

**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
Ana Huckins, Outreach and Education Intern
Sidney Michale Holliday, Nursery Care
Adrian Quarles, Nursery Care
Bill Davis, Monthly Meeting Presiding Clerk
Beth Joyce, Clerk of Ministry and Counsel
Margaret Rowlett, 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)*



*First Friends Meeting
December 23, 2018*

Gather and Center

Call to Worship

Advent Lullaby

Bell

Welcome and Announcements

Sheila Hoyer

Joys and Concerns

Silence for Centering Prayer

Listen and Respond

Carol 180

O Little Town of Bethlehem
(please stand as you are able)

Young Friends Message

Sheila Hoyer

Anthem

Jesus Child

Rutter

Scripture

Luke 1:39-55

Jean Christy

Congregational Song

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout
(verses: choir, refrain: all)

Refrain



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the
fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the
dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn.

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn? (Refrain)

Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me, and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be. Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)

COLORING PAGE



Mary's Song, Luke 1

Interactive Resource Center (IRC) Needs - Hello friends! This year the youth group has decided to collect items for the Interactive Resource Center (IRC) in downtown Greensboro. They are in need of wash cloths, blankets, coats, socks, hats, gloves, towels, laundry detergent and grab-and-go snacks for the IRC, a local charity. We will be collecting donations through December 24. There will be a boxes and baskets in the foyer for you to drop your items. Thanks for your help in taking care of people in our community who are experiencing homelessness.

Understanding the Labyrinth, Sunday, January 13, 10:00am. On January 19th and 20th, Unprogrammed Worship is once again bringing the **labyrinth walk** to First Friends. To prepare us to better understand the purpose and meaning of the labyrinth, Rev. Rebecca Husband Maynard will be here at 10:00am Sunday, January 13 during the adult forum hour. A friend of Monica, Don, and Ellen, Rebecca makes the labyrinth walk a primary mission to others for walking the sacred path.

The Labyrinth walk will take place **Saturday evening January 19, 2018 from 5-7pm and Sunday morning January 20 from 9-11am. Walk with soft Gregorian chants - 5:00 to 6:00pm Saturday; Walk in silence - 6:00 to 7:00pm Saturday. Walk with soft Gregorian chants - 9:00 to 10:00am Sunday; Walk in silence - 10:00 to 11:00am Sunday.**

The Gift that Gives Back! Our beautiful "In Honor" cards are the perfect gift that keeps on giving through the year! First Friends Food Pantry feeds approximately 60-75 families a month. During the holidays we give away 150 turkeys with the fixings for Thanksgiving dinner and 150 hams with the fixings for Christmas dinner. You can help feed a family by contributing \$25 per meal. You are welcome to donate any amount and take as many cards as you need. Cards will be in the office and available during office hours as well as in the foyer after Meeting for Worship on Sundays through Christmas.

From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone. Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne. The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn; there are tables spread; every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. (Refrain)

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds fast: God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp. This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound, till the spear the rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. (Refrain)

Offertory Invitation and Prayer

Jean Christy

Offertory

Away in a Manger

arr. Rouse

Carol 203

Away in a Manger
(please remain seated)

Message

"Mary's Verse"

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

Prepare the Way of the Lord
(sing three times)

Hymn 174

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

Joining Don on the facing bench is Jean Christy. Jean has been a member of the First Friends community for forty years. She is proud to have participated on several committees and clerked a few of them over those years. Jean is currently enjoying a return to the choir and working one Sunday a month in the office. It is her "pleasure" to serve this community.

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.

Cover art by Lauren Wright Pittman. © 2018 Office of Theology and Worship Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Lauren's reflection on this image - "As a white, straight, upper-middle-class woman, I can easily find images of the Divine with which I can identify. Every time I pick up my paint brush, I try to meditate on a face that pushes the edges of the narrow box in which I've placed God for a lot of my life. When I read through the Magnificat, I was overwhelmed with the gravity of this moment. Her reaction to finding out that she, a young virgin, would birth the Son of the Creator of the universe was to sing a song of overflowing praise affirming God's goodness and sovereignty. It seems as if the entire universe revolved on the axis of this moment. Her song carried me to the creation narrative where God's very words materialize water and sky and light and animals and people...everything we know to be and will ever know. As I read the Magnificat, I imagined that her tones of adoration, melody of acceptance, and rhythm of awe ushered in the heartbeat of Jesus within her womb. Mary's song became the score of a new creation narrative. In this piece, *Mary's Song*, I imagined all of creation embracing Mary in this moment as the creation narrative echoes in her womb."

Luke 1:39-55

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is the name. There is mercy for those who respect the Lord from generation to generation. With the strength with the arm; the Lord has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

The Lord has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; the hungry have been filled with good things, and the rich sent away empty. The Lord has helped the servant Israel, in remembrance of mercy, according to the promise made to our ancestors..."

IN THE LIGHT

We lift Mandi Odom, her husband, Kaz, and little Kai into the Light. They've discovered Kai has new compression on his brain. They have many appointments as they choose their next steps forward.

Sam and David Wyrick as Sam's mother, Esther Hart passed away in Pennsylvania.

Sally Moore as she was scheduled to have hip replacement surgery this past Friday.

We hold **Brad McHargue** in our prayers as he continues cancer treatments.

PRAYERS FOR ONGOING HEALTH CONCERNS

Fred and Jean Small. Jim Wilkinson. Ray Hurley. Norman Rider. Dawn Davis' mother. Heidi McLaughlin's son Christopher. Mary Elizabeth Barwick and Patrick Tillman's mother, Marian. Helen's Hoffman's mother, Laurel Hayes. Helen Hoffman's friend Christina. Katie Lebrato's friend Shelley. Jay McCracken and Diane Burn's granddaughter, Ruby. Akil Ramsey. Steve Hoffman. Norm Klos. Ann Burnett.

CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please join us today, Sunday, Dec, 23:

9:00am Unprogrammed Worship

9:45am Choir Rehearsal

10:00am A Christmas Play Encore will be today, December 23 at 10:00am, Fellowship Hall.

Did you miss it the first time? Merry Christmas! We are doing an encore performance!

Whose Stable Is It, Anyway? This year's play was written by Ben Plummer with Bill Davis.

All children are encouraged to come participate dressed in costume of anything that *might*

have been at the nativity. There will be hot chocolate and lots of love flowing in Fellowship

Hall as we celebrate the season with a good bit of wit. Since there is a play there are no

Small Gatherings this Sunday or next week. Next Sunday will be Fellowship Hour in place

of the 10:00am gatherings.

Nursery Care: Newborn through age 3. Cidney Michael Holliday and Adrian Quarles are our fun and loving childcare team in the nursery.

11:00am Meeting for Worship

First Friends Meeting, December 24, 2018, 5:30pm. Come join us for a time of Christmas Hymns, the Gilbert/Rowlett Quartet, and Readings and Lighting of the Candles this Monday evening at 5:30p.m. All are welcome to come celebrate the season of Light!

Tuesday, Dec. 25, Night Shelter, 6:30pm, Potter's House.

First Friends Office will be closed on Tues. Dec. 25 and Wed. Dec. 26 in observance of the Christmas Holiday. There will not be a Dec. 26 newsletter.

Need a car wash? Great gift or stocking stuffer? United Society of Friends Woman (USFW) still has a few \$20 gift cards from Auto Bell. They have been already pre-wrapped for Christmas. They may be purchased in the foyer at the Rise of Meeting on Sundays.

A note from the Stewardship Committee: There are Pledge Cards in the foyer for those who have misplaced the one mailed to your home, or for those who wish to increase the amount that you have already pledged! Thank you.

Pecans are still available! United Society of Friends Women (USFW) have pecans available. If you wish to purchase, see any USFW member or look for the sale in the foyer at the Rise of Meeting on Sundays. Pecans are \$10.00 per 1-pound bag.