

Ohio Yearly Meeting
c/o Olney Friends School
61830 Sandy Ridge Road
Barnesville, Ohio 43713
8th Month 1-5, 2022

Lift up your heads, O you gates!

Lift up, you everlasting doors!

And the King of glory shall come in.

Who is this King of Glory?

The Lord of hosts,

He is the King of Glory.

(Psalm 24:9-10)

To Friends Everywhere:

This year a number of Friends have gathered in the Stillwater meeting house for our 210th session of Ohio Yearly Meeting. Many unable to come have joined us virtually through zoom. We feel the deep joy in being gathered with Friends seeking to worship our Lord Jesus and discern together His work in us and the ways in which we should continue in it. One attending through zoom spoke of being able to feel the energy of the Holy Spirit through the computer screen. Our peace is extended all along the brick walk from the Meeting House, to dine or rest in other parts of the campus.

One afternoon we said good-bye to Jamie Helmick, who has worked as our compassionate & industrious director of the Walton Home for over 10 years. We are grateful that our Lord has raised up another gifted person serve as the new director. Walton Retirement Home has been a service of Ohio Yearly for many years. At one point during the Ohio Yearly Meeting sessions a baby cried out briefly announcing a welcome recent addition to our midst.

For many generations, Ohio Yearly Meeting carefully maintained a "hedge" to protect our lifestyle and Way of worship from the outside world. In recent years circumstances have necessitated that we learn how to reach beyond our hedge, and the Lord is providing the technology for us to do so. Sometimes we struggle to hear one another, either because the technology is imperfect, or because we use words and phrases that have different shades of meaning in different contexts, and this can be troubling. Still, if we listen carefully, with minds and hearts open to one another, we often hear the same Lord speaking to us and through us across these differences and distances, honoring His Promise to be with us whenever we gather in His Name.

It is this Unity in the Spirit of the Living God, revealed in the Presence of the Inward Christ within and among us, that we to continue to celebrate in the ways of our forebears, blessed with contemporary tools many of them never imagined. We hear in Scripture: *Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither has it entered into the heart of man, what the Lord has prepared for those who love Him.* (1Cor. 2:9, Isaiah 64:4)

On behalf of Ohio Yearly Meeting of Friends,

Charles C. Thomas, Jr.,
Clerk