



Newsletter of the  
**Ithaca Monthly Meeting**  
of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

**March 2012**

**IMM CONTACTS**

**Meetinghouse:**

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607-229-9500

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**Treasurer:**

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**Pastoral Care:**

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**Childcare Requests:**

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**Burt House:**

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227 N. Willard Way, Ithaca, NY 14850  
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**Listserv:**

To join our email list for solely for meeting-related announcements, send an email message addressed to:

IMMRSF-L-request@cornell.edu

with body of the message as simply:

join

**Scheduling:**

To set up or schedule a program or presentation for the meeting and/or to reserve a room at the meetinghouse, please see the instructions on the website.

**Website:** [ithacamonthlymeeting.org](http://ithacamonthlymeeting.org)

**“Out of the Nest”: Not Just for Birds**

Some of you may have heard talk of a mysterious Ithaca Monthly Meeting initiative called Out of the Nest. Or maybe you’ve noticed the acronym OOTN popping up in committee minutes and meeting agendas and wondered what new Quaker abbreviation you would now be compelled to learn. Or maybe you’ve noticed the number of young Friends embedded in our meeting and thought, “Wow. What will they do now?”

Well wonder no longer. The Out of the Nest Quaker Mentoring Program pairs adult Friends with teens 15 and older interested in exploring the role of Quakerism in their lives. Teen “nestlings” meet informally with their “mentors” one or more times a month over the course of one to two years to get to know each other, discuss Quakerism, and participate in a service project together. The purpose of the program is to help teens:

- understand Quaker values, practice, faith, and history
- experience Quaker process
- help others by doing a service project
- experience using a Quaker Clearness Committee
- connect to the larger IMM community

In addition to providing mentorship for interested teens, IMM members and attenders are asked to find ways to support these efforts in whatever way they are capable. Suggestions and leads for service projects, financial support for service project expenses, donations toward purchasing copies of Faith and Practice, willingness to serve on teen Clearness Committees are all ways to help cultivate the growth of the meeting’s youth.

Because of the number of Friends entering the OOTN program, I will be serving as the Out of the Nest Coordinator. Part

matchmaker, part overseer, part resource coordinator, I will be doing my best to usher these mentor-nestling pairs through the OOTN program. Currently, our OOTN participants are:

- Dylan Kaiser and Larry Clarkberg  
\*Beginning a service project soon!\*
- Jasper Clarkberg and Fell Cadwallader
- Laurel Wolfe-Wawrzynek and Toni Murdough
- Rosie Altucher and Mary Balfour
- Sarah Saxon and Gina Varrichio
- Alma Mohlke and Alexa Yesukevich

And there may still be a few more to come! For more information on the Out of the Nest program, grab a purple booklet on the table in the entryway for a general overview and answers to common questions. For more details, or to offer your aid or ideas, contact Gina Varrichio, [zealth\\_1@yahoo.com](mailto:zealth_1@yahoo.com), 272.2512.

— Gina Varrichio,  
*Out of the Nest Coordinator*

**Prepare to Show Your Talent**

Bring your talented self to the umpteenth annual Ithaca Monthly Meeting Talent Show on Saturday March 24th. Potluck dinner at 6pm, show starts at 6:30. Anything goes: inspirational readings, Quakerly anecdotes, korny comedy, musical performances, and magical tricks. Contact [larry@knowledgetown.com](mailto:larry@knowledgetown.com) if you have even an inkling of a performance you’d like to do.



A masked actor unsheaths his sword in the 2009 Talent Show.

## Call for Gently Used Children's Books

The Family Reading Partnership and Area Congregations Together join each March in a drive to fill the Big Red Bookshelves with freely-offered children's books. You have seen these bookshelves in lots of public places like stores and medical offices. Now you can look for the Red Collection Box *right here in our meetinghouse*, where you can place donations of your outgrown children's books (new ones will not be refused!). Let's fill the Red Box to overflowing for children throughout our area.

## Donations Basket for NY Yearly Meeting

There will be a basket after meeting for worship on March 25th to receive individual donations towards the New York Yearly Meeting deficit (see details about the deficit below). Mike Simkin, treasurer, will send a check for any contributions that day, or any checks that he receives by that date earmarked for NYYM. Friends are also welcome to send donations directly to the NYYM Office at 15 Rutherford Place, New York, NY 10003

## Background on why NYYM has a deficit:

NYYM approved a budget for 2012 knowing that there was an approximately \$14,000 deficit. It now appears that there was also a deficit in 2011 when some covenant donations were not given in full as expected. NYYM is currently expecting the deficit for 2011 and 2012 together to be around \$30,000. NYYM is taking hard steps to limit expenses, including deep cuts to support for Powell House. A committee on priorities will also be visiting all meetings in NYYM to discern what NYYM services and programs monthly meetings find most useful and which ones monthly meetings think can be curtailed. In the meantime, as information is being gathered from monthly meetings, NYYM has asked Meetings to increase their covenant donation for 2012 and also ask members if they are moved to make individual donations. NYYM is asking for any new donations to be delivered by April 12, 2012, before the Spring Sessions of NYYM. Since our Meeting decided in December 2011 to increase our covenant donation for 2012 by \$1000 above what we had originally indicated to NYYM in September 2011, we are not asking IMM to make an additional increase. We are inviting individual Friends to consider making an additional contribution.

### Advices & Queries from NYYM Faith & Practice

*Advice 7. Friends are advised to work toward removing the causes of misery and suffering. They are urged to support efforts to overcome racial, social, economic, and educational discrimination; to bear testimony against all forms of oppression; to exert influence for such treatment of prisoners as may help reconstruct their lives; and to work for the abolition of the death penalty.*

## When Can You Make It?

The Program Committee needs your input. We have developed a short survey to gather information that will help us plan and schedule programs for the year. This will be sent out over the list-serve early next week—please look for it. Hard copies will be available for those who are more comfortable with that format. If you would like a hard copy, please see Carolyn Kenyon or Lynn Truame; we will have them with us at Meeting next Sunday (March 4). Thank you!

## War Is Not The Answer

Yard signs are back! Before the invasion of Iraq, FCNL created the "War is not the answer" yard sign, and we (the Peace Witness Committee) have been the local distributor for it. At the beginning of the war, the signs were available at Greenstar and at Autumn Leaves and on the front porch of the Burt House. Signs sprouted up in yards and windows all over Ithaca.

Peace vigils everywhere incorporated "War is not the answer" into their messages. Elspeth fastens a couple of signs to street posts at the Green Street wrap-around where she stands on Thursdays. On the other corner by CSMA, we display several each week. It is Julian Brown's sign of choice – perfect size for a child's grip.

Finally the last two signs in the closet became the two that came to mark the corners at Third Street.

The closet was empty, and we thought it was time to reorder. Our message of peace is no less urgent now as we face a world of endless war, war economy, and constant military expansion.

The signs and bumper stickers will be available at Third Street and at the Burt House. Let's keep our message visible.

— Wilma Brown

*Query 9. Do we participate actively and intelligently in the political life of our country? Are we conscientious in fulfilling all obligations of state and society that are not contrary to the leading of God? Do we do all in our power to secure civil rights for all? Do we emphasize the single standard of truth, and are we free from the use of oaths?*

*Query 10. Do we support measures to avoid pollution of air and water? Do we support measures to establish the conservation and right use of natural resources?*

## The Heart of Worship: A Retreat for Ithaca Monthly Meeting with Christopher Sammond Friday, March 16 (evening) and Saturday, March 17

We will be hosting an extended spiritual retreat March 16-17, and encourage Friends to consider this opportunity to deepen their worship experience.

It will be helpful if Friends register ahead of time. This can be done on-line: <http://bit.ly/yGK819>

Christopher Sammond provided the following description:

*Enlightenment is an accident. Practice makes us accident prone.*

— Zen proverb

Spirit-filled worship is something we can't plan for or make happen; it is a gift. But just as in the quote above, there are things we can do which will make us more likely to find this gift, and more able to open to it when it begins to arrive. This retreat will focus on practices which can make us more "accident prone" to receive the blessed gift of powerful, nurturing worship. We will look at how we prepare for worship, how we center down, how to open more to each other and to God during worship, and how to practice discerning between vocal ministry and an impetus to speak that comes from within ourselves alone.

### Queries for The Retreat

1. What do you do to nurture your spirit? How regular are you in this practice? There are many ways we nurture our spirit, and all are appropriate here: prayer, meditation, exercise, dance, poetry, reading sacred texts, music, walking outdoors, Tai Ch'i, yoga, fasting, the possibilities are endless. Consider what specific practice best nurtures your spirit.

2. If you are attending the retreat, please practice this activity for 20 minutes or more each day. If you do not find the time to do so, notice what seemed to be a greater priority. How does the week's spiritual practice correlate with your experience of worship each Sunday?

Worship is at the heart of all we do as Friends. If our worship is grounded and nourishing, our meetings flourish. If it is shallow or tangled, our meeting life will suffer. And we mostly leave each other to find our own way in this crucial part of our

lives. Come join others in learning ways to enrich our common worship, the lifeblood of our communal faith and practice. The day will be experiential and immediate, and will seek to draw Friends into deeper experiences and understandings of our rich practice as Friends.

As preparation for this retreat, Friends are invited and encouraged to consider the queries (see inset box). Whether or not you feel led to work with these queries, please come. All are very welcome.

### Who is Christopher Sammond?

Christopher Sammond is a graduate of United Theological Seminary and currently serves New York Yearly Meeting as its General Secretary. He has led workshops and brought messages in a wide variety of Friends' contexts.

Christopher carries a concern for faithfulness, and has traveled extensively in the ministry. In his work as general secretary, Christopher understands the core of his work to be helping others to release their gifts in ministry. He is a member of Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting.

### Spring Gathering: April 20-22

#### Friends on Fire: Spring Gathering of Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting

A collection of Quaker Meetings in Western New York constitute the Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting. Each Spring, FSRM convenes for a full weekend of fellowship, workshops, and worship. It is wonderful time to get together with Friends. It will take place April 20-22 at Long Point Camp, just over an hour from Ithaca.

We encourage many Friends to attend—and, further, to help Ithaca Monthly Meeting fulfill its responsibility to provide activities and programming for the region's youth that weekend!

Registration materials for Spring Gathering will be available soon, and will be due before the end of March. Copies will be available at Meeting for worship, and will be sent to the Meeting listserv.

If you are able to help with thinking about youth programming come to our next planning session at 9:15a on Sunday, March 11 (see the calendar, back page).

### YFIR Youth Retreat: March 9-11

#### Doubt, Belief, Spirituality and Religion

Middle and high school-aged Friends are invited to join Kody and Margaret for a weekend of art projects, games, awesome food, time to catch up with your YFIR friends and thought-provoking discussions. Bring your questions, toothbrush, confusion, artistic talent, sense of humor, sleeping bag, change of clothes, faith, ipod and spirituality/religious practices for a totally epic weekend! We are going to play games, sing songs, consider (and create) religious artwork, nosh on delicious food (provided by Anna Obermayer!), enjoy group discussions, create an interfaith worship experience, and watch an awesome and fun movie on Saturday night! We promise that this weekend will be the perfect blend of serious and silly.

All YFIR youth retreats run from Friday at 6pm to Sunday at 1:00. The retreats are held at Perry City Meeting House 6324 Route 227 (Mecklenberg Road) Trumansburg. Retreats are free but donations help us keep the program running! Please contact Amy Willauer-Obermayer at [aoberm2073@gmail.com](mailto:aoberm2073@gmail.com) for more information!

## March in Ithaca Monthly Meeting History

Compiled by Meeting Historian, Tom Brown.

### 10 Years Ago (Mar. 10, 2002)

Meeting approved a request from the Peace and Social Action Committee for an IMM project that offers transportation for family members to visit inmates at the Tompkins County Jail. [This work remains on-going under care of the Social Justice Committee.]

### 20 Years Ago (Mar. 9, 1992)

Program Committee reported a warm response to Janis Kelly's Bible study sessions. They were found to be especially rich in that they occurred immediately before Meeting for Worship.

### 55 Years Ago (Mar. 11, 1957)

Meeting considered and rejected the availability of an abandoned one-room schoolhouse at the end of Mitchell Street, near the East Lawn Cemetery, as a possible meetinghouse. This building was the first of many that IMM considered in the ensuing decades before purchasing the Third Street Meetinghouse property in 2010.

### 60 Years Ago (Mar. 9, 1952)

Douglas Steere, who spent time in Finland in the 1940s with AFSC, told Ithaca Friends of a new Friends Center being started at Hankkalima, Finland. Finnish Friends there had agreed to dedicate a room of the new Center to Joshua Cope as a memorial to the work he had done with them while on sabbatic in 1949. Josh, a forester in Cornell's Department of Conservation (now Natural Resources), worked with the foresters of Finland under the auspices of AFSC. He was Clerk of IMM from 1930-33 and 1942-47. He passed away suddenly in August, 1950.

### 70 Years Ago (Mar. 19, 1942)

A Called Meeting considered a letter from IMM member Wendell Hinkey, now at a Civilian Public Service (CPS) camp in East Windham, MA. Wendell had registered as a CO but now regrets this decision and has refused to take the next step of a physical exam. His letter informed the Meeting of his decision and suggested that since his indictment is from the Ithaca District, Friends might help out with bail. A great deal of discussion ensued. Although IMM was not satisfied with all the restrictions placed on the camps, most felt that the camps represented an important concession by the government by which COs can be doing work of peace-time importance and avoid an open clash with the draft law. Other young IMM members/attenders had made choices among the possibilities provided by law. [It was announced just the previous week that Harold Cope would have to leave Ithaca for a CPS camp.] Meeting decided to seek the help of Henry Perry of New England Yearly Meeting, who has charge of the CPS camps in MA and who therefore might talk over the problem with Wendell and his wife, Mary. It was made clear that IMM, because it owned no property, could not take action in providing bail. [Wendell Hinkey was sent to Danbury CT prison later that year to await trial on draft evasion and remained there until Spring, 1944. Shortly after his release, he transferred his membership to Morristown NJ Monthly Meeting.]

## What Are You Reading?

Here are two readings that, taken together, provide a powerful message about the relationship between our own effort and the work of the Spirit:

“The command in [Jeremiah] chapter 4:3, ‘Break up your fallow ground,’ stayed with me long enough to elicit a response in my journal. The ancient monastics recognized that a life of prayer must ‘work the earth of the heart’, and with the acceptance of the painful, even violent nature of this process in mind, I wrote, ‘And as I take my spade in hand, as far as I can see, great clods of earth are waiting, heavy and dark, a hopeless task. First weeds will come, then whatever it is I’ve planted. I feel the struggle in my knees and back.’”

— *The Cloister Walk*, by Kathleen Norris

Whatever is foreseen in joy  
Must be lived out from day to day.  
Vision held open in the dark  
By our ten thousand days of work.  
Harvest will fill the barn; for that  
The hand must ache, the face must sweat.

And yet no leaf or grain is filled  
By work of ours; the field is tilled  
And left to grace. That we may reap,  
Great work is done while we're asleep.

When we work well, a Sabbath mood  
Rests on our day, and finds it good.

— *A Timbered Choir, the Sabbath Poems*, by Wendell Berry

Have you read a book lately that fostered your spiritual growth and that you would like to share with us? The IMM newsletter would welcome a description and short excerpt from the book and information about where it can be obtained. Please send submissions to Lynn at [thetruames@gmail.com](mailto:thetruames@gmail.com).

## Coming up at Powell House

Powell House is a Quaker retreat center, serving New York State's Quakers. Retreats generally start Friday at dinner time, and close Sunday after lunch. Food and lodging is part of the package. For more information, see [powellhouse.org](http://powellhouse.org).

## Awakening the Dreamer Symposium

### March 30-April 1

This is a profound inquiry into a bold vision: to bring forth an environmentally sustainable, socially just, and spiritually fulfilling human presence on planet Earth. The workshop will explore this vision from a Quaker perspective, and with appreciation for the unique gifts that we can bring to the movement for building a sustainable society.

## Work Weekend & Messiah Sing

### April 6-8

This weekend has become a favorite of many F/friends and families. Whether you come to work, work and sing, work and play an instrument, or work and provide the audience for the choir - there's a place for you. We'll have childcare!

**Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends**  
**Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, February 12, 2012**

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Clerk: Steve Mohlke

Assistant Clerk: Antonia Saxon

Recording Clerks: Nancy Gabriel and Marilyn Ray

*(The @ signifies that the minute has been read and approved during Meeting. Please note that copies of all annual reports provided during this Meeting are on file with and available from the Clerk or Recording Clerk.)*

**2012-02.01 Gathering.** Ithaca Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society Friends met in Monthly Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on February 12, 2012. At 12:30 PM, 16 Friends gathered and settled into open worship. Clerk reviewed the agenda of the day's business and extended our appreciation to Nancy Gabriel for holding the day's Meeting in the Light. Clerk opened the meeting by reading a statement from John Calvi on a "perfect spiritual work" and Friends continued with a period of open worship.

**2012-02.02 Third Street Meetinghouse Committee.** Larry Clarkberg presented the report on the Committee's recommendations for signage for the Third Street Meetinghouse. Friends discussed the two recommendations.

A. Friends APPROVED trying hanging a sign on the ivy-covered wall on Third Street at the corner of Madison Street as proposed by the Committee. Friends also APPROVED placing the larger permanent sign and enclosed bulletin board on the wall leading to the main entrance. @

B. Friends asked the Third Street Meetinghouse Committee to think about how meeting will handle the content of the permanent outside bulletin board and to return to monthly meeting with a recommended plan. APPROVED @

**2012-02.03 Report from Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting Winter Gathering.** Bronwyn Mohlke read the report from the meeting's representatives to Farmington-Scipio Regional Meeting and presented two proposals. The first proposal related to the request from NYYM for donations from individuals to help make up some of the shortfall in covenant donations for 2011 which resulted in a \$14,000 deficit at the end of the year. NYYM is also facing a deficit in 2012. Combined, these deficits are approximately \$30,000.

A. Meeting APPROVED putting a notice in the March newsletter, sending a message to our listserv and making an announcement after worship that there will be a collections basket to receive individual donations to NYYM on March 25th.

The second proposal related to a request from NYYM and the Region that meetings discern whether they would like to co-host a "Conflict in Monthly Meetings: Crisis or Opportunity" workshop with the NYYM Conflict Transformation Committee. Friends APPROVED the following minute:

B. Meeting refers this request to the Program Committee for further exploration and requests the Program Committee to bring a proposal back to monthly meeting in April.

**2012-02.04 Ministry and Worship**

A. Marin Clarkberg reported that Ministry & Worship has received a request from Sue Baker-Carr for a Clearness Committee for Membership. Ministry and Worship proposed a Clearness Committee composed of Marin Clarkberg, Jeff deCastro, and Connie Thomas. APPROVED @

B. Marin Clarkberg read the report from Ministry and Worship on the use of alcohol on properties owned by Ithaca Monthly Meeting. Monthly meeting wrestled with a concern about an alcohol policy for the Burt House because it serves both as residence and as a place for Quaker events. Friends APPROVED a policy stating:

- no smoking indoors
- care should be taken while smoking outdoors not to let smoke enter the buildings
- no recreational use of drugs, legal or illegal, at any of our properties
- no consumption of alcohol at Third Street or Hector meetinghouses, indoors or out. @

**2012-02.05 Request from the Program Committee.** Lynn Truame read the following proposal for a revised charge for the Program Committee:

The Program Committee's charge is to help and support Friends in leading Quaker lives. This includes facilitating the study and discussion of spiritual resources and practices that have been valuable to Friends past and present, the basis of our testimonies, and how we might meet the challenges of living out those testimonies. We recognize and celebrate the spiritual diversity within our community and seek to offer a correspondingly wide range of programming so that each Friend, from the newest attender to the most experienced member, will find support in taking the next step in their life-long walk of faith. APPROVED @

**2012-02.06 Treasurer's report.** Will White, clerk of Finance Committee, reported that meeting is in good shape with current cash on hand for both meeting expenses and for the Third Street Meetinghouse. Friends are making donations to meet their pledges. We are all asked also be mindful of the need for making donations to the Meeting's annual budget. Friends received the report. @

**2012-02.07 Other concerns.** It was noted that friends appear more comfortable giving messages as afterthoughts rather than during worship. Some of the richness may be lost with this practice. APPROVED @

Thirteen Friends settled into worship at 2:40 PM before adjourning. Our next regular Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be held at the rise of Meeting on March 11, 2012.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Marilyn Ray, Co-Recording Clerk*

# March 2012 Calendar of Ithaca Monthly Meeting

## Meeting for Discernment March 3, 8am, all day

Join Friends from all over New York state to contemplate the direction of our yearly meeting.

## Social Justice Committee Meeting Sunday, March 4, Rise of Meeting

Meeting in the library, all are welcome.

## Movie Night: Empowered Friday, March 9, 7p

Please join us for the Earthcare Committee's movie night event: *Empowered: Power from the People*, a documentary about people in our Tompkins County striving for energy independence. There will be popcorn to share. Pajamas optional.

## "Richie Sing" Welcomes All Singers Saturday, March 10, 6:30

The Richie Sing—named after Richie Holtz, the founder—has been meeting monthly for over 15 years and many Friends are long time attenders. We welcome all singers, enthusiasm is the only requirement. We sing a mixture of folksongs, Beatles and contemporary music. You may suggest or lead a song, if you wish, or just listen, if that's your preference. Come have fun, eat good food and help us raise the roof in song!

Dish to Pass at 6:30, singing at 7:30. Melody Johnson is the Meeting sponsor.

## Spring Forward! Sunday, March 11, 2a

Friends, don't forget to set your clocks forward one hour!

## Spring Gathering Planning Sunday, March 11, 9:15a

Planning for the youth programming our Meeting needs to provide at Spring Gathering. All are welcome!

## Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business Sunday, March 11, Rise of Meeting

Please provide agenda items to Steve Mohlke (see contact information on page 1 sidebar) by the preceding Wednesday).

## Every Sunday

- 9:30a **Coffee and fellowship** in the library of the Third Street Meetinghouse
- 10:30a **Meeting for Worship** for all ages at the Third Street Meetinghouse
- 10:45a Friends participating in **First Day School** exit the meetingroom. Please be mindful of footfalls while upstairs, and consider removing your shoes.

## Women's Fellowship Friday, March 16, 7p

We'll be back to Ithaca Bakery on Meadow Street this month. (Wegman's is crazy crowded on Friday nights!) Join us for tea or dessert or just fellowship.

## Retreat with Christopher Sammond, March 16 (evening) and March 17

See page 3.

## Earthcare Committee Meeting Sunday, March 18, Rise of Meeting

Meeting in the library, all are welcome.

## Talent Show! Saturday, March 24, 6p

Bring your talented self to the umpteenth annual Ithaca Monthly Meeting Talent Show on Saturday March 24th. Potluck dinner at 6pm, show starts at 6:30. Contact [larry@knowledgetown.com](mailto:larry@knowledgetown.com) to join the growing list of talented unabashed performers.

## Dish-to-Pass Brunch Sunday, March 25, Rise of Meeting

Our monthly, fourth Sunday dish-to-pass lunch. Friends are invited to bring a dish to share, but are welcome to join in the eating in any case.

## Meetinghouse Orientation Sunday, March 25, Rise of Meeting

Do you want to know where the extra toilet paper is kept? Or, how to operate the appliances? How to turn up the heat? How to schedule an event at the meetinghouse? Come to our orientation! We will take an informal tour of the building while members of the Third Street Meetinghouse Committee show what they know and answer your questions.

## Friends Bike Clinic Sunday, March 25, 1p

Weather permitting we will help each other fix our bikes. We also need to prepare for the Ithaca Festival Parade and our Cornell and IC campus clinics this spring.

## Other Weekly IMM Events

- Wed 7:30p **Midweek meeting** for worship at the Burt House
- Thurs 5-5:30p **Peace Vigil** at the bottom of East State Street near the Community School for Music and Arts
- Thurs 5:30-6:30p **Meeting for worship** at the Third Street Meetinghouse