This four-day gathering will be a gentle-flowing communion in silence, a chance to reflect on the year past and the year ahead. We will co-create our time together, with chances for worship, walks, wildlife-watching, and woodstove-gazing. Weather permitting, we’ll welcome the new year with a bonfire. There will be art supplies available, as well as books and writing materials. You’re welcome to bring your own to add to the collection. Or simply bring yourself, with no pre-conceived expectations of how you will spend the time. Participants are welcome to engage in activities in whatever way best serves them. This retreat is an invitation into a simple spaciousness, a time to re-ground, to re-center and to step gracefully into a new year.

Sheila Garrett (Putney, VT Friends Meeting) has attended many silent New Year’s retreats at Woolman Hill and is a life-long artist. Margaret Cooley (Mount Toby, MA Friends Meeting) is Executive Director of Woolman Hill and has been involved with several silent year-end retreats. They look forward to co-creating this experience with all of the participants.
COST & REGISTRATION
The standard rate for this retreat is $300, with a sliding scale of $210-410. The fee includes program, lodging and food from Friday dinner through Monday lunch. Commuter rate is $210. Please pay what you can, encourage your faith community to financially support your participation if that is appropriate, and please ask if you need additional scholarship funds. A non-refundable deposit of $50 is required to hold a space for a program. If you need to cancel, the deposit can be applied to a future workshop.

ARRIVAL & DEPARTURE
Plan to arrive after 4:30pm Friday evening, in time for dinner at 6:30. The workshop will end by 2pm on Monday. We are centrally located in western Massachusetts, close to both I-91 and Route 2. For those arriving by car, we will send directions after you register. Please let us know if you’d be interested in car-pooling. The nearest Amtrak train station is in Greenfield (MA). Vermont Transit and Peter Pan bus lines also stop in Greenfield. Please contact us in advance to see if we can arrange a ride from these stations.

ROOM & BOARD
Our 19th-century farmhouse has hand-hewn beams and wide pine floors, with simple dorm-style lodging. The meetinghouse and the first floor of the main building are wheelchair accessible. Our cabins have electricity, woodstoves and outhouses. We serve nourishing, primarily vegetarian, home-cooked meals and always offer a vegetarian option. Please let us know if you have any dietary restrictions. Part of the community building at each retreat includes the joyful sharing of meal chores and final clean-up.

WHAT TO BRING
Please bring your own toiletries, towels, and bedding (sleeping bag or sheets and blankets or comforter). Pillows are provided. Be sure to bring seasonally appropriate clothes and comfortable indoor and outdoor footwear. You might also like to bring a flashlight, journal, musical instrument... Please do NOT bring pets or candles. We have limited internet access and cell phone reception. We encourage guests to consider how cell phone or computer use may detract from their experience of being fully present, here and now.

TO REGISTER ON-LINE for this program, or for more details, please visit our website (www.woolmanhill.org) OR fill out the information below and send it to the address above with a $50 deposit made payable to Woolman Hill. The balance is due at the beginning of the workshop.

Sweet Sounds of Silence, Friday Dec 29, 2017 - Monday Jan 1, 2018

NAME: [ ] MONTHLY MEETING (if applicable):
E-MAIL: [ ] PHONE: Circle: home / work / mobile
STREET ADDRESS: [ ] CITY, STATE, ZIP:

Check if you wish: [ ] NOT to share your contact info with other participants. [ ] NOT to be on mailing list.

ENCLOSED is $______. I plan to pay a TOTAL of $______ on the sliding scale. ($300 standard, $210 commuter, see above)

DIETARY NEEDS
Please check any that apply:
[ ] Vegetarian
[ ] Vegan
[ ] Gluten-free
[ ] No-dairy
[ ] Other:

HOUSING
Please check any that apply:
[ ] Commuting
[ ] Prefer main building
[ ] Prefer cabin
[ ] Light sleeper
[ ] Trouble with stairs
[ ] Need to be near bathroom
[ ] I snore
[ ] Other:

TRANSPORT
Please check any that apply:
[ ] Willing to offer ride(s)
[ ] Need ride
[ ] Willing to drive or ride
[ ] Willing to have my contact info shared
[ ] Would like public transport info
[ ] Other: