

Morningside Matters

*The Newsletter for Morningside Monthly Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)*

www.morningsidemeeting.org

November 2020

Calendar

Weekly	Sunday	Meeting for Worship	virtual	11:00 am
Regular Meeting events	First Sunday	Moving with the Spirit	virtual	10:00 am
	First Sunday	Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business	virtual	12:45 pm
	Second Sunday	Peace & Social Concerns Committee meeting	virtual	12:45 pm
	Second Saturday	Bible Study	virtual	1:00 pm
	Fourth Sunday	Racial Justice Study Group	virtual	TBD
	Fourth Sunday	Welcome breakfast	suspended	
Monthly, Quarterly, Yearly Meeting events	November 6 – 8	NYYM Fall Sessions	virtual	
	January 16	NYQM Winter Sessions	Brooklyn Meeting	
	April 9 – 11	NYYM Spring Sessions		
	April 17	NYQM Spring Sessions	Manhattan Meeting	
Regular events of interest	Daily	Meeting for Worship at Pendle Hill	virtual	8:30 – 9:10 am
	Saturdays	Meeting for Worship at Powell House	virtual	6:00 pm
	Saturdays	FGC: Worship and Worship Sharing Groups	virtual	9:00 pm
	Tuesdays	FGC: Ministry on Racism Worship Sharing for People of Color	virtual	5:00 pm
	Wednesdays	FGC: Worship and Worship Sharing for People of Color	virtual	1:00 pm and 8:00 pm
	Thursdays	Friends Committee on National Legislation: Thursdays with Friends	virtual	4:00 – 4:30 pm
	Fridays	FGC: Ministry on Racism Worship for Friends of European Descent Confronting Racism	virtual	7:30 pm
Special events	November 1, 8, 15, 22	Friends General Conference, The Kingdom of God Is. Worship Sharing	virtual	5:00 – 7:00 pm
	November 6 – 8	Pendle Hill: Mutual Accompaniment & the Creation of the Commons Online	virtual	
	November 6 – 8	AVP Advanced Workshops: https://avppeacemakers.org/workshops/	virtual	
	November 8 – December 11	Friends General Conference, Building a Meaningful Life (spiritual gifts of aging across a life span)	virtual	
	November 9	Pendle Hill: Spirit in the Streets Salon	virtual	12:00 – 1:30 pm
	November 10	Pendle Hill: Creative Prayer: Drawing Ourselves and Others in the Light	virtual	6:30 – 8:00 pm
	November 11	Pendle Hill Reading Group: Race, Systemic Violence and Retrospective Justice	virtual	6:30 – 8:00 pm
	November 12	Pendle Hill: Spirit in the Streets Salon	virtual	12:00 – 1:30 pm

November 13 – 15	Friends General Conference, Fall Retreat for Friends of Color	virtual	
November 14	Powell House: Cleansing Mind & Body: Worries and Bothers of Pandemic and Elections Washed and Cleared	virtual	2:00 – 4:00 pm
November 14	Pendle Hill, Soul Collage as an Invitation to Inner Hospitality	virtual	2:00 – 4:00 pm
November 14 – 17	FCNL Public Policy Institute and Annual Meeting: Fierce Love	virtual	
November 15 – December 18	FGC: Silence and Light for Quaker Newcomers	virtual	8:00 pm
November 19	Pendle Hill: Spirit in the Streets Salon	virtual	12:00 – 1:30 pm
November 19	FCNL: 116 th Congress in Review	virtual	4:00 – 4:30 pm
November 20 – 22	Pendle Hill: Friends Decision Making and Clerking	virtual	
December 3	Pendle Hill: Spirit in the Streets Salon	virtual	12:00 – 1:30 pm
December 3	FCNL: What Should the 117 th Congress Do?	virtual	4:00 – 4:30 pm
December 4 – 6	Pendle Hill, Opening to the Heart of Worship	virtual	
December 4 – -6	AVP Workshops: Training for Facilitators: https://avppeacemakers.org/workshops/	virtual	
December 5	Powell House: PoHo Bookclub discusses <i>Hamilton</i>	virtual	10:00 am – 12:00 pm
February 1 – 26	Pendle Hill: Aiming for Justice: Race Reparations and Right Paths	virtual	

Explore websites of Powell House: Pendle Hill: and FGC at <https://powellhouse.org>, <https://pendlehill.org/contact-us>, and <https://www.fgc-quaker.org/resources/online-worship-opportunities>.

Remember to check the Calendar and the Bulletin Board at www.morningsidemeeting.org

Newsletter Submission Guidelines: The purpose of the newsletter is to inform members, attenders and other interested people of Meeting news, including member interviews, news of Friends, other Quaker-related subjects, news of Quaker organizations, upcoming events, Meeting-sponsored projects, book reviews, etc. Articles and pictures are welcome. The deadline for the newsletter is the Sunday of the Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. Please e-mail your material in Word or text format to morningsidequakermeeting@gmail.com by the end of that day. Past issues of the newsletter are archived at www.morningsidemeeting.org.

Reflection:

What if this darkness is not the darkness of the tomb but the darkness of the womb?

What if our America is not dead but a national waiting to be born?

Attributed to Valerie Kaur

**Morningside Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Minutes of the Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
November 1, 2020**

The meeting began at 12:45 p.m. with a period of silent worship.

Jane Alexandre read a fourth-century prayer of St. Ambrose:

*May the day go by joyously:
In the morning of purity,
In the high noon of faith,
And without nightfall upon the spirit.*

(Mary C. Morrison, Pendle Hill Pamphlet 311)

There are no reports this month from the clerk, Meeting with Children, the Hospitality Committee, or the Library Committee. The report from the Nominating Committee that was circulated to the meeting has been withdrawn, there is no report from the committee this month. Nominations for the coming year will be considered in December.

1. Treasurer's report given by Stephen McDonald. Friends accept the report. The report is attached.
2. Ministry and Counsel report given by Ed Elder. Friends accept the report. The report is attached.
3. Peace and Social Concerns report given by Corona Machermer. Friends accept the report. The report is attached. The issue of participation in and using the Peace and Social Concerns Google group will be continued with the Communications Committee.

Friends approve the minutes.

4. Communications Committee – report by Bryan Oettel. Friends accept the report., including the site statement. The report is attached. Discussion followed as to suggestions for submission of content to the Morningside website, and as to how the content of the website would be backed up.

Friends approve the release of Derek McIver from the committee.

5. Ad hoc Committee for a return to in-person worship – report given by Jason McGill. Friends accept the report. The report is attached. Friends approve the laying down of the ad hoc committee for a return to in-person worship. Friends approve the taking up of a permanent committee for in-person worship. The permanent committee members are Scott Blumenthal, Sally Campbell, Jon Melhaus, Robert Schwab and Pamela Wood. Megan Maurer and Jason McGill will serve as temporary members to support the committee through its establishment.

Additional business – None

Friends approved the minutes.

Announcements – New York Quarterly Meeting's Ministry and Counsel is forming an ad hoc committee under their care, with a concern to the issues surrounding the Brooklyn Friends School, and is seeking Friends who feel led to participate in this committee. The announcement will be forwarded to the Morningside Meeting list.

The meeting ended at 1:50 p.m. with a period of silent worship.

Attendance: Bernard Winter, Sally Campbell, Charlene Ray, Carly Rogers, Charlotte Ehrmann, Robert Schwab, Scott Blumenthal, Ernestine Buscemi, Stephen McDonnell, Robert Renwick, Edward Elder, David Fletcher, Pamela Wood, Jason McGill, Jon Melhaus, Corona Machermer, Megan Maurer, Jerry Reisig, Nancy Britton, David Britton, Bryan Oettel, Ronald Rieder, Nathan Shroyer, June Tano, Kathy Stackhouse, Richard Schmidt, SY Bolland, Jane Alexandre

Clerk's Report

1. There are no reports this month from Meeting with Children, the Nominating Committee, the Hospitality Committee, or the Library Committee.
2. Upcoming on the meeting calendar in October:
 - Bible study on October 11th; NYQM on October 18th; the fall retreat (virtual) October

23rd–25th; and a meeting of the Racial Justice study group, date and time to be announced.

- Friends are reminded that the Racial Justice Study group, while ongoing, is open to all, and welcomes all. For information on this and all meeting activities, please email the meeting at morningsidequakermeeting@gmail.com

Treasurer's Report

Our Checking Account Balance as of 10/28/20 was:
\$41,999.50

We recorded \$745.00 in donations this month.

We had no Peace and Social Concerns commitments this month.

The Finance Committee with the Treasurer met at a TD Bank branch on Oct. 20th to get all of us signed onto the account. The bank needed all of us to be present at the same time; and with the COVID lockdown, this has been this difficult until now. This will ensure ongoing access to the account by all members of the committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Stephen McDonnell, Treasurer

Ministry and Counsel Committee

1. Ministry and Counseling continues meeting every other week on Tuesdays at 10AM. Our next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 10. All are welcome to bring a concern to M&C. Contact the Clerk of the Committee, and the item will be scheduled first thing on the agenda.
2. We continue to be immensely grateful for the support of our communications committee in its continued presence in our zoom meetings and assistance with its features.
3. The ad hoc committee on returning to in person worship continues to explore questions and concerns we have with Riverside church.
4. Moving with Spirit continues with on-line gatherings the first Sunday of the month. Anyone interested in attending should contact Jane Alexandre.
5. Bible Study is meeting on Zoom Nov. 14 at 1PM; contact Jerry Reisig if you would like to be added to the group.
6. We continue to reach out to Friends who might be feeling more isolated than usual and helping (when

possible) to connect them to Meeting for Worship or other resources if we can. We are also working on a process to reach out to people who have begun attending our on-line worship for the first time.

7. We held our Fall Retreat on-line. The technical issues were handled deftly by David Fletcher. Friends who attended found the experience deeply moving and spiritually enriching. There were many wonderful ideas that arose which M&C will continue to pursue as we seek to create our Beloved Community.
8. We have begun the process of forming more Spiritual Nurture groups. People who are interested in being part of a Spiritual Nurture group can send an email to that effect to morningsidequakermeeting@gmail.com.
9. Currently Ministry & Counsel has 9 clearness and support committees.

Respectfully submitted,
Ed Elder, Clerk

Peace & Social Concerns Committee Report

Peace & Social Concerns gathered virtually on Zoom on Sunday, October 11 at 12:45 pm, following Meeting for Worship

Attendance: Jane Alexandre; Pam Wood; Ernie Buscemi; Robert Renwick; June Tano; Charlene Ray; Sally Campbell; SY Bowland; Robert Schwab; Corona Machemer (Clerk)

NB: This list probably needs correcting. If you're on it, but were not at the meeting, let me know. If you were at the meeting but are not listed, please do likewise. (Email me at coronamach@aol.com)

The meeting opens with a few minutes of silent worship.

1. Robert Schwab brings to the committee a concern about coordination and communication among Morningsiders about social justice actions that may

be of interest to Friends but are not necessarily associated with Quakers. (He presents as an example a march in his neighborhood hosted by the North-west Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition calling for getting the New York Police Department out of the schools.) The committee agrees that sharing information about such actions and events has been haphazard at best since the death of Naomi Paz Greenberg, who used to keep us up to date on these matters, and who set up the Peace & Social Concerns Google Group to facilitate communication about them. Robert agrees to be co-clerk of Peace & Social Concerns for Social Action, to co-ordinate information sharing among Morningsiders about such issues and events, as well as our participation as we are led.

2. The mechanism for such communication is the Morningside Peace & Social Concerns Google

Group, MorningsideQuakers2@googlegroups.com. (The group had to be reconstituted in April 2019, following her death, because she was the sole manager--hence the "2".) You must be a member of the group (your email address must be listed) to post information through the group and to receive information. Instructions for joining and posting to the list are contained in the document "Communicating with Friends" that all Morningsiders received. To recap:

- a. To join, contact the meeting at morningsidequakermeeting@gmail.com and ask that your email be included on the list.

- b. To use the list, go to groups.google.com. Search Peace & Social Concerns. "MMM-PSC" will be listed. Click on this, and then on the red button "New Topic" and post your information.

3. The meeting ends with a few minutes of silence.
4. The next meeting of Peace & Social Concerns is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, November 8. It will almost certainly be virtual, via Zoom, following Meeting for Worship.

In Friendship,
Corona Macheimer, Clerk

Communications Committee Report

The Committee: Bryan Oettel, Scott Blumenthal, and Kathy Stackhouse met via Zoom on October 21, 2020

1. General: Derek McIver is stepping off the committee. We will work with Nominating Committee to identify new committee members. Someone with social media experience would be most welcome, but we look forward to input from any interested Friend who wants to bring their unique vision to the committee.
2. Meeting for worship: We have been focusing on maintaining a smooth Zoom experience and a fulfilling meeting for worship on line and are ready to aid the ad hoc committee on in-person worship when it resumes.

3. Social media: We encourage Friends to let the committee know about events of interest that can be posted on the Meeting's social media.
4. New website: our goal for the website is that it provide user-friendly features, stability, and no cost of hosting and maintenance. At this point we see the content focusing on Morningside Meeting, relying on links to larger Quaker organizations to provide general information about Quakerism. We are seeking seasoned Friends to advise on and help develop content for the website.

Respectfully submitted,
Bryan Oettel
acting as clerk

Morningside Meeting Site Statement

In order to increase the communal spirit of Morningside Meeting, the Communication Committee has focused on improved communication through email, a more vibrant social presence on Facebook, and better experience on the website. After reviewing your responses to our summer survey, it was clear that we needed to enhance both the Meeting's interaction with the website and its usability so that Friends make better use of it.

To that end, we've taken your input and used it to guide us toward the beginnings of a new website, which we're hoping to unveil in 2021. While change is always a bit unsettling, we're focused on building something that will be easier to use, be more stable, and provide you with more ways to present the information and content that Morningsiders need and want.

We have a few specific goals at the moment. We'd like to simplify the structure of the website, and focus its content more directly on Morningside Meeting and our community. The design should be simple and clear and reflect the character of Morningside as we recognize it.

The calendar should stay accurate and current. Committees members should be able to easily update and maintain their own announcements, documents, and calendar events on the website.

We intend to rely on widely used, well documented technologies. The website itself will be "static", meaning that there is no database or "backend" with which it must integrate. This allows us to host the site just about anywhere; at the moment, we are taking advantage of free hosting provided by [GitHub](https://github.com), a platform used extensively by software developers worldwide.

Most contributors to the Morningside website won't even have to interact with it directly to update content. We plan to use Google's suite of free, secure tools extensively. Google Calendar will feed the website's calendar; we will store documents (like minutes of meetings) on Google Drive; and a new Friend Finder could easily be maintained in and fed off of a Google Sheet. We believe that the cost (free), tool quality, fine-grained and proven security features, and accessibility to many our members

make Google a good choice. We welcome discussion, however, about the ramifications of relying on them or any other corporate entity in this way.

We'll look to present something a bit more concrete in December and ask for your help in creating a Morningside website that you will embrace and use.

The Communications Committee
Bryan Oettel
Kathy Stackhouse
Scott Blumenthal

Report to Morningside Meeting from the Ad Hoc Committee on In-Person Worship

1. The Ad Hoc Committee met on October 28, 2020. Members attending were Jane Alexandre, Sally Campbell, Megan Maurer, and Jason McGill; Katherine Alford was not present.
2. Also attending this meeting were several Friends who have agreed to serve on the permanent Committee for In-person Worship: Scott Blumenthal, Jon Melhaus, Robert Schwab, and Pamela Wood. Sally Campbell will join these Friends on the permanent committee; Megan Maurer and Jason McGill will serve as temporary members to support the committee through its establishment.
3. This committee composition was driven by the results of a survey of the Meeting. Of the 52 responses received, seven Friends indicated they would definitely return to in-person worship and most of those said they planned to attend as frequently as possible. Two of these seven were unavailable to join the committee. Another eight Friends said they would "likely" attend meeting once or twice a month. We thus anticipate roughly seven to fifteen will attend Meeting at Riverside on a weekly basis in the near-term.
4. The meeting opened with a period of worship.
5. We focused on transferring to the permanent Committee the work of preparing for Morningside's return to in-person worship.
6. We propose that November 22 be the first date for in-person worship at Riverside Church.
7. This change from the previously announced date of November 8 will give the Committee additional time to coordinate a number of steps with Riverside Church and the New York Quarterly Meeting. The primary steps include:
 - a. A planning and coordinating meeting with our liaison at Riverside and with the General Manager of the New York Quarterly Meeting
 - b. A walk-through of Riverside to review the physical space in light of COVID
 - c. Developing a reservation and tracking system for in-person attendance at Morningside.
 - d. Training for the Committee on setting up, using, and storing the equipment needed to join the virtual Meeting for Worship
8. With the establishment of the permanent Committee, we propose that the ad hoc Committee be laid down.
9. The permanent Committee for In-person Worship will report to the Morningside Meeting for Business beginning in December 2020.
10. The meeting concluded with a period of worship.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jason McGill, Clerk

America the Beautiful

with New Verses by Jesse Padilovsky and John Morrisi

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=liydluD0PyM&feature=youtu.be>

submitted by Sally Campbell



O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain
For purple mountain's majesty above thy fruited plain.
America, America! God shed much grace on thee
So spread the love sent from above from sea to shining sea.

O beautiful thy immigrants who hail from every land
Their hope and heart and diligence like gifts from God's own hand
America, America! thy grace shall yet remain
To greet the poor who reach thy shore with open arms again.

O beautiful, O Mother Earth, all nestle at your breast
Just as we sing with love and pride, so all nations are blessed
America, America! alone cannot abide
God give thee pause to mend thy flaws with Truth thy only guide.

O beautiful thy working folk built cities, tilled thy soil
Proud Africans in bloody chains the wealth built from their toil
America, America! God shed much grace on thee
So spread the love sent from above from sea to shining sea
Ring Sisterhood! Ring Brotherhood! from sea to shining sea