

# The New Garden Friend

Newsletter of New Garden Friends Meeting

May 5, 2021

## An invitation to join the Anti-racism working group for New Garden

You are invited to consider participating in the NGFM Anti-racism working group to guide the meeting in addressing systems of racism within our community.

But, you may think, we're Quakers, we have the Equality testimony.

New Garden has many nice white people, who don't see themselves as racist.

And you would be right in thinking that, as a faith community, we're not intentionally harming to Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC). As a community of mostly white people in an historically white faith community, we have some work to do about examining our practices that may be unintentionally harmful to BIPOC folks that we interact with and want to welcome.

And we've started that work, with our minute on becoming an Antiracist community, book studies, and first day programming with the 1619 Project. Forming an Antiracism working group is the next step in this process.

How long is this process?

It's important to understand that it's taken generations to get to where we stand in this present moment – hundreds of years. The work of becoming an Antiracist faith community will be generational work, and in this moment, we are creating the foundation for what we are to become. The purpose of the working group is to provide leadership in our community's effort to live into the Equality testimony

How do I know if I should participate in the Antiracism working group?

Being willing to guide the Antiracism work within our community is both personal and leadership work.

This is something that may take some discernment. Some queries to consider:

How has my spiritual journey brought me to the place or point of being interested in racial equity?

What resources do I have – such as time, energy, passion, openness – and what resources may I need to be able to commit to this work?

What support do I have for spiritual struggles or dilemmas that may arise? Can I ask for help with this if I need it?

If you have willingness to explore these queries and consider how racial equity/anti-racist action can be applied within our meeting, if you want to continue in your journey to live into the Equality testimony and put some effort into helping others in our community do this too, you may have a leading to participate in the working group.

Please contact the Presiding Clerk, Tim Lindeman of your interest in participation: (tlindeman@guilford.edu)

## Kudos for Friends Committee on National Legislation FCNL

Kudos for Friends Committee on National Legislation

The awards season has been often in the news, but you may have missed one event. You can hold off on the sparkling formal attire, although celebration is certainly warranted. Two weeks ago, it was announced that FCNL had won 11 DeRose-Hinkhouse Awards for its work in 2020, exceeding the six that it received in 2019. Through these awards, given annually since 1967, the Religion Communicators Council recognizes excellence in religious communications public relations.

Awards of Excellence (i.e. the best in their categories):

- Newsletter Series: Washington Newsletter
- Books (Non-fiction Adult): Quakers: A Quick Guide
- Radio (Single Work): Hunger and Poverty in America
- Audio Commercial or PSA (Single): Get Out the Vote (English and Spanish)
- Broadcast Script (Single Work): Racism and Policing in America
- Photography (Single photo in an article): Black Lives Matter (White House)
- Logos and Branding (Single Work): FCNL/FCNL Education Fund Brand Standards 2020 Awards of Merit
- Website (Organizational): fcnl.org
- Annual Reports (Single Work) Fierce Love: 2019-2020 Annual Report
- Webcast (Series): Thursdays With Friends
- Editorial (Single Work): "The Death Penalty is a Burden of Shame for the United States."

# Covid Medical Advisory Group

May 4, 2021

Given Governor Cooper's easing of restrictions in the state, effective yesterday, the COVID Medical Advisory Group has made the decision to recommend a gradual resumption of in-person activities. We caution that this does not mark an end to our concerns about the potential for transmission of the coronavirus during New Garden activities; however, we are recommending steps that will allow all New Gardeners to participate safely, according to their circumstances and preferences.

## **Programmed meeting for worship: Zoom and Facebook Live**

Programmed meeting for worship will continue as it has during the past year, from 11:00 am until noon on Zoom and Facebook Live, without in-person meeting. This will remain the safest option for those who are unvaccinated and for those who have unvaccinated or high-risk members in their households.

## **Unprogrammed meeting for worship in person outdoors**

We recommend that, beginning May 9, those Friends who wish to meet in person participate in unprogrammed meeting for worship from 9 to 9:45 a.m. outdoors, adjacent to the porch in the shade by the meeting room. Just as pre-COVID, this meeting will have no prepared message or music. Attendees should sit in family groups, socially distanced at least 6 feet from other households and masked, even if vaccinated. We ask that participants bring their own folding chairs if possible. There will be a few folding chairs available on the porch for those who need them. In case of rain, friends can gather on the porch by the meeting room to the extent that social distancing allows.

The middle meeting house door (leading into the passthrough from the foyer to the offices) will be open from 8:50 until 10:00 a.m. for use of the restrooms: only the restrooms by the fellowship hall (formerly labeled "Men" and "Women") will be in use, one family at a time. Otherwise, the building will remain closed. We ask that, after use of the restroom, Friends leave the building promptly by the same door. A volunteer stationed outside that door will let Friends know when both restrooms are occupied and ask that they wait outside, socially distanced and masked, until one is vacant.

## **Sunday morning Religious Education (RE) activities**

RE activities originally scheduled to begin at 9:45 am on Sundays will begin at 10 a.m. by Zoom until further notice. All other RE activities will remain as scheduled.

## **Next steps**

On May 16, at the end of programmed meeting for worship (by Zoom), representatives of the COVID Medical Advisory Group will be available on Zoom to discuss next steps. We hope to be able to announce the resumption of additional small group activities outdoors; however, if Guilford County experiences a resurgence of cases, we will recommend a return to virtual activities only.

## **Vaccination**

We continue to urge all New Gardeners 16 years and older to seek vaccination as soon as possible. The more New Gardeners who are vaccinated, the safer we will all be. Please see the newsletter for details about availability of vaccines in the community and other important COVID-related guidance.

**Please note:** A volunteer is needed to be available to open the designated Meeting House door and be available to direct folks who need the rest rooms to the rest rooms next to the fellowship room. If you can help with this, contact Jane Foy by email: at (foy.jane@gmail.com).

## **Quaker Survey Results and Next Steps**

Thank you to the participants in our NGFM Quaker Relations survey. We had just over 50 people share thoughts on how NGFM has been engaged with outside Quaker organizations and how those organizations have made an impact on NGFM. The top two most frequently referenced organizations were NCFE and PFYM/ PFF followed by FGC and AFSC. The respondents felt strongly that NGFM was a better community be our association with these organizations.

## **It's Scholarship Time Again**

Scholarship applications are available by email from the meeting office. Completed applications must be returned by May 31.

## Worship at New Garden

Sunday 11 a.m. Meeting for Worship livestream: Facebook Live: <http://www.facebook.com/NewGardenFriendsMeeting>  
Prepared messages are posted at: [www.ngfm.org/media](http://www.ngfm.org/media)

## Sunday, May 9

Reading: Mark 10:13-16  
Message Title: Celebrating Children

## Please Hold In The Light

Don Tickle	Al & Sharyn Carwile
Gerburg Mowry	Cathie Holcombe
Janet Cochran	Joan McNamara
Pat McNeil	Faye Nelson Mel Howes
Susan Howes	Kenny Houston

## Birthdays

5 Jennifer Schaal	8 Betsy Jenson
5 Don Tickle	10 Peter Bruns
6 Lizzie Biddle	10 Sarah Wright
6 Alexandria Rodriguez	11 Amy Lytle
7 Jane Carter	11 Jonathan Mooneyham
8 Carol Cothern	11 Ed Winslow



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Published weekly by New Garden Friends Meeting  
801 New Garden Road  
Greensboro, N.C. 27410

Phone	336-292-5487
Email	<a href="mailto:office@ngfm.org">office@ngfm.org</a>
Website	<a href="http://www.ngfm.org">www.ngfm.org</a>

### Deadlines

Weekly newsletter deadline is noon on Monday.  
Weekly Sunday bulletin deadline is noon on Thursday.  
Please send all articles by email to ([office@ngfm.org](mailto:office@ngfm.org)).  
Question? Call the Meeting Office, 336-292-5487.

## Shepherd's Center News

Shepnet is offering Zoom based seminars in May for a one-time fee if \$25.00.

Details of classes, dates and times are on the website : [www.shepnetgreensboro.org](http://www.shepnetgreensboro.org)

## News from Religious Education

### Upcoming Adult Forums for May:

- 9 After some conversation about the Quaker perspective on economic systems, Friends felt led to continue our discussion with specific attention to action items. Friends are encouraged to join us with ideas and action items that will support working towards less oppressive local, state, national, and global economic systems.
- 16 Discussing Nuclear Power
- 23 Barbara Leutke/author of The Kendal Sparrow will do a book sharing with Friends. We are very excited to have Barbara join us during our Adult Forum. She will be in Greensboro doing research for a new novel, and staying with Friends. She also hopes to borrow a car (May 18 -25). If you have a car that you are willing to lend, please mail Karin Heller. [karin@ngfm.org](mailto:karin@ngfm.org)
- 30: Open Discussion

\*\* May 23rd is Recognition Sunday! If you know a rising 2nd or 4th grader, or graduating senior you would like to see recognized, please contact Karin Heller. ([karin@ngfm.org](mailto:karin@ngfm.org)).

## FCNL Advocacy Team

Dear Friends,

After several recent virtual meetings with FCNL staff members, many Friends in the Piedmont area are becoming increasingly interested in forming a grassroots Advocacy Team. Those who might be interested in forming such a group to advocate locally, or nationally as might be the case are encouraged to join in this effort. The process would be to form a group of about 6-8 interested people to connect for about an hour by Zoom with an FCNL representative and discuss our issues. After that, the group meets again for about a two-hour workshop for training in understanding the work of an Advocacy Team. We would especially love to find a Friend who has the energy and willingness to lead this effort.

The FCNL contact person is: Sarah Freeman-Woolpert  
National Field Organizer, Friends Committee on National Legislation A Quaker Lobby in the Public Interest  
245 2nd St. NE | Washington, DC 20002  
([sarahfw@fcnl.org](mailto:sarahfw@fcnl.org)) | 302-364-2123  
Pronouns: she/her/hers

## Marcus Smith Event

This vigil to honor the homeless young man killed by police is held every Monday, 12 to 1 p.m. on Washington Street, in front of city council and police departments. We stand silently in masks, holding signs, which are there to use, if you have none of your own. Call CH Holcombe for more info.

## Pastor Margaret's new phone!

Pastor Margaret has a new cell phone/primary contact number. It is: 336-338-1986. She can also be reached by calling New Garden Friends Meeting: 336-292-5487.

## Covid -19 Vaccine Information

Cases of COVID and hospitalizations in NC have stayed stable again this week. Vaccinations are ongoing but with lower numbers of vaccines being given than previously. The use of the J & J vaccine (1 dose vaccine) was resumed last week at the Four Seasons Mall mass vaccination site.

Last week Governor Cooper allowed the increase of sizes of both outdoor and indoor groups gathered together. The CDC also clarified guidance for mask use out of doors, recommending that they be used in medium to larger groups where physical distancing can not be maintained, but may be relaxed in most out of door activities . This and other guidelines can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/y4wy9twc> Friends are encouraged to read these guidelines to help them decide what activities are appropriate for each family group. **Persons, vaccinated or not, are still encouraged to wear masks, physically distance and wash hands frequently when in public places or in medium/large groups of people. Symptomatic (cough, fever, shortness of breath) persons still need to be tested and treated regardless of vaccination status. Also persons in higher risk categories should be mindful that just because they are vaccinated does not mean they can have unmasked visits with individuals at higher risk for having the virus.**

**The spike of cases in India which is currently causing so much distress and overwhelming of resources there is a cautionary tale which reminds us that cases could start to mount here again.** Friends are advised to continue to take the precautions to prevent COVID infections including masking, physical distancing and frequent hand washing where appropriate. All persons 16 years and older are now eligible for vaccination in NC. Those 16 years of age and older can have the Pfizer vaccine while the Moderna vaccine is approved for those 18 years of age and older.

As of Tuesday, May 4, Cone Health continues to vaccinate 16 year olds and up at their vaccination sites and **walk in vaccinations will be given though appointments are still preferred. Those who walk in need to show up at least 2 hours prior to clinic closure for the day.** As of May 4 they have vaccine appointments available. They have Moderna and Pfizer vaccines depending on what site you sign up for. They plan to offer the J & J vaccine in the future but do not have it yet. The Cone Health web site is <https://tinyurl.com/dmhfc8zk>. Appointments can also be made by phone at 336-890-1188 Monday through Fridays 7 a.m -7 p.m. The Cone vaccine information site also has links to other county sites and allows persons to sign up for vaccine updates. Cone does not want their patients to call their individual provider offices for vaccination appointments, however some other health organizations like Wake Forest Baptist Health and Novant are allowing sign ups/information for their patients through their on-line patient charts.

Guilford County sign up may be done at [www.healthyguilford.co](http://www.healthyguilford.co) (Email address required) or by phone 336-641-7944, option 2. Phone appointments must be made 8 am-5pm Monday through Friday. They have Pfizer and J & J vaccines and a person may choose which vaccine they sign up for. Group appointments can now be scheduled. The vaccination sites still include Mount Zion Baptist Church, High Point Community University Center and Greensboro Coliseum. People can subscribe to updates about vaccine availability and appointment openings from the Guilford Health Department by texting GC19 (or GC19S for Spanish) to 888777. **They are now also doing walk-in appointments.**

The Four Seasons Mall site is also delivering vaccinations for **walk in and drive up** vaccines, they will be operating through May 27, according to their web site. They are still scheduling appointments as well at [GSOMassvax.org](http://GSOMassvax.org). They are offering the Pfizer (2 dose ) or the J & J (one dose.) vaccines, depending on patient preference.

Another resource is <https://vaccinefinder.org> which tracks what pharmacies have available vaccine and of what type within 10 (or other # of miles) of your zip code. A quick check of this resource today shows vaccine is available at some of the pharmacies in Greensboro this week. Walgreens and CVS will let you sign up for a vaccine at [Walgreens.com](http://Walgreens.com) or [CVS.com](http://CVS.com) after setting up an account with them. Other pharmacies have similar sign up opportunities.

The NC site which helps persons find a vaccination site is <https://myspot.nc.gov/>. This site will also show you where vaccines are available close to your zip code. NC has said **all groups are now eligible for vaccine**

Friends are reminded that the Affordable Health Care Marketplace is open until **May 15, 2021** to allow persons who have lost their health care coverage during the pandemic to sign up. Research this at: <https://www.healthcare.gov/>

# "A Conversation with Kathy Manning

Rep. Manning, who represents North Carolina's Sixth Congressional District, joined us during our Adult Forum time on May 2. This meeting was organized with the assistance of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), and all Friends living or worshipping in the Sixth District are invited. We will be sharing FCNL's legislative priorities with her and hearing her thoughts about important policy issues at the federal level.



