

State of Society Report
Mountain View Worship Group
May 2021

Spring brings cautious hope to those of us in Mountain View Worship Group as we prepare to meet outdoors for the first time since the fall. A core group has met by Zoom and we are grateful for the digital window it's given us to stay connected. We sense that the world is moving forward ever so gradually toward progress, health, and justice – with much work yet to do.

The challenges of living through COVID19 have added extra burdens to the elders in our group as they have had to deal with more isolation in addition to physical ailments and lack of mobility. We have supported them through “porch visits” and meals delivered.

In the last year our group has been part of local vigils for racial justice sponsored by Gorge Ecumenical Ministries, a part of EMO. These powerful weekly gatherings connected us to our community (wearing masks and using social distancing) as we stood against racism, injustice, and the murdering of people of color in our nation. Our worship group led a couple of the vigils, as different religious groups took turns preparing a program for the gatherers.

Our worship group came to unity in supporting an immigrant family seeking asylum in our town. We have provided ongoing financial and emotional support as well as advocacy during their long process of moving through the courts to get legal status. In one year, we saw this family move from sleeping on the floor of a shared one-bedroom derelict trailer with four adults and two children to being settled on an orchard property where they have been provided with the opportunity to trade work and reduced rent for living in a beautiful, mutually supportive home environment. We pray their miracle can be repeated for other immigrants seeking a safe life. It is our intention to continue this ministry through our immigrant fund as others' needs present themselves.

We are blessed to be part of the Religious Society of Friends and grateful for the chance to physically gather together for mutual worship and fellowship in these still uncertain and challenging times. Hope lies in community.