

# Community Companion

QUAKER MEETING HOUSE

3960 WINDING WAY, CINCINNATI OH 45229-1950

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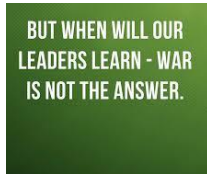
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## Queries for Second Month:

What does worship mean to me, and how do I worship?  
 How does our meeting worship as a community?

Barneym

War is not the answer  
 for no matter how you try  
 For every evil one you kill  
 One thousand innocents will die



# Spiritual Journey Second Hour

## Rachel Ernst Stahlhut

Rachel shared her spiritual journey on December 29, 2019. Raised Catholic, she spent her young adulthood searching for a faith community that would "speak to her condition" and honor justice, equality, and a direct experience of the Divine. When she found Community Friends Meeting in 2002, it felt like coming home. In the years since her first Quaker meeting for worship, Rachel has been grateful to find meaning, guidance, and community among Friends, as well as some professional opportunities. She has offered dozens of workshops across the U.S. through QuakerQuest, traveled to Kenya for the World Gathering of Friends, studied Christian spirituality at Earlham School of Religion, and worked for the past four years for Friends General Conference as the manager of the Spiritual Deepening Program. Her most recent spiritual challenge came in 2015 when she started raising a Quaker kiddo.

Rachel shared with us some of the vital truths she has learned along the way:

- Having a spiritual practice is vital
- Way will open when I wait and trust
- My life is a ministry
- My life is a spiritual practice
- God has planted a seed in my heart. Through deep listening I will find it.
- Community keeps me grounded and guided.
- Darkness is a gift just as much as the Light.
- Quaker practices are transformative and powerful.



# The Center for Development in Central America

Community Friends Meeting will be contributing \$75 again in 2020 to the Center for Development in Central America. This ongoing commitment was originally requested by Ken Bordwell. CDCA, as it's known, empowers communities in Nicaragua, the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere after Haiti, by listening to community needs, faithfully connecting with resources, and providing direct service using local and international staff, the latter mostly volunteer. They were greatly strained by the confusing 2019 civil uprising but survived when many other projects had to close.

Medical care: during its 20-year operation, the CDCA's clinic has provided medical care for 160,084 patients, including vision and dental care. The laboratory serves thousands yearly. Abortion is prohibited in Nicaragua with no exceptions, so the clinic's long-acting implantable birth control is especially crucial. Support groups, educational outreach to women and girls, lactation consultation, and mental health therapy are also still provided, though all too often the staff has to work with no pay, hoping the donations will come through next time.



*Volunteer Emir distributing New Mothers' bags*

Enfranchisement: being without a birth certificate in Nicaragua is like being without a Social Security card in the USA. The clinic administrator actively assists in fulfilling this community-identified need.

Agriculture: Coproexnic, their organic agriculture cooperative, is the only Nicaraguan business in which major funder Global Partnerships will invest in 2020, but credit terms are increasingly difficult. CDCA has expanded into organic sesame and the first harvest has already been shipped. CDCA also continues to grow organic coffee, and peanuts which are marketed through the Nuts to You and Once Again Nut Butter companies.



Paul, Steve, Mike visiting coffee growers

Clean water is flowing in 576 rural homes thanks to CDCA's coordination of engineering projects with generous USA donors.

Community Friends Meeting charity budget is partly meant to inform and inspire friends to support projects that have caught the attention of our members. For further information and how to donate to the Center for Development in Central America, please check [www.jhc-cdca.org](http://www.jhc-cdca.org) or write to Donita Miller, 420 Longhorn Dr. Rock Hill S.C. 29732.

Mary Anne Curtiss



## Announcement for Community Friends Meeting

### Friends General Conference: Spiritual Deepening E-retreats

Spiritual growth is linked to community, and a Spiritual Deepening eRetreat connects you with other curious seekers in an online exploration of Quaker thought, a deepening of your own spiritual practices, and the sharing of stories from your life and your personal journeys. Each eRetreat is facilitated by a deeply grounded Quaker.

Each week, there will be a new topic with videos, quotations, and activities, and you'll be able to engage at your own time and pace. You'll connect with other participants through private discussion boards and one optional video chat session. Participants are encouraged to explore a personal spiritual practice during the eRetreat. Learn more below!

#### 2020 eRetreat Schedule

[\*Becoming Patterns & Examples\*](#): February 16 - March 13, 2020

[\*Living into Wholeness\*](#): March 15 - April 10, 2020

[\*Aging & Living\*](#): April 19 - May 15, 2020

[\*Aging, Death, & Dying\*](#): September 13 - October 9, 2020

[\*Weaving a Wider Welcome\*](#): September 27 - October 23, 2020



[Understanding & Healing White Supremacy](#): October 25 - November 20, 2020

The first Spiritual Deepening eRetreat, Silence & Light, will begin on Sunday, January 19th, 2020. The Silence & Light eRetreat invites you to explore and practice the experience of Quaker worship and silent waiting, for an inward encounter with Inner Teacher who leads, guides, and transforms you every day.

There will be a new materials published each week with videos, quotations, and activities related to the theme, and you'll be able to engage at your own time and pace. Reserve your spot for the Silence & Light eRetreat now!

[Register now](#)

I'm looking forward to a year of learning and building community together online. If you like what you see in our eRetreat schedule, or you have a question about how to participate in an eRetreat, let me know!

For more information contact Rachel at <mailto:spiritualdeepening@fgcquaker.org>



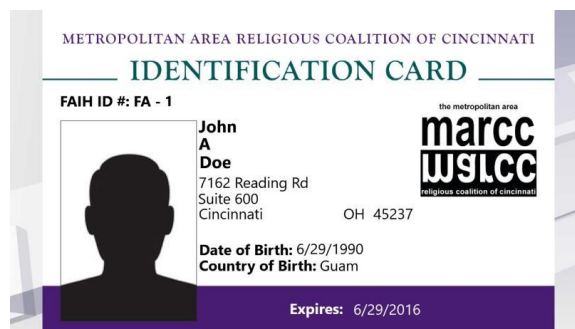
In the Spirit,  
Rachel Ernst Stahlhut  
Spiritual Deepening Program  
Coordinator

## Snapshots of Friends



## Community Friends Meeting Hosts MARCC I.D. Event

On January 25<sup>th</sup> Community Friends Meeting hosted close to one hundred people for a MARCC and Catholic Charities identification card sign up event. The MARCC ID Card is for any resident who may have limited access to government issued forms of identification including immigrants, returning citizens and homeless people. The card can't be used to vote. It's not a replacement for a driver's license or a state ID card. The cards contain four vital elements: A photograph, name, address, and date of birth. The card may be used as a as a valid from of identification for the purposes of using government services or interacting with law enforcement and other public safety agencies in both Cincinnati and Covington as well as several other townships and cities in Hamilton County.



During the registration event a presentation on personal rights of an individual during interactions with law enforcement and other government agencies was given. A police officer from the City of Cincinnati Police Department gave a 45 minute presentation. He described the type of interactions people are likely to have with police. He described their rights and how to protect their rights during a police interaction. He said that the only information they need to provide is name, address and date of birth. After that they need say nothing. He pointed out that all have a right to legal counsel. He also said that they have a right to an interpreter if English is not their first language and the police would provide one. They said that 911 also has the ability have interpreters. He encouraged participants to assert their rights that all people in the US have. He also passed out a card that people can give to police and other government officials that says English is not their first language and an interpreter is needed. Finally provided material and contact information if they needed help.



# Friends Committee

## ON NATIONAL LEGISLATION

### Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky Advocacy Group

Report on Visit to Ohio District 2 U.S. House of Representatives office on January 23, 2020. Tim Leonard, John Rapach and Doug Burks represented the Advocacy Group. The meeting lasted one hour and eight minutes.

Three members of the Lobbying team all residents of district 2 met with Alex Scharfetter aide to Representative Brad Wenstrup (R) to discuss his cosponsoring H.R.5543 the No War Against Iran Act. We also discussed repealing the AUMF. Doug began the meeting by presenting copies of the FCNL ask and a copy of the draft resolution to Alex. He discussed the U.S. Constitution and its clear statement that the Congress was the branch of government with the responsibility to declare and fund wars.

Tim Leonard talked about how his father came back from War World II and said that there was no good war and all wars were so destructive. He talked about over the years he has moved from seeing some wars as just to the view that there are no just wars. He talked about the Friends Peace Testimony and how it calls each individual to find what peace means.

In our discussion we talked about how the U.S. has been in a state of continual war and the high price both our soldiers and citizens have paid. We focused on PTSD and how it ripples through families and communities.

We have met with Brad Wenstrup and Alex several times. Brad is in the military and is pro-military. We were surprised when Alex said he wanted to convey to us that Brad does support the repeal of the AUMF. That has not been part of his stance in the past. Doug Burks asked Alex what we could do to support Representative Wenstrup in this. Alex said that we could help in building bipartisan support. He said it is time to restore trust in congress and to build the ability to work together. Tim asked where Brad works in a bipartisan way and he said much of his work has been in health care area and with the doctors' caucus and the health care caucus. All in attendance felt this the most positive response we have had from this office. Representative Wenstrup is still a strong supporter of military spending and preparedness.

Since we meet so often with the office, we brought up a social justice issue at the end. We discussed the federal government's role in affordable and fair housing. We planted a seed. Since we meet so often with the office, we brought up a social justice issue at the end. We discussed the federal government's role in affordable and fair housing. We planted a seed.

Over-all it was a good visit. As always, we felt that we were listened to and we had a good exchange of ideas. We did not agree on all things.

It is doubtful that Brad Wenstrup will co-sponsor H.R. 4453. We were pleased that there was an indication that there is support for the move to move on AUMF repeal as a whole.

Respectfully submitted,





## Community Friends Calendar

Sunday, February 2

10:00am

[Worship](#)

11:30am

[Potluck lunch](#)

Monday, February 3

Book Discussion: Holy Silence

[10:30 AM](#)

Sunday, February 9

10:00am

[Worship](#)

11:30am

[Business Meeting](#)

Sunday, February 16

10:00am

[Worship](#)

Miami Quarterly Meeting Of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

Sunday February 16

[10:45 AM -- Miami Monthly Meeting, 169 South 4th Street, Waynesville, OH 45068.](#) Adult Education.

Membership: Acceptance, Shared Values, Transformation, Obedience - Joining the Spiritual Quest. A discussion based on Pendle Hill Pamphlet 371: Members One of Another by Thomas Gates

Thomas Gates teaches us his view of membership using 4 stages. It is easiest to learn about this by thinking we move from one stage on to the next, each one going deeper. The pamphlet cover shows a series of concentric circles where we move from the infinite variety of our spiritual conditions toward the universality of one similar destination: oneness with God. The artist shows the boundaries between one stage and the next as being somewhat blurry or a little undefined. Real spiritual seeking could be jumping back and forth between various stages instead of a straightforward journey. Or, we may even work on 2, 3 or 4 stages all at once. "What interests me now is the underlying spiritual movement by which individuals come to find their identity in the meeting community, how they come to a full sense of belonging; in short how we come to be "members one of another." It is clear that this is almost always a gradual process and not a single event. As Patricia Loring has written, we need a vision of membership as "a life-long process...of spiritual maturing or transformation."

Sunday, February 23

10:00am

[Worship](#)

Sunday, February 23

11:45 AM

[Second Hour:](#) This will be an opportunity to reflect on the experience of the gathered meeting. We will explore together how we can better prepare ourselves to have such experiences of entering into a union with each other and with the Divine as we step together into the renewing stream of the Spirit.





Community Friends Meeting

## Meeting for Business First Month 12, 2020

"I object to violence because when it appears to do good, the good is only temporary; the evil it does is permanent." Mahatma Gandhi

Present: Doug, Lisa, Mary Anne s, Eira, Wilhelmina, Evie, Don, Paul, David, Lynn, Eric, Frank, Sue, Andrew, Jennifer, Eugene, Tim Leonard, and John.

1. Opening worship: The meeting opened with centering worship.
2. Clerk's Report: Doug brought up a concern around the Statistician's role to count the number of people attending meeting each week for reporting average meeting attendance to the Yearly Meeting. There have been questions about whether there should be a checklist of who is attending. Friends agreed that the Statistician only needs to count the number of people in attendance each week, rather than taking attendance. Doug also brought up the need to create an email account for the meeting, and to determine who will check the meeting's email and have access to the password. The Web Clerk is in the process of developing this account.
3. Ministry and Counsel Committee: Lisa reported that Ministry and Counsel met on December 28 and worked on a memorial minute for Alvin Jose in preparation for presentation at business meeting. The committee followed up on plans for spiritual support of the meeting that came out of their November retreat, including plans for a second hour on Faithfulness Groups on Jan. 26, developing queries about the meaning and quality of worship to be read at the rise of meeting, holding space for silent worship to begin promptly at 10:00, and a plans for a second hour on the Gathered Meeting Feb. 23. Pastoral care needs were discussed, and committee members were scheduled to be available on the stairs after worship. The report was accepted.
4. Memorial Minute for Alvin Jose: (attached) Ministry and Counsel presented a memorial minute to honor the life of Alvin Jose, a member of our meeting who died on November 9, 2019. After some additions, and with a few additional dates still to be added regarding his marriages and divorces, Friends approved the minute.
5. Stewardship: David reported that there were generous donations in November and December 2019, giving us a surplus above our target of 6% bank balance-to-budget ratio. Lynn will deposit \$3,814 into the Building Reserve Fund according to our longstanding end of year policy. The Parnassus Report for the Meeting Reserve Fund is not yet available, but it was not expected to be a key deciding factor for our 2020 budget. The committee reviewed the Second Draft of a proposed 2020 Budget created by the treasurer, in preparation for presenting to business meeting for approval. There were a few glitches in the Treasurer's Report. Rather than taking time every month to detect and correct these glitches at Business Meeting, the committee agreed that we should hire a professional to create a smoother way of clearly reporting the data that comes from our accounting software in a format appropriate for Business Meeting. They will talk to professionals they know to determine what this would cost. The report was accepted.

6. 2020 Budget: Stewardship committee presented the revised 2020 Budget for approval (attached.) After some discussion about the current status of Ohio Living Quaker Heights, it was agreed to drop our meeting's contribution to this organization. Stewardship committee was asked to consider whether we want to support another retirement community such as Friends Fellowship in Richmond. Library Committee needs more than \$100, so this line item will be increased to \$200. There were questions about whether the AMOS project is still active, and it was decided that this contribution will also be dropped. Friends approved the 2020 Budget with these changes. Following this, there was discussion about the challenges we are facing with ongoing costs for maintaining the meetinghouse. Stewardship and House and Grounds committees will be asked to consider these challenges and gather information about possible options.

7. Web Clerk's Report: Eira reported that she has been in conversation with the Outreach Committee about changes planned for the Community Friends Meeting website in order to improve external-facing details. This is especially important for visitors, who often check our website before visiting us in person. Future reports will concern "internal" content that one has to be logged in to view. The homepage introductory text will be revised to begin with a note to visitors, and then will use the text from the flyer that the Outreach Committee prepared last year for the Festival of Faiths. A photo of Friends in outdoor worship will be added to the home page, along with clarification of what "Second Hour" means. Information will also be added about wheelchair accessibility and programming for children. Currently, the "contact us" button is inactive. Eira would like to create a generic email address that would automatically forward to the clerk. She also suggested that the meeting should develop a job description for the Web Clerk. She will be working on updates to other parts of the website in consultation with other committees. Eira offered to provide a Second Hour to help Friends learn how to navigate the web site. Friends approved having the website email contact directed to the Presiding Clerk. The report was accepted with gratitude.

8. Friends approved a minute of great appreciation to our Web Clerk Eira for this much-needed work on our website!

9. Library Committee: John reported that among the recently received resources in the library is a new Pendle Hill pamphlet, "On Vocal Ministry: Nurturing the Community through Listening and Faithfulness," by Barry Crossno and J. Brent Bill. The report was accepted.

10. Outreach Committee: John reported that Outreach Committee met on December 8th. The main topic of discussion was the Meeting website. For details, see the report submitted by the web clerk. The Meeting is again co-sponsoring an ad (with Cincinnati Friends Meeting and Eastern Hills Friends Meeting) in the program for the Martin Luther King Day event at Music Hall. The report was accepted.

11. Religious Development Committee: Lisa reported that the committee met on January 5, and discussed scheduling of child care and first day school teachers. Mary Anne Curtiss has generously agreed to teach for January and February, with Lynn and Lisa filling in as needed. The committee learned that the OVYM youth services committee is experiencing a breakdown of communication with the Youth Secretary, among other difficulties. Two teens from our meeting will be attending the Quake that Rocked the Midwest later in January. Ideas were discussed for increasing outreach to young families and young adults. We plan to develop a brochure for visitors about the meeting's programming for children, including child care and First Day School. The report was accepted.
12. Community Committee: No report
13. Adult Religious Education Committee: No report
14. Unity with Nature Committee: There will be a movie "Paris to Pittsburgh" on Friday evening
15. House and Grounds Committee: The new refrigerator is installed in the kitchen.
16. Peace and Social Concerns Committee: No report
17. Treasurer's Report: (See attached report) Due to very generous contributions in November and December, we ended the year in the black. Contributions and parent bodies are paid up. An extra \$50 was paid to MARRC. The report was accepted with gratitude.
18. Statistician's Report: The report is in process and will be completed by the due date.
19. FCNL: Mary Anne reported that legislative priorities are being selected. Please contact her or Doug if you have recommendations.
20. Tender Mercies: Going well, support is appreciated. Report accepted.
21. MARCC Delegates Council: Doug Burks reported that January 25 we will be hosting the ID drive at our meetinghouse. Report accepted.
22. The Something Green Inreach Group will be sponsoring a Zoom world-wide conference on the environment with FWCC on February 22.
23. Miami Quarterly Meeting: Will be held February 16 in Waynesville.
24. Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting: No report
25. Friends General Conference:
26. Announcements: Mary Anne Curtiss announced that Friends will be visiting Carmel Presbyterian Church next Sunday for Martin Luther King Day.
27. Approval of Minutes: The minutes were approved
28. Closing: The meeting closed with silent worship.

## Meeting Officers

**Presiding Clerk: Doug Burks**

**Assistant Clerk: Mary Anne Curtiss**

**Recording Clerk: Lisa Cayard**

**Assist. Recording Clerk: Deborah Jordan**

**Treasurer: Lynn Funk**

**Web Clerk: Eira Tansey**

**Archivist: John Sniegocki**

**Directory Editor: David Funck**

**Statistician: Eugene Marquis**

**Assistant Statistician: Paul Buckley**

# How does God call us to act: An Online Conference with Friends Worldwide

*“Be on guard. Stand firm in the faith. Be courageous. Be strong.” 1 Corinthians 16:13*

## WHAT

An online conference on sustainability with Friends around the world to gather, consult, and understand where we are as a Quaker family which shares this urgent concern.

As Friends, we recognize the need to respond to sustainability. Since 2007, FWCC has been working on a global response to climate change, culminating in the 2012 Kabarak Call for Peace and Eco-Justice, and in the 2016 Pisac Sustainability Minute. These have led FWCC to explore the work Quakers are doing on sustainability across the world.

## WHY

This online conference will create space to hear from one another around the world on matters relating to sustainability and to understand how we are being called to act. Specifically, this conference will allow us to gather the Quaker voice to move forward on sustainability concerns. How do we feel called to act? How does our radical faith speak to us?

## AIM OF THE ONLINE CONFERENCE

- To galvanize and gather the Quaker voice on sustainability.
- To share progress, ideas, and learning since the Pisac minute in 2016. Where are Quakers now?
- To explore how God calls us to this.

## THE DETAILS

**On Saturday, February 22, 2020, there will be an online conference from 11am to 2pm. Community Friends are invited to join this conference by a Zoom connection at the meetinghouse. Please let Sue Brungs (suert@icloud.com) know if you plan to attend.**

It will start with 45 minutes of videos from 5 speakers. The speakers will come from each of the four FWCC sections and represent diversity of Quaker traditions, ages, and gender in order to represent the fullness of who we are across the world. After we hear from the speakers, there will be two hours for worship sharing.

The purpose of the worship sharing will be to listen to how we are responding to God’s call to care for creation. How are we co-creators with God and each other? Volunteers will gather what they believe is the sense of the meeting which will be shared as a statement the following week. This will help guide FWCC as we move toward the World Plenary Meeting in 2023 in Southern Africa Yearly Meeting.

# Publication Information

The Community Companion is a monthly publication of Community Friends Meeting of Cincinnati, Ohio. Materials for the publication are due by the Wednesday of the last week of the Month. Materials received after that date will be published in two months if appropriate. Announcements, events, articles about CFM members, committees and concerns of Friends are invited and welcomed. The Community Companion is not possible without your submissions.

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Tim Leonard