The Monthly Silence
The Monthly Newsletter for Hopewell Centre Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
The Seventh Month, July 2026

Hopewell Centre Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends 604 Hopewell Road, Clear Brook, VA 22624
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*If possible, The Monthly Silence will be published on or soon after the 20th of each month. Please send items you want included in the newsletter by the 17th of the month.
Please send donations to:
Hopewell Centre Friends
c/o Jim Riley
P.O. Box 165
Winchester, VA 22604

Please keep them in Prayer

If you have any concerns, you would like the Meeting to be aware of please contact Pam or Judy.

We will be happy to share it.

See additional information about individual concerns in the Pastoral Care Report below

John and Francine Guiser
Bob Huntsberry and Donna Knight
John Trueblood family and friends

Meeting for Worship for Business
Hopewell Centre Monthly Meeting, June 14, 2026
Clerk Dick Bell, Presiding

The Clerk opened the Meeting with a moment of silence.

CQE: (Continuing Quaker Education)

'You will say, Christ saith this, and the apostles say this; but what canst thou say? Art thou a child of Light and hast walked in the Light, and what thou speakest is it inwardly from God?' George Fox

Comments included: This is why we as Quakers don't need any intermediators. This was extremely radical for its time. Fox was preaching in the church while standing on a table. Also, Quakers were then considered to be traitors and punished for this sort of blasphemy.

Thanksgiving and Concerns:

Jim Riley gave thanks to Hopewell for hosting a gathering of about 50 Hollingsworth descendants on June 13. Jim and Becky Ebert both gave talks about the history of Quakers in the area and at Hopewell.

Betty McCormick presented a thanks and a concern. Her thanks was her apartment at Westminster Canterbury was suddenly ready for her to move in with 4 weeks' notice instead of the usual 6 months to a year. Her concern was: panic time!

Dick Bell gave thanks for the life and ministry of Hilde Matheson, our wonderful weighty Quaker Friend who recently passed away.

Treasurer's Report:

Jim Riley gave the following report for May:

Major items included

Contributions :

Individual and Family	$ 1,235	
Use of Centre	540	
Apple Blossom parking	799	(which will go to the youth fund)

Expenses:

BYM apportionment	$ 1,902	(quarterly payment)
Insurance	3,185	(quarterly payment)
Obaugh Fund	426	(for a Quaker event)
Sarah Zane	1,153	
Quaker Camp attenders	5,540	(from the Youth Fund for 8 campers)
Tree and Bush cleanup and removal	1,595	

Checking Account Balance: $ 15,739

Fund totals:	Laura Nell	$ 38,283
	Sarah Zane	3,058
	Youth	6,720
	Rogers	48,000

The complete Treasurer's report is attached to the original minutes.

Ministry and Counsel:

Richard Cooper gave the following report:

The committee met on June 1, 2026 via Zoom.

We reviewed the state of communication

We planned second hours through July:

June 7th – Spiritual Architecture in the Age of AI – Christian Mollitor
June 14th – Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
June 21st – Quakerism and Social Witness – Dick Bell
June 28th – Potluck at Centre
July 5th – July 4th roast
July 12th – Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
July 19th – Making music through AI – Mike Hambach
July 26th – Potluck at Centre

We reviewed the music committee report and urge them to "start small."

We discussed the recommendation to separate Social Concerns and Outreach into two committees. Because of the dynamic nature of the current committee, we urge the committee to stay whole and delegate projects to members within the committee.

Since no one has stepped forward to head up Friendly 8's, we recommend we not have them this year. Friends may always meet socially and dine. These are always joyous occasions.

We added Scott Lynch to Ministry and Counsel. We thanked Donna Knight, Richard Cooper, and Christian Mollitor for their service. They have been superb members and always held the welfare of the meeting as their principal focus.

We continue to recommend that the Spiritual State of the Meeting be done triennially

Respectfully submitted,

Ministry and Counsel

Nominating:

Jim Riley presented the final report of the committee. Beginning on July 1, the new officers of the Meeting will be:
Clerk: Anne Bacon
Assistant Clerk: Becky Ebert
Treasurer: Jim Riley
Assistant Treasurer: Anne Bacon
Recording Clerk: Josh Riley
Assistant Recording Clerk: Betty McCormick

The full list of Committee members and other assignments are attached to these minutes and is also available from Jim. The Meeting approved the addition of a Tech Team to the list of committees.
The Meeting extends our thanks to the Nominating Committee, Jim Riley, Becky Ebert, and Dick Bell for their work.

Social Concerns and Outreach, June 14, 2026

The committee tried but was unable to schedule a meeting. We communicated via email.

The recent Regional Gathering hosted by Shepherdstown Friends at Friends Wilderness Center on May 31 went very well. Hopewell Centre had 13 representatives attend, and with those from the three other Meetings and a group of young Friends, there was a total of about 70 for Meeting for Worship. We encourage all to take time to visit Friends Wilderness Center to see the China House, walk the trails, and/or spend the night in any of their rustic woods accommodations. It's a fabulous place to connect with nature and be with God. Kimberly Benson and her husband, Carl, are ready to greet you and help in any way needed. The Center is financed only by donations. Friends are encouraged to consider a donation when possible.

Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Peace and Social Concerns Committee has sent out items they will be addressing at the Annual Session July 28-Aug 2. (See attached letter). They've asked that individual Meetings discuss these items and send feedback for the Annual Session. The items have been sent to our email list and we're asking Ministry and Counsel to schedule an RE discussion time.

A "values into action" organization spreadsheet has been created listing our various activities. We need the Meeting to look this document over and make any recommendations between now and our July Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business. This chart is intended to be used as a communication and organizational tool to clarify the Meeting's purposes, direction, balance, and growth. A hard copy will be posted at Hopewell, and everyone will also get an email copy. Please take time to read this and give feedback before July 12.

Looking ahead -

- We need someone to lead our work with WATTS. This involves checking to see if there's anything we could consider helping with for the summer for their cooling center. Then we need to find out about their needs in the fall.

- The planning committee for the Fall Spirituality Retreat shifted the projected date by one week to accommodate work schedules. Please mark your calendars for Sat., Oct. 3, 2026. It has been suggested we consider making this an evening retreat. Feedback and ideas are encouraged! Please send your thoughts to the planning committee: Christian Mollitor, Sunday Cote, Kristin Zimet, Margie Riley.

Building and Grounds: Pam Hambach gave the following report:

First, a reminder of the bathroom renovation proposal:
The contractor would merge the two bathrooms into one, completely reconstructing the interior from scratch with all new installations. The new bathroom would have one toilet so that there would be enough space to be ADA compliant. The project would cost $27,000.
To address the concern of having only one bathroom, the committee is proposing to add a urinal to the bathroom and to consider adding a self-contained electric or propane toilet to the pavilion storage room. A suggestion was also mentioned to consider partitioning off another meeting area in the storage area.

The Meeting approved the renovation of the bathrooms as stated above and also to look into the adding of the additional toilet area.

Interiors: Becky Ebert asked if the Meeting would approve the purchase of three bookcases for the library at a total expense of $1,131. The Meeting discussed where the safest location for the bookcases should be so that they could be anchored to the wall. The Meeting approved the purchase.

Sunrise: The committee met and discussed the following:

“The Times They Are A- Changin’ “ The committee’s full report will be ready by the end of the decade.

Old Business:

The Meeting discussed how we should prepare our annual Spiritual State of the Meeting more efficiently. The following ideas emerged:
•we are considering submitting it every 3 years, but we should do it every year, just more succinctly.
•BYM depends on our submission annually as it prepares its State of the Yearly Meeting from all of the individual reports.
•Just use our own queries if we don’t like the BYM suggested queries.
•Let’s try this next year: based on Goose Creek’s approach, consider 2 queries, split into two groups, discuss, and compile after just one session.
•use only the queries from BYM that suit us.
•It’s very meaningful to the Meeting to do this annually.
•This process is needed for the spiritual health of the Meeting.
All of these ideas will be considered for a future discussion.

New Business:

Dan Riley reported that Kevin Slick, Sheila Tilley, and himself have been discussing (with input from three others) how to integrate more music into Meeting for Worship. Our proposal is as follows:

To make music more a part of Meeting for Worship, we want to try a summer experiment by occasionally offering a song or two to close Meeting for Worship. The Clerk would indicate when just before breaking the worship. It might be just listening to an offering from Kevin or Luke or anyone else. It might be a sing along, as well as a listen along from one of the song books. If so, the words would be on the benches because we would have planned the song beforehand. It might be a new song taught to us by someone. Flexibility is the key.

But it would always be planned and scheduled beforehand.
After a brief enthusiastic discussion, the Meeting approved the proposal.

Clerk Bell reported on his visit with Jordan Landis at the Swarthmore College library. She showed him a 1653 transcription from George Fox with his signature on the back. What a lovely way to end these minutes.

Except: The Meeting expressed many heartfelt thanks to Clerk Bell for his past tenure as Clerk of the Meeting. Anne Bacon will take the reigns starting in July.

Announcements:

June 27: Hilde Matheson's memorial service at Hopewell at 2 pm.
July 5: Annual Hot Dog Roast after Meeting for Worship.
August 23: Homecoming at Hopewell
August 30: Regional Gathering hosted by Frederick, MD Meeting

In Attendance:

Clerk Dick Bell, Jim Riley, Martha Hanley, Betty McCormick, Richard Cooper, Judy Enterline, Dan Riley, Margie Riley, Josh Riley, Pam Hambach, Sunday Cote, Peter Ford, Katherine May, Cheryl Reynolds, Katherine Chatard, Maggie Stetler, Mike Hambach, and Becky Ebert.

Respectfully submitted by Dan Riley, Recording Clerk
Next month, the minutes will be
Respectfully submitted by Josh Riley, Recording Clerk





CALENDAR

June 7th	--	Spiritual Practice - Christian Mollitor
June 14th	--	Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
June 19th	--	**Juneteenth**
June 21st	--	Quakerism and Social Witness - Dick Bell
	--	FATHERS DAY
June 28th	--	Potluck at Centre
July 4th	--	**Independence Day**
July 5th	--	July 4th Roast by Mike and Pam Hambach
July 12th	--	Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
July 19th	--	Making Music through AI Mike Hamback
July 26th	--	Potluck at Centre


Blogs and
Items of
Interest
FROM THE MEMBERS OF
HOPEWELL CENTRE MEETING

Happy Juneteenth



They said we were free in ‘63,
but the chains didn’t break in Texas yet.
The papers were signed—
but the message was late—
like freedom got caught in traffic
on its way to Galveston’s gate.



June 19th, 1865...
when the soldiers rolled in and truth came alive.
General Granger stood bold and loud, said
“All slaves are free” to the Texas crowd.
No more hiding, no more lies—
our ancestors lifted their tear-soaked eyes.



It was freedom delayed,
but not denied.
Freedom fought for,
cried for—
prayed for—

Happy Juneteenth,
—Velvet Lines

We don’t just celebrate history...
we celebrate legacy.
Strength that didn’t break,
hope that didn’t die,
faith that held on
when freedom was shy.



So when the winds blow
through the trees, I lift my
hands and thank God
with ease.

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Now the Lord is the
Spirit, and where the
Spirit of the Lord
is there is freedom.
2 COR 3:17
Independence Day
BLESSINGS



Dear Friends,
Since I have fully retired from all accounting and tax work, I must phase out the use of my email: jriley@jtrileycpa.com.

Please use this email: jariley4334@gmail.com.

Eventually I will discontinue the old email address.
Thanks.
Jim Riley

A Recent Message in Meeting for Worship

I'm compelled to write down a message that came to me in Meeting for Worship on Sunday, June 7. It was a message that had been forming in pieces and Spirit was pushing me to stand up and share it. I asked myself several times…is this for me? Is this for the Meeting? Suddenly I had to stand. Here goes my best recollection - for how can one truly capture "the" words that were spoken in Meeting?

"I have a message that has been developing over time. The first piece of this message came as Dan and I had taken our usual morning walk through our beautiful woods that we are blessed to live in and I had stopped at a 60 - 70-foot old tree that was slowly dying. Bark was accumulating around its base creating a mess and the tree itself was clearly a home for insects. As I looked at the tree I was reminded of my recent reading and conversations prompting awareness and thought of unity with nature. I started to think of what the tree might be saying to me. At some point, a strong wind is going to come and topple you, I thought. You'll become a snag or we'll hear a resounding thud and wonder which tree fell…Dan caught up with me, and I directed his eye to the

tree. Then I commented about all the other trees around it - baby trees, other types of trees…this one was oak, but there are beeches, elm…and different sizes. There was a tall skinny one next to it, taller - yet younger. I thought about the foundation network of trees that we now know of and how they communicate with one another.

As I was picturing this tree during silent worship, my thoughts drifted to a Richard Rohr meditation I had read that morning about the Trinity. The main idea of the meditation was how God is presented as Father, Jesus, and Spirit. I realized this was connected to the tree…. (At this point, I had to stop as emotion suddenly welled up in me. I silently said "Help me, God.") Suddenly in my mind I started to see a circle rotating slowly and I thought about all the faith traditions in the world - Buddhist, Jewish, and so on…and how we're all a place on that circle. Spirit is what connects us. We're all part of a current - and the current is moving. It made me think of pronouns - how they move from I to we…to us. We are prompted to ask "what is ours to do?" As Quakers we depend upon silence - and that is important to our worship and our being. Yet there comes a time when silence must be broken and voices heard. Where is our place on that circle? The "I" becomes "we", "us".

Which takes me back to the old tree in the forest. Should we always wait for something to "season", a Quaker practice? I began a body prayer of awake, allow, accept, attend. Awake, allow, accept, attend. All the trees are the forest…when we consider the "us" and "we" voices, how do we react? How do we respond? Do we hear them? Do we dismiss them? Do we shut the door on them? Do we open ourselves to what they are saying? Do we give all the voices a chance?

The pronouns make a difference…I, we, ours, us."

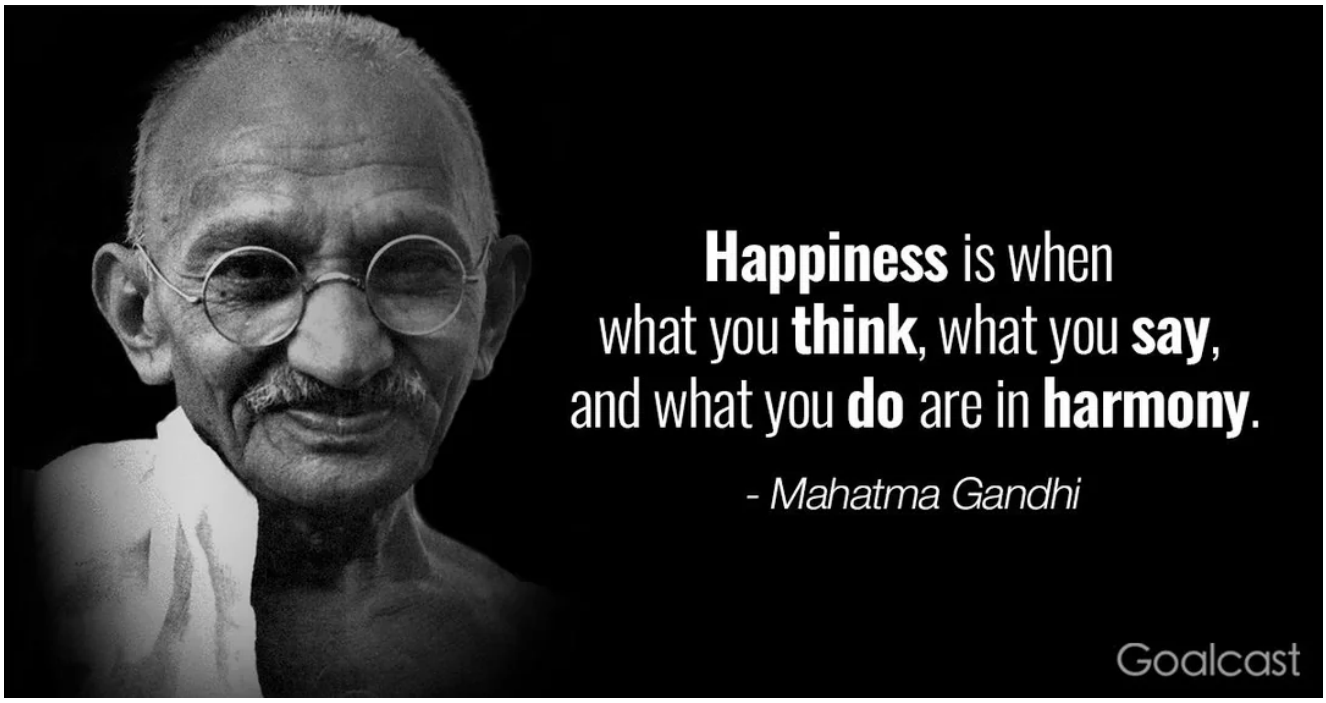
After writing this and letting it sit, I'm led to add an afterthought. This message could resonate in any number of ways. Here's where it is for me. Our Meeting is going through change right now - a new clerk is stepping in, and committees are shifting a bit. Several topics…music, values into action, and "what is the future bringing?" have been explored…enough? We have a wonderful resource of newer people attending who have a variety of talents…ecumenical background and practice, music, education, business, therapists, to name a few. *Are we checking in with them?* Do we know what they are seeking? Sometimes people don't know what questions to ask about "how"

things are done. Have we explained enough about Quaker process and the rhythms of Hopewell Centre? Do we present a clear picture of who we are and what we're all about, both in Meeting for Worship and in community? *Have we checked in with ourselves on this?* How about the members who we haven't seen for awhile? Is there something they need that would bring them back, or are they content with their life "as it is moving"? Let's work on communicating and being a faith community that listens, hears, and responds - *individually and collectively.*

With respect and care for all,
Margie Riley




Pastoral Care
Quotable Quotes


Happiness is when
what you think, what you say,
and what you do are in harmony.
- Mahatma Gandhi
Goalcast

- Clerk Bell reported on his visit with Jordan Landis at the Swarthmore College library. She showed him a 1653 transcription from George Fox with his signature on the back.



"What are we called to do?"

Send our voices to Congress -- writing postcards!!!



The Meeting has stamped postcards available for use. Pick up a few to send your message to our state and national leaders…postcards are next to our name badges at Hopewell

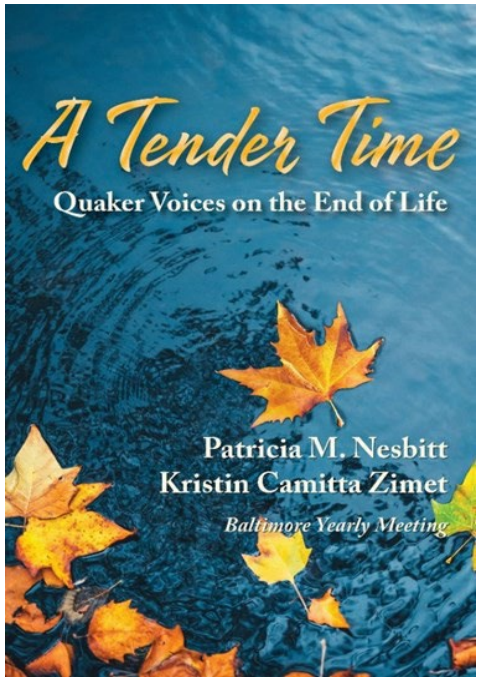
Baltimore Yearly Meeting

How do I sign up for weekly announcements and other information sent out by BYM?

Go to the BYM website: www.bym-rsf.org.
Scroll down to the bottom to "Subscribe to our mailings."
Click there and fill out the form online.
Indicate what information you would like to receive.

How can I get the latest copy of BYM's Faith and Practice?

Go to the BYM website.
Click on the menu in the upper right-hand corner.
Choose "Publications" and then "Faith and Practice."
You can read it online.
Our meeting also keeps extra copies of the print version.



A wise blend of practical advice and spiritual grounding. This book is optimistic and upbeat. It can be referred to again and again."
Terence McCormally, MD, Clinical Professor, Geriatric Medicine, Virginia Commonwealth University

"A delightful read! Not just for Quakers: it is spiritually wise, clinically sound, and exceedingly pragmatic."
Jim Higginbotham, Associate Dean, Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling, Earlham School of Religion

"A gentle conversation, like talking to a trusted friend."
George Schaefer, former Care & Aging Coordinator, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

n the End-of-Life Working Group of Baltimore Yearly Meeting, ***A Tender Time*** explores practical, emotional, and spiritual aspects of aging and dying well. A unique collection of voices, historical and contemporary, illustrates making end-of-life decisions.

his open-hearted primer moves through personal experiences from aging to dying and then outward in widening circles of caregiving. Intimate stories give poignant examples of aging and dying well, without fear. There are multiple ways that Love can guide us to the end.

Patricia and Kristin offer guidance on pastoral care at the end of life. The book includes resources for amilies, friends, and Quaker meetings, including checklists, sample forms, queries for clearness, and an annotated list of further readings.

A Tender Time is for sale now from Pendle Hill Bookstore and from FGC QuakerBooks. It will be available from major commercial outlets in Fall 2024. Contact admin@bym-rsf.org for bulk sales.

We have Re's using queries from this book from time to time.
Get a copy, you will be glad you did)



https://open.substack.com/pub/lindawilk/p/all-is-suffering?utm_source=share&utm_medium=android&r=b37x

RESOURCES TO LEARN ABOUT QUAKERISM AND THE WORLD

We want to provide a list of some resources for Friends to learn about what Quakers believe; what Quakers do in the world and a little bit about how to understand what is going on in the news. This list is by no means comprehensive, and we encourage others to send in resources that have been helpful to them.

LOCAL

-the **libraries** at Hopewell and Centre; lots of books, prior issues of Friends Journal, pictures and other materials
-the **Hopewell Centre Meeting** website: **www.winchesterquakers.org**
-the **Baltimore Yearly Meetin**g website: **www.bym.rsf.org;** go here to access the latest **Faith and Practice** which is in the process of being revised. New paper copies of Faith and Practice will be coming soon.
-the **BYM camping** website: **www.bymcamps.org**
-in the library at Hopewell is a **QuakerSpeak DVD** about "What Quakers Believe" Check it out.
-**Friends Wilderness Center**; **www.friendswilderness.org**

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

-Website: **www.quaker.org**; What do Quakers Believe? How do Quakers Worship? How do Quakers Live? Find Quakers

-**Friends Journal**; monthly publication, many back issues at Hopewell, website **friendsjournal.org**. All issues available on the website
-**Podcast; Quakers Today** sponsored by Friends Journal
-**Thee Quaker Project**: weekly podcast; **www.theequaker.org**
-**Quaker Speak**; bi-weekly Quaker video sponsored by Friends Journal; **www.QuakerSpeak.com**
-**Friends General Conference bookstore**; **www.quakerbooks.org**
-**Friends General Conference** website; **www.fgcquaker.org**
-**Friends Committee on National Legislation**; Quaker lobby organization; **www.fcnl.org**
-**American Friends Service Committee**; **www.afsc.org**
-**Friends United Meeting;** www.friendsunitedmeeting.org
-**Pendle Hil**l; Quaker study and retreat center in Pennsylvania; www.pendlehill.org
-**Friends World Committee for Consultation**; Quakers around the world; www.fwcc.world
-**Right Sharing of World Resources**; www.rswr.org
-**Quaker United Nations Office**; www.quno.org
-**Friends Library**; www.friendslibrary.com

OTHER

-many in the meeting subscribe to a daily newsletter from Heather Cox Richardson called **Letters from an American.** She writes about current and historical events from a historical perspective. Good for putting events of the day in a broader context.
https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com

What have we left out? Let us know.

Helpful Resources for Immigrants

🚓🚓THIS IS MEANT TO BE A NON-EXHAUSTIVE LIST, PLEASE ADD TO IT WHEN YOU SEE FIT! 🚓🚓

General Enforcement

- Know Your Rights Card: https://www.nilc.org/resources/know-your-rights-card/
- Know Your Rights: What to Do if You Are Arrested or Detained by Immigration: https://www.nilc.org/resources/know-your-rights-what-to-do-if-arrested-detained-immigration/
- Warrants & Subpoenas: What to Look Out for and How to Respond: https://www.nilc.org/resources/warrants-and-subpoenas-facts/
- Know Your Rights: Trump's Registration Requirement for Immigrants: https://www.nilc.org/resources/know-your-rights-trumps-registration-requirement-for-immigrants/

Locating Loved Ones

- How to Find a Loved One After a U.S. Immigration Arrest: https://www.nilc.org/resources/how-to-find-a-loved-one-after-a-u-s-immigration-arrest/
- Tracking the CECOT Disappearances: https://www.nilc.org/resources/tracking-the-cecot-disappearances/

Education

- Know Your Rights: Immigrant Students and Schools: https://www.nilc.org/resources/protecting-our-students-and-families/
- Education Providers and Immigration Enforcement: Know Your Rights & Your Students' Rights: https://www.nilc.org/resources/education-providers-and-immigration-enforcement-know-your-rights-know-your-students-rights/
- Protecting Immigrant Students & Employees: Guidelines for Higher Education Institutions: https://www.nilc.org/resources/protecting-immigrant-students-employees-guidelines-for-higher-education-institutions/
- Protecting Our Students: What You Need to Know About the Rights of Immigrants and the Threat of Deportation: https://www.nilc.org/resources/know-your-rights-immigrant-students-and-schools/

Workplace

- A Guide for Employers: What to Do if Immigration Comes to Your Workplace: https://www.nilc.org/resources/a-guide-for-employers-what-to-do-if-immigration-comes-to-your-workplace/

Health Care

- Know Your Rights: Health Care and Health Insurance for Immigrants: https://www.nilc.org/resources/health-insurance-and-care-rights/
- Health Care Providers and Immigration Enforcement: Know Your Rights, Know Your Patients' Rights: https://www.nilc.org/resources/healthcare-provider-and-patients-rights-imm-enf/
- Know Your Rights: Immigrants' Participation in Protests: https://www.nilc.org/resources/immigrant-participation-in-protests-rights/

How to be a Good Ally/Informing your Community 101

- Planning in case of an immigration emergency https://familiesuniteddcmetro.org/
- Filming of an ICE arrest https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s2wGxRN5YPM
- Zine demonstrating ICE Operation Disruption https://zinesforever.com/z/karens-guide-to-disrupting-ice

This list was sent to us by Zakee McGill



(Please send links, coming events, or interesting items you would like to share with Friends and readers to Donna Knight)

June 27: Hilde Matheson's memorial service at Hopewell at 2 pm.

July 5: Annual Hot Dog Roast after Meeting for Worship.

August 23: Homecoming at Hopewell

August 30: Regional Gathering hosted by Frederick, MD Meeting



Brett Osborn July 11th

David Landes July 15th

Maggie Stetler July 16th

Robyn Harris July 17th

Martha Hanley July 18th

(Check the Hopewell Directory for your birthday, contact Rebecca Ebert if we need to add it)

Hopewell Centre Meeting of
Religious Society of Friends
604 Hopewell Road
Clear Brook, VA 22624