

# **WELCOME** TO CHAPEL HILL FRIENDS MEETING of the Religious Society of Friends

**Our worship is the heart of our Quaker community.** It is based in the central belief that the Inner Light is present equally within everyone. We come together in silence and “expectant waiting for divine guidance.” Early Quaker George Fox taught that all who listen to the Voice Within may find the guiding spirit. Spirit, by any name, comes to us in the gathered silence of meeting for worship. Spirit speaks to us in the quiet; it may speak to each one of us and to our own condition. We encourage listening deeply with an open heart, both during the silence and when messages are given.

**Quaker Testimonies: How Friends live their faith** (*fgcquaker.org*)

We interpret these testimonies as we are individually led.

**Peace** is based on love and concern for the well-being of all. It leads us to work for reconciliation and active nonviolent resolutions of conflict. The work of peace is to sustain relationships of mutual human regard; of seeing and speaking to that of God in everyone; of seeking peace within ourselves, our family, our community, and the world.

**Equality** is rooted in the understanding that there is that of God in everyone, including those who differ with us and people from widely varying life experiences and beliefs.

**Simplicity** is the right ordering of our lives, placing Spirit at the center. It encourages us to focus on what is important and to let other things fall away.

**Integrity** calls us to wholeness. When our lives are centered in the Spirit, beliefs and actions are congruent and our words are dependable.

**Community** calls us to sustain caring relationships. It depends on mutual regard and support, and on nurturing our relationships with one another, with society, and with the environment.

**Chapel Hill Friends Meeting (CHFM) Outreach:** outward actions inspired and supported by our faith

As we live our faith, CHFM supports benevolences that have a long legacy within our Meeting: The Interfaith Council for Social Services, American Friends Service Committee, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Carolina Friends School, and Quaker House. These benevolences express our support for social and racial justice and our opposition to war and violence. For a number of years, our Meeting has maintained a special relationship with incarcerated friends at Orange Correctional Center. Currently, racial justice is a major focus of our learning and actions. Additional benevolences and individual support further reflect our attenders’ and members’ faith in action.

## **A Brief History of CHFM**

Our Chapel Hill Friends Meeting began in 1937, when a few Quakers gathered for worship on the UNC campus. In the 1950’s we bought land here on Raleigh Road and then built our own meetinghouse in 1960. The School House building adjacent was built in 1994 to serve as our First Day School on Sundays and as the Chapel Hill Early School for Carolina Friends School during the week.

**Thank you for joining us in worship today.** If you can, please linger after Meeting so Friends may meet you. If you would like to know more, please introduce yourself at the close of Meeting for Worship and talk with the meeting closer, who is a member of our Ministry and Worship Committee. Please visit our website at [www.chapelhillfriends.org](http://www.chapelhillfriends.org) to learn more.