**GREEN PASTURES QUARTERLY MEETING: MIDWINTER GATHERING SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2020**

***“Finding Our Spiritual Foundation for Environmental Work”***

Red Cedar Meetinghouse, 1400 Turner Street, Lansing, 9:30 am – 3:00 pm

(directions available at [redcedarfriends.org](http://redcedarfriends.org))

Link to [Registration Form](https://leymquaker.files.wordpress.com/2020/01/gpqm_midwinter_reg_form.pdf)

**Featured Speaker: Prof. Gretel Van Wieren**

Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Philosophy at Michigan State University, teaching courses on religion, ethics, and the environment. Author of *Restored to Earth: Christianity, Environmental Ethics, and Ecological Restoration* (2013), *Food, Farming, and Religion* (2018), and *Listening at Lookout Creek: Nature in Spiritual Practice* (2019).

**SCHEDULE OF THE DAY:**

9:30 am Gather with coffee

10:00 — 10:30 Worship

10:30 — 11:30 Talk by Prof. Gretel Van Wieren

11:30 — Noon Worship sharing

Noon Lunch (provided by Red Cedar Friends)

1:00 — 2:00 pm Small Group Sessions (choose one from listing below)

2:00 — 2:30 Report out from small group sessions

2:30 — 3:00 Concluding Worship

**Overnight hospitality** will be available on request for Friday or Saturday nights. Red Cedar will provide a structured potluck for lunch on Saturday. Please pre-register by **Wednesday, January 15** using form below for hospitality, children’s program, and to help with the lunch count.

**Children’s Program:** Red Cedar Friends Meeting is delighted to be hosting Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting on Saturday, February 1st. We want to especially welcome families to bring their children along; the benefit of quarterly meeting is for Friends to get to know Quakers from other meetings!

We plan to offer program(s) for children ages three and up. One of our special guests will be Pilot, the collie who visits people to cheer them up; he has some amazing tricks that he can do! Joann Neuroth will do a Faith and Play exercise on the creation story. We will have singing, games, stories, art, worship sharing, movement. The more children who register, the more possibility we can provide age-related programs. For more information, contact Sharon Frame at sframepa@yahoo.com.

Young Friends from middle through high school are warmly invited to join the adults for all or part of the regular program if they wish. Please indicate on the registration form below the number of young friends participating in the adult program and the children’s program.

**AFTERNOON SMALL GROUP SESSIONS (choose one):**

**\*\*Mey Hasbrook, Kalamazoo Meeting: "Faith in Action: Quakers on Earthcare"**

This group explores faith in action to care for the Earth as Friends. We will listen to a brief video with personal testimonies from across Quaker branches; hold worship sharing around our experiences and leadings; and close with a simple creative activity.

**\*\* Becky Payne, Red Cedar Meeting: “How will Quakers Respond When the Earth can no Longer Support Us All?”**

Extreme climate change will bring us to a point where “justice” is not a matter of allocating resources more fairly, but of finding a way to keep our moral compass when there is not enough for all. Starting from Kenneth Boulding’s 1966 essay, *Spaceship Earth*, where he introduced the concept of earth as a closed system, we will examine how we realign to an earth with limits.

**\*\* Richard Tucker, Ann Arbor Meeting: “Spirit and Nature: Writings for the Time of Climate Crisis”**

We have many sources that sustain us for our environmental action.  This group will discuss selected Quaker writings from George Fox to the present. Participants are invited to share their cherished sources, whether Quaker or from other spiritual traditions.

**\*\* John Williams, Ann Arbor Meeting: “Calculating and Offsetting your Personal Carbon Use”**

For the past few years some Ann Arbor Friends have chosen to estimate the amount of carbon they put into the atmosphere annually and pay a self-imposed tax to the Meeting for that use. John will share worksheets to do the calculations and explain how the Meeting has used the funds that were gathered.

A brief report from each small group session (about 5-7 min. each) will be given when we reconvene.

**PLEASE NOTE**:

The Red Cedar kitchen is **not gluten-free**, but there will be some gluten-free snacks. If you need gluten-free food or are on some other very strict diet, you will probably want to bring your own food; it can be refrigerated and warmed in a microwave if needed.

**Request from Red Cedar:** Please refrain from using products with fragrances (natural or not). The fewer scented products (e.g., perfumes, aftershave, lotions, body washes, shampoos, cosmetics, laundry soap, and fabric softeners) we all use, the more likely people with respiratory conditions, chemical sensitivities and allergies will be able to enjoy and participate fully in our Meeting. Thank you.