

ATLANTA FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER MAY 2025



Current and back issues of the newsletter are available at <https://atlantaquakers.org/newsletter/>

<https://atlantaquakers.org/announcement-sheet/> will always have the most recent announcement sheet

Meeting for Worship each First Day (Sunday) in Person & via Zoom, 10:00 am
(For those who prefer a more intimate worship experience, we have resumed small meetings for worship in the library at 10 am.)

Details for Sunday worship and for our Wednesday small meetings for worship as well as worship opportunities with the Macon Worship Group, in person and via zoom, are in the announcement sheet (link just above). The most up-to-date information about events can also be found there.

QUERY FOR MAY

Are our meetings for worship held in expectant waiting for divine guidance, with a living silence in which we feel drawn together in the Light by the presence of God?
Does what I have to say improve the Silence?

FIRST DAY PRAYER

by Ellen M. Ross

Come sit with me
You Who Will Not Be Hurried,
Rushing Wind, Raging Waters,
Shimmering Beauty, Radiant Darkness.
Come sit beside me
On this wooden bench
You Who Comfort me
You Who Hold me
You Who Accompany me.
Settle here beside me.
Sink with me into Stillness.
Breathe with me into the
Fullness of Your Love.

originally appeared in April' 2025's Friends Journal, <https://www.friendsjournal.org/first-day-prayer/>

**PLEASE HOLD
IN THE LIGHT:**

Marcia Pauley
Rebecca Thornburley
Myrna & Bob Trapp
Gray and Suzanne Folger
Adam Hicks and family

If you wish to have requests for holding in the light included in this monthly newsletter and in the announcement sheet, please give the names to a member of Care & Counsel.

Atlanta Friends Committees and Other Contacts

Clerk of the Meeting: David Small, afmclerk1@gmail.com
Office Coordinator: Nina Gooch, atlantaquakers@gmail.com
Treasurer: Stacey Sharer, afmtreasurer1@gmail.com
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Young Friends Program Coordinator, Asa Kramer-Dickie, afm.young.friends@gmail.com
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For info about these and other committees, visit or download the AFM Handbook from <https://atlantaquakers.org/handbook/> OR contact the Clerk of the committee you're interested in.

**STATEMENT REAFFIRMING OUR COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION
BUILDING THE BELOVED COMMUNITY: OUR COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE, EQUITY, AND LOVE**

Adopted by the Pendle Hill Board on 03-25-2025. For more on Pendle Hill: <https://pendlehill.org/>

As members of the Religious Society of Friends, we affirm that every person is created with inherent dignity and worth. Rooted in the sacred call to love our neighbors as ourselves, we embrace diversity, equity, and inclusion as sacred mandates, not optional ideals. Our commitment to justice calls us to build a community where every individual—regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity and sexual orientation, ability, economic status, or creed—is welcomed, valued, and empowered. We believe that diversity is a reflection of divine beauty, an expression of the vastness of human experience woven together in a tapestry of shared purpose. Equity is our moral imperative, requiring that we not only open doors but remove the barriers that have long stood in the way of true belonging. Inclusion is our practice of radical hospitality, ensuring that every voice is heard and every heart is embraced.

Guided by these principles, we pledge to:

- Foster a culture of belonging where differences are celebrated, not merely tolerated.
- Actively dismantle systemic inequities within our organization and the communities we serve.
- Speak out against injustice wherever it arises, knowing that silence is complicity.
- Commit to continuous learning, reflection, and action to uphold the ideals of justice and love.
- Extend grace and compassion in the work of healing and reconciliation, striving to embody the Beloved Community envisioned by prophets, peacemakers, and justice-seekers throughout history.

As people of faith and conscience, we do not seek mere coexistence but true kinship—where justice flows like a mighty river, where love casts out fear, and where all people can flourish in the fullness of their humanity. In this sacred calling, we stand together, undivided in our pursuit of a world made whole.

ARE YOU A PERSON OF COLOR? -- please respond by Thursday, May 7

The Office Coordinator is working on the annual census form from Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA), our yearly meeting. One of the questions on the form is how many self-identified members and attenders of color are in our meeting. If you consider yourself a person of color, please call or email the office at 404-377-2474 or atlantaquakers@gmail.com to let Nina know if you or others in your household are self-identified people of color.

FERGUSON CABIN UPDATE

The Ferguson Cabins at beautiful Lake Burton got a lot of love at the Spring Work Weekend in April! Tree Tops Cabin's overhang got a new metal roof. Irene Cabin got a new door and 3 new window screens. Dwight Cabin's main and patio doors were trimmed so they no longer drag. Sleeping mats were cleaned and stacked on Dwight Cabin's porch under a tarp.

Go to the AFM website (<https://atlantaquakers.org/ferguson-cabins/>) for information on what to bring and how to reserve time there so you, family, friends and groups can enjoy time in nature, swimming and canoeing in the fresh air of North Georgia, two hours north of Atlanta. For more information, email Jennifer Thompson at thefergusoncabin@gmail.com.

DISCOUNT FOR STEAM ROBOTICS AND PHOTOGRAPHY CAMPS THIS JUNE

Make555 is again offering two STEAM Robotics camps (June 9 to 13 & June 16 to 20) and a Creative Photography camp (June 23 to 27) this summer at the meetinghouse. For a 10% discount, use the code **Friends2025**. For more information, visit www.Make555.com or see the flyers by the front door of the meetinghouse.

CONGRATULATIONS, DANIELLE ROWLEY JENKINS

Danielle Rowley Jenkins, daughter of Diane Rowley, came in 4th in the 2025 Powerlifting America (PA) Classic National Championships which occurred on April 3 to 6, 2025, at the Georgia International Convention Center in Atlanta, GA. She set four state records in the process! Congratulations to Danielle! We are so proud of you!

INTERVIEW FOR TRANSGENDER DAY OF VISIBILITY

International Transgender Day of Visibility, March 31 each year, celebrates transgender people and raise awareness about issues that impact trans and non-binary people.

On March 18, Quinton Reynolds, the founder and executive director of Game Changing Men (<https://www.gamechangingmen.com/>), and [Toi Washington Reynolds](#), the founder of Trans Women of Color Healing Project (<https://www.twohealingproject.org/>), were guests on WABE's "Closer Look." They talked with show host Rose Scott about the work of their organizations and shared details about what they feel are the top concerns of Black trans people and how their organizations are working to spread awareness at the Georgia State Capitol. You can listen to this 16-minute interview here: <https://www.wabe.org/local-organizations-gear-up-to-spread-awareness-about-trans-issues-at-georgia-state-capitol/>. For more on Trans Day of Visibility, see <https://glaad.org/tdov/>.

BOOKS BY AND ABOUT PEOPLE OF COLOR -- Thursday, May 1

The book group reading works by and about people of color meets at 1:30 p.m. on the first Thursday of the month in person in combination with Zoom. The book for May 1 is *Take My Hand* by Dolan Perkins-Valdez. Upcoming books include: June 5, *Wandering Stars* by Tommy Orange. For questions or the Zoom link, contact Susan Cole (cole2544@bellsouth.net).

NURTURING COMMUNITY IN OUR BROKEN WORLDS 2025 SAYMA WORKSHOP PROPOSAL FORM -- due Thursday, May 1

This summer, Southern Appalachian Yearly Meeting and Association (SAYMA) Friends will gather at Berea College in Kentucky for our annual Retreat and Sessions, from 1:00 pm on June 20 to 1:00 pm on June 23. As with last year's Retreat and Sessions, we will gather both in person and virtually. Your Yearly Meeting Planning Committee is inviting Friends who are so led to present a workshop as part of our annual Retreat. Workshops that connect to our theme are central to the retreat experience. Our theme this year is: ***Nurturing Community In Our Broken Worlds***. As you seek to discern your leading to offer a workshop, we invite you to interpret this theme in whatever way feels right to you, including but not limited to "Community is nurtured by participation in this workshop." We invite you to share from your knowledge, experience, resources, and your own measure of Light to address the theme as you are led. We invite proposals whether for **in-person attenders, virtual attenders, or a hybrid of both**. You may suggest a one-part or two-part workshop. You may offer to repeat the same workshop on the second workshop day. **The deadline for receiving proposals is Thursday, May 1, 2024.** To submit your idea(s), use the 2025 SAYMA Workshop Proposal Form that can be found on the SAYMA website at sayma.org or by using the direct link: <https://forms.gle/DyxDuwFbpygQp9hS9/> If you have difficulty with the form, please contact Steve, by text at 828-775-5905 or email: steve.livingston.personal@gmail.com.

IMMIGRANT JUSTICE PILGRIMAGE -- Saturday, May 3

Join Casa Alternativa for a 2-mile Walking Tour of Downtown Atlanta. Led by **Anton Flores-Maisonet**, this immersive walking tour will explore sites in downtown Atlanta that tell the story of both oppression and dehumanization, as well as resilience and liberation, for our immigrant neighbors.

Date: Saturday, May 3.

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Starting Point: ICE Field Office (180 Ted Turner Dr. SW).

Ending Point: The crypts of Coretta and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Getting There: We encourage participants to take MARTA, as this is a point-to-point walk.

If you choose to drive, parking near the ICE field office ranges from \$6 to \$20. Free parking is available at the **MLK National Historical Park** (423 John Wesley Dobbs Ave. NE).

What to Bring: Please wear comfortable walking shoes, bring water, and **use a restroom before arriving**, as facilities are scarce along the route.

Donation: This tour is offered on a **donation basis**, with a suggested contribution of **\$25–\$50** to support the work of **Casa Alternativa**. No one will be turned away for lack of funds. Donations can be made online at <https://www.nfggive.org/donation/83-0464787> or in person at the event.

Sign Up: Please complete the form at <https://bit.ly/ImmigrantPilgrimage> with your contact information so we can follow up with details about the pilgrimage and other opportunities with Casa Alternativa.

For more info, please contact heather@casaalterna.org.

MEETING FOR WORSHIP TO CELEBRATE CHRISTINA REPOLEY'S MINISTRY -- Sat, May 3

You are invited to a specially called meeting for worship to celebrate the recording of Christina Repoley in the ministry of the Religious Society of Friends, Saturday May 3, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at the meetinghouse or on Zoom using the regular meeting for worship link. Quakers do not practice ordination in the same way that other denominations do, but through the practice of recording, the community affirms and supports Christina's gifts of ministry and her work amongst Friends and in the wider world. All who attend will be welcome to share a message of encouragement, congratulations, blessing, etc. out of the silence. Following the meeting for worship there will be light snacks and fellowship. We expect many guests and encourage gifts of finger food. If you can help with this, please contact Mary Ann Downey. See announcement sheet (link on page 1) for meeting for worship zoom coordinates.

FLGBTQC OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORSHIP & COMMUNITY – Saturday & Sunday, May 3 & 4

Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns (FLGBTQC) will meet for worship on Saturday, May 3, from 5 to 6 pm in the meeting room, joining FLGBTQC Friends from all over the U.S. and Canada online, with time for introductions and conversation from 6 to 6:30 pm. If Atlanta Friends cannot get to the Meetinghouse in person for this worship and want to attend online, please contact Jeremiah Gold-Hopton at jeremiah313134 at mac dot com for the international FLGBTQC Zoom link. Following this, at 6:30 pm in the meetingroom, Atlanta's local FLGBTQC group will hold their monthly game night, now on the first Saturday evening of each month. We gather for conversation, games and potluck-style food. Allies welcome! We encourage you to bring a board game or other tabletop game you'd like to share with the group. Just be willing to explain the game to new players, or (if it's your first time playing it) be willing to learn it along with the rest of us. On Sunday, May 4 we will also eat together at potluck (look for the queer flag). For more information about these events or about FLGBTQC, contact Nina Gooch or Derek Harootune Otis. To join the group email list and receive updates, contact Nina in the office.

SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS & ADULT FIRST DAY SCHOOL – Sundays, May 4, 11, 18, 25

Each first Sunday of the month in Adult First Day School, we listen to how a Friend in our meeting answers questions of God's leadings as well as questions about what brings them to this meeting, what led them to become a member or not, and what they believe now. We call these stories Spiritual Journeys, stories where Friends describe their understanding of God and religion in their lives. On May 4, Sayed Elbaz will share his Spiritual Journey.

We offer a standing invitation to all attenders and members (those new to meeting, transfers from other meetings, or longtime Atlanta members and attenders) to share your answers to these questions. Some Friends find it helpful to do this as an interview. For more information and to schedule a time to tell your story, contact Mary Ann Downey at madowney@mindspring.com.

On the second, third and fourth Sundays of the month in May, Adult First Day School will be discussing the book *How We Learn to be Brave* by Mariann Edgar Budde. You are welcome to join the discussion even if you have not read the book.

Adult First Day School meets in person at the meetinghouse, and people can also join via Zoom. (Zoom details in the announcement sheet; see link at top of page 1.) For more details or questions, please contact Elizabeth Lamb.

FIRST SUNDAY POTLUCK -- Sunday, May 4

Please join us for a potluck lunch following the rise of Meeting. Weather permitting, there are several outdoor tables for those who prefer to eat outside. Green Friends and FLGBTQC (Friends for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer Concerns) will meet during potluck this Sunday. (See details for Green Friends in the announcement sheet. FLGBTQC details above.)

If you can, please bring not only enough food for your family, but also extra for newcomers and guests.

VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON DOCUMENTARY NIGHTS – May 4, 9, 18, 25

For virtual documentary nights, participants watch the film online in advance, then meet online to discuss the film. For in-person documentary nights, participants watch the film together in person and then discuss it. Reservations are required for both. For reservations and links to watch the films for virtual documentary nights, check the announcement sheet or visit <https://documentarynight.wordpress.com/events/>. You can also contact attendee Adam Hicks with questions at 404-414-8917 or CommunityDocumentaryNight@gmail.com.

Virtual: Sunday, May 4 from 7 to 9 pm, in honor of Mother's Day. *The Story of Mothers and Daughters*. From cradle to grave, from perfect to painful, the story of the mother-daughter bond is explored in intimate detail and epic scope; revealing a core experience within every woman's life.

In-Person: Friday, May 9 from 6:45 to 10 pm in honor of Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Heritage Month. *Maya Lin: A Strong Clear Vision*. About sculptor and architect Maya Lin who, at age 21, designed the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

Virtual: Sunday, May 18 from 7 to 9 pm. *Bike Vessel*. Knowing his dad miraculously recovered from three open-heart surgeries after discovering a passion for cycling, filmmaker Eric D. Seals proposes an ambitious idea: bike together from St. Louis to Chicago. 350 miles. 4 days. On their journey, the two push each other as they find a deeper connection and a renewed appreciation of their quests for their own health and to reimagine Black health.

Virtual: Sunday, May 25 from 7 to 9 pm, in honor of Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Heritage Month. *Claiming A Voice*. This documentary chronicles the first twenty-years of history of the first arts group dedicated to productions by and about Asian Pacific Americans.

FCNL: DEI AS A FORCE FOR JOY, COMMUNITY & EFFECTIVE POLICY CHANGE -- May 8

Over several years, the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) General Committee has been working “to align our values with our work in Congress, the administration, and our community. We know that anti-racism, anti-bias, justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion (AJEDI) are forces for joy, community, and effective policy change. But the Trump administration poses challenges which threaten to take us as a society back nearly a century. The AJEDI Working Group is hosting a discussion on this moment in two parts. The first will be on Thursday, May 8 at 7 p.m. ET. The second one will follow on June 21 and will feature current and former FCNL general secretaries. We will hold a lively conversation with Friends from across the U.S. who are impacted by the erosion of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives and consider what our community can and should be doing in response.” For details and registration: <https://act.fcnl.org/survey/ajedi-force-joy-community-policy/>

BABY BLESSING FOR JAKE AND JANELLE FRANKLIN -- Saturday, May 10

We will gather at 10 am at Meeting in worship for Jake and Janelle who expect to give birth June 8. Bring a blessing, reading, or something to share and know that your presence alone offers support. If you can also bring finger food to share please let Mary Ann Downey know.

QCUR WORKSHOP ON POWER MAPPING – Saturday, May 10

The Quaker Coalition for Uprooting Racism (QCUR) invites you to participate in a half-day of community organizing to resist the current rise of fascism in the US on Saturday, May 10th, 1 to 5 pm ET via Zoom. They encourage Quaker organizations, schools, committees, and meetings to make themselves hubs so people can gather in person to Zoom together. Please share this invitation widely with your community.

This workshop will have time for worship, connecting with each other, and learning how to use power mapping as a tool for resistance and anti-racist change-making. Power-mapping is an interactive, strategic tool for identifying and analyzing where and how power is being held and used around a specific issue. It allows groups to develop effective strategies for leveraging power to make constructive, anti-racist change. After learning how to use power mapping, there will be time for groups to work together in community, with coaching and support available from QCUR. They will also have Zoom break-out rooms available for those attending solo who want to work with others or for geographically spread out groups. To grow their web and form mutual support, QCUR can connect with groups of Friends working on similar issues after the workshop.

Registration: <https://lu.ma/QCURPower>

In person location: Atlanta Friends Meetinghouse, 1:00 - 5:00 in the meetingroom

CELEBRATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH – Sunday, May 18

The 2024 / 2025 Religious Education school year will end on May 18 with the Celebration of Youth! This has been a tradition at Atlanta Friends Meeting for many years, and the teachers, children and AFM community look forward to it each year! Short updates/announcements are made by teachers/children. Teachers, doorkeepers and nursery volunteers will be recognized,. Each child will receive a special gift for their engagement and participation in class this school year! (Children in First Day School classes and the Nursery may go to their classes at 10 am and will come back to Meeting for Worship for the Celebration.) Summer classes will be held from May 25 to August 3, and the 2025 / 2026 Religious Education school year will start August 10. (For more details on summer, see below.)

MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS – Sunday, May 18

Stay after meeting for worship, whether in person or via Zoom. Meeting for Business will be held in a combined format about 11:45, using the Zoom coordinates for Meeting for Worship.

The minutes for last month's meeting are below.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89686276751?pwd=M29EYlIFWEhSQUtZRlVVPaIFFYmVDQT09>

Meeting ID: 896 8627 6751

Passcode: 789456

ABOUT MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS

"Friends' decision-making is rooted in the spiritual oneness of a religious community. We reject majority rule for the higher goal of reaching decisions in unity, through distinctive attitudes developed by Friends over the centuries. Our process is democratic in the sense that everyone is encouraged to participate. However, it also goes beyond democracy in that it does not rely solely on human will or ability. Participants are expected to put aside personal desires and allow themselves to be led by a Guide beyond the self." (Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice 1998)

"Whenever we remember that we are in the presence of God, transformation is possible. Every task, no matter how mundane, becomes an act of worship, a word of praise offered to God. This is the basis for Quaker business practice. We call it 'meeting for worship with attention to business' because it is grounded in an awareness of God's presence!" (Friends General Conference)

Atlanta Friends Meeting guidelines for meeting for Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business are at https://atlantaquakers.org/wp-content/uploads/Guidelines_for_Meeting_for_Business.pdf. In addition, <https://www.friendsjournal.org/meeting-for-business-as-spiritual-rehearsal> talks more about the spiritual side of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business as well as the ways the Quaker decision-making process differs from consensus. Another resource is Pendle Hill Pamphlet #307, *Beyond Consensus: Salvaging Sense of the Meeting*. The AFM library has two copies, and there's a description of it at <https://pendlehill.org/product/beyond-consensus-salvaging-sense-meeting/>.

NEWCOMER WELCOME DINNER -- Sunday, May 18

On the 18th of each month, newcomers to Atlanta Friends Meeting are invited to dinner at the home of a member or long-time attender. You'll have a chance to get to know other new attenders as well as long-time Quakers in a casual setting. Bill Holland and Mary Ann Downey will host the welcome dinner Sunday, May 18 at 6:00 pm. If you can come, email madowney@mindsprig.com, or call 678-938-8030. They are at 860 Berkshire RD NE, Atlanta, Ga 30324

SUMMER RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – Sundays, May 25 to August 3 (HOW YOU CAN HELP)

Summer classes will be held from May 25 to August 3, with the 2025 / 2026 Religious Education school year starting August 10. Over the summer, most Religious Education teachers take a break and committees sign up to teach for a week about how their committee contributes to the life of the Meeting. The Religious Education Committee will support the committees who sign up to teach.

We will continue to need nursery volunteers and Doorkeepers for the Elementary class..

- If you are a committee and have not yet signed up, please reach out to Amanda Gendreau, Clerk of the Religious Education Committee!
- If you are interested in being a doorkeeper this school year, this summer or next school year, please contact Amanda Gendreau! You can also continue to sign up on the volunteer sign up sheet.
- If you are interested in being a religious education teacher next school year, please contact Amanda Gendreau or Alison Mawle now!
- If you are interested in helping in the Nursery this summer, continue to sign up on the volunteer sheet and contact Amanada Gendreau or Nina Gooch for more information!

BOOK EVENT: *THERE IS NO PLACE FOR US: WORKING AND HOMELESS IN AMERICA*
Sunday, May 25

On May 25, at 11:45, journalist and AFM attendee Brian Goldstone will share stories and insights from his new book, *There Is No Place for Us: Working and Homeless in America*, which follows five Atlanta families who, despite holding full-time jobs, find themselves without stable housing. Drawing on nearly five years of immersive reporting, the book explores how skyrocketing rents, low wages, and weak tenant protections are fueling a new kind of homelessness -- one caused not by a failing economy, but by a booming one. Through intimate, human-centered storytelling, Brian invites us to confront the moral and structural crises at the heart of this national emergency -- and to consider what it would mean to treat housing as a fundamental human right. This will be a hybrid event, both in person and via Zoom, using the meeting for worship zoom coordinates.

DAY OF REFLECTION: "WHAT IS MINE TO DO?" – Saturday, May 31

St Thomas More Catholic Church, 636 Ponce de Leon Avenue, Decatur (just north of AFM) invites us to join them for a day of reflection from 1:30 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, May 31. Many of us are asking the question "What is mine to do?" in trying to come to grips with the new political reality in the United States. No matter who you voted for (or whether you voted at all) in 2024, we are all fellow citizens desiring the best for our country and neighbors. The purpose of this half-day gathering is to provide a contemplative setting to address this question on a personal level. We will not try to come to a group consensus. The reflection will be led by John Schwenkler, a spiritual director and experienced leader in dialog across ideological lines. Also leading will be Andy Otto of St. Thomas More and Father Tom Jackson, O.P., of Our Lady of Lourdes. Please inform others of this opportunity. More information and registration at <http://bit.ly/4ivRSna>.

UPCOMING

FCNL'S CONTINUING REVOLUTION 2025: QUEER LIBERATION AND SPIRIT-ROOTED JUSTICE Thursday to Saturday, June 12 to 14

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) announces Continuing Revolution 2025: Queer Liberation and Spirit-Rooted Justice, a three-day overnight retreat from June 12 to 14, 2025. It will be held in person at Friends Place on Capitol Hill, and online through their partner, Pendle Hill. Continuing Revolution is an annual gathering of young adults (ages 18-35) seeking to connect their spiritual, political, and interpersonal lives. This year's retreat, coinciding with the World Pride celebration in Washington, DC, focuses on queer liberation. Participants will explore where their spiritual practice intersects with the collective pursuit for queer liberation. They will leave with connections to individuals and organizations that can support their role in creating peace and justice in their communities and the world. Learn more and register at <https://act.fcnl.org/go/155288>. Full scholarships are available for Young Adult Friends, ages 18 to 35, for wider Quaker events like this by contacting Clive Gordon, Clerk of Ministry & Worship.

The committee is also grateful that Nominating is working to revive the Meetinghouse Committee. As part of this, Admin is looking at the description of the Meetinghouse Committee and will share this with the Nominating Committee.

■ **Ministry and Worship** — Clive Gordon reported for Ministry and Worship Committee.

At Third Month Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, we approved recognizing and recording Christina Repoley's gifts of ministry and taking her leadings under our care. On Saturday, May 3 at 2:00 pm we will be holding a specially called Meeting for Worship to celebrate Christina's gifts.

On Saturday March 1, 2025, we held a specially called meeting for worship to hold in the Light Hope Covington and Andrew Lambert as they prepared for the birth of their first child. Hope and Andrew formally announce the arrival of a boy, Noah Michael Lambert, weighing in at an impressive 9 lbs, at 1pm on April 10th, 2025. All are reported to be doing well. Erin Daniels is coordinating a meal train, sign up at <https://mealtrain.com/53r4zz>.

On Saturday, May 10 at 10:00am we will hold a specially called meeting for worship to hold in the light Jake and Janelle Franklin as they prepare for the birth of their child.

Ministry and Worship is now working to gather information and resources on holding baby blessing or other forms of Meetings.

Discernment

■ **Ministry and Worship** — Clive Gordon reported for Ministry and Worship Committee.

Charles Hicks and Sathya Balachander have asked to be married under the care of the meeting. A clearness committee met with them and Ministry and Worship Committee united with the recommendation we take the marriage under our care. As part of the clearness process, we ask the couple to develop and share their vows with the meeting, so we know the commitment we also are undertaking as a meeting.

The proposed vows are the following: "In the presence of our family and these our Friends, I take you to be my partner, committing with assistance to be faithful and true and to complement you in all that we do. As long as we both shall live, I will support and cherish you, embracing the far reaches of who we are and who we may become together."

Minute-04-20-25:01: On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting joyfully approves taking the marriage of Charles Hicks and Sathya Balachander under our tender care. We look forward to witnessing their marriage and supporting their relationship.

When we approve taking a marriage under our care, we also appoint a committee to help plan the Meeting for Worship for Marriage. The committee provides practical and spiritual support to the couple and provides opportunities for the community to share in this joyful joining.

Minute-04-20-25:02: On the recommendation of the Ministry and Worship Committee, Atlanta Friends Meeting approves the appointment of Sara Patenaude, Becky Lough, Bill Holland, Mary Ann Downey, Christina Repoley, Stacey Sharer, Joe Harris, Anton Flores-Maisonet, and Charlotte Flores to serve as the marriage committee for Charles Hicks and Sathya Balachander.

