

Worship Sharing — Summer Sessions 2016

This year, Worship Sharing at NYYM Summer Sessions will be arranged in a different way than in the past. Please find below the list of Worship Sharing Groups (WSG) and their locations. Monday morning, simply go to the location of your chosen WSG and join the others in your group. Choose your facilitator(s), who will be responsible for keeping track of the time and perhaps reminding folks of the attached suggestions for successful worship sharing (with text borrowed from Baltimore Yearly Meeting!).

WORSHIP SHARING QUERIES FOR

Nurturing the Blessed Community at Every Age

Please consider using these queries as you worship and share with those in your WSG.

1. What do you like best about being in community?
2. What feels most important to you about our NYYM community?
3. What do you do in your daily life to cheerfully respond to that of God in people of all ages?

NOTES

Parents / Adults with Young Children. A suggestion has been made that the Parents / Adults with Young Children might want to split into two groups, one for parents of young children and one for parents of teens/tweens. I suggest you meet as one group on Monday and decide if splitting up would be helpful to the group. You have the Paine Hall Rotunda and porch at your disposal should you decide to meet as two groups.

General Worship Sharing Groups. Since there is a large number of people in the General WSG, I will likely assign suites! Look for that list on the bulletin board on the Inn Porch.

General WSG folks – PLEASE enter the suites from the south end of Bayview and NOT via the north end, which will take you thru the lounge and disrupt the JYM group meeting there. Please be thoughtful and walk around the outside of the building or have the golf cart drop you off at the far end of the building. Thank you.

Young Adult Friends WSG is in the Gray Pavilion (over by the gym) each morning, and that space is reserved for YAF for the afternoon R&R times also, in case worship sharing or worship continues.

Quiet Worship. New this year, we are dedicating two spaces on campus to Quiet Worship—one of the tents on the auditorium lawn and Bayview Suite 3. At any time throughout the day, outside of Worship Sharing Group times, if you feel the need to worship and reflect in a quiet space, please come to the tent or suite and settle.

WSG Registration List. Finally, a list of all registrants and their chosen Worship Sharing Groups will be on the bulletin board just in case you've forgotten what you signed up for!

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Worship Sharing Guidelines—next page

Worship Sharing Group Locations

Aging Concerns (Gullen Lounge, back)

Adults & Parents with Children (Paine Hall Rotunda and Paine Hall porch if they decide to split up)

Caregivers (Inn 2nd floor landing)

Earthcare (Hepbron Lounge)

General (Bayview Suites 1, 2, and 3)

LGBT (Heritage Hall Conference Room)

Men's (Library)

Racial Healing (Trinity Lounge)

Unprogrammed (Chapel)

Women's (Auditorium)

Young Adult Friends (Gray Pavilion, morning and afternoon)

Afternoon Yoga (Tent by Collins Equipment, bring your mat!)

Afternoon Unprogrammed (Chapel)

Worship Sharing in the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Worship sharing is a form of worship that helps us listen to each other in a deeply spiritual, loving, and prayerful way. It draws us into a safe, sacred space in which we can speak openly from our hearts and explore our own experience. It helps us encounter each other in “that which is eternal.” Worship sharing is very much like meeting for worship except that the participants are often asked to respond to a query or set of queries on a theme and it is best done in small groups.

It is helpful to review the following guidelines before each worship sharing.

- Begin with centering silence and reach as deeply as you can into the sacred center of your life.
- Listen carefully and deeply to what is spoken, not distracted by your own thoughts.
- Do not respond to what anyone else has said, either to praise or to refute.
- Leave a period of silence between speakers to savor what has been shared and keep centered.
- Expect to speak only once, until everyone has had a chance to speak.
- Speak from your own experience. Concentrate on feelings and changes rather than on thoughts or theories. Use “I statements.”
- Be mindful of the time so as to not take more than your share of it. You may have many responses to the queries; pick just one or two to share.
- Use as few words as possible but as many as are necessary.
- You always have the option to pass.
- Respect confidentiality, whatever is said in the group stays within the group.

Some groups go around the circle in turn; some feel this makes it easier for everyone to speak. In other groups, people speak out of the silence, as they are ready.