

GRASS VALLEY  
FRIENDS MEETING  
*Of the Religious Society of Friends*  
*College Park Quarterly Meeting,*  
*Pacific Yearly Meeting*

13075 Woolman Lane, Nevada City, CA 95959  
@ The Sierra Friends Center, off Jones Bar Road,  
Nevada City, CA 95959  
Phone: 530) 648-0190  
Website: [www.gvfriends.org](http://www.gvfriends.org)  
Email: [grassvalleyfriends@gmail.com](mailto:grassvalleyfriends@gmail.com)

**First Days: 9:00am Singing at the Meeting House (zoom)**  
**10:00 am Silent Meeting for Worship (in-person and zoom)**  
To receive the zoom link, [grassvalleyfriends@gmail.com](mailto:grassvalleyfriends@gmail.com).

Newsletter, Twelfth Month, 2021

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**MEETING CALENDAR**

*First Sunday*

- Program to be announced

*Second Sunday*

- Silent Meeting for Worship via zoom only,  
Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of  
Business via zoom only

*Third Sunday*

- As announced

*Fourth Sunday*

- Spiritual Life – To Be Announced

*Fifth Sunday*

- On Fifth Sundays we hold a Family Meeting for Worship. *Children and adults gather and spend 20 minutes in storytelling, 20 minutes in singing and 20 minutes in silent worship.*

- ✚ 1st First Day: Bible Story and Song
- ✚ 2<sup>nd</sup> First Day: A Story and a Craft or Activity
- ✚ 3<sup>rd</sup> First Day: A Story plus Time for Silent Worship
- ✚ 4<sup>th</sup> First Day: A Creative, Topical Curriculum
- ✚ 5<sup>th</sup> First Day: Family Worship (a story, singing and silent worship)
- ✚ Online Worship: every Wednesday evening, 7:00-7:30 pm

**HAPPENING NOW**

- Week of Dec. 26-31, 2021 – 2-3 day Library Work Party, see page 4 for details.
- December 26, 2021, 11:15a.m. – *Birthing the Christ Within* led by Gordon Starr

## HAPPENING LATER

- January 23, 2022, 11:15a.m. – Our relationship with the Nisenan led by Dorothy Henderson
- May 22, 2022, InterFaith Walk for Peace and Justice

## GLOSSARY- Abbreviations and terms used in the GVFM newsletter

**SFC:** Sierra Friends Center

**M&O:** Ministry and Oversight

**PacYM:** Pacific Yearly Meeting

**PHP** – Pendle Hill Pamphlet

**FGC:** Friends General Conference

**QUNP:** Quaker United Nations Project

**FASE:** Friends Association for Services to the Elderly

**CPQM:** College Park Quarterly Meeting

**RSWR:** Right Sharing of World Resources

**Threshing Session:** A meeting at a separate time that is specifically not for decision-making; normal practices of a Quaker meeting for business are relaxed so that Friends may speak more than once to an issue, may speak to a point just made, or may ask a question of a previous speaker.

## MINUTES & RECORD: Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business – DECEMBER 12, 2021

We met in-person & virtually = hybrid Meeting for Worship

**Present:** Dean Olson, Co-Clerk; Doug & Dorothy Henderson, Judy & Reed Hamilton, Dianne Marshall, Nancy Anderson, Lo Hamm, Don McCormick Pat Phillips, Gordon Starr. Kathy McQueery & fosten wilson, Acting Recording Clerk

The Meeting opened with silent worship.

**Clerk's Query** - We call this time Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business. What helps you think of this as business in the context of worship?

**LAST MONTH'S ACTION ITEMS** - The proposed Rental Agreement will be considered after the reports from the Spirit & Witness and the Stewardship Committees.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**SPIRIT/WITNESS:** Judy Hamilton:

**Bob Barns Memorial:** We have spoken to Bob Barns • daughter, who agreed that we should wait until after the holidays for his memorial and is willing to have the memorial over Zoom. Dorothy will contact Jackie Stillwell of RSWR to see if they would be interested in attending. We will proceed with more plans after the holidays.

**Sierra Friends Center:** Gordon S. reported that **the container has been emptied** and most of the contents are now in the Meeting House. There remain many decisions on where things go and what to get rid of (benches, children's furniture, books and toys, posters etc.).

The new internet equipment is in and a trial hybrid meeting of the Stewardship Committee was held on Dec. 2. Those in the Meeting House had great quality of audio and video but those at home on Zoom report the video was frozen on their screens most of the time. This will need to be resolved.

Many questions were voiced about how all this reflects on the Meeting House being usable as referred to in the proposed rental agreement. The rental agreement is being examined by Spirit and Witness and the Stewardship committees and these concerns will be brought to Meeting for Business.

The Waking up to Race book group continues with their study of Kazu Haga's Healing Resistance and visited the African Methodist Episcopalian Church in Marysville at the invitation of some of their members. It was a wonderful experience and they were warmly welcomed.

**Spiritual Life programs:** scheduled for December, Gordon Starr presenting *Birthing the Christ Within* and in January, Judy and Dorothy presenting a program on the Nisenan. Programs proposed: Writing a spiritual biography, Quakerism in France, a one-hour music sing-a-long.

Dorothy delivered an impassioned report on the idea of Quaker buddies . Spirit and Witness would like to include any in Meeting that would like to join us in having a group of folks to contact on a regularly basis. This would be done on a trial basis for a few months.

**CHILDREN:** Dorothy Henderson: The Children's Program will continue to be only on Zoom. If/when to change that will be decided after the hybrid-meeting issues are resolved. More adult volunteers will be needed for in-person children's programs.

**STEWARDSHIP:** Gordon Starr: The cargo container is empty & will be removed soon. We need to reconstruct our library & work out specifics like what we can hang on the walls with Sierra Friends Center. A better dust mop, sanitizing wipes, & other particular items are still needed. Our electronic gear will need to be stored in the closet near our library. Financially, we spent \$364 for November with income of \$1,421. But our monthly costs are increasing now that we are using the Meeting House each Sunday.

**STEWARDSHIP continued:** Last month we agreed to pay for December the increased rent (\$575) that Marty requested in the proposed rental agreement & we have done so. Our understanding was that all construction would be completed & the Meeting House ready for use. That is not the case, there are several problems. Marty has suggested that we pay half of that amount for January.

**RENTAL AGREEMENT:** Gordon Starr et al: Parts of the proposed rental agreement have been clarified.

- The “rental increases” mentioned involve additional uses of the property such as may happen for weddings or memorials.
- Visitors register at Office: This involves first-time-visits at Sierra Friends Center. We are not expected to stop at the Office each Sunday, nor for occasional workdays.
- The “sexual predator” wording is to clarify that Sierra Friends Center does not do this screening & if we desire this it is our responsibility. The wording is required by Sierra Friends Center's insurance carrier.
- Paying 50% of the expanded internet capacity is because the Meeting House is getting its own wired connection. Plus, we are the primary user of the increased capacity. So far, other users are expected to be occasional.

- Residence Agreements: This section will need modification because we are tenants but not residents of Sierra Friends Center.
- Rent for Events: Sierra Friends Center has a price list for use of various parts of the property. It would be useful to know those costs.
- Sierra Friends Center will have a new Executive Director, Coleen Hedglin, starting January 1<sup>st</sup>. Marty will stay to help the transition. Might this affect the proposed rental agreement?
- Gordon Starr *Thanks & appreciation were expressed for Gordon's efforts.*

The proposed Rental Agreement will be reevaluated in first month Business Meeting of 2022.

CONCERN: It was observed that the in-person audio “sounds like mush” & she doubts there can be consensus in Business Meeting when so much is not understood. There was agreement & the following Minute was approved.

MINUTE 2021.12.1: On second Sundays Grass Valley Friends will meet via Zoom only – not in person – until technical issues are resolved. This includes Silent Worship & Meeting for Business on second Sundays. Grass Valley Friends will continue with hybrid Sunday Meetings for Worship, including both in-person & via Zoom except for second Sundays of each month.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Help Dianne Marshall re-establish our library. She will schedule one or more work days between Christmas & New Year's Day to install the book cases & begin re-shelving books. **Please let her know what days you can help.**
- New Executive Director hired for Sierra Friends Center, Coleen Hedglin, starting January 1<sup>st</sup>. She will be living on campus & has a very impressive background.
- Malaika Bishop has the burned-over Woolman Farm back in food production. It is expanded & much improved.
- Tree Planting – 4,000 seedlings have been planted in a volunteer effort, mostly near Mel's Pond. Several people from Grass Valley Friends Meeting participated.
- It's easy to give to Grass Valley Friends Meeting! Go to [gvfriends.org](http://gvfriends.org) and click on the Give button. This takes you to a secure site for donations. Please consider making your contribution monthly. Your contribution covers Pacific Yearly Meeting dues and ensures that our activities as a Meeting are sustained. Thank you

This **draft** RECORD AND MINUTE will be corrected before approval in January.

The Meeting closed with silent worship.

Respectfully recorded by Fosten Wilson, acting recording clerk ---

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PLEASE NOTE: On second Sundays Grass Valley Friends will meet via Zoom only – not in person – until technical issues are resolved. This includes Silent Worship & Meeting for Business on second Sundays. Grass Valley Friends will continue with hybrid Sunday Meetings for Worship, including both in-person & via Zoom except for second Sundays of each month.

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## **ADVICES and QUERIES: TWELFTH Month: THE MEETING COMMUNITY**

Meetings for Worship and Business are the center of our spiritual community. There, as we come to know each other in the Spirit, we build the “beloved community.”

Mutual respect and care in the Meeting form the foundation from which we can test, support, and exercise leadings of the Spirit. At its best, the Meeting community provides a framework for us to learn and practice mutual care, which strengthens us as we act in the world.

All members of the Meeting community should share in the care of one another. While respecting privacy, we must be aware of and sensitive to each other’s needs. We must also be willing to ask for assistance when we are in need.

Do I strive to be inclusive in my relationships within the Meeting?

Do I care for the reputation of others, refraining from gossip or disparaging remarks?

Am I committed to the difficult work of forgiveness, and affirming God’s love for the whole community?

*How are love and unity maintained among us?*

*Do we practice the art of listening, even beyond words?*

*How have we been sensitive to the personal needs and difficulties of members and attenders, young and old?*

*Do we visit one another in our homes and keep in touch with distant members?*



### **News from Sierra Friends Center**

#### **SFC announces new Executive Director – Marty Coleman Hunt**

Announcing Coleen Hedglin as Executive Director:

After a three-month, nationwide search, the Woolman board has appointed a new, permanent executive director who will begin on January 3. Coleen Hedglin brings to Woolman more than twenty years’ nonprofit management experience, including project startup and fundraising for social justice organizations, with a focus on youth. Most recently, Coleen was with Beyond Borders, a nonprofit that helps people build movements to liberate themselves from oppression and isolation, working primarily in Haiti.

For nearly 20 years, Coleen was instrumental in building Beyond Borders’ flagship program to end child domestic slavery, which impacts as many as 400,000 children in Haiti. More than 44,000 Child Rights Activists have been trained to mobilize their communities to prevent violence against children and child domestic slavery. She played an integral role in the development and adaptation of dialogue-based methodologies to promote social change and facilitate community organizing. She was part of a team that

brought Open Space Technology to Haiti, using it to facilitate town hall-style meetings, promote shared leadership, and spark local initiative.

She enjoys developing programs, leading teams, and facilitating workshops. Coleen holds a degree in Education and is passionate about child rights and healthy child development. She lived and worked in Haiti for 16 years, beginning as a Peace Corps volunteer. Coleen values life-long personal growth and learning. She believes in the power of dialogue and loves helping groups hold meaningful conversations. Coleen enjoys hiking, which keeps her grounded, and listening to music, which feeds her soul.

Coleen will take over the helm from Interim Executive Director, Marty Coleman-Hunt at the first of the year, Marty will stay on for 3-6 months to ensure a smooth transition.

### **SFC Farm – Malaika Bishop**

We are finally up and running as a farm, selling to Heartwood, Three Forks, Emily’s Catering, the Holbrooke Hotel, Tahoe Food Hub and more.

### **Tree Planting – Marty Coleman-Hunt**

We are finishing up the Meeting House and are focused on the Community Tree Planting. 200 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders are coming to plant.

"We have 2 schools from Oakland and SF Friends School on the calendar for programs in the spring. Things are starting to normalize."

At the Meeting for Worship on the Occasion of Business 12/12, Judy Hamilton shared that the Tree Planting has been completed. In the two weeks scheduled, groups have planted 4,000 trees, all up and surrounding Mel’s Pond area.

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**Please consider supporting Grass Valley Friends Meeting!  
Click on the Give button below.**



***Note: This button will take you to a secure site.***

It’s easy to give to Grass Valley Friends Meeting! Click on the Give button above or go to [gvfriends.org](http://gvfriends.org) and click on the “GIVE” button. This takes you to a secure site for donations.

Your monthly contribution covers our Pacific Yearly Meeting dues and ensures that our activities as a Meeting are sustained. *Tithely* now allows the user to change the dollar of their gift without making a new donation request Thank you.

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**No one has ever become poor by giving.** Anne Frank (1929 - 1945) Diarist

Whether in physics or in relationships, actions have consequences. When we squeeze a balloon, it expands somewhere else; when we act with kindness, it shapes someone else. Our behavior – including a decision not to act – has impact.

Generosity can change the world for us. Generosity affects how we judge our abilities. When we give of ourselves, we discover more about our skills. We may not realize the value of our compassion or the worth of our empathy. A talent we dismissed becomes the resource that resolves a need; a capacity we forgot heals another's wound. Giving, we can experience our strengths in new ways.

Generosity affects how we assess our wealth. When we give from our possessions, our bounty becomes another's sustenance. Defining affluence is always about comparison; giving helps us to escape that never ending trap. We are reminded that what we own is truly what we have been given. To give from what we have, keeps that which we might want, in perspective.

Generosity affects how we understand justice. Giving can change what we believe is fair. We can begin to wonder what abilities another has that we might invite them to share. We can cultivate our curiosity as to what causes another to require aid. Generosity raises important questions about how best to support everyone's equitable access to the world's resources.

Genuine giving has a cost; it reaps the benefit of insight that transforms. What will I give today? How can I allow my giving to change me?

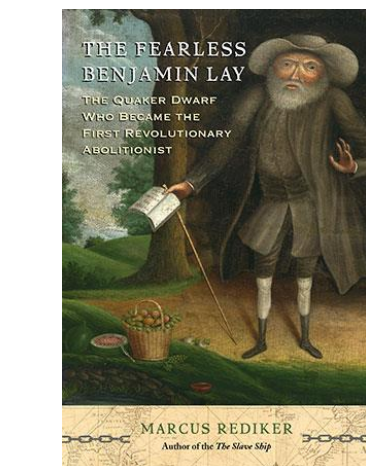
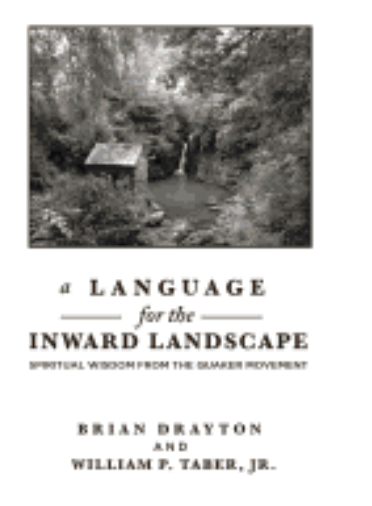
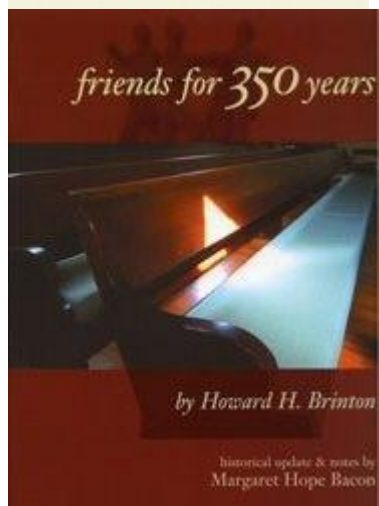
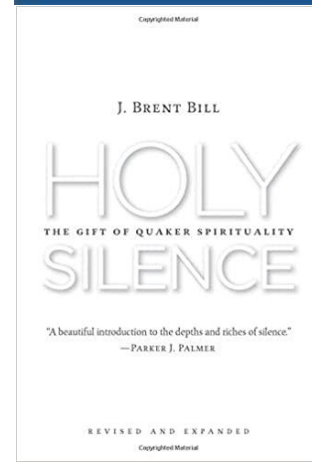
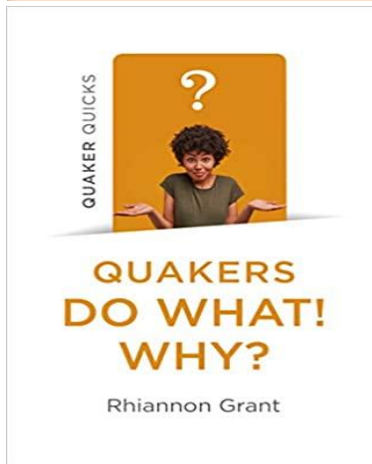
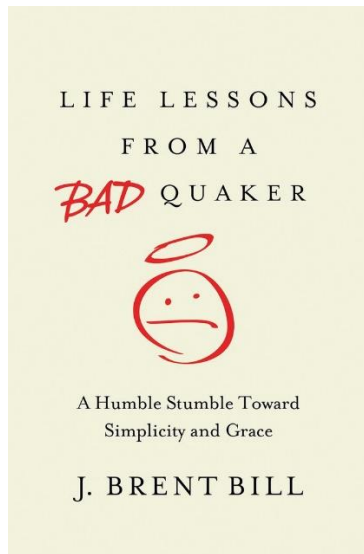
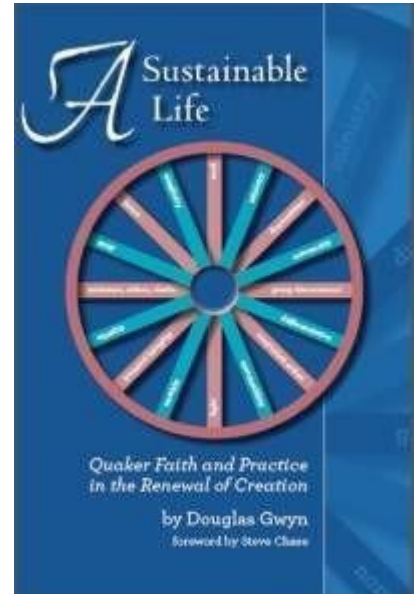
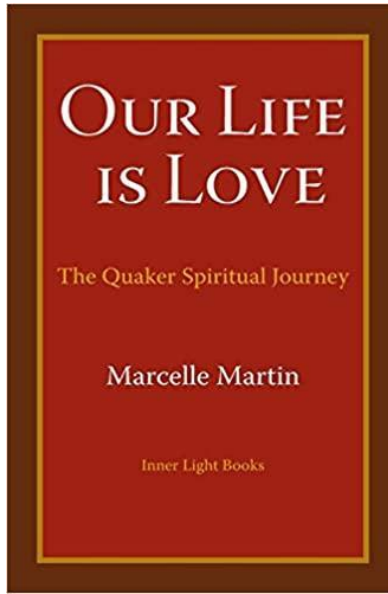
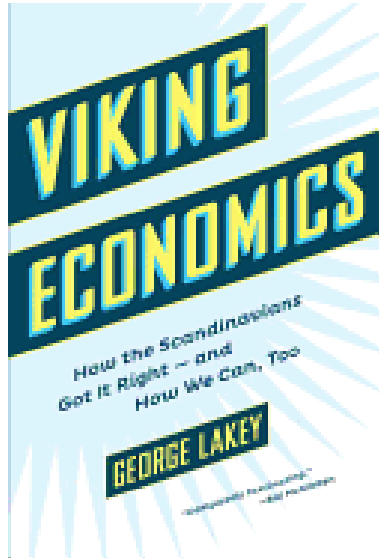
**Written for Today** by Amanda Gorman

Though we strobed  
That we came in peace,  
He was already at war.  
We have battled hard to be.  
Nothing -  
Nothing -  
Can keep you safe.  
Silence least of all.  
Look alive, everyone.  
May such a prayer,  
A people,  
A peace,  
A promise,  
Be ours.  
Be right,  
& radiant,  
& real.





# Favorite Quaker Authors





# *Christmas Bells*

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow - 1807-1882

I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet  
The words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along  
The unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day,  
A voice, a chime,  
A chant sublime  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth  
The cannon thundered in the South,  
And with the sound  
The carols drowned  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent  
The hearth-stones of a continent,  
And made forlorn  
The households born  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;  
"There is no peace on earth," I said;  
"For hate is strong,  
And mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The Wrong shall fail,  
The Right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good-will to men."

## Silent Night: The Story of the World War I Christmas Truce of 1914



German and British troops celebrating Christmas together during a temporary cessation of WWI hostilities known as the Christmas Truce. Mansell—The LIFE Picture Collection/Getty Images

On a crisp, clear morning 100 years ago, thousands of British, Belgian and French soldiers put down their rifles, stepped out of their trenches and spent Christmas mingling with their German enemies along the Western front. In the hundred years since, the event has been seen as a kind of miracle, a rare moment of peace just a few months into a war that would eventually claim over 15 million lives. But what actually happened on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day of 1914 — and did they really play soccer on the battlefield?

Pope Benedict XV, who took office that September, had originally called for a Christmas truce, an idea that was officially rejected. Yet it seems the sheer misery of daily life in the cold, wet, dull trenches was enough to motivate troops to initiate the truce on their own — which means that it's hard to pin down exactly what happened. A huge range of differing oral accounts, diary entries and letters home from those who took part make it virtually impossible to speak of a “typical” Christmas truce as it took place across the Western front. To this day historians continue to disagree over the specifics: no one knows where it began or how it spread, or if, by some curious festive magic, it broke out simultaneously across the trenches. Nevertheless, some two-thirds of troops — about 100,000 people — are believed to have participated in the legendary truce.

Most accounts suggest the truce began with carol singing from the trenches on Christmas Eve, “a beautiful moonlit night, frost on the ground, white almost everywhere”, as Pvt. Albert Moren of the Second Queens Regiment [recalled](#), in a document later rounded up by the *New York Times*. Graham Williams of the Fifth London Rifle Brigade [described it in even greater detail](#).

[Read more.](#)

# Grass Valley Friends Meeting (GVFM) Contact Information (7-1-21)

## Office Holders:

### OFFICERS:

- **Clerk of the Meeting:** Co-Clerks – Dean and Karen Olson (530) 270-9366 [deanolson44@gmail.com](mailto:deanolson44@gmail.com)
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- **Website/Facebook Coordinator:** Amy Cooke [amylisette@gmail.com](mailto:amylisette@gmail.com)
- **Zoom Coordinators:** Hailey Wilson [seahorseleaf@protonmail.com](mailto:seahorseleaf@protonmail.com), Stuart Smith [sewsmitharts@yahoo.com](mailto:sewsmitharts@yahoo.com)

### REPRESENTATIVES:

- |                               |                          |  |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| 1. AFSC:                      | 5. FCLCA:                | 9. QUNO: Shera Banbury                                 |
| 2. College Park<br>Quarterly: | 6. FGC Liaison:          | 10. Right Sharing of World Resources: Judy<br>Hamilton |
| 3. FASE:                      | 7. PYM: Don<br>McCormick | 11. Sierra Friends Center: Pat Phillips                |
| 4. FCNL:                      | 8. Quaker Center:        | 12. Interfaith Nevada County: Dianne Marshall          |

### COMMITTEES: (convener or clerk in bold)

**Stewardship:** **Mary Starr**, Gordon Starr, Reed Hamilton, Pat Phillips, Doug Hamm, Fosten Wilson (Treasurer, Ex-officio) Dianne Marshall (ex officio as Librarian and Newsletter Editor), Hailey Wilson

**Spirit/Witness:** **Judy Hamilton**, Gordon Starr, Judy Hamilton, Gordon Bishop, Dorothy Henderson, Anita and Don McCormick (ex-officio Co Clerks),

**Welcome:** **Kathy McCreery**, Karen Olson, ex officio Website/Facebook Coordinator (Amy Cooke), ex officio Zoom coordinator (Hailey Wilson and Stuart Smith), ex officio Email Coordinator (Judy Hamilton)

**Children's Program:** **Dorothy Henderson**, Karen Olson, Judy Hamilton, Gordon Bishop, Anita McCormick, Doug Hamm, Don McCormick



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