

## Topic digest

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## Meeting for Worship suspended at FMW for 3/15 and 3/22

Debby Churchman <dchurchm@yahoo.com>: Mar 12 06:50PM

Beloved Friends,

Yesterday afternoon, Mayor Bowser declared a state of emergency for DC due to the public health measures needed to control the spread of COVID-19. We have been following the CDC's guidelines for preparedness for faith communities as well as consulting with Friends in the medical profession. Based on the information they've been providing us, your co-clerks are in unity that we need to take proactive steps to protect our community and our neighbors by not holding our regularly-scheduled in-person spiritual gatherings on First Day, for the next two weeks (3/15 and 3/22). We will also be posting a notice to our website to inform visitors. The small meetings for worship on Sunday evening and Tuesday evening will continue as scheduled.

This isn't a decision that we take lightly, because we know how important it is to hold our sacred space and our community in the Light on a regular basis. However, we've come to a moment when our Stewardship testimony is in tension with our Community testimony. All of the recommendations we've been hearing have been that we all need to voluntarily take significant steps to limit our exposure and slow the spread of the disease to ensure that it plays out in a way that our health institutions can comfortably manage. Please note: We know of no cases of anyone with a confirmed COVID-19 diagnosis attending the Meeting, and don't think we are in any immediate risk. But we do believe the responsible thing to do for our neighbors and our city is to shut down all of the larger Meetings for Worship in our Meetinghouse. We also trust in our Community and believe we can be resilient and clever.

We're reaching out to our community of clerks to find creative ways to ensure that we can continue to connect in the Spirit for the next two weeks. During this time, we'll be monitoring the recommendations and working together to provide clear guidance to our community. We will let you know when we make a decision about re-

opening our physical gatherings as soon as we can within the next two weeks.

We have a plan in motion to hold a virtual Meeting for Worship using our tool for videoconferences, Zoom. Some of you will be familiar with it from our committee meetings. We also have Friends who have volunteered to stand by and help Friends who might be having technological difficulties, as we try out this new virtual arrangement. The details for attending this online meeting have been sent in a separate email. Committee Clerks who would like to start holding their committees online are welcome to contact Barbara at [admin@quakersdc.org](mailto:admin@quakersdc.org) for details on how to do so.

We are also starting a series of small Google listservs that will connect you all, neighborhood by neighborhood. It is our hope that you will creatively use this tool to lean into your community in the days ahead and be a help to each other.

We want to thank all of our committee members for the tremendous leadership, empathy, care, and effort they've shown over the past week in determining the nature of this challenge. And we will be relying heavily on all of your wisdom and knowledge to work through the ramifications of this virus together.

We welcome questions and feedback. Please do not reply all, but send your email to [dchurchm@yahoo.com](mailto:dchurchm@yahoo.com). Meanwhile, please share the contents of this email to all Friends you know who are not on any of these listservs.

In the Light,

Rebecca and Debby

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## Virtual Meeting for Worship

Debby Churchman <[dchurchm@yahoo.com](mailto:dchurchm@yahoo.com)>: Mar 12 04:40PM  
Friends,

We are now able to offer an online option for attending Meeting for Worship this Sunday, through a product called Zoom. You can access this meeting on your phone or on any device which can put you on the internet.

To join the meeting on the Internet, click here:

<https://zoom.us/j/694890089?pwd=dE1pYTVxTIBZRiXN1bjRwNW90MWJHUT09>

Meeting ID: 694 890089

Password: 141149

To join the meeting by phone, call:

+19294362866,

Meeting ID is 694890089#

The “meeting doors” will open at 10:15; Meeting forWorship begins at 10:30 and runs for an hour, followed by announcements. MaryCampbell will serve as Head of Meeting. If you have trouble accessing the link,you can call Jason Terry at 202.615.1690.

You should allow a fewminutes extra time to get onto the site. Alternatively, Friends can download inadvance the appropriate version of Zoom for their device by going here: <https://zoom.us/download>

This is a pilot program, and feedback is very welcome.Please send me your comments and suggestions (dchurchm@yahoo.com).

Debby & Rebecca

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## Being the Church, Online

Robinne Gray <metrogrl@gmail.com>: Mar 12 11:12AM -0400

Friends, we all have a lot to think about these days, and to that some may be led to consider ways to keep community if (as?) we move toward increasing self-quarantine (which as noted in the excellent report by Mary C. and others is a good idea

<[https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/11/science/coronavirus-curve-mitigation-infection.html?fbclid=IwAR1F\\_ZMUR8c9bINLU5nYLI\\_0YDeoNgXImmtril\\_DZX\\_I\\_x9XghR6eZpiJAY](https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/11/science/coronavirus-curve-mitigation-infection.html?fbclid=IwAR1F_ZMUR8c9bINLU5nYLI_0YDeoNgXImmtril_DZX_I_x9XghR6eZpiJAY)>

A Quaker friend of mine on Facebook is compiling resources for things such as online Meeting for Worship:

"Due to the onset of the Covid-19, lots of churches and meetings are exploring alternative ways of being together (often digital). Here are some resources

<http://quakerkathleen.org/being-the-church-online/?fbclid=IwAR2kXcY31kFUw16B0RzTEiKXkQGWmzgj4DYCfB2XyLtDmBmRbkqIGg5yGX8>

."

Robinne

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## Friendly Bible Study by Zoom this Sunday at noon

<david.etheridge@verizon.net>: Mar 12 10:10AM -0400

Hi Friends,

Since it now appears there will be no Meeting for Worship physically in the Meetinghouse this coming Sunday, we will try doing Friendly Bible Study by Zoom call at noon on Sunday. The link for participating by computer is below. The password is Bayard.

You can also call in on your phone. If you have a smart phone, you just tap on the (New York) listing below. On other phones, you dial 1-646-876-9923, and enter 202-577-8431 when asked for the Meeting ID.

We will be studying Mark 9: 9-13.

Please let me know if you are planning to participate.

David

David Etheridge is inviting you to a Friendly Bible Study Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://www.google.com/url?q=https://zoom.us/j/2025778431?pwd%3DU2RyVnlKQUpWcE1NTVd4a042ZFBBdz09&sa=D&usd=2&usg=AOvVaw0ahWpHgOmGVp2-0pkvhfHt>

<https://zoom.us/j/2025778431?pwd=U2RyVnlKQUpWcE1NTVd4a042ZFBBdz09>

Meeting ID: 202 577 8431

Password: Bayard

One tap mobile

+16468769923,,2025778431# US (New York)

+16699006833,,2025778431# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 202 577 8431

Find your local number:

<<https://www.google.com/url?q=https://zoom.us/j/2025778431&sa=D&usd=2&usg=AOvVaw1tXSDNwPiKyaxA62zsPAcj>> <https://zoom.us/j/2025778431>

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