

# NEWSLETTER



## Homewood Friends Meeting

Homewood Office  
3107 N. Charles Street  
Baltimore, MD 21218

Clerk: Sarah Bur  
Asst. Clerk: Polly Heninger  
Newsletter Editor:  
Molly Margulies

410-235-4438 // homewoodfriends@gmail.com // 8:30-2:30 Sun., Tue., Weds., Thurs.

### Baltimore Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice Queries

#### #6: Home and Family

- Do you make your home a place of affection where God's presence is felt?
- Do you practice family prayer?
- Do you share your deepest beliefs and interests with all in the family?
- Do you grow together through sharing prosperity and adversity?
- Can you keep a sense of humor and avoid taking yourself too seriously?
- Do you establish family standards including the mutual obligations of children and adults?
- Are you as children learning to be accountable for your own actions?
- Do you as parents help your children to grow in independence and responsibility?
- Do you consider the needs of grandparents and older members of the family circle?

### From the BYM Advices Advices for the Sixth Query, "Home Life"

The resources of the Meeting can be important for families undergoing crises. Friends should be particularly mindful of the needs of children who are experiencing pain or loss. A Meeting can provide care and understanding, acting as an extended family. Not only are we brothers and sisters in the spirit, but we may be beloved aunts and uncles of all the children in the Meeting. The resilience of the Meeting as a nurturing community encompassing many generations supports each of us throughout the many stages of our lives.

[Read the full Query's advices: BYM Faith and Practice, p 30.](#)

June 6, 2026

*Congratulations to  
Beatrice and Matt on  
their upcoming  
wedding!*



Friends,

As many of you know, Johns Hopkins was a member of this Meeting. The university announced in 2000 what they claimed was evidence that Johns Hopkins owned slaves. Knowing that Baltimore Yearly Meeting had decided in 1777 to disown any Friends who did not manumit their slaves (of given age groups and provide for those younger or older), I thought there might be a mistake somewhere.



The evidence that the university had found was an entry in the slave schedule of the 1850 census that listed 4 male slaves on Johns Hopkins' Clifton property, his summer home. (Pictured above; the house still stands at Clifton Park and is being refurbished.) But sure enough, as a demographer I knew something about censuses and found this text of instructions to census enumerators in 1850: *The person in whose family, or on whose plantation, the slave is found to be employed, is to be considered the owner—the principal object being to get the number of slaves, and not that of masters or owners.*

[NOTE: Hopkins had recently purchased the large Clifton estate and it was a bustling place in 1850 with about 30 people living on the property including an estate manager, gardeners, carpenter and laborers and some of their families.]

I joined with 3 others who were also wanting to dig deeper. After about 4 years of research and a 2-year delay with the journal later, the results of this work appeared in the Maryland Historical Magazine recently.

We have sent a copy of the article to JHU President Daniels but he seems disinclined at present to revise the university websites that deal with the matter.

Minutes from the Men's Meeting of what is now Homewood from 1828 to 1856 were destroyed in a fire so we do not have records of Johns' relationship to the Meeting in that period. Thus, clearly, with materials available one cannot prove either that Johns Hopkins owned or did not own slaves. But you will learn from the article that Johns was very much an emancipationist.

[If you are interested you can find the article \(A Maryland Mystery, starting on page 67\) here.](#)

I will also plan to bring a copy for the library.

Stan Becker



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**A MARYLAND MYSTERY:**

Johns Hopkins, Slavery,  
and the Census of 1850

SYDNEY VAN MORGAN ET AL.

# House & Grounds News



This year has started off being busy and exciting for the House & Grounds Committee. We have lost one member, Cathie Magee, and are losing David Blalock as his term comes to an end, but we have gained Enza Allegretti, Kate Berrigan., and myself. I have stepped in as clerk to fill Cathie's role. Much gratitude to Cathie and David for all they have done. And a special shout out to Perry Rose for his dedication.

I think I speak for the other members of House & Grounds when I say how much of an honor it is to serve this amazing community by taking care of the historic meeting house and ensuring that it meets the many needs of such a dynamic group and the others who share the facilities. Thank you all for your fabulous work to make the world a better place for everyone, in your special way.

## The big news is that the Meeting Room now has air conditioning!

In May, two ducted air-source heat pump systems were installed under the floor to provide not only air conditioning, but also about 90% of the heat for that space, while the gas boilers will remain as backup heat. This will allow us to shift a significant portion of our energy budget from fossil fuels to renewables, with our sizable solar array on the roof of the meeting house, thus reducing our carbon footprint substantially – all while providing air conditioning.

This is an important step on the path to becoming carbon neutral, as we electrify and increase efficiency. In the future we hope to improve the insulation in the attic to keep heat from escaping, add mini-split heat pumps as needed to various rooms in the back of the Meeting House, replace the gas water heater with a heat pump water heater, and replace appliances as needed with Energy Star rated units.

The “Butler’s Pantry” on the first landing of the stairway is in the midst of a revision, with a new floor. The plan for that space is to move the fridge from the kitchen there and have a new fridge in the kitchen. We also want to have a clothes washer and sink/counter, to supplement the kitchen space and allow the cloth napkins and dish towels to be cleaned onsite.

With the HVAC improvements coming in at \$35,000, and all of the other projects in progress and coming up in the near future, none of this would be possible without your generosity and I'm so grateful to everyone who supports Homewood financially. I recently set up my [recurring contribution through the Breeze App, and it's very easy to do](#). Any amount helps and you can be sure it will be put to good use.

-Thom Price

## A Message from the Peace and Social Justice (PSJ) Coordinating Team

You may have heard people talking about Spirit Led Action Groups (SLAGs) or the Peace and Social Justice (PSJ) Coordinating Team. That's because Homewood Friends is trying a new approach to our Peace and Social Justice testimony. Before, one PSJ committee coordinated all the organizing and administrative duties of the Meeting in this area. Now, we have established a Coordinating Team and SLAGs.

The Coordinating Team has five administrative responsibilities:

1. Respond on behalf of the Meeting to time-sensitive PSJ related requests/actions
2. Ensure coordination between the various PSJ groups
3. Inform Members and Attenders of PSJ related actions/events
4. Manage the PSJ contingency fund, and
5. Manage donations from Homewood Friends to Peace and Social Justice Organizations.

Separately, Members and Attenders have been led to form Spirit Led Action Groups on several topics.

**The Palestine and Israel SLAG** coordinates a monthly fast and fundraiser for Palestinian aid organizations and is working to help the Meeting discern if we want to take the Apartheid Free Community pledge.

**The Immigrant Support SLAG** works closely with Sanctuary Streets Baltimore to offer Family Emergency Planning workshops and other support for members of our community who are immigrants.

**The Public Witness SLAG** organizes the weekly anti-war peace protests and the anti-authoritarian Love is Action silent worship protests.

In addition to these standing groups, Friends have organized for ad hoc actions such as carpooling to No Kings protests.

If you would like support on Peace and Social Justice work, you can reach the PSJ Coordinating Team at [psjct@homewoodfriends.org](mailto:psjct@homewoodfriends.org)

## FROM THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE



Hello Friends,

We are actively looking for new participants in the Committee. We meet monthly in the Meetinghouse Library: 3rd Sundays at 12:20. If you are interested, please reach out to [library@homewoodfriends.org](mailto:library@homewoodfriends.org).

Our book recommendation for the month is below.

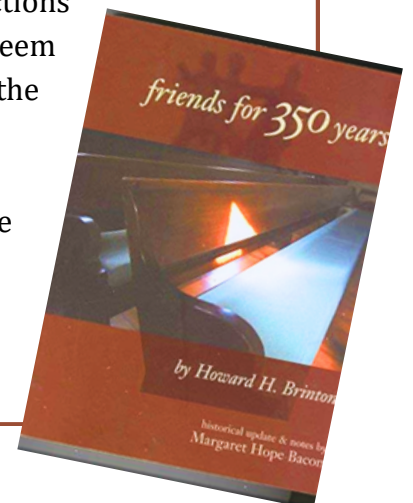
From one Homewood Friend: *"This is the book that took me from being curious about Quakers to identifying as one. It presents a non-academic history of the Religious Society of Friends from George Fox to the present era. Central to this history is the Meeting practice itself, and here is where the book truly connects, demystifying its misunderstood aspects and grounding the practice in simplicity."*

*Friends for 350 Years: The history and beliefs of the Society of Friends since George Fox started the Quaker Movement*

By Howard H. Brinton with historical updates & notes from Margaret Hope Bacon (2002)

A deep but concise testimony of Quaker understandings, practices, and history, Brinton chronicled three centuries of Quaker history in its liberal tradition when he wrote this in the 1950s. He writes of spiritual and religious topics including the Light within, meeting for worship, vocal ministry, reaching decisions, the meeting community, and includes Quaker life in different eras and various parts of the world. Bacon's updates, critiques, and corrections address issues about race, gender, authoritarianism that would seem outdated to modern readers, generating conversations between the two writers regarding European mystics, race in John Greenleaf Whittier's poetry, and the behavior of various groups of Friends. Considered excellent for newcomers to Quakerism, with multiple copies available in the Homewood Friends Library.

[Publisher's Listing](#)



**Sunday, June 28**

**Special Simple Lunch to express gratitude and celebrate Sarah Bur's contributions as Clerk for Homewood Friends Meeting**



Sarah Bur will be ending her term as Clerk on June 30, and we want to make sure she knows how much her contributions have meant to the Meeting. There will be special food, a short presentation, and an opportunity to share thoughts, lightly roast, and generally say thank you for all the energy, leadership and love that Sarah has contributed to Homewood over the last six years as Clerk.

*If you cannot attend, but would like to send a note, please send it to the office by Wednesday, June 24 so it can be incorporated into the event.*

***The Spirit-Led Action Group for Immigrant Support is seeking donations for an upcoming event.***

- Household goods: Cleaning supplies, paper towels, toilet paper, laundry detergent, etc.
- Child care items: Diapers, baby formula, infant care products, baby food, etc.
- Personal hygiene products: Tampons, pads, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, deodorant, etc.
- Reusable grocery bags or large paper bags.

Please leave items in the box marked "Immigrant Support" by Sunday, June 28.

# DRAG AS SPIRITUAL PRACTICE



**Drag, Divinity, and the Public Universal Friend**  
with Rev. Marge Erin Spread (she/her)  
**Saturday, June 20, 2026 2-4pm**

**Homewood Friends Meetinghouse**  
3107 N. Charles St.

**Suggested Donation: \$25**

Join Rev. Marge for an inspiring and thought-provoking workshop that blends storytelling, spirituality, and community connection. At this unique event, we will explore the intersections of faith and identity through the lens of drag theology and the life of the Public Universal Friend (PUF), an 18th-century gender-expansive Quaker.

Rev. Marge will share her journey to vocation, her discovery of drag theology, and the ways she finds inspiration in scripture, ministry, and her community. Together, we'll reflect on what worship means, how it can be reimaged, and how faith can be a tool for justice and healing.

All are welcome, \$25 suggested donation.

[Register](#)



## **An Encounter with Senator Chris Van Hollen**



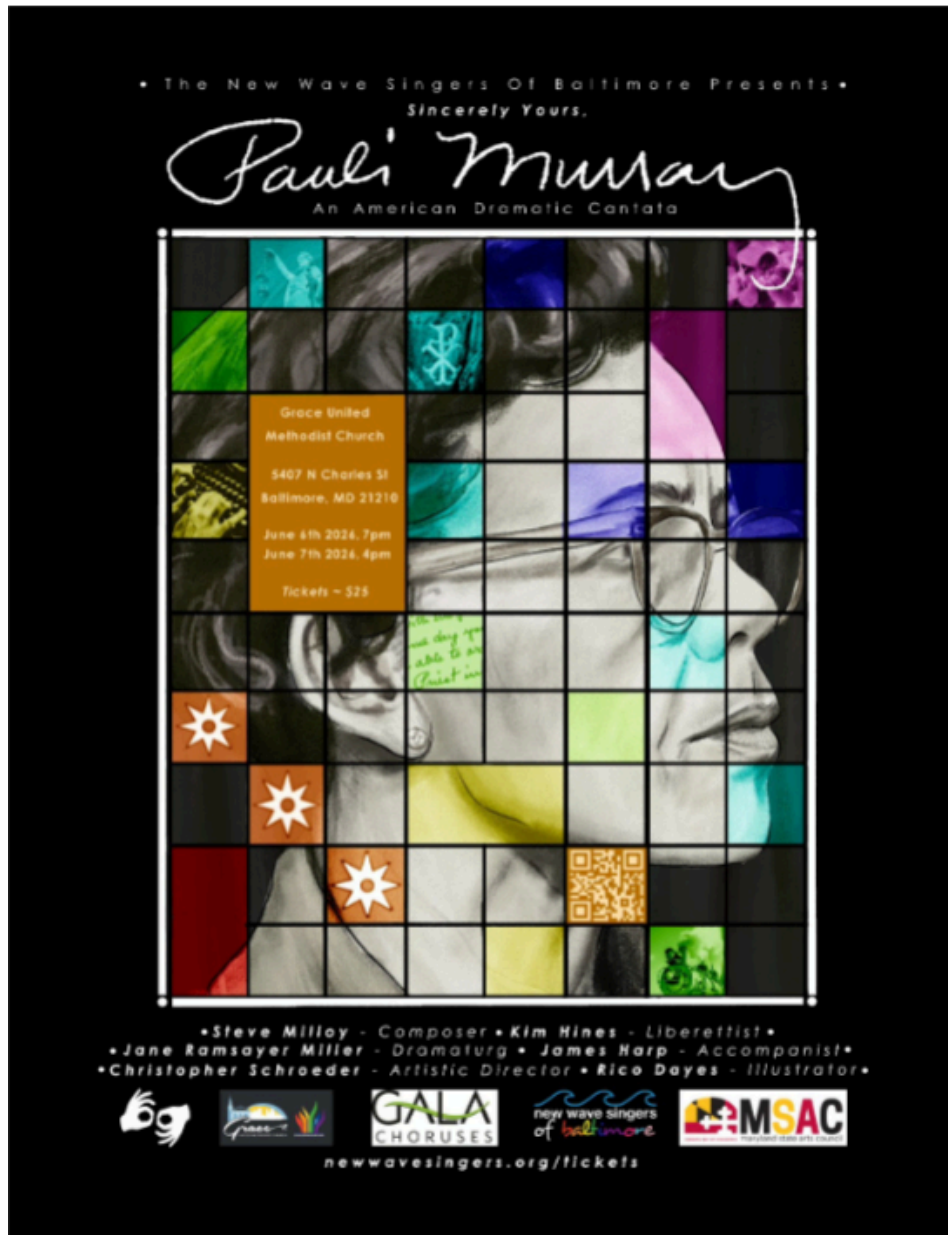
In 2021, Homewood Friends was contacted by a member of the Van Hollen family. Their family had been associated with Homewood Friends Meeting in the past and they were wondering if it would be possible for us to facilitate a Quaker-style memorial for Cecilia Van Hollen Ives. Research revealed that Senator Chris Van Hollen's grandparents, Donald B. Van Hollen & Cecilia Harvey Coale were members of Homewood Friends Meeting!

Kathy Munnell, Kathy Rogers and I went to the cemetery where they were holding the memorial and we facilitated a Quaker-style memorial service for Senator Van Hollen's Aunt Cecilia. The Senator spoke at the memorial about how important his aunt had been in supporting his career.

In April, I had a chance encounter with Senator Van Hollen. I have been so impressed with Van Hollen's courageous response to the harms caused by our current government. When I saw the Senator, I introduced myself as a member of Homewood Friends Meeting and told him that "I've been wanting to tell you that your Quaker grandparents would be so proud of you." He teared up a little, asked if he could give me a hug, and threw his arms around me.

A sweet moment.

*Sarah Bur, Clerk*



Sincerely Yours, Pauli Murray is a new work, commissioned by several GALA Choruses, including New Wave Singers of Baltimore. This 10-movement dramatic cantata brings to life the story of the Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray. Pauli was a civil rights activist, lawyer, legal scholar, poet, and ordained Episcopal priest. Born in Baltimore in 1910, Murray's work greatly influenced the civil rights movement and expanded legal protection for gender equality.

**Saturday, June 6, 2026, 7:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, June 7, 2026, 4:00 p.m.**

Grace United Methodist Church  
5407 N Charles St, Baltimore, MD

Tickets are \$25 for adults- advance tickets are encouraged!

Illustrator: Rico Dayes



Chesapeake Quarterly Meeting (CQM) will meet on Sunday, 6/28/2026, hosted by Sandy Spring Friends Meeting both in person and online.

After welcoming and coffee at 9:00am, there will be a Meeting for Sharing, starting at 9:30am, where we will have a chance to hear what's going on in each of our Meetings in the Quarter. We encourage all Meetings to send one or two people, either in person or online, to report for them. Written submissions are especially encouraged and helpful but not required; written reports will be linked from our minutes and available in the folder linked here. All those attending are welcome to report as well.

Worship begins at 11am followed by lunch. Vegetarian and vegan options will be available, especially with your RSVP, which is strongly encouraged by 6/19 to help with food planning, but come!

After lunch, the Baltimore Yearly Meeting Faith & Practice Committee will host an information and listening session regarding revisions to the Prejudice and Discrimination section of the current Faith & Practice.

Children are welcome!

RSVPs would help with food planning and children's program (include ages); persons needing childcare.

The Zoom links are:

For 9:30 and 12:30: <https://bit.ly/CQM-SSFm-p>

For 11 AM worship: <https://bit.ly/CQM-SSFm-w>

**Please RSVP by 6/19.**



PRIDE  
INTERFAITH SERVICE  
2026

# We Walk Where They Walked In Mind, Body and Spirit



Faith Communities of Baltimore With Pride  
invites you to join us in person or on Zoom.  
Refreshments will follow the service.

**When:** June 4, 2026, 7:00 PM

**Where:** North Baltimore Mennonite Church  
4615 Roland Ave, Baltimore, MD 21210  
at the corner of Roland & Oakdale

**Zoom link:** <https://tinyurl.com/faithpride2026>

RSVPs are encouraged but not required.

**RSVP here:**

<https://bit.ly/RSVPfaithpride2026>

**FaithPride.net**

## Coming Up at Homewood

### GARDEN WORK DAY

Mon. 6/1 5:30-7:30 PM

Join us in the garden on Monday evening to clean up the garden alongside Hinenu. Rain date: 6/3.

### SHEPHERDSTOWN MEETING MINUTE DISCUSSION

Tues. 6/2 6-7:15 PM | [Zoom](#)

Rescheduled and continued discussion about endorsing the Shepherdstown Meeting Minute on Harms Caused by the Actions of our Current Government.

### WEDDING OF BEATRICE AND MATT

Sat. 6/6 at 10:30 AM

Beatrice Kennison and Matthew Kuns will be married in the Homewood Meetingroom. This is a Quaker wedding, and all members and attenders are invited.

A lunch will follow downstairs. Please RSVP (email Debbie, mother of the bride at [deborahkennison@gmail.com](mailto:deborahkennison@gmail.com)) by May 20 if you would like to attend the lunch. No RSVP is required for the ceremony.

*We are seeking volunteers to assist with the wedding!*

*Email [benjamin.rogers.14@gmail.com](mailto:benjamin.rogers.14@gmail.com) if interested.*

### LAST DAY OF FIRST DAY SCHOOL - 6/14

FDS students will make a brief presentation about what they have learned this year at the rise of Meeting.

### PALESTINE 101 SERIES

Mon. June 8, 15, 22 6-8:30 PM | Dining Room

The Spirit Led Action Group on peace for Israel and Palestine offers this 3-part in-person series. We plan to have a simple supper in the first half hour. More details forthcoming.

**[RSVP here.](#)**

### DRAG AS SPIRITUAL PRACTICE

Sat. 6/20 2-4 PM | Meeting Room

Join Rev. Marge for an inspiring and thought-provoking workshop that blends storytelling, spirituality, and community connection. At this unique event, we will explore the intersections of faith and identity through the lens of drag theology and the life of the Public Universal Friend (PUF), an 18th-century gender-expansive Quaker.

Rev. Marge will share her journey to vocation, her discovery of drag theology, and the ways she finds inspiration in scripture, ministry, and her community. Together, we'll reflect on what worship means, how it can be reimaged, and how faith can be a tool for justice and healing.

All are welcome, \$25 suggested donation. [Register here.](#)

## Coming Up in the Wider Quaker Community

### QUAKER VOLUNTARY SERVICE PROGRAM

Sun. May 31, 2026 | Stony Run Friends

Greg Stefanski (Executive Director) will be at the Stony Run Friends Meeting to share information about the [Quaker Voluntary Service program](#) and ways to support it.

### EMILY PROVANCE ON COMMUNITIES AND POLITICAL VIOLENCE

Sun. May 31 2 PM | Barnegat Friends Meeting & Zoom

Emily Provance ("Quaker Emily") will visit and give a presentation on communities and violence in an increasingly fractured society.

**[Register and Learn More](#)**

### NATIONAL ZOOM CALL: Faithfully Protecting Democracy: A Conversation with Maria J. Stephan

May 31, 2026 7:00-8:30 PM EDT | [Register](#)

### INTERFAITH PRIDE SERVICE

Thurs. 6/4 7 PM | North Baltimore Mennonite Church |

Questions: [Fcbwp2025@gmail.com](mailto:Fcbwp2025@gmail.com)

### SPRING CONCERT: SINCERELY YOURS, PAULI MURRAY FROM THE NEW WAVE SINGERS OF BALTIMORE

Saturday, June 6, 2026, 7 PM | Sunday, June 7, 2026, 4 PM  
Grace United Methodist Church

This 10-movement dramatic cantata brings to life the story of the Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray.

**[Tickets are \\$25 for adults. Advance tickets are encouraged!](#)**

### RAMALLAH FRIENDS SCHOOL "STATE OF THE SCHOOL"

Sun. June 21 at 12:30 p.m. | [Zoom](#)

Join us to learn how this Quaker School (dating from about 1869) and the community are impacted by the ongoing war, settler violence in and near Ramallah, and settler violence in the West Bank more broadly.

### SILENT RETREAT AT DAYSPRING for BALTIMORE YEARLY MEETING FRIENDS

June 26 - 28, 2026

The purpose of silent retreat is the deepening of communion with God, with other persons and with oneself. **Details and registration**

### BYM ANNUAL SESSIONS - LIVING IN HARMONY WITH THE EARTH AND EACH OTHER

Mon., July 27 - Sun., Aug. 2 at Hood College

**[Registration is now open!](#)**

## *Schedule of Committee and Group Meetings*

<b>Administrative</b>	Last Sundays in Odd months, Time TBA, hybrid
(Open) <b>Community and Outreach</b>	3rd Sundays 12:30 PM, SBA Room
(Open) <b>Green Organizing Action Team</b>	4th Mondays 7:30 PM, Zoom
(Open) <b>Hospitality</b>	As Called
<b>House &amp; Grounds</b>	2nd Tuesdays 6 PM
(Open) <b>Library</b>	3rd Sundays 12:20 PM, Meetinghouse Library
<b>Ministry &amp; Counsel</b>	Last Wednesdays, 6:30 PM, Zoom
<b>Peace &amp; Social Justice Coordinating Team</b>	3rd Sundays 12:30 PM, Mott Room (upstairs)
(Open) <b>Religious Education</b>	1st Tuesdays, 7:15 PM
<b>Trustees</b>	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.

# 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

**EVERY FRIDAY 5:30-6:30 PM**

Outside of the Meetinghouse

✓ All are Welcome

## Meeting for Business

**FIRST SUNDAYS 6/7 12:30 PM**

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

✓ All are Welcome

## Nelson Mandela Study Group

**FIRST SUNDAYS 6/7 9:15 AM**

Lucretia Mott Room

✓ All are Welcome

## Faith and Practice Study

**SECOND SUNDAYS 6/14 9:15 AM**

Lucretia Mott Room

✓ All are Welcome

## Spirit Led Action Group for Palestine & Israel

**SECOND SUNDAYS 6/14, 12:30 PM**

Lucretia Mott Room and on [Zoom](#)

## Bible Study

**THIRD SUNDAYS 6/21 9:15**

In ~~the~~ Lucretia Mott Room (upstairs)

*All are welcome, no prior readings needed.*

✓ open group

## Community Building and Outreach Team

**THIRD SUNDAYS 6/21 12:30 PM**

Susan B Anthony Room and Zoom

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

✓ open committee

## Library Committee

**THIRD SUNDAYS 6/21 12:20 PM**

In the Meetinghouse Library

✓ open committee

## Peace and Social Justice Coordinating Team

**THIRD SUNDAYS 6/21 12:30 PM**

In the Lucretia Mott Room (upstairs)

## Fasting for Palestine

**THIRD THURSDAYS 6/18 5:30 PM**

North Baltimore Mennonite Church

4615 Roland Ave. Baltimore, MD

[Register here](#)

✓ open gathering

## Green Organizing Action Team(GOAT)

**FOURTH MONDAYS 6/22 7:30 PM**

Zoom only. Contact office for link.

✓ open committee

## Simple Meeting for Worship

**LAST SUNDAYS 6/28 9:00 AM**

In the Meetinghouse Library

✓ open worship