

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

# COMMUNITY COMPANION

DECEMBER 2020

## BEING IN TOUCH

As we continue to wade through the uncertain waters of the Covid-19 pandemic, it is good to be in touch with one another in whatever ways we can. Our Zoom worship on Sunday has filled a potential vacuum for spiritual nurture and support, and Sunday afternoon outdoor worship has energized those who flow with the elements to be together at those times. On-line potluck, second hour topics, and a virtual meeting renewal have allowed a shared and enriching experience so important to a vital community.

Our Meeting email list keeps us posted on news alerts or information we need for an upcoming activity, and our Facebook page and webpage allow us to invite newcomers and those in the wider community to catch a glimpse of what we are about these days.

For other less urgent sharing, and for written communication to those without electronic access or who prefer an unplugged lifestyle, we have the Meeting newsletter. This can be sent via our email list or the US mail.

Our newsletter has a new



-Peggy

editor, and a new look to finish out the year. Your contributions are welcome, and your privacy will be honored at the level you prefer. I hope the format is appealing to you, and that you will recognize it as one of the many ways to be in touch with the Meeting and with one another.

## QUERIES FOR TWELFTH MONTH:

*Where have I experienced the Divine Mystery in my life? How do we keep the Divine Spirit at the center of the life of our meeting?*

-OVYM Faith and Practice

## SECOND HOURS

Join us for religious education and other offerings via Zoom, usually at 11:45 on Sundays following meeting for worship. The schedule for the remainder of the year follows. ARE welcomes suggestions for 2021.

**Nov 22** Meaning of Membership, by Ministry and Counsel

**Nov 29** Gratitude, by Tim Leonard

**Dec 6** On-line Potluck, Community Committee

**Dec 13** Monthly Meeting for Business

**Dec 20** Virtual Variety Christmas Program—details on how to participate are forthcoming

**Dec 27** No second hour scheduled

## COFFEE AND COCOA TO GO



Mary Anne Curtiss has been ordering, paying for shipping, and stocking the Meeting's display of fair trade coffee, cocoa, and tea for several years now, a project first started by Deborah Jordan in 2006. The effort is a part of the AFSC Coffee Project, which supports democratic farmer cooperatives in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. In addition, for each case of product purchased through the project, Equal Exchange makes a contribution to

AFSC's Latin America Action Program.

Also, Community Friends Meeting benefits by earning a portion of the profits from our purchases - about 16.7% of the purchase price. Since the meetinghouse is not being used right now, sales of these products is down. Friends are encouraged to consider renewing their habit of purchasing from the Meeting and follow these **simple steps** :

Call John or Elizabeth at 861-

4353 and tell him what you want. We have unsweetened baking cocoa or cocoa mix (\$6), ground and whole bean coffees (Midnight Sun, Decaf, and Breakfast Blend)(\$8.), and English Breakfast tea (\$3). They put the items on the Meetinghouse front porch for your pick-up. The buyer mails the payment to Mary Anne at 3608 Duluth Ave. 45220; checks made out to her with what you bought in the memo line. Easy? **Thanks** to all involved in this worthy cause.

## SCHOOL DAYS FOR OUR CHILDREN



-Oliver

The pandemic has turned the school year into a new adventure, for both children and parents. We want our families to know we are thinking of you and holding you in loving concern during this time. Here are updates on a few of our young loved ones:

**Elana** is in 10th grade, goes to school 2 days in-person with 1/2 students at Clark

Montessori

**Cecelia** is in 12th grade, all on-line. She is already accepted to one college (Western Michigan), and is also looking at UC and UofM

**Derion** (happy birthday!) is in 5th grade now, all on-line

**Little Bill** is doing remote kindergarten with 16 students in his class

**Baby Bill** is 4 yrs. old and is in a Headstart program remotely.

**Mira** is in 2nd grade, now all remote, and plays violin

**Lena** is in 1st grade, remote, and is learning piano

**Oliver** is in remote kindergarten, and likes math and learning to read.

## RACIAL JUSTICE

In July, Community Friends endorsed the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting minute on racism, which states in part: *We urge all to actively protect Black people from attack and arrest, and to work to dismantle systemic racism in all its forms. We stand together in love, calling for equality for all.* At the November OVYM Executive Committee Meeting, the practice of "noticing" was

discussed as a potential way of identifying patterns of oppression and faithfulness in our meetings. Friends are asked to consider this, and are referred to a *Friends Journal* article in the April, 2020 issue on the topic.

Also, monthly meetings are encouraged to send updates on related meeting efforts to the OVYM *Quill* editor to share with YM members.

Some titles and links recommended for Friends include:

*Transcendent Kingdom* by Yaa Gyasi; *How to Be an Anti-Racist* by Ibram X. Kendi; *Fit for Freedom, Not Friendship* by Donna McDaniel and Vanessa Juley; AFSC webinar at <https://www.afsc.org/resource/self-study-changing-systems-change-ourselves-course>.

Fit for  
Freedom,  
Not for  
Friendship

*Quakers, African Americans,  
and the Myth of Racial Justice*



by Donna McDaniel  
and Vanessa Juley

## FRIENDS NEAR AND FAR

**Cindi Goslee**, a former member, is now living in Louisville and attending Louisville Meeting. She and Chris Harmer live at: 221 Hillcrest Ave, Louisville, KY 40206. Phone is 513-325-0680

**Paulette Meier** has moved from her house to a condo and is adjusting to living with 280+ neighbors! Her new address is: 5300 Hamilton Ave., Unit 1508, Cincinnati, Ohio 45224

**Paul Buckley**, unable to travel among Australian Friends this month due to the Covid-19 pandemic, will lead a workshop for Silver Wattle Quaker Centre in Australia on Nov 28th via Zoom. [www.silverwattle.org.au](http://www.silverwattle.org.au)

**Christopher Morris** and wife **Jazmin** are doing well and have a new address: 2330 South Valley Dr. Space 19, Las Cruces, NM 88005

**Douglas Burks** has stepped

down as clerk of Community Friends, and is no longer newsletter editor or email list manager. Tim Leonard, assistant clerk, will serve as clerk of the meeting, Peggy Spohr as newsletter editor, and John Sniegocki as email list manager. We hold Doug in prayer during this transition.

**Jean Crocker-Lakness** continues in assisted living, more isolated with Covid restrictions. Prayers would be most welcome.



News of Friends

## REVISED FAITH AND PRACTICE

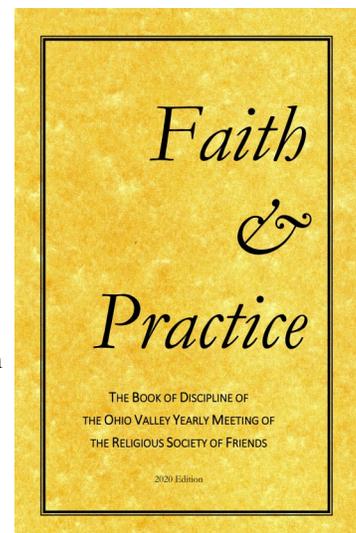
The revision of *Faith and Practice: Guide to Discipline for the Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting* is now completed. Our last edition was published in 1978, and the current review and revision began in the 1990's. Several members of Community Friends Meeting served on the Discipline Revision Committee, in-

cluding Lisa Cayard, Paul Buckley, and Byron Branson (now deceased). All monthly meetings shared in the effort with meeting input, review, and approval.

The new edition is available in both a hardback and paper format, and also appears on the OVYM web-

site in electronic form. Reading the *Faith and Practice* is an important part of Meeting membership, and Friends are encouraged to do so.

Please contact Deborah if you have questions about receiving a personal copy.



## SEASON OF THANKSGIVING

1 We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; And humbly confessing our faith we now sing. Our anthem ascending speaks gratitude unending; To thee, O Lord of Life, glad praises we bring.

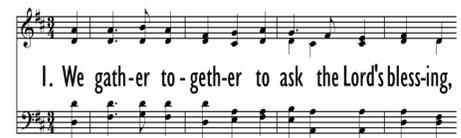
2 We worship thee, Spirit triumphant, we bless thee;

Through life's storm and tempest our Guide has thou been. When perils overtake us, a refuge thou wilt make us; That on the greater journey, Lord, we may begin.

3 With voices united our praises we offer, And gladly our song of

thanksgiving we raise; Let thy benediction confirm our conviction That love and light are thine; to thee ever be praise.

—# 52 *Worship in Song, A Friends Hymnal*



“One purpose of our gatherings for worship is to help us grow in our ability to worship at all times, with every word we speak and through every action, so that we come to recognize and honor the sacred nature of all of life.

*-Marcelle Martin, 2003 PHP 366*

“Christ’s major point throughout the Sermon on the Mount is to get rid of fears and anxieties. It might almost be said that the substance of his mission as a teacher was to set men free from the slavery of fears.”

*-Rufus Jones, 1942 PHP 127*

*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  
3960 Winding Way  
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