In the year of the pandemic, the Black Lives Matter Marches, and the horror of immigrant children being caged, out in Great Falls, Montana our small worship group continues to bring together seekers of truth and compassion. Meeting weekly in a Lutheran Church our numbers dwindled down to about 6-8 on a regular Sunday. We have missed several of our past regular attenders. They brought us gifts of the Spirit. We feel the loss of their presence.

Almost ironically the death of two of our member/attenders brought us to our best selves of deepening faith, working together with each other, and sharing our gifts as we journeyed through these dear friends’ deaths and the memorial services we prepared. It was an amazing outreach to those beyond our Quaker group.

One exciting moment this past year was when we decided to fund two young adults from our community to attend the FCNL’s Spring Lobby Weekend. It started with our now deceased attender, making a pledge to fund part of this opportunity on her last Sunday with us. From that time on the money was raised with her dear friends from beyond our Quaker group making a large contribution. The money was complete, and then the Pandemic quarantined all of us. The young people we had asked were unable to attend this year. We are keeping the money intact hoping that next year we can follow through.

With the closing of the Lutheran Church, we turned to Zoom for our meetings. And what a joy that has brought. We have invited the Helena WG, and made new friends, plus our own attendance has increased as it is easier for some to access Zoom than to attend in person. By sharing our meeting times with Western Friend, we have had guests from Canada, Florida and New Mexico, as well as others from other parts of North Pacific Yearly Meeting. What an unexpected gift.

Currently, we are looking into aspects of prison ministry through needs of the jails and prisons in Montana.

Our weekly worship is enhanced by monthly worship sharing, sometimes some education and discussion around what it means to be a Quaker, either from a Quaker Speaks video, or some other form of reading. Our hearts are bolstered by the comments of one new Friend who states that her finding the Friends has been a blessing and enabled her spirit to be strengthened. At the same time there seems to be a continuing hunger for greater awareness amongst us of the Living, Loving Presence to show forth in our lives.