

First Month 2026

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. [...]

[Read the full Query's advices: BYM Faith and Practice, p 27.](#)



Vigil in front of the meetinghouse on 12/20/25



Monthly Fast for Gaza

Third Thursday of Every Month

Following the success of the first Fast for Gaza, fasting and fast breaking as a community will now be held every Third Thursday of the month in the dining room at 6pm.

On December 18, ten participants gathered in person and online to replicate the average daily 245 calorie intake of Palestinians living in Gaza. Participants fasted during the day and broke their fast together with a small meal of lentils before a period of worship. Gary Gillespie, who has diabetes, reflected on how low his blood sugar dropped and how the combination of lack of food and medical care can be deadly for Palestinians with diabetes. Participants described the worship, led by Sarah Bur, as deeply moving and meaningful. The fast also served as a fundraiser for American Friends Service Committee's relief efforts in Gaza and raised \$535. (You can make a donation here: [AFSC's Gaza relief fund](#))

Tragically, Israel has announced that starting January 1, 2026 they will block dozens of humanitarian agencies, including AFSC, from providing food, healthcare, mental health and disability services, and education to Gazans.

Join the next fast on January 15th which we will break together by gathering at 6 PM in the dining room and eating our small meal. Friends who want to support peace, justice, and equality in Palestine are invited to the fast, and any of the other events or meetings being arranged by the Spirit Led Action Group on Palestine and Israel.

From Tom Curtin, 12/24/25

as we engage this season
celebrating the birth of a fragile hope
a hope born without a home
a hope the mighty sought to snuff out
a hope signaling the triumph of love
let's celebrate this past year for the many occasions and different ways we have come
together as midwives of love; being points of love in the darkness of hate and dismantlement
may this past year be fertile grounds for an even more fruitful coming year
in gratitude for the community of light, truth, and love that we have been to each other and for others as well
in turning our hearts towards the terrors of the night, we have set our actions to the birthing of a new dawn

Saturday 1/17, 1:00-3:00 PM at the meetinghouse

Discernment Workshop

Are We Committed to Justice for All in Israel/Palestine?

*With a presentation by Steve Chase of Friends Meeting of Washington:
Reflections on Joining Apartheid-Free Communities Coalition*

Please Register

Steve Chase is a longtime Quaker activist, educator, and writer who serves as Outreach Coordinator for the Apartheid-Free Communities' Quaker Affinity Group. A member of Friends Meeting of Washington and BYM's Palestinian and Israeli Peace and Justice Working Group, Steve will speak to us about nurturing a sustainable peace by ending our complicity with the US-backed Israeli system of apartheid and explore how Quakers can work nonviolently for peace, justice, and equality for all Palestinians and Jewish Israelis.

Jewish safety is a real need throughout the world, but it can never be achieved through the ongoing destruction, domination, or dispossession of the Palestinian people and the repression of human rights advocates opposed to apartheid and genocide. Nor is a just peace brought closer by anti-colonial war crimes against civilians by armed Palestinian groups or demonizing all Jews for the crimes of the most openly racist and violent ruling coalition in Israel's history.

Quakers, if we are truly faithful, can contribute to the nonviolent movement for justice for all Palestinians and Jewish Israelis without succumbing to the temptations and sins of either anti-Jewish bigotry or anti-Palestinian racism. This requires a clear moral compass, deep discernment on history, power dynamics, ideology, and US policy. Steve will speak about his personal (and Friends Meeting of Washington's collective) discernment journey from a one-sided, parochial empathy to greater moral insight and action on human rights for all in Palestine/Israel. This will be followed by a Q&A session and small group reflections on three prepared queries.

Besides writing *Letters to a Fellow Seeker: A Short Introduction to the Quaker Way*, Steve is the author of two Pendle Hill pamphlets, including *Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions? A Quaker Zionist Rethinks Palestinian Rights*. He is currently working on a new book entitled *Seeking a Just Peace in Israel/Palestine: A Discernment Guide for Quakers (and Other People of Faith)*.



Learn more here

Martin Luther King Day of Service

From Kathy Rogers, clerk of our Community Building and Outreach Team:

I'm sharing my list of service opportunities for the upcoming Martin Luther King Day of Service on Monday Jan 19. For those who are interested and able, there are a number of local opportunities to participate in. It's the goal of CB&OT that Homewood Friends use holidays and events like this to engage with the wider community.

Friends School	Johns Hopkins	Kathy Rogers' groups
<p>Friends School of Baltimore has a large event with numerous opportunities for all ages. It tends to fill up.</p> <p>Info and Registration Here</p>	<p>JHU has a list of a number of local opportunities. Some extend beyond just the holiday itself, if that's a better fit for you.</p> <p>More service opportunities here</p>	<p>Local groups I've worked with in prior years:</p> <p>>> Baltimore Hunger Project >> Believe in Tomorrow House >> My Dear Friend cards</p>

At the Meetinghouse:

>> BIPOC dinner at 6 PM, with our Friends of Color affinity group. Childcare available. [RSVP here](#).

>> There's space for one more white ally Friend to help serve and clean up for the dinner (from ~5-9 pm). See Kathy Rogers if you're interested.

Viva House is a Catholic Worker soup kitchen in West Baltimore that we support with monthly food bags and an annual MLK Day clothing drive.



Clothing drive

Drop off winter clothing in the foyer by Sunday 1/18. 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.

Monthly food support

As usual, drop those bags off in the small kitchen at the Meeting House.

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)



GOAT's Noats

The new year will have a lot of opportunities for action and climate defense for all who follow and advocate for environmental issues. GOAT wants to keep you informed about some important events at Homewood and in Maryland.

Actually, the work of 2026 began in 2025 when a bill was introduced to fund a study of the impact of fossil fuels in Maryland. The fund was approved by both bodies in the General Assembly in early April 2025, but the governor vetoed it because of cost. Homewood joined a diverse and large group of organizations advocating for an override of the Governor's veto, after receiving pressure from a diverse and large group of organizations including Homewood. In December, Governor Wes Moore and Comptroller Brooke Lierman reached an agreement to fund the study in 2026. Both houses endorsed the override. Having the Governor's support was a huge "win" and means that Maryland could continue to advance support for a green agenda.

Part of Homewood's legislative voice is from support and affiliation with Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN) and Quaker Voice of Maryland (QVM). These organizations share critical information about the legislative process and help Quakers in Maryland choose and participate in educational and advocacy programs.

Here are three ways to get involved this winter:

- Attend the 7th Annual Legislative Summit for Climate and Environment on 1/10 and 1/11. Participate in the workshops that interest you. Free. Please register.
- Identify your Maryland Delegate and State Senator including contact information by 1/14, when the General Assembly opens. [Look up your representatives here!](#)
- Participate in the next Death Café focusing on the impact of climate change on human health, occurring Saturday, February 14th at 2:00 PM in the Homewood Dining Room. Space is limited so register in advance. Details on how to register will be available in mid-January. Be on the lookout for an email.

There will be more action items to address later between now and the end of the General Assembly in mid-April. Did we mention that a Bottle Bill is likely to be one of the pieces of legislation in the session again?

For further information, contact the GOAT clerk, Gary Gillespie, or John McKusick.

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.

UPCOMING

VIGIL FOR NONVIOLENCE: 1/2 (First Fridays) at 5 PM in front of the meetinghouse

NELSON MANDELA STUDY GROUP: 1/4 (First Sundays) 9:15 AM Lucretia Mott Room Small open group studies and reflects on the work of Nelson Mandela and takes inspired action.

MEETING FOR BUSINESS: 1/4 (First Sundays) 12:30 PM on Zoom ([link](#)) and in-person.

VIVA HOUSE FOOD AID: 1/11 (Second Sundays) See exact list of requested food items on page 4

FAITH AND PRACTICE STUDY: 1/11 (Second Sundays) 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](#).

HOLDING IN THE LIGHT: 1/11 at 12:30 PM You are invited to attend Homewood Friends' annual event Holding in the Light Victims and Perpetrators of Homicide. We will meet in the Homewood Friends meeting room on Sunday, January 11 at 12:30 PM following simple lunch. We will reflect on all those murdered in Baltimore in 2025 and hold in the Light victims of homicide in Baltimore, people accused or convicted of committing homicide in Baltimore, and all those affected by violence in Baltimore.

FASTING FOR PALESTINE: 1/15 (Third Thursdays) Sunrise to 6 PM Join Friends in a one-day fast, as we hold in our hearts the devastation and our hunger for change. Then gather at 6 PM in the dining room to break fast with a small lentil meal, to demonstrate the 245 daily calorie intake of people in Gaza. You can also consider making a donation to [AFSC's Gaza relief fund](#).

Israel/Palestine Workshop: Sat. 1/17 from 1 to 3 PM Longtime Quaker activist Steve Chase will give a presentation followed by a Q&A session and small group discernment around three prepared queries. Steve will speak about his personal (and Friends Meeting of Washington's collective) discernment journey from a one-sided, parochial empathy to greater moral insight and action on human rights for all in Palestine/Israel. [Register here](#).

BIBLE STUDY: 1/18 (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.

BIPOC Dinner on MLK Day: Mon. 1/19 at 6 PM Join Homewood members, attenders, and newcomers who identify as People of Color for a meal and fellowship in the dining room. Meal provided. Childcare available. [RSVP here](#).

SIMPLE MEETING FOR WORSHIP: 1/25 (Last Sundays) 9 AM in the Library An additional worship time in a smaller setting without microphones or computers.

Rise-of-Meeting Quaker 101: 1/25 (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.

Coming in February

Homewood's Green Action Team (GOAT)
presents

Electrifying our Homes

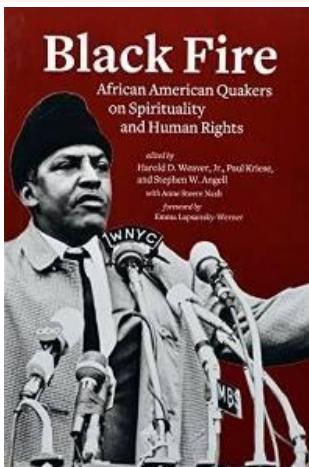
Wednesday February 11, 7 pm at the Meetinghouse

Join us for this workshop on electrifying our homes. This session will cover strategies for electrification, focusing on building shell improvements and equipment, including HVAC, water heaters, stoves, and solar options. Incentives for market rate customers and programs for low-income households will also be discussed.

Thom Price is a Home Energy Auditor who has been helping people make their houses more comfortable, efficient, and green for 15 years, mostly within the Weatherization Assistance Program and more recently with EmPOWER MD. In the previous administration he was a Building Technologies Engineer with the US Dept. of Energy, working on decarbonization projects.

Andrea Judson is a resident of the Remington neighborhood. Andrea will share her experience of going all electric last summer, including answering questions about cost, logistics, and everything in between.

For more information contact Thom at gondolaguy@gmail.com or Andrea at andreajudson1@gmail.com



Homewood Book Study: BLACK FIRE

STARTING IN FEBRUARY

First Sunday of each month at 9:15 in the Lucretia Mott room (upstairs classroom).

(in conjunction with the Nelson Mandela Study Group)

If questions, contact Jeremiah Burns or Kevin-Douglas Olive.





Quaker Action

NATIONAL ZOOM CALL

From Exhaustion to Enthusiasm, Joyful Resistance in a Time of Tyranny

January 25, 2026 from 7:00 to 8:30 pm EST

Dear Friends,

We at the Quaker Call are pleased to continue to hold a spiritually grounded space for Friends to listen, share, and discern your call to witness for Truth during these dangerous, upsetting times. While the tide may be turning on the attacks against Truth coming out of Washington, we are clear that we must continue our witness with honesty and integrity. Thank you for being part of this journey.

Our next National Zoom Call will feature Phil Gulley, noted Quaker pastor, writer, and speaker. Phil will be bringing a message, "From Exhaustion to Enthusiasm: Joyful Resistance in a Time of Tyranny," followed by a time for questions, comments, and reflections.

We hope that you can join us. [Click here to register.](#)

-FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION-

FCNL press release 1/3/26:

QUAKER LOBBY CONDEMNS KIDNAPPING OF VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT AND VIOLATION OF VENEZUELA'S SOVEREIGNTY

[Learn // Act](#)

-FRIENDS COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION-

Building Power Amidst Chaos: Major Opportunities in 2026

1/29 at 8 PM -- Hear from FCNL's policy and advocacy teams, online.

[Register](#)

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 1/2 5-6 PM
Outside of the Meetinghouse
✓ All are Welcome

Nelson Mandela Study Group
FIRST SUNDAYS 1/4 9:15 AM
Lucretia Mott Room
✓ All are Welcome

Meeting for Business
FIRST SUNDAYS 1/4 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 1/13 6 PM
Contact the committee if interested in attending:
houseandgrounds@homewoodfriends.org
✓ open committee

Bible Study
THIRD SUNDAYS 1/18 9:15 AM
In the Lucretia Mott Room (upstairs)
All are welcome, no prior readings needed.
✓ open group

Library Committee
THIRD SUNDAYS 1/18 12:15 PM
In the Meetinghouse Library
✓ open committee

Community Building and Outreach Team
THIRD SUNDAYS 1/18 12:30 PM
Susan B Anthony Room and Zoom
Use the [Worship Zoom \(click here\)](#)
✓ open committee

Simple Meeting for Worship
LAST SUNDAYS 1/25 9:00 AM
In the Meetinghouse Library
✓ open worship



Green Organizing Action Team (GOAT)
FOURTH MONDAYS 1/26 7:30 PM
Zoom only. Contact office for link.

✓ open committee

Schedule of Committee and Group Meetings

Administrative
Green Organizing Action Team—OPEN
Community and Outreach—OPEN
Hospitality—OPEN
House & Grounds—OPEN
Library—OPEN
Ministry & Counsel
Religious Education--OPEN
Trustees

Odd months last Sundays 12:30 PM, hybrid
4th Mondays 7:30 PM, Zoom
3rd Sundays 12:30 PM, SBA Room
As called
2nd Tuesdays 6 PM
3rd Sundays 12:15 PM, Meetinghouse Library
Last Wednesdays, 6:30 PM, Zoom
1st Tuesdays, 7:15 PM
1st Wednesday 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.

