

2021.4.18 Brooklyn clerk's report

Dear Friends,

During this time, we continue to rely on technology to keep us connected. Our three meetings for worship - two on Sunday mornings and one on Tuesday night - continue to provide the primary means for corporate worship. We are grateful to have friends from many places around the world join us on a regular basis.

This quarter we held three meetings for worship with a concern for business via zoom.

Thanks to the communications committees, we have a bi weekly announcement/event listing that goes out to BMM friends. Our activities remain robust and varied. The ad hoc committee on racial justice offered numerous learning sessions via zoom last year, and is continuing to provide them this year, with the intent that we will organize our social justice effort to address one or two issues within criminal justice, reimaging policing, economic justice, health care or education. On April 13, the committee will provide a session on health and mental health access and equity concerns.

Several friends organized a white quaker anti - racist affinity group that meets monthly - and has for the past year - to discern what it means to be anti - racist as a Quaker.

The spiritual reading group meets every second first day of the month at 10:00, also via zoom.

The pastoral care committee reached out to friends offering help to get vaccines, a service greatly appreciated by many of our elder members.

The community dinner provides monthly takeout meals for those in need in our area and is working with Brooklyn Relief Kitchen to provide lunches several times a week. We know the importance of direct service and are eager to do that with even greater impact by partnering with Brooklyn organizations that serve people in need of food.

The Library committee hosts monthly discussion sessions via zoom, based on readings related to Bayard Rustin and his work. In addition, the committee offers selected readings about Quaker historical figures every week in our online newsletter.

Our first day school committee sent materials to families to provide opportunities for Quaker activities at home. The committee is planning a picnic in the spring.

Last month, we launched a program called, Quakerism 101, which offers seven sessions on the history, faith, practices and organizations of friends. We are delighted that friends from around the Quarter and from Wilton meeting in Conn. have signed up for our sessions. The sessions are offered via Zoom and materials are in a google classroom, which can be made available to others.

One long term attender, Diana Jenson, formerly joined us this month as a member. We are saddened to report the death of a long term member, Nicholas Boyce. We will hold him and his family in our hearts and in the Light.

We have kept active and connected this past year, but we miss being together in person. It is our hope that this spring we can worship in person in the cemetery and in the meeting house - with all appropriate safety protocols in place. And we will keep holding in our hearts the hope of being back together again regularly sometime this year.

Joan Malin
Clerk,
Brooklyn meeting