

Ministry and Care Report  
Wednesday, September 13, 2023

Stephen, Gretchen, and Julie attended in person; Val and James G. attended via Zoom.

Due to the current rise in Covid spread, we recommend that we hold off on resuming handshakes at the rise of meeting. We suggest alternatives such as fist bump, namaste, crossed arms, etc.

Gun-free meetinghouse:

- We discussed signage regarding weapons.
- We ask friends with concerns about safety while at the meetinghouse to bring those concerns to Ministry and Care.
- We will be considering a more formal plan for how to deal with difficult situations.

Forums:

- The Quaker Basics series of six forums will start September 24, and will be presented on the second and fourth Sundays.
- The last forum is scheduled for the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend; we may move that to December 10 if friends would prefer.
- Future forums topics being considered are "Being an effective advocate/ally to LGBTQ people" and "Safety in the meeting community".

Val is volunteering at the Town Twin Housing organization and will let meeting know when there is an opportunity for wider involvement.

Children's Program: Faith and Play is starting September 17. There are currently five children, and four adults who are doing one story each to start.

We discussed concerns for individual friends.

Outreach:

- We discussed how to bring more children to the Children's Program.
- We can provide more information on the Facebook page about the schedule for children. We will offer more information in our Friends Journal listing.
- We will reach out to The Circle School and similar organizations to see if they might include our program in their announcements.

Monthly Soup & Worship Wednesday Evenings:

- We remind friends that in addition to volunteering to bring soup each month, people are welcome to contribute other offerings such as salad, vegetables, or bread.
- No one has signed up to bring the soup for September 20.

Marian Carter:

- The memorial is set for Saturday, October 28 at 10 am.
- Val will contact non-FMSA people who might want to attend, including those distant friends who can attend via Zoom. Gretchen will contact Liz Yeats of SCYM to include Marian's passing in the notice she sends out.
- We will need people for various tasks:

- Open, close the meetinghouse
- Greet people at the gate, and explain the way things go to non-Quakers
- Make food for refreshments, coffee, tea, drinks
- Write the memorial minute for Friends Journal and SCYM
- Write and print the program, including a photo of Marian
- Gretchen will begin to write the memorial minute, and will get info from Friends about the founding and early days of FMSA

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 4, noon

Meeting ended with silence.