

**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-Friday: 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Ministers: Everyone**

**Jaimie Mudd, Pastor of Congregational Ministries
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
Michale Holliday, Nursery Care
Will Spencer, Nursery Care
Bill Davis, Monthly Meeting Presiding Clerk
Cassandra Israel, Clerk of Ministry and Counsel
Margaret Rowlett, Clerk of Personnel Committee**

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

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
January 5, 2020***

9:00 a.m. Unprogrammed Meeting 11:00 a.m. Programmed Meeting

Gather and Center

Prelude *In the Bleak Midwinter* arr. Gibbs

Welcome and Announcements Jaimie Mudd

Joys and Concerns

Centering Silence

Listen and Respond

Hymn 236 *As With Gladness*
(please stand as you are able)

Young Friends Message Jennie Hunt

Anthem *Lead Me to the Light* Strommen
Laura Altizer, flute

Offertory Prayer Beth Joyce

Offertory *We Three Kings* arr. Larson

Reading The Magi, from Transparencies by Rubem Alves, 2010 Beth Joyce

Hymn 238 *From a Distant Home*
(please remain seated)

Message "Epiphany and the Magi" Jaimie Mudd

Queries: What burden would you like to release?
What have you noticed about the joyful Christ child within you?

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 Jamie Mudd

Sung Response

*O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

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

REFLECTIONS AND NOTES

Thursday, January 30:

Paul's Letter to the Romans as a Resource for Peacemaking

How does the letter to the Romans lend itself to peacemaking? Is it relevant to our lives in the 21st century? Join Dan Mudd on January 30 from 7:00-8:00 to explore these questions, as well as others that you may have. Information as to the location will be forthcoming.

House and Grounds Committee

Just a reminder that everyone requesting use of the First Friends Meeting facilities should fill out an **Application for Facilities Usage** form.

Friends United Meeting "Living Letters" Service-learning Trip to Palestine and Israel

Jane and Max Carter will lead the 2020 summer FUM "Living Letters" trip to Palestine and Israel, with special programming related to Max's 50th anniversary of first going to Palestine to teach at the Ramallah Friends School. Tentatively scheduled for June 10 - 30, the program will include voluntary service at the Friends School, visits to religious and historical sites throughout the region, worship with Ramallah Friends, frequent speakers representing the spectrum of belief in Israel and Palestine, and meals in the homes of local families.

Fiftieth anniversary programming will include discussions about developments over the past half-century with the Carters' long-time program partners. For information about costs, itinerary, and application, contact Max Carter at: mcarter@guilford.edu or call 336-292-7316.

Bringing the message today is Jaimie Mudd. Jaimie is Pastor of Congregational Ministries at First Friends Meeting.

Joining Jaimie on the facing bench is Beth Joyce. Beth is from Knoxville, TN, where she met her husband Ian Joyce in high school and became friends. They've been married for 32 years and share careers (both in marketing) and a love of travel and oversized dogs. Beth's free time is mostly spent on Quaker things; First Friends, Quaker Lake Camp and Friends Homes.

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.

Anthem - Lead Me to the Light Carl Strommen

Star, shine, star, mine, lead me to the Child.

Eastern star, God's good light, guide me through the night.

Star, shine, star, mine, show me where He lies.

To the manger we walk in peace under glowing skies.

Star-light, star, bright, star of Bethlehem,

Take me, guide me to our journey's end.

Star, shine, star, mine, guide me through the night.

I will honor the Prince of Peace.

Lead me to His light.

Reading: The Magi, from Transparencies by Rubem Alves, 2010

The kings, amidst their laughter, looked at each other and said: "Our search has come to an end. We have found joy. In order to find joy, one has to become a child again." And, immediately, they took off their crowns, their velvet coats, their money, their gold and jewels-those grown up things-and placed them on the ground beside the cows and mules. Those things were too heavy. And they departed light, sometimes jumping, sometimes flying, but always smiling.

We invite you to our Labyrinth Walk!

On the evening of Saturday, January 25 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm and again on the morning of Sunday, January 26 from 9:00 to 11:00am, our Early Morning Worship will host a contemplative Labyrinth Walk for First Friends Meeting and members of the public.

This is our third annual event offered as we begin a new year. We offer a sacred space for our community to contemplate our intentions for the year ahead. First Friends offers an opportunity to enter the new year with refreshed hearts and minds. Our Quaker meeting is committed to fostering personal prayer practices. The labyrinth has long been a prayer practice to listen to the still small voice within. Each one of us brings the fruit of this practice to our Meeting for Worship. When we come to Worship, we come for renewal and transformation, the labyrinth is simply another pathway and practice for deepening Worship.

Especially at this time of the year, when the days are short and dark, when the calendar starts anew, this is the time of year I find my deepest longing for a fresh start and brighter days. Walking the Labyrinth is simple. There is one path to the center of the Labyrinth and the same path returns. The path is narrow, and the turns are frequent. Following the narrow path occupies the conscious mind so the soul is free to speak. The symbols embedded within the labyrinth are as old as human religion, as is the hope for renewal and transformation.

This ancient practice comes from a time when Medieval Christians were expected to make at least one pilgrimage in their lifetime to the Holy Land. When travel to Jerusalem became too difficult, designated Pilgrimage Cathedrals across Europe offered an alternative destination. Chartres Cathedral was one such cathedral and the labyrinth we will use is based on the labyrinth at Chartres. This labyrinth was designed to provide the culminating experience for the pilgrim, a final walk within Mary's cathedral, deeper into the womb of creation to return to the world reborn and renewed. Coming to understand that we can experience God also as a sacred Mother is a gift all its own.

Join us in January to experience renewal through sacred walking. Wishing you hope, joy and renewal in this new year, and insight into the sacred path that is your life.

Jean Volrath

Sunday, January 26:

12:00pm, Clerk's Roundtable, Fellowship Hall

Financial Peace University

Spoiler alert: The Joneses are broke. That means keeping up with them will only get you into MORE debt! It's time to run fast and hard in the other direction, and Financial Peace University will show you how. Join me for my next class at **First Friends Meeting** starting **Tuesday, January 28, 2020.** Feel free to message me with any questions or sign up at fpu.com/1108115! Elizabeth Vance, evance878@gmail.com.

Wednesday, January 15:

1:00pm Ministry Team Meeting, Jaimie's office

2:00pm All Staff Meeting, Jaimie's office

3:00pm, Staff Flock Note class, First Friends Office

Friday, January 17:

February newsletter deadline

Monday, January 20:

First Friends Office will be closed in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Working Group to Undo Racism

In Case You Missed the Lunch and Learn: Readings on Richard Rothstein's book, *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America*

Local Restrictions and Zoning: After Reconstruction and throughout the Jim Crow South, many government policies to isolate white and black neighborhoods began at the local levels in all areas of our country. Cities adopted ordinances prohibiting black people from moving into neighborhoods where there were a majority of white residents – and vice versa. Local zoning ordinances often changed residential areas to commercial areas, particularly if African Americans had moved into neighborhoods. This change allowed environmentally unsafe industrial development (including toxic waste dumps), as well as taverns, liquor stores, nightclubs and other businesses that made these areas less desirable places to live. Banks and the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) then ruled these areas to be higher risks for property devaluation and refused mortgage loans.

First Friends United Society of Friends Women (USFW)

If you would still like to purchase pecan halves, please contact Este Rayle at (336)674-1674 or Jean Christy at (336)686-3907. Thank you.

Personnel Feedback Process

The Personnel Committee needs your assistance. On a regular basis, we meet with staff members individually to jointly set goals for their professional development and review how we can give them the support they need to be successful in their positions and have positive working relationships. We will be meeting next with Jaimie Mudd, Pastor of Congregational Ministries. We invite you to provide any information or comments you feel would be of assistance to the committee by contacting Margaret Rowlett, Clerk of the committee, or Bill Davis, Clerk of Monthly Meeting, by **January 24, 2020**. Our goal is to have the healthiest communications possible, so please include your name with your comments. Your feedback will be held in confidence.

Please remember to submit your Joys and thanksgivings, In the Light, and Prayers for Ongoing Health Concerns that you would like posted in the weekly bulletin and monthly newsletter to Jaimie (jaimie@firstfriendsmeeting.org) or Ellen (ellen@firstfriendsmeeting.org). Thank you.

Joy and Thanksgiving

Poinsettia Project

The youth of First Friends thank you for your support of our Poinsettia Project. Not only were the beautiful plants enjoyed by all, a profit of \$495.00 was added to the Youth Fund!

In the Light

Jacque Behrends requests prayers for a dear family member. Please hold them all in the light.

A Memorial service for Carol Whitley has been set for January 11, 2020 at 2:00pm in the Meeting Room. Please hold this dear family in the light during this time of loss and grieving. Ron would appreciate notes via mail at their home address: 405 Westdale Place, Greensboro, NC 27403.

Prayers for Robert and Nancy Dixon as they work through health issues.

Bob Plain and Colette Edwards are thankful for your support, prayers and thoughtfulness.

Prayers for Ongoing Health Concerns

Fred and Jean Small. Jim Wilkinson. Ray Hurley. Dawn Davis' mother. Heidi McLaughlin's son Christopher. Helen Hoffman's mother-in-law, June Hoffman, friends Christina and former next door neighbor, Crystal. Jay McCracken and Diane Burn's granddaughter, Ruby. Steve Hoffman. Norm Klos. Ann Burnett.

CALENDAR AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, January 5, 2020

9:00am Unprogrammed Worship

9:45am Choir practice

10:00am Group Gatherings: This week we will be having fellowship hour! We hope that you will all join us in Room 208 to drink coffee or tea and eat snacks while being in community with each other.

11:00am Meeting for Worship

12:00am Ministry and Counsel, Library

Monday, January 6:

5:30pm every Monday, Going Deeper, Gathering Room

Each Sunday we gather in worship to quiet our minds and open our hearts anticipating to hear a message from the Divine. Our 11 AM Meeting for Worship offers a setting in which those gathered express their praise, burdens, and statements of faith together through prayer, singing, and a prepared message. This portion of our worship includes a reading from Scripture or words from Spiritual leaders, a message and at times queries designed to give added attention to our worship. Our Faith calls us to carry the message into our daily lives and into our communities. We believe we are all called to Ministry. The message is central in equipping us for Ministry. "To equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up." Ephesians 4:12.

The times that we live in thrive on productivity and sound bites of all sorts. Can we afford to have our Worship and call to ministry fall prey to our fast-paced society? In order to grow individually, to form relationships with each other and to prepare ourselves to live out our faith as the body of Christ it would serve us well to go deeper into Sunday's message.

We will have a weekly early evening group meeting for 75 to 90 minutes in the Gathering Room. This is Going Deeper. This is an opportunity for members and attenders to continue to the process of translating the messages with each other, as a community and into our community.

Monday, January 6:

7:00pm, Working Group to Undo Racism Planning Group, Library

Tuesday, January 7:

7:00pm, Personnel Committee, Library

Wednesday, January 8:

6:15pm, Daisy Newman, Fellowship Hall

7:00pm, Peace and Social Concerns, Gathering Room

Thursday, January 9:

7:00pm, Stewardship Committee, Library

Saturday, January 11:

2:00pm, Memorial Service for Carol Whitley

First Friends Ministry and Counsel Dates: January 5, February 2, March 1, April 5, May 3, Library

First Friends Monthly Meeting for Business Dates: January 12, 2020, February 9, March 8, April 19, May 17, Fellowship Hall.

Updated Contact Information: Please make sure we have your current contact information for our mailing list and database (email, phone, address). You may call the office at 336-299-8869 or email: office@firstfriendsmeeting.org.

Sunday 10am Adult Small Group Gathering

Sunday, January 12:

Join us for a five-week forum with Wess Daniels as we explore his newest book, *Resisting Empire: The Book of Revelations*. We will gather Sunday morning at 10:00am in Room 208 beginning January 12. Gatherings for children and childcare are available. All are welcome.

"Revelation speaks to the reality that we are caught in the fray of cosmic conflict. We are guilty. We've already been contaminated. But it's not too late for us to exit empire and enter the kingdom. We are yet both victim and victimizer. We have healing work to do, and we must take responsibility for the ways in which we have benefited from and been complicit with the religion of empire. This is the truth of Revelation. God wants to liberate us in body, heart, soul, and mind. We need rescue, and the way we read Revelation determines how we define ourselves and our communities in relation to empire and in resistance to it."

Monday, January 13:

10:00am United Society of Friends Women, Gathering Room

5:30pm Going Deeper, Gathering Room

7:00pm Finance Committee, Library

Tuesday, January 14:

Bill Davis will offer "*Some Reflections on Clerking*" in the fellowship hall at First Friends on **January 14, from 6:30-8:30p.m.** Bill will share some of the thoughts and experiences he has gained while clerking at First Friends, and will try to answer any questions that you might have. This event is open for anyone at First Friends, whether you are currently clerking a committee or working group, interested in possibly clerking sometime later, or just interested in sharing some thoughts about Quaker business process. We would love to see you there.