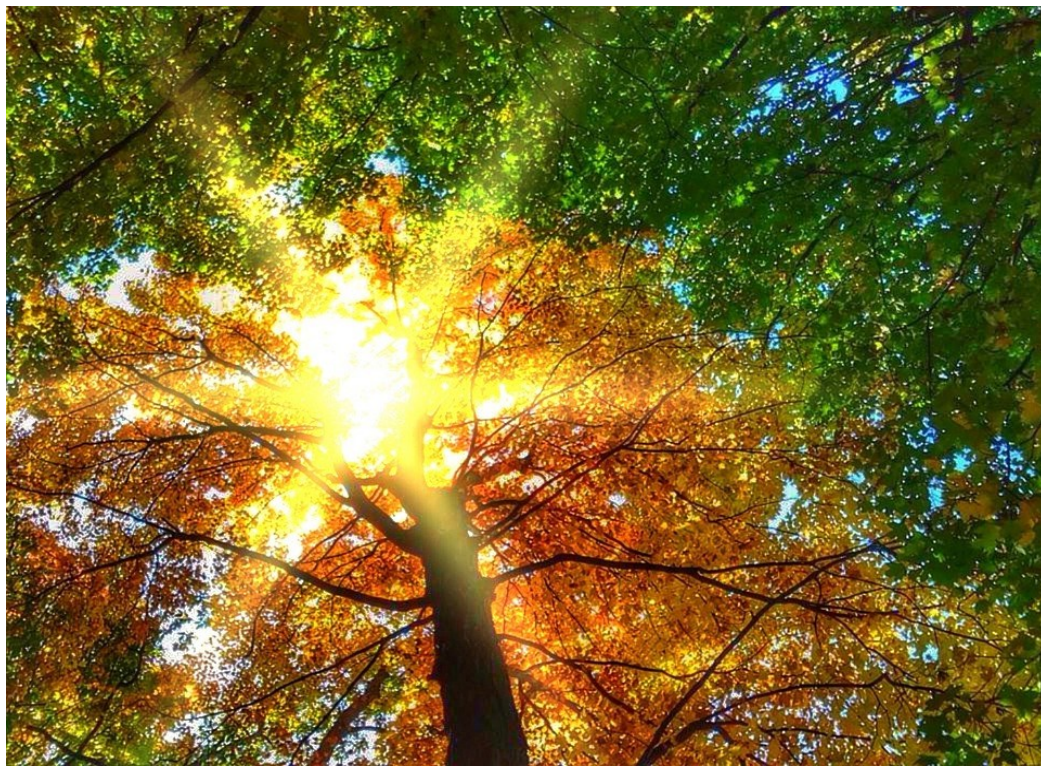


West Branch Friends Meeting

September 2024

“Forgiveness...and More”



Friends,

Recently, I was prompted to share a message about something I am wrestling with — forgiveness. This wrestling was brought on by reading a message from Fr. Greg Boyle. Fr. Greg founded Homeboy Industries and is the author of several books — a couple of which we have discussed in book group. The book I am currently reading is called “Forgive Everyone Everything” and I am using this as a daily devotional. The preface in the book is what prompted the message I shared in worship. I share it again here, as I would love for us to continue to ponder this word — in our thoughts, our prayers and our discussion.

“Dear Reader: Sometime ago, I saw a bumper sticker that read “forgive everyone everything.” That can be a pretty freeing idea if we can actually live it. Forgiveness is about restoration of life; it’s about becoming whole again, about repairing broken relationships. It’s about resilience. And resilience is about bouncing back and allowing yourself to be restored so that things in life don’t topple you. We all know what it’s like to have our hearts hardened by resentment. But if we can forgive everyone everything, then we can be freed from anger, hatred, and resentment. Psychologists might say that resilience is about perception. Being resilient is about how you choose to see Long after experiences a traumatizing event, you can continue to see that event as traumatizing, and it will be traumatizing. Or you could see that event as an opportunity for growth and learning. There’s no denying how difficult things can be. But the way out to the place of resilience, the place of restoration, the place of not allowing your heart to be hardened by resentment, relies on one thing: forgive everyone everything.” — Fr. Greg

The next three pages in this newsletter contain information about upcoming events with themes of peace-making, forgiveness, resilience, restoration. I hope we will consider them. I hope we will attend them. I hope we will ponder what we have learned. I hope we will share with one another not only what we learn, but what we are willing to do, to be part of, to share with the world around these themes. We are a people of peace and I believe that forgiveness, resilience, reparations, and restoration are steps to lasting peace for us all.

In Riotous Joy,

Pastor Chris

September 5th/6-7:30 CST

Quakers for Peace in Palestine & Israel

Register for Zoom Link

Quakersforpeace@gmail.com



Building a Just and Lasting Peace:

Perspectives & Experiences Of Palestinian Quakers

Quakers for Peace In Palestine & Israel
invite you to join us on Zoom to hear
about experiences with systemic
oppression, paths of nonviolent resistance,
and a vision for a just and peaceful
future from two Palestinian Quakers.
discussion will follow.

Joyce Ajlouny

Justice to communities globally, Joyce Ajlouny has Deep experience in international development and Relief, education and non-profit management. Under her leadership, American Friends Service Committee is entering its second century with a Bold strategic revisioning and planning initiative For the next decade (2020-2030).

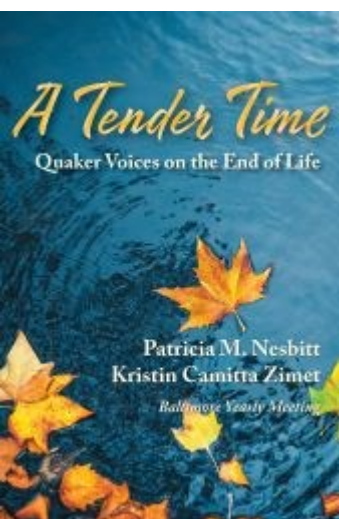
A Palestinian American, Joyce started her career in international development In Palestine. She served as country director for Palestine And Israel with Oxfam-Great Britain, chaired the Association Of International Development Agencies there and took on Leadership roles at the UNDP and UNFPA. Prior to joining AFSC, Joy

Joyce served as the director of the Ramallah Friends School, a leading K-12 Quaker school in Palestine, for 13 years, where she led a diverse staff to transform the school academically, physically, and financially.

Walid Mosarsaa

Senior Program Coordinator and Secretary of the Board for Every Campus is A Refuge, holds an MA in Religion focused on Peace & Justice from Earlham School of Religion and is pursuing an MBA at Guilford College. Walid serves on the Board of Directors for the Nobel Peace Prize-winning American Friends Service Committee and the IMPACT National Conference

Walid is the grandson of a Nakba survivor and witnessed The Second Intifada as a child in the West Bank. He attended Ramallah Friends School and is a member of Friendship Friends.



Hand in Hand: Aging Together in the Spirit

Online: Sep 4-18, 2024

This program offers live and interactive engagement with Baltimore Yearly Meeting's End of Life Working Group's new resource, [A Tender Time: Quaker Voices on the End of Life](#).

A Tender Time is a unique collection of Quaker voices, historical and contemporary, that explores practical, emotional, and spiritual aspects of aging, dying well, and making end-of-life decisions guided by the Spirit and Quaker values. It moves in widening circles, from aging to dying, and from primary caregivers, to friends, to the whole faith community.

This program includes three sessions, inviting Friends into the themes of the book:

September 4: Aging in the Spirit – Finding Your Own Way

How do cultural, familial, and personal assumptions about aging affect you? Together we will look at new ways you could frame your experience of age, recognizing both losses and grace.

September 11: Befriending Your Mortality

What models of dying – uncomfortable and/or beautiful – have you encountered? Together we will look at how you might choose to frame a good death.

September 18: Beyond Death: Continuing Relationships

A relationship does not end when someone dies. Together we will discover ways to affirm connection and make meaning after a death

Leaders

Patti Nesbitt is a retired palliative care nurse, traveling minister, and graduate of the School of the Spirit. Surviving cancer made her unafraid of death and willing to companion people with terminal diagnoses. She has served on numerous committees for her monthly meeting and for Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM). She clerks BYM's End of Life Working Group and is co-author of [A Tender Time: Quaker Voices on the End of Life](#). Patti is a member of Sandy Spring Monthly Meeting in Maryland.

Eileen Stanzione is a licensed clinical social worker with a passion for working with the dying and the bereaved. For more than 40 years, she worked extensively in hospice and as a dialysis social worker. She taught graduate courses at West Virginia and Salisbury Universities and maintains a private practice, specializing in grief work. Eileen co-clerks Baltimore Yearly Meeting's Ministry and Pastoral Care Committee and is a member of Patapsco Friends Meeting in Maryland.

Kristin Camitta Zimet has served as an EMT, a musician with a chaplaincy program for children at hospitals in New York City, and a patient care volunteer for Blue Ridge Hospice and Winchester Medical Center in Virginia. Kristin is a two-time cancer survivor and was a long-time primary caregiver. She is the co-author of [A Tender Time: Quaker Voices on the End of Life](#) and the author of a book of poems, *Take in My Arms the Dark*. She is a member of Hopewell Centre Monthly Meeting in Virginia.

Register online at pendlehill.org

A Celebration of

PEACE

New Association of Friends
GATHERING FOR NURTURE & FELLOWSHIP
2024

In Conjunction with the
INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY FESTIVAL
TO BE HELD IN NEW CASTLE, IN

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

- 9:00 AM | FELLOWSHIP
- 9:30 AM | WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS
FROM EACH MEETING
- 10:30 AM | WORSHIP
- 10:45 AM | SPEAKER: COLLEEN WESSEL-McCOY
- 11:30 AM | ADJOURN TO LUNCH & FESTIVAL
- 2:00 PM | CLOSING TIME OF REFLECTION ON THE
DAY'S GATHERING (MEET AT THE ART CENTER)
- 3:00 PM | FAREWELL



FEATURING:

Colleen Wessel-McCoy, Ph.D.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PEACE & JUSTICE STUDIES
DIRECTOR OF THE MASTERS OF PEACE & SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION
EARLHAM SCHOOL OF RELIGION

21
SEPT

NEW CASTLE
FRIENDS MEETING

503 S. MAIN ST. | NEW CASTLE, IN 47362

9AM
UNTIL
3PM
SATURDAY

West Branch Food Pantry Needs Our Help!

The West Branch Food Pantry (now merged with the School Paw Pantry at the old Middle School building) is in need of paper products. You can donate items at the pantry during open hours (notably on Saturdays 9-12) or at Bethany Lutheran Church during business hours. (Monday-Friday 9-3). If you cannot drop off items at either of these places, bring them to the meetinghouse and I will get them to the pantry. Thanks for your help!



Worship Servants

September 1

Greeter: Jim Glasson

Zoom Host: Maxine Koepf

Special Music:

Children's Message: Sue McCracken

Piano: Lucas McCracken

September 22

Greeter: Gordon Edgar

Zoom Host:

Special Music:

Children's Message: Joan Blundall

Piano: Elaine Wedeking

September 8

Greeter: Gordon Edgar

Zoom Host:

Special Music:

Children's Message: Kathleen Darling

Piano: Gwen Senio

September 29

Greeter:

Zoom Host:

Special Music:

Children's Message:

Piano: Gwen Senio

September 15

Greeter:

Zoom Host:

Special Music:

Children's Message:

Piano: Julie Tallman

BLESSINGS AND PRAYERS

Our Senior Friends

Darlene Baum

Pat Bradley

Maria Denmead

Fran Fritz

Donna Mortenson

Larry Reiner

Lois Semotan

Nancy Stax

Mildred Torkelson



Ecumenical Prayer Cycle for September

Sept. 1-Sept. 7: Benin, Ivory Coast, Togo

Sept. 8-Sept. 14: Ghana, Nigeria

Sept. 15-Sept. 21: Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay

Sept. 22-Sept. 28: Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Peru

Sept. 29-Oct. 5: Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela

Joys & Concerns

In loving memory of Lyn Kane

Joan, recovering from knee surgery

Jeff recovering from a heart attack

Maxine's brother-in-law who received a kidney transplant

Maxine's stepdaughter with a high risk pregnancy and a due date this month

Blake and Brie who just purchased a new home in Coralville (just two doors down from Maxine!)

Raghu as he deals with health issues

Elaine's friend Kevin

The people of Israel and Gaza as war continues

The people of Ukraine and Russia as war continues

A Prayer for September



