

COMMUNITY FRIENDS MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS  
CINCINNATI, OHIO  
MEMBER OF OHIO VALLEY YEARLY MEETING

# COMMUNITY COMPANION

APRIL 2021

## A RITUAL CELEBRATION OF DARKNESS AND LIGHT

Darkness covered the land;  
a pestilence of deceit and  
cruelty.  
Malignant malice menaced  
the bodies of our people,  
grasping us, shaking us like  
a blackened sea of vultures  
exposing the emptiness of  
our value-free venal  
hedonism, laying bare the  
bleached bones scattered  
helplessly from sea  
to sea as in the ancient  
vision of Ezechiel from his  
all-seeing chariot in the sky.

As a people we are  
prokaryotes, no center,  
no nucleus, no core image  
of what we might become,  
mindless pleasure-pain  
machines numbly reacting  
to the Pavlovian nightmare  
that would reduce our

passions,  
weaken our alertness, mini-  
mize our understanding,  
make us sick of ourselves  
and our neighbors,  
lay waste our hopes and our  
loves. Defy our spirit.

But something happened.  
A Quadrennial ritual broke  
out in song and words  
reminding us who we have  
been and who we may  
become.

We were thrown into histo-  
ry, ancient and modern,  
reminding us of the con-  
stant struggle to remain  
a democratic republic,  
while noise aiming to  
destroy  
our hopes was defeated in  
songs of grace by Garth and



J-Lo

Grace itself was showered  
upon us by Amanda  
Gorman's glistening yellow  
coat, blazing red headband,  
resplendent black face, and  
shimmering words of strug-  
gle and hope to move us out  
of our gloom and into the  
middle of our story, a story  
we dare not forget to live  
out in its full glory.

A poem, by  
Tim Leonard

## CONSIDERING MEMBERSHIP IN THE MEETING?

If you are an active attender  
who is nourished by your  
involvement in the Meeting  
and who feels spiritually  
attuned with Friends' basic  
beliefs and practices, you  
are encouraged to apply for  
meeting membership. Be-  
coming a member is an out-  
ward expression of an in-  
ward experience of the liv-

ing God and of unity with  
other members of the meet-  
ing, and includes additional  
responsibilities of faithful  
living and engagement in  
the life of the meeting.

A request for membership  
should be sent to **Lisa  
Cayard**, clerk of Ministry  
and Counsel (M&C). A

clearness committee will  
then meet with you to dis-  
cern if membership is in  
good order, and if so, it is  
brought to the monthly  
meeting for approval.  
Members of M&C welcome  
inquiries if you are consid-  
ering this next step in the  
Quaker way!

-Lisa Cayard

## QUERIES FOR FOURTH MONTH:

*What spiritual disciplines  
enliven my spirit?*

*How does our meeting  
facilitate spiritual  
growth?*

-OVYM Faith and Practice

## Children's Queries for April:

- 1) *How do we care for  
those around us?*
- 2) *Can we show respect  
to all people even  
when we don't agree  
with them?*
- 3) *When we disagree  
with someone, what  
can we do about it?  
How can we end ar-  
guments quickly, in a  
spirit of respect? Do  
we try not to stay  
angry?*
- 4) *Do we keep our prom-  
ises? Are we fair with  
others?*

-Pittsburgh  
Friends Meeting



-organic farming

## THE CANNON FUND

Community Friends Meeting was the recipient of a gift from an attender in the 1970's, **Josephine Cannon**, which led to the establishment of a special fund for use by the Meeting. The trustees of Friends Garden that belonged to member **Beulah Arndt**—the organic farm gifted to the Meeting and the sale of which was the source of initial income for the Cannon Fund—led the

Meeting in developing guidelines for use of the income from the fund. The 3 categories for disbursement are:

- 1) **Peace and Social Concerns**—dedicated to social action projects in the larger community outside the Meeting;
- 2) **Spiritual Growth, Ministry and Sufferance**—dedicated to strengthening the spiritual life

within the Meeting community;

- 3) **Discretionary**—For either of the purposes above when those funds are depleted or for some other worthy purpose not foreseen

In 2021, the current trustees report there is \$7,907 available in each of the 3 categories. Friends are encouraged to text Rich House to request a grant **513-226-5591**.

## SANCTUARY REPORT

In February, 2017, an ad hoc committee with a concern for the welfare of immigrants was formed at Community Friends Meeting (CFM). Under this concern, members began attending meetings of the new **Cincinnati Sanctuary Congregation Coalition**, initiated by the Amos Project. At the March, 2017 meeting for business, CFM approved becoming a Sanctu-

ary Support Congregation for them, allocating \$500 and volunteers to help set up the new sanctuary housing at Clifton United Methodist Church. When our Congolese immigrant family arrived in Cincinnati in October 2019, CFM stepped up with volunteer and financial support for the family on a rotating basis. CFM's next week to provide help and \$200 to

the Congolese family is **April 11-17, 2021**.

In May, 2019, CFM also became a supporter congregation for the **Immigrant Dignity Coalition**, convened by IJPC, which shares news and resources between groups throughout our region.

-Mary Anne Curtiss for Peace & Social Concerns



## DATES AND TIMES

**Mar 17** Monthly worship sharing—10:30 am via Zoom, email Paul at bucklpa@earlham.edu

**Mar 21** "Remembering Old Friends (past members of CFM), 11:45 via Zoom, Sunny and Jim Rhein

**Mar 26 & 27** "Weaving a Wider Welcome", OVYM Retreat, registr. info soon

**Mar 28** Spiritual Journey, 11:45 via Zoom, Paulette Meier

**Apr 4** Meeting potluck and small group chats—11:30 via Zoom, Comm. Com.

**Apr 5** Quaker Book Group, 10:30 am via Zoom, email Paul to join bucklpa@earlham.edu

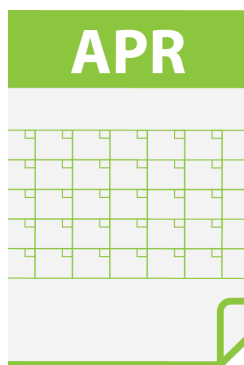
**Apr 8** Tender Mercies,

text David (513) 317-8201

**Apr 11** Business Meeting 11:45 on Zoom. All invited

**Apr 18** Regeneration: Reweaving the Unraveling Web of Life, Unity w/ Nat. Com., 11:45 via Zoom

**Apr 25** Video: Walk in the Light, A History of the Waynesville Quaker Historical District, 11:45 via Zoom



## FRIENDS GENERAL CONFERENCE AND GATHERING

“Friends General Conference (FGC), with Divine guidance, nurtures the spiritual vitality of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) by providing programs and services for Friends, meetings, and seekers.” (Minute of Purpose)

One of those programs is an annual gathering, usually held on a college campus in North America. **The**

**Gathering** is a week of Quaker worship, workshops, and community for all ages. Friends come together from across the US and Canada (and sometimes further) to deepen our connection to one another and the Spirit.

Over the years, many, many members of CFM have attended this week of “building the blessed community.” And some have

led workshops or offered other opportunities available to attendees.

This year, like last, will be a Zoom event. Early registration begins on **April 15 at 10:00**. Get ready now by going to the website to see the schedule and workshop offerings.

[https://  
www.fgcquaker.org/  
connect/gathering](https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering)



## RESURRECTION

“When Mary the Magdalene discovers Jesus’ own tomb empty in **John 20**, she runs to tell the disciples, ‘**They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him. 3 Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. 4 The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. 5 He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. 6 Then**

**Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, 7 and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself.**’

Jesus’ grave clothes are already off when his followers arrive at the tomb, and laid neatly. For both Jesus and Lazarus, the return to life means the stripping off of the old, bloody, stinking, stained burial wrapping and shroud. What clings to us as we

are renewed? What do we need to remove for our spiritual freedom? Normal, everyday people are transformed by the power of God and are then able to transform the world. Going half way doesn’t do it. It requires a full surrender.” -excerpt from **Bible Half Hour** at 2020 FGC Gathering, Day Four, “Resurrection” For full text go to [https://  
www.fgcquaker.org/sites/  
default/files/attachments/  
BibleHalfHoursDays1-4%20by%  
20Carl%20Magruder.pdf](https://www.fgcquaker.org/sites/default/files/attachments/BibleHalfHoursDays1-4%20by%20Carl%20Magruder.pdf)



CARL MAGRUDER

## EARTH DAY 2021

The Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) is a national, non-partisan, Quaker organization, founded in 1943, that lobbies Congress for peace, justice and environmental stewardship. Their advocacy flows out of the Quaker belief in the inherent dignity and worth of each person.

- *We seek a world free of war and the threat of war*
- *We seek a society with equity and justice for all*
- *We seek a community where every person’s potential may be fulfilled*
- ***We seek an earth restored***

Every year on April 22, Earth Day marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern US environmental movement in 1970. This year’s theme reflects that FCNL goal which Friends have been holding as a priority these many years. Please join Friends and others as we attend to this concern.



[https://  
www.earthday.org/  
earth-day-2021/](https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2021/)

"It has become commonplace for Friends today to talk about Quaker values, a term drawn from society at large to describe a secularized version of religious faith commitments. Values are projected ideals or goals which are rationally determined, whereas Quaker testimonies are derived from religious faith and experience fashioned out of a life of prayer, devotion and worship, joined with which seems more appropriate to Friends to espouse than an emphasis on values as a basis for Quaker faith and practice."

*-Wilmer A. Cooper, 1991, PHP  
#296*

"Simplicity is not about being simple-minded, but being single-minded; not about doing without, but about doing."

*-Christine H. Snyder, 1991,  
FGC Gathering, Boone, NC*

*Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we are currently meeting remotely on Sunday mornings at 10:00 for unprogrammed worship, lasting about an hour, followed by announcements and conversation. A second hour program may follow. Please see contact info below on how to join us.*

*As weather permits, outdoor meeting for worship is held at 4pm Sundays on the meetinghouse lawn, 3960 Winding Way, 45229. We follow safe distancing practices, and wear masks. Join us if you are able to comply with this guidance, and please bring a chair.*

**Donations** to the Meeting may be mailed to the meetinghouse, or: Community Friends Treasurer, 4 Rowley Court, Cincinnati, OH 45246

**Deadline** for submissions to the newsletter is the 15th of the month. Send to: [peggy.spohr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:peggy.spohr@sbcglobal.net)

For further information about Community Friends Meeting, please leave a message at **(513) 861-4353** or visit our website at **[www.communityfriendsmeeting.org](http://www.communityfriendsmeeting.org)**

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the Religious Society of Friends  
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