First Friends Meeting
December 31, 2017

Gather and Center

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements Sheila Hoyer

Joys and Concerns

Silence for Centering Prayer

Listen and Respond

Hymn 198 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

Young Friends Message Beth Joyce

Advent Song *Come Now, O Prince of Peace* Hymn 157

Offertory Invitation and Prayer Sheila Hoyer

Offertory

Scripture Reading Luke 2:22-40 Sheila Hoyer

Hymn 205 *Away in a Manger*

Message "Everyone Needs a Simeon and an Anna" Don Durham

Waiting Worship After the Manner of Friends

If led to speak, please stand and wait for a host to bring a microphone.
Please allow for a few minutes of silence between messages.

Go Forth in Spirit

Benediction Don Durham

Sung Response Hymn 188 (refrain)

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Please close Meeting for Worship by shaking hands with your neighbors.

Joining Don on the facing bench is Sheila Hoyer.

Sheila is Pastor of Education and Outreach at First Friends Meeting.

We wish to thank Jean Christy for sharing her musical talents during today's Worship Service.

First Friends warmly welcomes visitors.
Please complete the visitor card and place it in the offering plate.
We invite you to contact pastoral staff with any questions.
Please help yourself to Quaker literature in the foyer.

Activity packets are available for children as well as a fully staffed nursery.

Hearing devices are also available.
Please see a morning host for assistance.

Gentle Reminder: Please silence all electronic devices.

Scripture: Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"*Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel*."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed--and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ***The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.***

JOYS AND THANKSGIVINGS

Thanks to all who participated and came out to celebrate First Friend's Christmas Eve Candlelight Service last Sunday.

IN THE LIGHT

Hattie, Beth Joyce's mom is recovering in the hospital and will move into assisted living when she is released.

Laurel Hayes, Helen Hoffman's mother has experienced a decline in her condition. She has been placed in the next level of care out-of-state. Also continue to hold Helen, Helen's brother, Michael Hayes, and her family in the light. They appreciate your prayers during this time.

Family of Mary Acquisto. Mary, a longtime dear friend and patient of Martha Eakes passed away. Please continue to hold Mary's family and Martha in the light.

Brad McHargue. We continue to hold Brad in our prayers.

PRAYERS FOR ONGOING HEALTH CONCERNS

Fred and Jean Small. Jim Wilkinson. Ray Hurley. Norman Rider. Helen Hoffman's mother, mother-in-law and husband. Dawn Davis's mother. Heidi McLaughlin's son Christopher. Janis Hammett's cousin, Alan Cochran. Beth Joyce's mother Hattie. Edith Shepherd's friend Jan. Mary Elizabeth Barwick and Patrick Tillman's mother Marian, their nephew Harrison Tillman. and their cousin.Traci Cossman's Aunt Polly and Uncle Bob. Maryann Phillips Eisenbrand. Dawn Carter. Akil Ramsey.

CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

This Advent, we will be learning one of the new hymns in our hymnal, Come Now, O Prince of Peace. Geon-yong Lee wrote the music and words in 1988 while attending a workshop in Geneva with the World Council of Churches. Mr. Lee was born in 1947 in Pyongannam-do, in what is now North Korea. His father was a minister. Following the Korean War, the family moved to what is now South Korea in 1953, where Mr. Lee grew up in Seoul.

Korea was divided into two countries in 1953 at the end of the Korean War. Though fighting has ceased, the region remains tense. Mr. Lee is among the many Anglicans actively working toward reunification of the Korean Peninsula.

Each stanza of this hymn is a petition requesting the "Prince of Peace" to "come" to us and to "reconcile" us to "all people" and "all nations." It is a timely and appropriate prayer for our world today, and so we join our voices with our brothers and sisters in Korea who long for and pray for peace.

End-of-year-giving! Thanks to all of you for your faithful giving in 2017. Your gifts make the ministry of First Friends possible. As always, we will happily receive your donations in any form including stock gifts. In order to be recorded for 2017, we need to receive your donations by **December 31**. Questions? See Pam Reese.

First Friends office will be closed on Tuesday, January 2 in observance of the New Year's holiday.

Peace and Social Concerns will meet on Wednesday, **January 3** at 7:00pm in the Gathering Room.

Sunday Morning Hosts: There will be training for Sunday Morning Hosts on **January 7, 2018** at 10:00am in the Gathering Room.

The Adult Sunday Morning Gathering at 10:00am will resume discussions on **January 7** with an exploration of the question, "What is Your Role in Social Change?"

The United Society of Friends Women (USFW) will meet on **Monday, January 8** at 10:00am in the Gathering Room.

Daisy Newman will meet on Wednesday, January 10 at 6:15pm in Fellowship Hall. Please bring your favorite salad topping and a couple of items for the Food Pantry. If you are planning on attending, please RSVP so there will be the correct number of place settings. The hosts are: Beth Joyce (beth356@gmail.com) and Traci Cossman (tracicossman@gmail.com). The February Daisy Newman will not meet due to it falling on Valentine's Day.

Newsletter. In order to receive our weekly newsletter by email, please make sure the office has your correct email address. You can send it to: office@firstfriendsmeeting.org or ellen@firstfriendsmeeting.org.
Also please check your spam mail as it can sometimes be redirected. Thank you.

Transition and Search Committee: The next two planning meetings before the January 21 event will be: **Thursday, January 11, 2018** at 6:30pm and **January 18** at 6:30pm in the Library. The follow up meeting immediately after January 21 will be on **Thursday, January 25** at 6:30pm also in the Library.

"**A six week Bible Study, "Isaiah: Prophetic Roots of Justice in the 'Good News' of Jesus' Gospel**," will begin **Thursday, January 11, 2018** in the Meeting House at 11am and will meet weekly until February 15. Mark your calendars if you are interested in participating and email Don@firstfriendsmeeting.org if you are sure you plan to attend. Once we have a sense of how many folks will attend more information about the meeting room will follow. Beginning in February an evening session will be offered after the morning session has concluded."

First Friends Finance Committee will meet on **Monday, January 15** at 7:00pm in the Library.

House and Grounds will meet on **Tuesday, January 16** at 7:00pm in the Library.

The next **Working Group to Undo Racism** will meet on **Wednesday, January 17**, Room 208, 7-8:30 pm. Childcare will be available. Please invite your friends!

Monthly Meeting for Business will meet on **Sunday, January 21** at 12:00pm in Fellowship Hall. The January Interim Conversation will also take place at this time.

SAVE THE DATES! The remaining 4 most important conversations we will have in a decade!

Sunday, January 21, 2018
March 11, 2018
May 20, 2018
July 15, 2018

These are the dates of our 4 remaining interim conversations that will determine our future path. It is vital that the Transition & Search Committee hear from everyone at these events. All will take place at the rise of Meeting for Worship. Lunch and childcare will be provided.

The Financial Peace University class will meet for nine consecutive Mondays, beginning on **January 22**, from 6:30 - 8:00 pm at First Friends. Childcare will be available (donations appreciated). Participants may purchase materials and register at http://www.fpu.com/1053286. This class will be open to the public - if you know anyone who might be interested, please share this information. Contact Elizabeth Vance with any questions, evance878@gmail.com or 336-686-6847.

You are invited to start the new year by walking the First Friends' labyrinth on **Saturday evening, January 27, 2018 from 5:00-7:00 pm and/or Sunday morning, January 28, 2018 from 9:00-11:00 am** located in the Fellowship Hall**.** The path provides a space to reflect on past and future actions, confront fears, empower and transform. It enables us to center on the divine if we surrender with an open heart and mind.

Don't forget about the Webinar Training in Nonviolent Direct Action (NVDA) starting **January 15**. New Garden Friends Meeting is paying the fee for a group of any interested local Quakers to participate; if you would like information on where to go to participate with this local group, please let Margaret Rowlett know. Otherwise, you can sign up to participate on your own by going to: http://eileenflanagan.com/building-a-campaign/.

Mark your calendars for the 2018 FGC Gathering

Friends General Conference has announced the speakers for its 2018 Gathering in Toledo, OH, the week of July 1 to 7, and North Carolina's Reverend William Barber is among them! He will speak on Thursday, July 5. For more information on the Gathering and to sign up for updates, visit: https://www.fgcquaker.org/connect/gathering.

NOTES, DOODLES AND REFLECTIONS ...

COLORING PAGE

Simeon and Anna thank God.
Luke 2

First Friends is a Quaker Meeting
building healthy relationships
with God, one another, and all creation.

336-299-8869
www.friendlymeeting.org
office@firstfriendsmeeting.org

Office Hours:
Monday: Closed
Tuesday-Friday: 10:00am-3:00pm

Ministers: Everyone

Don Durham, Intentional Interim Pastor
Sheila Hoyer, Pastor of Education and Outreach
Monica Citty Hix, Minister of Music
Ellen Ramsey, Office Manager
Pam Reese, Treasurer
Cidney Holliday, Nursery Care
Adrian Quarles, Nursery Care
Bill Davis, Monthly Meeting Presiding Clerk
Beth Joyce, Clerk of Ministry and Counsel
Anita Lewis, Clerk of Personnel Committee

To email a Clerk or Staff: (first name)@firstfriendsmeeting.org
Don, Sheila, Bill, Beth, Monica, Jean, Ellen or Pam

Sunday Gatherings
Unprogrammed at 9:00 a.m. in the Gathering Room
Choir Practice at 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Gatherings at 10:00 a.m.
Semi-programmed at 11:00 a.m. in the Meetingroom

Childcare available in the Nursery
(Six years of age and younger)