

# Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting

## FRIENDLY LINE

### March 2021



#### How Is White Supremacy Keeping Us from Hearing God's Voice? Learn more at Mid-Year Meeting 2021

IYMC Midyear Meeting will be held online via Zoom, 27-28 third month (March 27-28) 2021, with presenter and guest resource person, Vanessa Julye, of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, leading worship and discussion on the theme, "How Is White Supremacy Keeping Us from Hearing God's Voice?"

Mid-Year Meeting begins Saturday at 10:00 a.m. and ends on Sunday with rise of worship at noon. The schedule includes a variety of sessions, discussion, fellowship time and meeting for worship. Find the program at <https://www.iymc.org/mym2021program/>

So that all may participate, no fees have been established. Donations are encouraged to support the resource person, cover printing and mailing costs, and other Midyear Meeting expenses.

#### Letter from the Mid-Year Meeting Co-Clerks *(slightly edited for length)*

On behalf of the Midyear Meeting Committee, we greet all of you and hope this day finds you well. We acknowledge the challenges that this past Year has brought to our families,

to our local communities, and to our Quaker meetings across the region. Because of the pandemic, this year's Midyear Meeting (MYM) will again be online and accessible by Zoom. It is being held on 27-28 Third Month (March 27-28).

The committee asks Friends to register by March 21. Advance registration is important so that the committee can share information for how to join the Zoom sessions online sessions. The committee will do its best to accommodate registrations after that. There are 4 ways to register:

- 1) A few paper copies of the program and registration form will be sent directly to monthly meeting clerks. This can be filled out and returned according to the instructions. If you would like a paper copy, please first reach out to your meeting's clerk to request one.
- 2) Clerks of monthly meetings are sending out an electronic version of the registration form by email, which Friends can print out to send by mail.
- 3) Friends can register online. The registration form and schedule, along with information about Vanessa Julye is at <https://www.iymc.org/mym2021program/>.
- 4) Friends who don't receive a paper copy and who aren't

comfortable with registering online can call Jackie Leckband (515-758-2232) or Liz Oppenheimer (651-236-7977) for assistance.

Thank you for your patience. The committee recognizes that the registration information is reaching you a bit later than we had planned, and hopefully it will answer many questions about what to expect.

-- On behalf of the Midyear Meeting Committee,  
Jackie Leckband and Liz Oppenheimer, Co-clerks of Midyear Meeting

#### **Letter to the Editor from Des Moines Valley Friends Opposing Reinstatement of the Death Penalty**

February 28, 2021

To: Speaker Pat Grassley and Majority Leader Whitver and All Members of the Iowa House and the Iowa Senate Judiciary Committees

Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) stands in strong opposition to Senate Study Bill 1004 and to House File 62, two bills seeking to reinstate the death penalty in Iowa.

The Religious Society of Friends has long opposed the death penalty. We believe that

-- continued on page 7

**Minutes for Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**

02/14/2021(Held by Zoom)

The following F/friends were in attendance: Dorothy Lifka, clerk; Deborah Fisch, recording clerk; Peter Clay; Catherine Dietz-Kilen; Jim Dietz-Kilen; Richard Douglass; Claire Cumbie-Drake; David Drake; Kelsea Gillespie; Bob Henderson; Andrea Holveck; Jack Holveck; Katie Jacoby; Susan Meyers; Fred Nelson; DJ Newlin; Ann Robinson; Virginia Smith; Billie Wade; Cindy Winchell

\*\*\*\*\*

*“The way we make change is just as important as the change we make.”*

Meeting opened with the clerk reading a quote from Valarie Kaur’s book, See No Stranger, before inviting F/friends into waiting worship in preparation for tending to the business of the meeting.

Nominating Committee Report  
(Dorothy Lifka, convener)

Pam Blackburn has resigned as treasurer and Friends House board representative. Kelsea Gillespie has volunteered to serve as interim treasurer, pending Meeting approval. Fred Nelson has agreed to be FH Board representative, pending Meeting approval.

Dick Douglass has agreed to be the Finance Committee representative to the Property Management Committee.

The Nominating Committee appreciates Pam's many years of service and hard work as the treasurer. Thank you also to Kelsea, Fred and Dick.

**Minute 02.21.01** – We heard the Nominating Committee report (printed above). We approve the nominations of Kelsea Gillespie as interim treasurer and Fred Nelson as the second representative of Meeting to the Friends House Board, with much appreciation for their and Dick’s willingness to serve Meeting in these ways.

We particularly expressed appreciation for Pam Blackburn’s many years of faithful service as the Meeting’s assistant treasurer and treasurer.

DMVF Finance Committee Meeting Report (Catherine Dietz-Kilen, Convener)

The committee met 1-27-21.

Attending: Catherine Dietz-Kilen; Dick Douglass, Kelsea Gillespie, Ann Robinson, Cindy Winchell; M&C Liaison: Deborah Fisch; Nominating Committee Representatives: Claire Cumbie-Drake, Dorothy Lifka, Carol Spaulding-Kruse

Ann confirmed her decision, shared prior to the meeting, to step down as Finance Committee convener. She has agreed to continue serving on the committee through a transition period, and said she is very pleased that Catherine has agreed to serve as convener to lead the committee through a fresh start.

The Nominating Committee affirmed the news that Pam Blackburn has decided to resign as DMVF treasurer and also plans to resign from Friends House Board. Catherine took leadership for the rest of the meeting. She asked members to take turns sharing their thoughts/priorities at this time. In summary: Members shared

appreciation for work of the treasurer, assistant treasurer and Finance Committee and its convener. There have been, and still are some concerns, but we believe they are being addressed. F/friends agreed that getting the financial review done and presented is an important accomplishment. F/friends appreciate Pam’s long service and hope we can do something to honor that.

Nominating Committee members, who were in attendance, said they hoped to firm up recommendations for interim treasurer, assistant treasurer and Property Management liaison. Cindy was asked if she would be willing to stay on as assistant treasurer. She agreed. It was also announced that Kelsea has agreed to take on role of interim treasurer -- with help from Pam and Cindy and the Finance Committee.

Kelsea said she is willing to take on this role, but it will be challenging, as she can’t be in Des Moines on a regular basis. She said everyone will need to practice patience and good communication. Kelsea also said she is glad Cindy is willing to stay on (as assistant treasurer) and she believes they will work together well.

Cindy expressed support for recommendations in the financial review. She said she is willing to stay on as assistant treasurer and cares for the Meeting, even though she wanted to be honest about her hurt feelings. She said she wants to look ahead and that she believes their plans are very do-able with positive communication. Cindy also said she is willing to keep picking up

deposits and making a monthly report of donations. She just sent out yearly donations letters with Pam's help.

Dick agreed to serve on Property Management through this fiscal year as liaison from the Finance Committee.

Among the next steps the Committee discussed meeting more frequently for now to keep moving forward. The next meeting is scheduled for 02/19/2021.

***Proposed minute:***

*The DMVF Nominating and Finance committees are pleased that Kelsea Gillespie, who has a background in finance, has agreed to serve as Interim Treasurer, with the blessing of the Meeting. We thank members willing to take on new or continuing responsibilities, including Catherine Dietz-Kilen, the new Finance Committee Convener, Cindy Winchell, who will continue to serve as assistant treasurer, and Dick Douglass, who will serve as a liaison to Property Management. At this time of transition, we also express deep appreciation for Pam Blackburn's long-time, dedicated service to the Meeting as treasurer and assistant treasurer, and Ann Robinson's leadership as Finance Committee convener, who will continue to serve as a committee member.*

DMVF Finance Committee Meeting Report for 02/10/21

Attending: Catherine Dietz-Kilen; Dick Douglass, Kelsea Gillespie, Ann Robinson, Cindy Winchell; M&C Liaison: Deborah Fisch.

The meeting began by reviewing the notes from the 01/27/2021 committee meeting

with special attention to the proposed minute. Catherine reported on a pleasant and educational conversation with Pam Blackburn regarding the means to begin the process of transitioning the treasurer's responsibilities from Pam to Kelsea Gillespie, during which, Pam expressed her commitment to assisting Kelsea in any matter that she could.

Kelsea reported that she had a several conversations with Pam, and that they are looking forward to working together on the transition. Kelsea has been given access to our QuickBooks account and finds QuickBooks to be intuitive. Cindy has added Kelsea as a person with full access to the accounts at E-bank. Kelsea has had an opportunity to review the bank statement in depth.

Katie Jacoby has set up an email specifically for the treasurer through our website, which we will be using for all treasurer's questions and communications. Using this dedicated email will help provide a history of communications for any future treasurers.

Kelsea and Pam discussed a plan whereby Pam will reconcile our financial accounts and reports through February 1st, at which date, Kelsea will take over that responsibility. (Note that after the committee meeting, this matter was further discussed and the decision was made that Kelsea will take over the books "as is" and, with Pam's assistance and advice, will complete the reconciliation of previous financial reports.)

Cindy reported that she has moved the two automatic debits

that previously came from the EdCo Financial Plus account over to our E-bank account, and she will set up bill pay for Clean Des Moines at our E-bank account. Kelsea and Cindy, working with Andrea and in consultation with Pam, have paid the outstanding bill to Clean Des Moines for November, December and January cleaning and have also paid for February. Cindy has added Catherine (and removed Ann) from the ability to view the E-bank accounts.

The Committee will look into seeing whether the DMVF Friends Journal subscription has been paid.

Deborah Fisch drew attention to the Committee that the annual charge for the Meeting website was charged to the home account of Deborah and Katie Jacoby. The current budget included funds for the Meeting to take over the responsibility for paying the annual fee for the website.

The Committee authorized the reimbursement to Deborah and Katie for the most recent annual fee that was charged to their personal credit card.

Catherine has started a list of items that the Committee will need to discuss at future meetings and tasks that need to be completed. Committee members are invited to submit suggestions for the list to assist in setting priorities for future Committee meetings. It is the intention of the Committee, at its next meeting, to review our current budget to see if any amendments are necessary and to prepare for a future meeting to consider the budget for fiscal year 2021/2022.

**Proposed minute:**

*The cost of cleaning the meetinghouse was greater than was anticipated at the time that the 2020/2021 budget was prepared and approved. The DMVF Finance Committee recommends that the 2020/2021 budget be amended to increase the budget line for Hospitality/Cleaning Service by \$600, to \$1,350, to cover the unanticipated cost of cleaning through the end of the fiscal year. Additionally, the DMVF Finance Committee recommends that the 2021/2021 fiscal year budget be amended to increase Income-Regular Receipts by \$600 to \$24,920.00 to maintain balanced budget for the fiscal year.*

We listened carefully to the Finance Committee reports for their meetings on 01/27/21 and 02/10/21 and appreciate all the work they are doing our behalf. The Meeting approves the following minutes proposed by the Nominating and Finance Committees

**Minute 02.21.02** – The DMVF Nominating and Finance Committees are pleased that Kelsea Gillespie, who has a background in finance, has agreed to serve as interim treasurer, with the blessing of the Meeting. We thank members willing to take on new or continuing responsibilities, including Catherine Dietz-Kilen, the new Finance Committee convener, Cindy Winchell, who will continue to serve as assistant treasurer, and Dick Douglass, who will serve as a liaison to Property Management. At this time of transition, we also express deep appreciation for

Pam Blackburn's long-time, dedicated service to the Meeting as treasurer and assistant treasurer, and Ann Robinson's leadership as Finance Committee convener, who will continue to serve as a committee member.

**Minute 02.21.03** – The cost of cleaning the meetinghouse was greater than was anticipated at the time that the 2020/2021 budget was prepared and approved. The DMVF Finance Committee recommends that the 2020/2021 budget be amended to increase the budget line for Hospitality/Cleaning Service by \$600 to \$1,350 to cover the unanticipated cost of cleaning through the end of the fiscal year. Additionally, the DMVF Finance Committee recommends that the 2021/2021 fiscal year budget be amended to increase Income-Regular Receipts by \$600 to \$24,920.00 to maintain balanced budget for the fiscal year.

As Friends considered the faithful service of former Meeting treasurer, Pam Blackburn, the clerk suggested that since Pam was not present at business meeting individuals might want to send individual notes of appreciation to her.

Ministry & Counsel Committee Report (oral report from Dorothy Lifka) The Ministry and Counsel Committee met on 02/07/21.

Attending: Gordon Bivens, DJ Newlin, Andrea Holveck, David Drake, Deborah Fisch, Dorothy Lifka

Committee members started with a time of worship and then considered members/attenders who might have special needs for which Meeting could be of assistance.

Dorothy shared that Nominating Committee had met with Finance Committee at their 01/27/21 business meeting and that Nominating would bring forward names of Friends to recently vacated Finance Committee positions.

The DMVF representatives to the Friends House transition committee joined the M & C committee meeting to discuss proposed by-laws for Friends House. The group met again on Feb. 11 to complete the discussion.

As liaison from M&C to Finance Committee, Deborah also reported on the 01/27 joint Finance and Nominating Committee meeting.

Report on Edna Griffin Mutual Aid (Peter Clay and Deborah Fisch) – Our meeting's support of the work of Edna Griffin Mutual Aid's (EGMA) on behalf of the Des Moines houseless/homeless population living in camps in our metro area continues to go well. EGMA continues to come in early on Wednesdays to prepare meals in our kitchen, which they then distribute to the camps. On alternative Sundays, they also distribute clothing to the camps. They are storing limited supplies for preparing food and some of the clothing in a limited area of the Meetinghouse basement. The communication with Arianna Calleja (our contact person) remains good and positive. We believe that EGMA is showing care and being responsible in their use of our meetinghouse and especially of our kitchen and basement areas. This includes keeping these areas properly clean and well maintained.

During this time of extreme cold, Arianna shared this concern, "All of us have been extra concerned for our houseless neighbors. We've been bringing out extra propane and heating resources, but there's only so much these things can do when living outdoors in these conditions."

We (Peter and Deborah) believe that Meeting should continue this partnership as it is a good way for our community to provide support to the neediest among us.

Requested supplies and how to donate:

Arianna shared that the following are needed: tents, tarps, batteries, empty or full large propane tanks, socks, new underwear, flashlights, pants and boots. As for how to donate, we both have Venmo and PayPal accounts. We can also accept cash donations.

DMMA venmo: @DesMoines-MutualAid

EGMA venmo: @EdnaGriffin-MutualAid

DMMA PayPal:

[tinyurl.com/DSMCampAID](https://tinyurl.com/DSMCampAID)

EGMA PaPal: Donate  
(paypal.com)

**Minute 02.21.04** – We heard the report from Peter Clay and Deborah Fisch, Meeting liaisons to the Edna Griffin Mutual Aid, . We unite with their appreciation for the work being done by EGMA and are grateful for the small role we can play in that ministry by providing space for them to prepare meals and collect clothing, sleeping bags and other things that could help homeless/houseless people still living outside in the bitter cold weather.

The clerk asked that the minutes reflect appreciation to Peter and Deborah for the time they are spending staying in touch and offering support for EGMA. Deborah reported that Peter has been doing the bulk of the work and she has supported Peter as possible.

Peace & Social Concerns Committee Report (Patty Wengert, Convener) – Peace & Social Concerns Committee

offered the following rough draft of a letter reflecting the Meeting's opposition to the reinstatement of the death penalty in the state of Iowa. They ask for approval of the basic letter with permission to edit the letter before they send it on behalf of Meeting under the DMVFM clerk's signature to the State Judiciary Committee:

Des Moines Valley Friends Quaker Meeting is writing to share with you our long-standing historical opposition to any legislation seeking to reinstate capital punishment in the State of Iowa, namely Senate File 29, currently before the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Our Faith and Practice Discipline states our historical position concerning the dehumanizing concern we hold as a large part of our Christian living in this community. "Friends have been historically opposed to capital punishment because it violates the sacredness of life. The application of the death penalty is brutalizing and degrading to those who impose it. It leaves no room for the reformation of character, nor for the revision of the sentence in the event of a miscarriage of justice. Our religious principles

upholding the dignity and worth of a human being do not allow for punishment without the opportunity for reform of the offender. We continue to actively oppose the use of capital punishment."

Scientists agree, by an overwhelming majority that the death penalty has no deterrent effect. Statistics by the FBI, the ACLU, and Amnesty International all demonstrate, non-capital punishment states actually have lower murder death rates than capital punishment states consistently to this date. Statistics also demonstrate a continuing disparity by both class and race for imposition of capital punishment. Black and non-Hispanic death row inmates nationally were 42 percent in 2018. Around 34 percent of all death row inmates executed since 1977, have been black and non-Hispanic. (@usafacts.org)

Former Senator and Governor Harold Hughes in 1974 had this to say of capital punishment, "'Thou Shalt Not Kill' is the shortest of the Ten Commandments, uncomplicated by qualifications or exception.... It is as clear and awesomely commanding as the powerful thrust of chain lightning out of a dark summer sky."

Please vote no on advancing .04this dehumanizing legislation.

**Minute 02.21.05** – We listened carefully to a letter prepared by P&SCC in opposition to proposed legislation that would reinstate the death penalty in the state of Iowa. The Iowa Legislature is currently considering the reinstatement of the death penalty. P&SCC proposes this letter be sent to the

Senate Judiciary Committee over the name of the Meeting's clerk. We approve the letter with the understanding that any edits will not change the spirit of the letter.

Friends shared a concern that shorter letters are more likely to be read by elected officials and Meeting members were in unity with this, recommending those editing the letter look for ways it can be shortened in length. Meeting also asks that P&SC draft a shorter letter that individuals can then use to adapt as personal letters or postcards to be sent to the Judicial Committee and State senators. Because timing is important, there is no need for P&SC Committee to resubmit their new draft to Meeting for approval prior to mailing. Friends appreciate P &SC members undertaking the writing of this minute of concern on behalf of the Meeting.

Re-opening Ad Hoc Committee Report (Dorothy Lifka, Convenor) – Present: Dorothy Lifka, David Drake, Andrea Holveck, Deborah Fisch

The Re-opening Committee met via Zoom on 01/22/ 2021. The Committee was in unity to discuss opening the meetinghouse to in-person meeting for worship at some time after the February meeting for worship with attention to business using a hybrid model (a combination meeting of in-person and via Zoom). We also support keeping a Zoom (or other on-line service) option long-term.

The following items will need to be addressed further: technology, safety, and cleaning.

**Technology** – It was suggested that we start with a basic technology that those meeting outside the meetinghouse this summer used: a laptop that would be shared by those attending in-person. Katie Jacoby is willing to research other equipment we might purchase for longer-term use, such as a monitor. We currently have a laptop computer at the meetinghouse.

**Cleaning** – We would resume weekly cleaning once we are meeting in-person, and we will want to come up with guidelines for cleaning chairs, doorknobs, etc. after each meeting for worship or other in-person use of the meetinghouse.

**Safety** – We would require the use of masks and recommended social distancing. Chairs would be set up in socially distanced “household” groupings. We recommend setting up a “one way” entrance and exit from the meeting room.

We also recommend keeping the windows of the meeting room open to allow good ventilation of the air during any time the meeting room is in use, looking into purchasing an air purifier, and keeping a sign-in sheet (to be discarded after every several weeks) in case it is necessary to notify Meeting attenders about possible virus exposure if someone worshipping at the meetinghouse would be stricken with COVID- 19.

**Social “Hour”/Soup Meals** – Food would not be provided after meeting for worship, nor would such things as the monthly soup meal be offered until it is possible for “normal” activities

to resume. Whether or not a person has been fully vaccinated against COVID-19, masks should continue to be worn until the national medical team declares it safe for the country to resume “normal” activities.

**Minute 02.21.06** – We listened carefully to the report of the Re-opening Committee Report. We recognize we have varying comfort/safety levels when it comes to returning to offering meeting for worship at the Meetinghouse. There were not only questions about what kind of electronic equipment would be needed to hold a joint Zoom/in person meeting for worship, but also whether we really want to offer hybrid meetings once it is possible to meet in-person. Recognizing that we have not been able to achieve a unity of Spirit concerning re-establishing in-person meetings for worship during this session, the clerk suggested we table consideration at this time. Ann will check with monthly meetings within IYMC who are using varying types of hybrid meetings for worship at this time and report her findings to the next meeting for worship for business when we revisit this concern. Katie and Bob also offered to look into some ways we could use technology appropriately in the meeting house to allow hybrid meetings.

Library Committee Report – (Virginia Smith, Convener) reported that all 2021 Motto Calendars have now been distributed.

#### Other Business

Upcoming IYM(C) Midyear Meeting – Cindy Winchell reported she recently received a

request from Jackie Leckband (a member of Bear Creek Friends Meeting and of the IYM(C) Midyear and Yearly Meeting program planning committees for yearly meeting youth) that the IYM(C) Midyear Meeting Planning Committee has asked DMVFs to plan a Zoom offering for younger Friends attending the scheduled Zoom Midyear Meeting.

Cindy will communicate with Ann Robinson, Kelsea Gillespie, Billie Wade, Dorothy Lifka, Deborah Fisch, and Peter Clay to consider some possible offerings. Jackie Leckband of Bear Creek Meeting has also offered to help with planning.

Ann reminded Friends that last year we asked the IYMC Midyear Meeting Planning Committee to release DMVF from having to continue every year to plan and run programming for youth attending Midyear Meeting. Apparently, this message had not reached this year's planning committee. Meeting approves gently reminding the planning committee of our request, and though we are happy to provide some electronic programming this year, we still hope to just be expected to take turns with other meetings in future years.

There being no further business the clerk closed meeting for worship with attention to business with a brief moment of worship.

**Letter to the Editor from  
Des Moines Valley Friends  
on Consideration of  
Reinstatement of the Death  
Penalty**

*-- Continued from page 1*

capital punishment does terrible harm to everyone in our society. This includes the individuals required to carry out the killing and the families of both victims and perpetrators. We believe that every human life is sacred.

“No person is beyond redemption. The God-given dignity and worth of every human being requires that punishment allow for reform of the offender and possible revision of the sentence. Execution is brutalizing and degrading to the individuals who impose it and to the society that endorses it.” From Faith and Practice-The Book of Discipline of Iowa Yearly Meeting of Friends (Conservative) Religious Society of Friends.

In addition, the death penalty is disproportionately applied to People of Color and especially to African-American men. The systemic racism reflected in this discrepancy is intolerable and unacceptable to a humane and civilized society.

Execution by the state in the name of retributive justice only perpetuates the violence in our society. It has no deterrent effect upon interpersonal violence. Across the United States the trend is to recognize that the death penalty has no place in our country. New Hampshire recently abolished the death

penalty and Virginia will do so shortly, becoming the twenty-third state to abolish the death penalty in all circumstances.

The Bible is clear- “Thou Shalt Not Kill.” We urge you to reject these bills and focus instead on transforming the conditions that lead to violence in our state of Iowa.

Respectfully,

Dorothy Lifka, Clerk  
Des Moines Valley Friends  
Meeting

4211 Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, Iowa 50312

*This letter is meant to be sent to the Iowa House Speaker Pat Grassley, to the Iowa Senate Leader Jack Whitver and to all members of the Judiciary Committees in the two chambers. Friends can use it for inspiration to write their own individual letters as well.*

**Owen Newlin Memorial  
Tentatively Scheduled**

The family of Owen Newlin has tentatively rescheduled a memorial meeting for remembrance and worship for Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021 (cancelling tentative plans for a May 23 service due to COVID). It will be held under the care of Des Moines Valley Friends, but the location will be the conference room on the Iowa Methodist Hospital campus on Woodland Avenue. Details are pending and the date is still subject to change, depending on the pandemic.

**Query Discussion**  
**CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY**  
**March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021**

Attending: Peter Clay, Andrea Holveck, Jack Holveck, Patty Wengert, Billie Wade, Ann Robinson

We considered how Friends have found themselves in conflict between our religious convictions and the laws of the State. Quakers historically have had strong religious scruples against serving in the military that are grounded in our Peace Testimony. Friends helped enslaved people travel on the Underground Railroad, which was also a conflict with the laws of the State. One Friend mentioned that proposed legislation to allow people to use vouchers for private school is a conflict between our convictions to support public education and the proposed law for our State.

Friends in our meeting are very concerned about much of the legislation now before the Iowa legislature, including suppressing voting rights, a transgender bathroom ban, reinstating the death penalty, banning use of the 1619 Project for school curricula, dramatically increasing penalties for civil disobedience and more! We discussed how hard it is to believe the meanness and cruelty that human beings can show to one another and how that is reflected in many of these proposed laws.

Many of us, despite sometimes feeling powerless still choose to speak and to act for what we believe is right. We are learning to separate how we choose to speak and act, from whatever the impact or outcome is. This way we can maintain our integrity

while also caring for ourselves.

The poet David Whyte helps us by suggesting different questions we can ask ourselves or others may lead to new conversations and differences in outlook. An example would be “What has made you so angry?” When people feel listened to, they may be less more open to communication.

It can be so difficult to share different perspectives with family, or with friends, who seem to be looking at life from such divergent places. Where is the common ground to be found? Can we choose to keep the door open at least a bit, despite the chasms we experience? We observed that establishing relationships over time might succeed in building bridges of mutual respect and understanding. We asked ourselves if when this appears to be impossible can we still be open to trying?

Some Friends are finding prayerful walking is helpful. Another shared that reciting the Lord’s Prayer was centering. We agreed that having a regular spiritual practice was meaningful as we grapple with the current struggles and challenges in our country and around the world.

-- Submitted by Peter Clay

**QUERY #10 for April:**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL**  
**RESPONSIBILITY**  
**ADVICE:**

All of creation is divine and interdependent: air, water, soil, and all that lives and grows. Since human beings are part of this fragile and mysterious web, whenever we pollute or neglect the earth we pollute and neglect

our own wellsprings. Developing a keen awareness of our role in the universe is essential if we are to live peacefully within creation.

The way we choose to live each day—as we manufacture, package, purchase and recycle goods, use resources, dispose of water, design homes, plan families and travel— affects the present and future of life on the planet. The thought and effort we give to replenishing what we receive from the earth, to keeping informed and promoting beneficial legislation on issues which affect the earth, to envisioning community with environmental conscience, are ways in which we contribute to the ongoing health of the planet we inhabit. Preserving the quality of life on Earth calls forth all of our spiritual resources. Listening to and heeding the leadings of the Holy Spirit can help us develop qualities which enable us to become more sensitive to all life.

**QUERIES:**

What are we doing about our disproportionate use of the world’s resources?

Do we see unreasonable exploitation in our relationship with the rest of creation? How can we nurture reverence and respect for life? How can we become more fully aware of our interdependent relationship with the rest of creation?

To what extent are we aware of all life and the role we play? What can we do in our own lives and communities to address environmental concerns?

## SAVE THE DATE for IYMC July 22-25, 2021

The Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) 2021 annual gathering is scheduled for 22-25 seventh month (July 22-25).

DMVF is one of the monthly meetings on the Entertainment Committee that plans programming, along with Ames Meeting and Penn Valley Meeting in Kansas City.

Our theme this year will be “Tapestry of Transformation: Sharing Our Light” and will include a John McCutcheon concert, thanks to fundraising by DMV Friends. More details will be coming soon.

You are warmly encouraged to get involved! To learn more, contact Andrea Holveck, [aandj@holveck@gmail.com](mailto:aandj@holveck@gmail.com) or Ann Robinson, at [anny@mediacombb.net](mailto:anny@mediacombb.net).

Find more about Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) at meeting online at <https://www.iymc.org>.

### Thank You for Your Support

The Des Moines Valley Friends Finance Committee wants to express our deep appreciation for the many ways members and attenders generously support our community, including through gifts of time and talents.

Financial contributions should be sent to Treasurer, Des Moines Valley Friends, 4211 Grand Ave., Des Moines, Iowa, 50312.



Harbingers of spring.  
Photo by Dorothy Lifka.

## Pendle Hill Invites You to Daily Worship with Quakers from Around the World

If you feel the need for daily connection to the spirit and the community of Friends during trying times, consider joining in Pendle Hill’s morning worship with Quakers from around the world. Worship takes place seven days a week via Zoom, from 7:30 am to 8:10 am Central Time (US & Canada).

During the pandemic, Pendle Hill’s 90-year-long tradition of daily worship on the Pendle Hill campus has opened to allow Quakers to participate via Zoom or simply by phone. There is no charge.

Find more information and the link to join morning worship, at: <https://pendlehill.org/explore/worship/join-us-online-for-worship-in-the-barn/>

## DES MOINES VALLEY FRIENDS

**Meeting for Worship:** First days at 10 a.m. by Zoom via email invitation from clerk, in-person meetings temporarily suspended.

**Meeting for Worship/Business:** Regularly held on the second First Day each month at 1 p.m.

**Second Hours:**  
None scheduled at this time.

**Child Care:**  
Suspended at Meeting House due to Corona Virus. If you have a child who would like to be included in Zoom childcare or first day school for older youth, please contact Dorothy at [dmlifka@yahoo.com](mailto:dmlifka@yahoo.com).

**Building & Grounds:**  
Any question about the building or grounds of the Meetinghouse can be directed to Building & Grounds Committee Convener, Charlie Brown, 515-689-6470.

**Hospitality Committee:**  
If you see a housekeeping problem that needs attention, please contact the Hospitality Committee Convener Cindy Winchell, 515-720-5516

**Friendly Line:** Please send info for next Friendly Line to Ann Robinson and Sandie Nelson by February 26, 2021, the last Friday of the month. Send to: [anny@mediacombb.net](mailto:anny@mediacombb.net) and [sandiebnelson4416@gmail.com](mailto:sandiebnelson4416@gmail.com)

Find us online at:  
[www.desmoinesvalleyfriends.org](http://www.desmoinesvalleyfriends.org)

Check out our Facebook group for members/attenders. To be added, email Jan Falb, at [jfalb0326@yahoo.com](mailto:jfalb0326@yahoo.com)