Learn more about EWL](#)

VIGIL FOR NONVIOLENCE: Fri. 1/3 at 5 PM in front of the meetinghouse.

NELSON MANDELA STUDY GROUP: Sun. 1/5 (First Sundays) 9:15 AM Lucretia Mott Room This small open group studies and reflects on the work of Nelson Mandela and takes inspired action to make positive change in the face of empire and oppression. Drop in to learn more!

SPIRITUAL PHILOSOPHY READING GROUP: Sat. 1/6 (Second Saturdays) 2 PM in the Library Join a small group discussion based on the reading "The Kingdom of God is Within You" by Leo Tolstoy, looking at Chapter 4. Don't hesitate to jump in!

QUAKER PAMPHLET DISCUSSION: Sun. 1/12 (Second Sundays) 9:15 AM Lucretia Mott Room Each month, our Spiritual Nurturing group will host a small group discussion on some of the ideas that influence our worship time and faith practices. Regular attenders and curious guests are encouraged to join. This month we'll meet in the library instead of upstairs.

BIBLE STUDY: Sun. 1/19 (3rd Sundays) 9:15 AM in the Lucretia Mott room Join to read together and discuss passages from the Bible. No prior reading needed. We usually discuss a fairly short section that we read out loud together, while also sharing some silence and journaling time. Coffee and Bibles provided.

BIPOC Friends MLK Day Dinner: Mon. 1/20 Join Homewood attenders and newcomers who identify as Black, Indigenous, or People of Color for a meal and fellowship. Dinner provided by Dismantling Racism Change Group. Location TBD.

HOMEWOOD SPIRITUAL FORMATION: Mon. 1/20 (3rd Mondays) 6:30–9 PM A worshipful gathering for potluck fellowship & spiritual journey reflection/envisioning.

INTERFAITH "FIELDTRIPS" Fri. 1/24 and Sun. 1/26 Hinenu invites us to their Kabbalat Shabbat service on Friday 1/24 at 6:30 PM in the meeting room. We have invited members of Hinenu to attend our own Meeting for Worship on the following Sunday. Background: Hinenu Justice Schtiebl is the Jewish congregation who we share the building with. At our Twelfth Month Meeting for Business, enthusiasm was expressed to strengthen our partnership with Hinenu by co-planning some events like this. More details about what to expect at a Kabbalat Shabbat will be in the announcements, for those who would like more orientation.

LEARNING ABOUT QUAKERISM: Sun. 1/26 (4th Sundays) at ~11:45 AM The Spiritual Nurture group will show a quick QuakerSpeak video at rise of meeting each 4th Sunday. If you're a newcomer who wants to learn more or even a longtimer who wants to brush up on the themes and practices of Quaker life, simply stay in the meetingroom and pull up a chair to the discussion circle by the tv.

SIMPLE MEETING FOR WORSHIP: Sun. 1/26 (Last Sundays) 9 AM in the Library This is an opportunity for people who want to attend an additional meeting for worship in a smaller setting without microphones or computers. This will be a completely unprogrammed meeting lasting about an hour.

Save the Date CQM 2/9/25: We will be hosting **Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting**, including sharing Meeting for Worship with these regional Friends, along with a meal, Business, and some informative briefings, which will be especially geared towards policy advocacy.

Save the Date SSOM 2/23/25: Meeting for Worship will last an extra 30 minutes so that we can all help discern our **Spiritual State of the Meeting**.

THE WIDER QUAKER CIRCLE

Baltimore Yearly Meeting, Friends General Conference, and more

Quakers Lobbying for Peace in the Middle East

Sun. 1/12 at 1 PM at Sandy Spring
Meeting and On Zoom ([link here](#))



Sandy Spring Friends are hosting a **talk by Hassan El-Tayyab**, Legislative Director for Middle East Policy and Advocacy Organizer, Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL). In his talk, Hassan will address the current humanitarian access in Gaza, the role of U.S. weapons in human rights violations in Gaza and Lebanon, and ongoing efforts to reach a comprehensive ceasefire, bring hostages home, and achieve regional de-escalation. He will provide essential information needed for constituents to advocate on Capitol Hill.

BROADMEAD LUNCH: Thurs. 1/9 at 12 PM The Quakers at Broadmead—a retirement community in Baltimore County—invite Friends to join for lunch. RSVP: goren.moore@gmail.com. (Usually this is on 1st Thursdays of the month, but for January it will be the 2nd Thursday.)

2025 FGC Online Gathering "A Spring Whose Waters Never Fail" 2/1-2/9 Join Friends from across North America! The Online Gathering offers a wide variety of programs and events throughout the week, including [workshops](#), [daily worship](#), [speakers](#), [Bible Half Hour](#) and more. [Learn more](#)

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

=== Zoom only ===
Free and open
First-timers welcome

EVERY THURSDAY EVENING 7:00 PM
[Join Zoom Meeting \(click here\)](#)

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

Meeting for Business

FIRST SUNDAYS 1/5 12:30 PM
In the Meeting Room and on Zoom
Use the [Worship Zoom \(click here\)](#)
✓ **All are Welcome**

Vigil for Nonviolence

FIRST FRIDAYS 1/3 5-6 PM
Outside of the Meetinghouse
✓ **All are Welcome**

Quaker Pamphlet Study Group

SECOND SUNDAYS 1/12 9:15 AM
In the Lucretia Mott Room (upstairs)
All are welcome, no prior readings needed.
✓ **open group**

Bible Study

THIRD SUNDAYS 1/19 9:15 AM
In the Lucretia Mott Room (upstairs)
All are welcome, no prior readings needed.
✓ **open group**

Library Committee

THIRD SUNDAYS 1/19 12:15 PM
In the Meetinghouse Library
✓ **open committee**

Outreach Team

THIRD SUNDAYS 1/19 12:30 PM
Susan B Anthony Room
Use the [Worship Zoom \(click here\)](#)
✓ **open committee**

Dismantling Racism Change Group

THIRD THURSDAYS 1/16 6:00 PM
Zoom only: [Join Zoom Meeting \(click here\)](#)
✓ **open group**

Simple Meeting for Worship

FOURTH SUNDAYS 1/26 9:00 AM
In the Meetinghouse Library
✓ **open worship**

Schedule of Meetings for Worship

Every First Day (Sunday)
First Sunday of each month

10:30 AM Homewood Meeting House
12:30 PM Meeting for Business

Schedule of Committee and Group Meetings

Administrative
Green Organizing Action Team—OPEN
Dismantling Racism Change Group—OPEN
Outreach Team—OPEN
Hospitality—OPEN
House & Grounds—OPEN
Library—OPEN
Peace & Social Justice —OPEN
Ministry & Counsel
Religious Education--OPEN
Trustees

Odd months last Sundays 12:15 PM, hybrid
Contact the office for next meeting time
3rd Thursdays 6:30, Zoom
3rd Sundays 12:30 PM, SBA Room
As called
2nd Tuesdays 6 PM
3rd Sundays 12:15 PM, Meetinghouse Library
Contact the office for next meeting time
Last Wednesdays, 6:30 PM, Zoom
2nd Tuesdays, 7:15 PM, Meetinghouse
3rd Tuesdays 7:15 PM, location varies

Committees so-marked are OPEN to guests; contact the committee clerk or the Homewood office if you 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.

[Homewood Volunteer Form](#) Sign up as a volunteer for Homewood greeting, hospitality, and more.

