

Twelfth Month 2025

# Homewood Friends Meeting

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## Newsletter

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Clerk: Sarah Bur  
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Luke Mayhew

### Baltimore Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice

#### 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?

### From the advices: Human Kind 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.

[Read the full Query's advices: BYM Faith and Practice, p 23.](#)



*Trans Day of Remembrance, 11/20/25. [Read our Public Minute on Trans and Nonbinary Support.](#)*

**PALESTINE WITNESS:** Friends gathered on 11/30/25 to place our “Jesus in the Rubble” creche, with deep concern and grief for the children and families of Palestine. Read more about the background of this visual statement, inspired by a sermon in today’s Bethlehem: [Jesus in the Rubble: Remember the Palestinian Children | Homewood Friends Meeting](#)



## Viva House

**Special Announcement: head-start on clothing drive** 🧢 ❄️ Bring in new and gently used hats, gloves, and work socks (mostly for men) that we will to Viva House’s Martin Luther King Day celebration and winter clothing distribution. Put them on the table in the foyer.

Also: we’re collecting non-perishable food on the same table, which will go to GEDCO food pantry.

**Regular monthly food support, DIFFERENT WEEK:** [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 at the Meeting House, but you should do this by FIRST SUNDAY (12/7) (if you’re late, you can still turn in a bag that we’ll save for January).

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)

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MEETING

This is a reminder from the Trustees that contributions from members and attenders make up about a quarter to a third of the Meeting's annual budget.

We ask that you consider the role Homewood plays in your life and make a monetary gift, no matter the size, to support the Meeting's efforts before our budget year closes on December 31.

You can make gifts [online](#) at our website, via the QR code on notices around the Meetinghouse, by mail to our office (3107 North Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21218) or leave them in the wooden contribution box in the Meetingroom. Checks should be payable to "Homewood Friends Meeting."

If you have questions or would like to talk about giving, please feel free to contact Polly Heninger, Trustees clerk, at [polly.heninger@gmail.com](mailto:polly.heninger@gmail.com) or 410-419-2305.

Thank you for all that you do for Homewood.



Special update from  
Homewood Friend  
Jose Santos Moreno:

*Happy to share that on  
the 22nd of November,  
National Adoption Day,  
Evie became our  
forever daughter.*

*Here's a great picture of  
us in Paris.*

José, De'Jonnae, and Evie →→



### Interested in getting to know the young people of our Meeting?

The Religious Education committee is looking for volunteers to help in the nursery and with First Day School on occasional Sundays. Join for as many or few Sundays as you wish. If interested, email Jen McCann, clerk of RE committee: [religioused@homewoodfriends.org](mailto:religioused@homewoodfriends.org). Indicate whether you are interested in the nursery, First Day School, or both.

### ⬇ Upcoming Cons — — — — — 0 — — 1 — — 0 — — — ...B.Y.M.

#### Junior Young Friends

*(middle school aged folks)*

Sat. January 31<sup>st</sup> — Sun. February 1<sup>st</sup>  
@ Friends Meeting of Washington DC

Fri. May 1<sup>st</sup> — Sun. May 3<sup>rd</sup>  
@ Opequan Quaker Camp in Harpers Ferry, WV

#### Young Friends

*(high school aged folks)*

Fri. February 13<sup>th</sup> — Sun. February 15<sup>th</sup>  
@ Annapolis Friends Meeting

Fri. April 10<sup>th</sup> — Sun. April 5<sup>th</sup>  
@ Dunnings Creek in Fishertown, PA

Fri. May 15<sup>th</sup> — Sun. May 17<sup>th</sup>  
@ Stony Run in Baltimore, MD



# GOAT's Noats

## Gardening

Winter is upon us and the garden has pretty much been put to bed. You may have noticed that one major limb on the cherry tree has been removed. The last major project still to be done is pruning the prolific fig tree on the south-facing brick wall. When it is time to resume gardening – February or March – GOAT will send out a call for volunteers. Sharing gardening is a wonderful way to get to know fellow Friends.

## Legislation

Our advocacy for environmental legislation is ongoing. A major focus is the RENEW Act. [Read more from the Chesapeake Climate Action Network](#), and below.

**The RENEW Act** or (Responding to Emergency Needs and Extreme Weather Act) is a bill championed by Environmental organizations across the State. The legislation aims to make large fossil fuel companies pay for climate change damages. The legislation would require companies that emitted more than a billion tons of greenhouse gases to pay a one-time fee to fund Maryland's climate resilience and recovery efforts. This model is quite similar to a super fund. In April 2025, the General Assembly approved a study bill with a strong showing of both Democrats and Republicans. However, Governor Moore vetoed the study bill leaving an uncertain future for how the state will address weather related disasters. GOAT will continue to follow the RENEW Act with a focus on whether there will be a legislative override of the Governor's veto from May 2025. The 2026 General Assembly will open on January 14th 2026, Wednesday at Noon.

## Learning Opportunities

Super Fund Webinar: On Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM a free webinar about establishing a super fund in Maryland. [Register here](#)

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*Members of the Green Organizing Action Team are Andrea Judson, Gary Gillespie, Bess Keller, John McKusick, Rachael Neill, Thom Price, Heather Ravlin, Kathy Rogers, and Jamie Sumague. We invite you to join us for team meetings that are scheduled for the fourth Monday at 7:30 PM via Zoom.*

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## FROM THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE

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The Library Committee is pleased to introduce our **New to Quakerism** section. This section contains a variety of foundational texts, ranging from the classic to the contemporary, curated for those beginning their spiritual journey. With so many newcomers to our Meeting in recent months, it felt appropriate to promote our unique educational resource. At present, this section contains just a few books, but expect to see a rotating selection as we expand its shelf space. You will find the New to Quakerism section on the third shelf from the left as you enter the Library.



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## Book Study before worship?

Kevin-Douglas Olive and others are gauging interest for a book study on **Black Fire: African American Quakers on Human Rights and Spirituality**. We would meet one Sunday a month. Contact Kevin-Douglas if interested: [kdolive@hotmail.com](mailto:kdolive@hotmail.com)

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### Homewood Public Minute featured on Podcast:

Check it out! Kathy Rogers and Polly Heninger submitted Homewood's Public Minute of Trans and Nonbinary Support to the [Daily Beans podcast](#) where it was featured in their listeners' segment. Go to episode 1772 ("Oh no Pamela Jo"), then you can jump to our feature at 1:00:50 (Ads-free version) or 1:04:20 (Ads version).

If you missed Nov. Business Meeting and haven't read the minute, please become familiar with it here: [Trans & Nonbinary Minute](#)

## UPCOMING

### Christmas Caroling

Sundays in December

10:00 to 10:25 AM

Gather around the piano in the meeting room  
before Meeting for Worship.

12/07 - Kendall Kennison leading

12/14 - Devon Graham leading

12/21 - Kendall Kennison leading

### Christmas Pageant

**12/21 Rise of Meeting:** A favorite of  
many Friends! After Meeting for Worship,  
stay to see the First Day School perform.

**VIGIL FOR NONVIOLENCE:** 12/5 (First Fridays) at 5 PM in front of the meetinghouse

**NELSON MANDELA STUDY GROUP:** 12/7 (First Sundays) 9:15 AM Lucretia Mott Room

Please join members of the Nelson Mandela Study Group to make holiday cards for people imprisoned. In the past, our card making has coincided and been informed by Amnesty International's holiday card making for political prisoners, and we can contribute to such work through our own creativity. Join in!

**MEETING FOR BUSINESS:** 12/7 (First Sundays) 12:30 PM on Zoom ([link](#)) and in-person. .

**VIVA HOUSE FOOD AID:** 12/7 << note: *different day* >> See page 2 above.

**MIGRANT ACCOMPANIMENT TRAINING:** Sat. 12/13 from 1:00 to 3:30 PM Take a training to become an accompanier who can travel with neighbors to their immigration appointments and court hearings while serving as a protective witness to ICE arrests and violations. This is a free training that Homewood Friends agreed to cosponsor with the hopes that some of our attenders will get involved. [Register here.](#)

**FAITH AND PRACTICE STUDY: 12/14 (Second Sundays -- New!) at 9:15 AM** Great for newcomers and old timers alike. What are our living traditions? Also good if you're thinking about membership. We will read from short segments of BYM Faith and Practice. We will have hard copies available, but it's also [online](#).

**WELCOMING JASON: Sun. 12/14 at 12:30 PM** Come together to welcome new member Jason Eshleman. Join after simple lunch in the Meeting Room, starting with silence/worship sharing.



*Jason Eshleman moved to the Baltimore area in 2023, along with his wife Kris and daughter Sam, and began attending Homewood in spring 2024. He joined the Library Committee soon after, and now serves as its clerk. Outside of Homewood, Jason serves as the president of Williamsburg Community Association in Pikesville, and enjoys writing, music, and collecting sports memorabilia. He works as a web developer for United States Pharmacopeia, where he is also involved in peer mentorship and disability advocacy.*

**FASTING FOR PALESTINE: Thurs. 12/18 Sunrise to 6 PM** Gaza's Health Ministry recently confirmed that the death toll has passed 70,000. Despite an apparent ceasefire, violence continues. Join Friends in a one-day fast, as we hold in our hearts the devastation and our hunger for change. Gather at 6 PM in the dining room to break fast with a small lentil meal, and a short group reflection. Consider health before deciding to fast. You can also consider making a donation to [AFSC's Gaza relief fund](#).



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**PEACE ON EARTH VIGIL AND CHRISTMAS DINNER: Sat. 12/20 at 5 PM**

Vigil at 5 on the Meetinghouse steps and potluck at 6 in the dining room -- with caroling!

**AND FOOD DRIVE:**

We are collecting non-perishable food items: Friends, bring in some donations.

You can bring them to the vigil or anytime up until 12/20 -- drop them in the box in the foyer on a First Day or whenever you're in the building. We will take them to the [GEDCO](#) food pantry.

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**BIBLE STUDY: 12/21 (3rd Sundays) 9:15 AM in the Lucretia Mott room** We discuss a fairly short section that we read out loud together, while also sharing some silence and journaling time.

**SIMPLE MEETING FOR WORSHIP: 12/28 (Last Sundays) 9 AM in the Library** An additional worship time in a smaller setting without microphones or computers.

**Rise-of-Meeting Quaker 101: 12/28 (4th Sundays) 11:45 AM** Screening and reflection on a short QuakerSpeak video. Open to all - just stick around in the meeting room after Meeting for Worship.


**SAVE THE DATE**

**Saturday January 17th:** Apartheid Free Communities Presentation by Steve Chase. Homewood's Israel-Palestine Working Group has invited Steve Chase, of Friends Meeting of Washington and the Quaker Palestine Israel Network. He will present on an interfaith movement initiated by American Friends Service Committee to resist and end the apartheid rule over Palestine. [Read about Apartheid Free Communities here](#).

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

**TO BUILD OUR COURAGE:** Thurs. 12/11 5:45 to 8:45 PM at North Balt. Mennonite Church  
Mennonite Action is inviting interfaith community defenders to join a special training, their Baltimore stop on a 30 city tour. Faith Communities of Baltimore with Pride is also encouraging coalition members like Homewood to join. Read more and see the flyer below to see the topics and schedule.  
[Register Here: To Build Our Courage: Baltimore.](#)

**MIGRANT ACCOMPANIMENT TRAINING:** Sat. 12/13 Cosponsored by Homewood Friends. See description on page 9 above.



**TO BUILD OUR COURAGE**  
THE MENNONITE ACTION TRAINING TOUR

Equipping people of faith and allies with the skills to meet this moment—standing up to authoritarianism, continuing organizing against ICE, and working for justice in Palestine.

**Thursday, December 11, 2025**  
**North Baltimore Mennonite Church**  
**4615 Roland Ave, Baltimore MD 21210**

5:45 Free soup and salad dinner & Discussion Questions  
6:45 Welcome & Overview  
Authoritarianism & Noncooperation  
Scenario Discussion for our communitys/congregations  
Nonviolent action roleplay  
Courageous closing - practices to stay grounded  
8:45 End



**Migrant Accompaniment Volunteer Training**  
with the DMV Accompaniment Network

**Saturday, 12/13**  
**1:00 - 3:30pm**

**Snacks provided!**

**RSVP at**  
<https://bit.ly/DANBmoreDec13>

**Who we are**  
DMV Accompaniment Network connects volunteers and other allies with communities who have to report to ICE or appear at immigration court.

**Alternatives to Violence:** Interested in a grassroots effort working in prisons and on the streets to reduce violence? Check out this short promotional [video](#) from the Alternatives to Violence Project, and their [website](#) to browse ways to get involved. Quakers helped found the program over 50 years ago, and Homewood members have participated over the years.

## REGULARLY SCHEDULED

### Meeting for Worship

Every Sunday 10:30 - 11:30 AM  
At the Meetinghouse  
and on Zoom ([Zoom link here](#))

Afterwards: Join for simple lunch  
downstairs or stay on the same Zoom link  
for a fellowship chat.

### Experiment with Light

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

*free and open, no experience necessary*  
[Learn more](#) about Experiment with Light on our  
website.

**Vigil for Nonviolence**  
**FIRST FRIDAYS 12/5 5-6 PM**  
Outside of the Meetinghouse  
✓ All are Welcome

**Nelson Mandela Study Group**  
**FIRST SUNDAYS 12/7 9:15 AM**  
Lucretia Mott Room  
✓ All are Welcome

**Meeting for Business**  
**FIRST SUNDAYS 12/7 12:30 PM**  
In the Meeting Room and on Zoom  
Use the [Worship Zoom \(click here\)](#)  
✓ All are Welcome

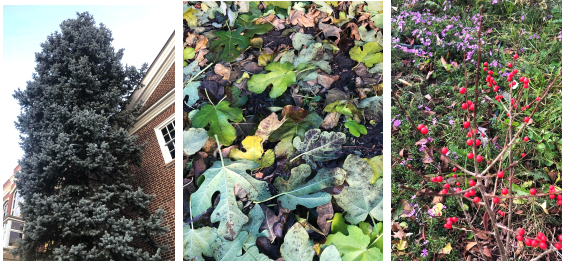
**House and Grounds Committee**  
**SECOND TUESDAYS 12/9 6 PM**  
Contact the committee if interested in attending:  
[houseandgrounds@homewoodfriends.org](mailto:houseandgrounds@homewoodfriends.org)  
✓ open committee

**Bible Study**  
**THIRD SUNDAYS 12/21 9:15 AM**  
In the Lucretia Mott Room (upstairs)  
*All are welcome, no prior readings needed.*  
✓ open group

**Library Committee**  
**THIRD SUNDAYS 12/21 12:15 PM**  
In the Meetinghouse Library  
✓ open committee

**Outreach Team**  
**THIRD SUNDAYS 12/21 12:30 PM**  
Susan B Anthony Room and Zoom  
Use the [Worship Zoom \(click here\)](#)  
✓ open committee

**Simple Meeting for Worship**  
**LAST SUNDAYS 12/28 9:00 AM**  
In the Meetinghouse Library  
✓ open worship



**Green Organizing Action Team (GOAT)**  
**FOURTH MONDAYS 12/22 7:30 PM**  
Zoom only. Contact office for link.  
✓ open committee

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

Administrative	<b>Odd months last Sundays</b> 12:30 PM, hybrid
Green Organizing Action Team—OPEN	<b>4th Mondays</b> 7:30 PM, Zoom
Outreach Team—OPEN	<b>3rd Sundays</b> 12:30 PM, SBA Room
Hospitality—OPEN	<b>As called</b>
House & Grounds—OPEN	<b>2nd Tuesdays</b> 6 PM
Library—OPEN	<b>3rd Sundays</b> 12:15 PM, Meetinghouse Library
Ministry & Counsel	<b>Last Wednesdays</b> , 6:30 PM, Zoom
Religious Education--OPEN	<b>1st Tuesdays</b> , 7:15 PM
Trustees	<b>1st Wednesday</b> 7:15 PM

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

### **FUNDING TO PARTICIPATE IN QUAKER EVENTS**

Homewood has funds to support children and adults who would like to participate in Quaker gatherings, camps, and educational institutions. 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/>.

### **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](#) Able to lend a hand? Let us know what ways you like to help by checking the boxes for your interests and telling us a skill we might not know you have.

