

Tuesday April 2, 2024

COMMUNITY – Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality, Stewardship

Community is implicit in our very name—the Religious *Society* of Friends. Though each of us has our own personal understanding of, and relationship with, God or Spirit or the divine, it's important for us to come together in worship, to share messages and insights with each other. Being a community is more than just everyone showing up in the same space at the same time, though; it's about learning to set aside personal differences and act as a unified force for good. We do this with deliberate intention because, underneath our individual differences, we all have “that of God within us,” ~Quaker.org

Some people think they are in community, but they are only in proximity. ~David Spangler

Connect with all members of the community, Be our authentic selves, Balance needs of the individual with needs of the group, Teach respect for everyone and the idea that everyone has a piece of the truth.
- Friends Journal

“If you're lonely when you're alone, you're in bad company.” – Jean Paul Satre.

“But many of us seek community solely to escape the fear of being alone. Knowing how to be solitary is central to the art of loving. When we can be alone, we can be with others without using them as a means of escape.” ~bell hooks

“If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” – African Proverb

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.” – Margaret Mead

I pin my hopes to quiet processes and small circles in which vital and transforming events take place.
- Rufus Jones

In worship we have our neighbors to right and left, before and behind, yet the Eternal Presence is over all and beneath all. Worship does not consist in achieving a mental state of concentrated isolation from one's fellows. But in depth of common worship it is as if we found our separate lives were all one life, within whom we live and move and have our being. `` ~Thomas Raymond Kelly

Keep in mind that our community is not composed of those who are already saints, but of those who are trying to become saints. Therefore let us be extremely patient with each other's faults and failures.
~Mother Theresa

- What speaks to you from these quotes?
- What are the most challenging elements of you living a Community Testimony?
- How can the community better serve you?
- How can you better serve the community?