



THE GUNPOWDER FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER, Web Version ELEVENTH MONTH 2023

Some information has been redacted. For the full newsletter contact gunpowderclerk@gmail.com

It's almost here!

Our Meeting wide retreat, led by Christopher Sammond will take place Friday, December 1st through Sunday day, December 3rd. (Snow date 12/8 to 12/10.) We are so excited for what promises to be a time of deep listening in that which is eternal and growing together in community sustained by fabulous food and plentiful opportunities for fellowship and sharing. On Friday evening we will begin with a delectable desert smorgasbord moving into an introduction of our retreat leader, Christopher Sammond and a brief opening gathering. On Saturday morning, our catered breakfast will provide physical sustenance and good fellowship after which Christopher will lead us into our first session of sharing together. We'll have a lengthy lunch break with time to hold and listen to what rose in our morning session as we prepare to move into our afternoon together. On Sunday day, after Meeting for worship, we'll share a meal before moving into our final session with Christopher. More details will be coming soon!

We anticipate that this time together with Christopher will open way to lift and enliven our beloved spiritual community and the love we share for Gunpowder Friends Meeting and for one another.

Christopher has shared a series of queries for each of us to engage with to help deepen our individual daily practice as a means to preparing us to deepen our Communities spiritual practice. There is no secret formula or timing to begin this work. Use them as led. We look forward to hearing your experience of using them.

Queries from Christopher Sammond:

1. What nurtures your spirit? This could be anything from a morning walk to writing a friend to devotional reading. Don't let expectations of what "should" nurture your spirit color your exploration of what actually does do so. What helps you to feel more alive? What helps you to feel more in your body? What helps you to feel more centered and grounded? What helps to open your heart? What brings you joy?
2. Seek to practice this activity at least 20 minutes a day for the days between now and when we meet. If you did not find the time to do this practice, notice, without any judgement, what took priority that day?
3. Notice your state of being or spiritual condition as you begin to settle into worship each Sunday. As the weeks of doing this practice go by, do you experience any changes?

We do hope that you will plan to be with us! It will be helpful for us to have an idea of how many friends will be able to be present. So, please let Greta Kirk Mickey (greta.mickey@gmail.com) or Rebecca Richards (rebeccarichards4912@gmail.com) know if you plan to be with us. If you don't expect to know until the last minute, that's fine. Please do come!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Clerk's Announcement:

If you would like an email or a notice to go out to members and attenders of the Meeting, please send your request to GunpowderClerk@gmail.com.

MONTHLY DRUM CIRCLE

Please feel free to join us this 1st Saturday, from 3:00-5:00 PM. No RSVP required, however if you'd like to borrow a drum (and there are plenty available, don't be shy!) please RSVP to Jennifer Robinson (jlerobinson@gmail.com).

We will drum indoors or outdoors depending upon weather. Masks are optional.

We extend an invitation to folks from the wider community that may like to join with us, too -- there is no need to be a Gunpowder attender. No experience required; all levels of drumming experience are welcomed. We drum for fun!

PEACE DOVE PROJECT

Jo Brown & Rebecca Richards will co-host an arts & crafts peace project on Sunday, November 5 immediately following Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. School-age children, youth & adults of Gunpowder Meeting are invited to bring scissors, pens, white glue, and construction-thickness paper; bonus points for recycled mailers & paper bags! Parents/ guardians will need to accompany their children. We expect to finish by 3 pm. Snacks available.

IN THE SPIRIT OF THE SEASON: Supporting the North County Food Bank

We are once again signed up to support the efforts of the North County Food Bank in delivering cheer for the holidays.

We will provide juice for Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets (25 bottle of juice each holiday). And we will again collect gifts for a small family who would otherwise have little under the tree.

THE JUICE – please start now to bring in bottled juice. Place in the bins in the Library ***OR*** you can donate cash for the purchase of juice.

THE GIFTS – once we have the wish list for the family, a sign-up sheet will be announced. Some items (gift cards and general items) you can purchase. Cash contributions will be collected for clothing gifts and a volunteer will shop.

THANKS FOR MAKING YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO SPREADING HOLIDAY JOY!!

~~~~~

### FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

**All Quaker committees are the arenas in which we may learn the practice of our faith.**  
Roy Stephenson in *Freeing the Spirit: Nominations in the Society of Friends in Theory and Practice*

Gunpowder's Nominating Committee has begun its work for the year. We will be inviting people from the Meeting to serve on committees, and we may be calling you.

### **Who serves on committees?**

All attenders and members are welcome to serve on a committee.

### **What do committees do?**

Committees do the work of the Meeting. They bring suggestions to Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business (AKA Meeting for Business) for consideration and decision. Meeting for Business happens monthly.

### **What are the different committees and what do they do?**

#### **Trustees**

Trustees are legally responsible to receive, hold, and protect real and personal property of the Meeting.

#### **Care and Oversight Committee**

Because we see each person as a minister, Friends collectively accept responsibility for the pastoral work that would be performed by a paid minister. This committee tracks and coordinates meeting the personal needs of members and regular attenders—needs for encouragement, counsel, and support.

#### **Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee informs and advises the Meeting regarding cash available for operations and information about account balances of cash and investments. It also prepares the annual budget and presents it to Meeting for Business.

#### **Ministry and Counsel Committee**

The Ministry and Counsel Committee cares for the spiritual health and refreshment of the Meeting. The Committee cares specifically for Meeting for Worship.

#### **Nominating Committee**

The Nominating Committee recommends people to serve on the various committees within the meeting community.

#### **Property Committee**

As stewards of our meetinghouse and grounds, this committee maintains the building and grounds for present use and preserves them for future generations, while respecting the historic legacy of the property.

#### **Officers of the Meeting:**

**Clerk** - The Clerk is responsible for the administration of our Meeting and is sensitive to the guidance of the Spirit in the conduct of our Meetings for Worship with a Concern for Business (AKA Meetings for Business). This includes preparation, leadership, and follow up of Meetings for Business. The Clerk handles correspondence to and from the Meeting.

**Assistant Clerk** – The Assistant Clerk substitutes when needed.

**Recording Clerk** – The Recording Clerk records the actions of Meeting for Business.

**Treasurer** – The treasurer maintains and tracks the Meeting's budget.

**Assistant Treasurer** – The Assistant Treasurer substitutes when needed.

**Recorder** – The recorder maintains the statistics of the members and attenders of the Meeting (e.g, number of members, new members, deaths, withdrawal of membership).

**Librarian** – The Librarian maintains the Meeting's library of books and other publications.

**Archivist** – The Archivist maintains the Meeting's archive of historic documents and records.

**Burial Ground Administrator** – The Burial Ground administrator oversees activity of the burial ground: burials, burial plot acquisitions, and maintenance of the burial ground (with the Property Committee).

### **Why serve on a committee?**

The benefits of committee work are twofold.

1. Committees do the work of the Meeting. It is where your skills, experience, and insights-- your gifts—meet the Meeting’s needs.
2. Committees offer the opportunity to experience Quaker process in action. It is where we grow close to one another as we work together for the good of the Meeting. As my husband Charlie Davis would say, “We don’t get together to do committee work; we do committee work so we can get together.”

### What should I do now?

Consider if you would like to serve on any of the committees or as an officer. If so—contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee:

Wendy Balder ([wbalder@comcast.net](mailto:wbalder@comcast.net))

Anna Brown ([goodwood28@hotmail.com](mailto:goodwood28@hotmail.com))

Linda Davis ([lm.davis@verizon.net](mailto:lm.davis@verizon.net))

Rebecca Richards ([rebecca.richards4912@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.richards4912@gmail.com))

Marilyn Rothstein ([marilynrothstein@comcast.net](mailto:marilynrothstein@comcast.net))

LouAnne Smith ([Louannesmith2@gmail.com](mailto:Louannesmith2@gmail.com))

If you receive a call from one of us inviting you to serve, please consider it.



### Thinking about Race – (November 2023)

From [Across That Bridge: A Vision for Change and Future of America](#) by John Lewis

John Lewis reminds us that Martin Luther King, Jr. emphasized the centrality of justice in bringing about social change and creating peace.

“Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream.” Amos 5:24

“War that is waged for power or dominion over other human beings obscures the inevitable truth that we are all members of one family, and no matter who has conquered whom, who now resents whom, who holds bitterness against whom, the only way we can have true peace is to set aside our injuries and our dedication to revenge and accept our equal divinity. Martin Luther King, Jr. said that peace is not the absence of tension, but the presence of justice; it is justice that brings peace, even in the midst of struggle.” (p. 165)

~~~~~

An easy way to make your regular financial contributions to Gunpowder!

We'd like to invite you to consider making your contributions to Gunpowder Friends Meeting using our time-tested electronic service "Vanco." Receiving donations via Vanco helps the Finance Committee and the Meeting Treasurer to predict the Meeting's cash flow and eases the work of our Treasurer in receiving your financial support. You can make a regular monthly donation in any amount—and every contribution helps us to meet our shared goal of financial sustainability. In the coming months, we'll discern together as a Meeting Community what this sustainability looks like now and into the future. But now, consider whether you're able to start using Vanco as a way to make your contributions. Enrolling is easy: ask our Treasurer, Joan Sexton, for a copy of the form and return it to her (noah331@hotmail.com).

Of course, if you prefer to contribute via periodic or annual checks made payable to Gunpowder Friends Meeting, that's fine too (just mail them to Gunpowder at P.O. Box 737, Sparks, MD 21152 or drop them in the donation box in the Meeting House). For more information about Vanco, contact the Finance Committee clerk Darren Lacey (dllacey88@gmail.com).