

March 2020

Dear Friends,

The world has changed radically over the past few weeks. Although in-person gatherings have been cancelled, the desire to gather and worship together remains strong. Many meetings are holding worship online. In addition, New York Yearly Meeting will be holding [a meeting for worship via Zoom on Sunday morning](#) for those Friends who aren't connected to a local meeting. Details below.

NYYM staff have created a [COVID-19 resource page](#) on nyym.org that you may find helpful. Resources are sorted under the headings Worship, Leadership, Digital Communication, Pastoral Care, and Equity and Justice Concerns. Information on holding an online meeting is in Digital Communication, and there's a couple of online gatherings for families in the Worship section that parents shouldn't miss.

For the next issue of *Spark*, I'm changing the theme (formerly about regional meetings) to the following two topics:

1. Reactions to and reflections on COVID-19, social distancing, and worshipping online, including news and ideas from meetings
2. Quaker-related thoughts that AREN'T related to COVID-19 in ANY WAY, because we all need a break from thinking about it sometimes

You can choose which topic best fits your mental health and self-care needs. Please do write and send articles to me **by April 6**.

Throughout this crisis, Friends will continue to be tender with each other, which is a great comfort. I'm grateful to be part of this community. We can make it through this.

—Sarah Way, NYYM Communications Director

PS: We post frequent news and resources on the NYYM [Facebook page](#), [Twitter feed](#), and [Instagram account](#).

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Sunday Online Worship

For people without a local meeting with online worship, NYYM is holding general worship on Sunday morning at 10am. Feel free to join anytime after 9:50 to make sure your connection works. The meeting will be lightly programmed, with a bit of introduction and something to help participants begin centering. If you have never used Zoom before, please read [this helpful introduction](#).

We don't know how many people to expect. If more than 25 people participate, the facilitator may assign people to smaller "breakout rooms."

To join by computer: <https://zoom.us/j/247368373>

To join by phone: (646) 558-8656, Meeting ID: 247 368 373

Local Meetings Worshipping Online: At least a dozen meetings in NYYM are trying online worship this Sunday, and several meetings have set up their own Zoom accounts. NYYM will be increasing our Zoom capacity in order to serve more local meetings. Details will be sent out via email next week.

News & Announcements



DAILY online worship at Pendle Hill

Every day at 8:30-9:10 a.m. ET.

Join the Pendle Hill residents and other Friends in a circle of worship from your home. Click the link above for information on joining this Zoom meeting.

Plainfield Meeting Open House Postponed

The open house to celebrate Plainfield Meeting's new and revitalized community wing has been postponed from April to a date to be determined in the fall.

Report from FWCC Sustainability Online Conference



On February 22, Friends World Committee on Consultation (FWCC) hosted the first worldwide [online conference](#) on sustainability, asking Friends, ‘How does God call us to act?’ During the conference, a group of Elders were listening to the spoken ministry. After the conference they wrote [a reflective statement](#). This cannot be an epistle for the conference, because those gathered did not have the chance to approve it. However, it can act as a sense of where Friends are today, and it can help prepare Friends for the next FWCC World Plenary in 2023.



FGC's Spiritual Deepening Library

Craft your own spiritual journey with Friends General Conference (FGC)'s web-based [Spiritual Deepening Library](#)! Learn about Quaker faith and practice online, at your own pace! Our FREE online activity and resource library, which contains over **150 activities** under six topic areas, is ideal for Friends and seekers who want to begin a new daily spiritual practice, or for small groups at your meeting or church.

Contribute an article to FGC's Vital Friends

Friends General Conference (FGC) invites you to contribute to their monthly e-newsletter, Vital Friends. In addition to articles related to the theme, they are most interested in receiving submissions about strategies for welcoming newcomers, announcements and epistles from Meetings, articles about Friends and Quaker meetings putting their faith into action, and reflections about participating in FGC-organized and sponsored events. Submissions can be sent to FGC Communications Manager [Marta Rusek](#).
[Upcoming topics:](#)

May 2020 – Addressing Tough Topics Among Friends

Send Date: Friday, May 1st, 2020

Submissions Due: Tuesday, April 21st, 2020

June/July 2020 – Quakers and Technology

Send Date: Friday, June 5th, 2020

Submissions Due: Tuesday, May 19th, 2020

Upcoming Events



SUMMER SESSIONS 2020: NYYM'S 325TH YEAR

NYYM Summer Sessions 2020 – Our 325th Year!

As of right now, [registration](#) for Summer Sessions is OPEN, and planning for Sessions is proceeding. Refunds will be issued if that becomes appropriate.

[Summer Sessions](#), the annual week-long gathering of NYYM Friends, is scheduled for **July 19-25, 2020**, at the Silver Bay YMCA Conference and Family Retreat Center. 2020 is NYYM's 325th anniversary! The theme for the year is **Embracing our Past, Envisioning our Future**. And to make Summer Sessions more accessible to everyone, payment will once again be Pay as Led. Registration is open now! Please register by June 15.

Upcoming Programs for Young Adults

[Marissa Badgley](#), Interim Young Adult Field Secretary, has added some new online events to the existing schedule. Although these are designed for young adults, everyone is welcome to participate!

For all of these events, [join via Zoom](#) at the event's start time.

Virtual Meeting for Worship

Date: March 21, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. EDT

Homily delivered by Cai Quirk.

Game Night

Date: March 26, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. EDT

Story & Poetry Slam

Date: April 2, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. EDT

Karaoke

Date: April 9, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. EDT

Virtual Q&A w/ Traveling Ministers

Date: April 15, 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. EDT


[Join via Zoom.](#) [Join the guest list.](#)

VIRTUAL YAF SCHEDULE
MARCH 17-APRIL 15
All events are open to Friends of all ages from anywhere and will be held on Zoom!

VIRTUAL WORSHIP (MESSAGE BY CAI)
March 21, 10:00-11:00am EST

GAME NIGHT
March 26, 7:00-8:30pm EST

STORY & POETRY SLAM
April 2, 7:00-8:30pm EST

 **KARAOKE**
April 9, 7:00-8:30pm EST

Q&A W/ TRAVELING MINISTERS
April 15, 7:30-9:00pm EST

ONLINE WEBINAR:

Decentering Whiteness & Building Multiracial Community

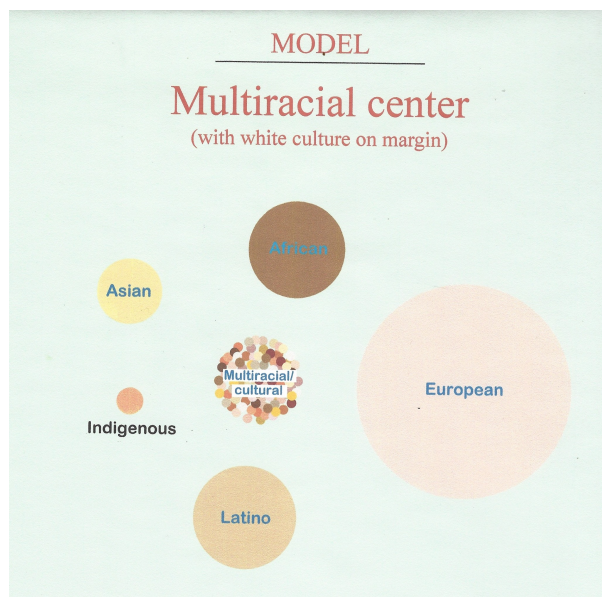
3 parts: Wednesdays, April 15, 22, and 29, at 7-9 p.m. ET
Free Zoom tutorial before Part 1

Part of the [Center for the Study of White American Culture](#) Online Learning Series

In a 6-hour live, interactive webinar offered in three 2-hour sessions, this workshop will give you some basic knowledge about:

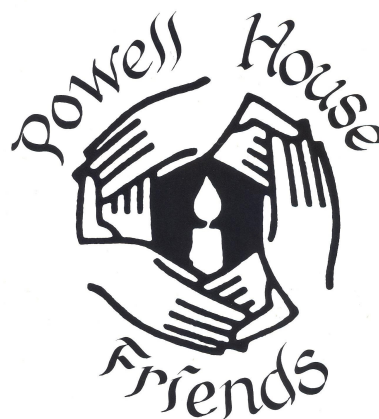
- current models and approaches
- decentering whiteness, as a goal
- building multiracial community, as a goal
- why these two goals go hand in hand

[Registration](#) is open now.



Powell House

Powell House is the conference and retreat center for New York Yearly Meeting.



Please check Powell House's [CORONA-19 response page](#) for updates.

The following events have been **rescheduled**:

June 19-21: Pie for Parents (was March 13-15)

June 19-21: Pi Day for 4-5th graders (was March 13-15)

These events have been **cancelled**:

March 20-22: Opening to the Heart of Worship

March 20-22: Hello! How are you? for 6-8th graders

March 27-29: Creating in the Light: Creativity & Spirituality



FGC Gathering 2020: Way Will Open

June 28th - July 4th, 2020 | Radford University in Radford, VA

2020 FGC Gathering

The 2020 Friends General Conference (FGC) Gathering of Friends from all over the country is scheduled to be held in Radford, Virginia, June 28-July 4, 2020. FGC is monitoring what's happening with COVID-19 and are [posting updates](#) as new information develops. As of now, early registration is set to open on **April 1**. You can sign up to receive email updates [here](#).

Farmington-Scipio Spring Gathering

will now be

FREE! VIRTUAL & SMALL GROUP!

May 15-17th, 2020

Loving One Another and the Earth: Living into the Future as Friends

Something new! Yes, Spring Gathering is still happening May 15-17, but not as we expected. In Friends' tradition of experimentation, testimony and continued revelation, this year we will experiment in living more lightly on

the earth and caring for one another during times of suffering by holding Spring Gathering virtually and in small groups, rather than as one large group at Watson Homestead.

Friends are invited to consider creative ways of participating in Spring Gathering, from being part of an online plenary panel, sharing your talents virtually, [presenting an online workshop or interest group](#), offering an online Bible study or children's message during worship, or something we haven't thought of yet!

Please keep May 15-17th on your calendar and look for registration materials soon! Please contact the Spring Gathering planning committee via [Lu Harper](#) or [Suzanne Blackburn](#) to share your thoughts and suggestions.

Opportunities

Resident Caretaker

Rockland Friends Meeting

Rockland Friends Meeting (Quaker) in Blauvelt, NY (NW suburb of NYC) is seeking a resident caretaker. The rent—\$900 including utilities and wifi—is low for the NYC metro area, with just a few responsibilities. The apartment consists of two rooms: a bedroom and a sitting room that includes cabinets and your own full-sized refrigerator. The updated kitchen is shared with the meeting, as are the two bathrooms. You will probably want to have a car. Besides Sunday morning worship, other organizations hold meetings in the meetinghouse several times a week.

We are looking for a mature, responsible individual or couple who wants to live simply and be a welcoming presence. References, resume, and interview required. Could this be a possibility for you?

Contact one of the following:

[Alice Coulombe](#) (845-893-1709), [Peter Wade](#), or [Sylke Jackson](#)

Update March 2020: We anticipate this position will still be available when coronavirus danger is past, but you may get in touch with us anytime.

Director of Human Resources and Inclusion

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting seeks an experienced Director of Human

Resources and Inclusion who will serve as the point person for personnel administration on the senior staff team. This position also facilitates an environment where the staff mutually create a welcoming workspace that embraces and supports multicultural and inclusive community.

Audience Development Specialist

Friends Publishing Corporation

Friends Publishing Corporation's mission is to communicate Quaker experience in order to connect and deepen spiritual lives. Our products include *Friends Journal*, the leading Quaker periodical; QuakerSpeak, the groundbreaking YouTube channel exploring Quaker beliefs and ministries; and the web properties FriendsJournal.org, QuakerSpeak.com, and Quaker.org. We're seeking an Audience Development Specialist to help us grow our audience revenues alongside our audience itself.

FWCC General Secretary Position

Friends World Committee for Consultation

(FWCC) - World Office (London)

Are you ready to provide both spiritual and administrative leadership to this small and thriving international Quaker organization? Friends from any country in the world are invited to bring your vision for the future of Friends together with your technological and cultural competencies. This is an exciting and rare opening for members of the Religious Society of Friends to travel widely among Friends and on the ecumenical world stage.



Staff Calendar

Staff are refraining from travel for the foreseeable future.

UPCOMING NYYM SESSIONS

2020

NYYM Spring Sessions, April 3-5 — Cancelled

Scheduled to occur:

NYYM Summer Sessions, July 19-25 (at Silver Bay YMCA)

NYYM Fall Sessions, November 6-8 (Host: Shrewsbury & Plainfield; Location: TBA)

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15 Rutherford Place, New York, NY 10003

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