

Alexandria Friends Meeting:
Meeting for Worship will be held this Sunday, 3/15. However, no lunch will be served.

Dear Friends,

We wanted you to know the Meeting will gather for worship this First Day, 3/15, but no lunch will be served. We would still encourage you to donate your “lunch money” to Right Sharing of World Resources if you feel so moved.

As we watch the shifting situation with the COVID-19 coronavirus, we want to protect each other’s physical health while also upholding our spiritual bonds with the love and support that our Meeting stands for.

We don’t have all the answers, and we will keep thinking through what makes sense. But in the meantime, we’d like to share this advice adapted from Baltimore Yearly Meeting:

- Instead of shaking hands at rise of meeting, we welcome Friends to use different ways to show love and fellowship (e.g. Quaker “twinkles”/ASL applause—like “jazz hands”; or bumping elbows).
- Review food handling and serving processes with the Hospitality Committee to limit contamination. A decision about the suspension of all lunches has not been made.
- Encourage Friends who are ill, or even possibly ill, to refrain from coming to Meeting. We welcome Friends who are ill or uneasy coming to Meeting to contact Ministry and Nurture at the numbers below, so that we can stay connected and hold each other in the Light.
- Our Ministry and Nurture committee is working on alternate methods of creating community for worship, just in case. Some Meetings have experimented with teleconferenced worship.
- If possible, please bring hand sanitizer for use before entering the worship space
- Hold everyone in the Meeting, especially the leadership who is working to discern the best possible options in difficult times, in the Light.

We understand that some Friends may feel more comfortable worshipping from home, perhaps at the same time, knowing that our spiritual connections transcend physical space.

We hope you will also let others, especially those in Ministry and Nurture and the co-Clerks, know if you are sick or stressed or just want to talk. We’ll all want to find ways to strengthen our bonds during this uncertain time.

We will continue to watch the way things stand, so that we can respond with whatever calm and clearness the Spirit brings.

In the light,

Karen and Meredith

Co-Clerks of the Meeting