

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting
200th annual sessions
June 17-21, 2020

“Embracing Our Call to Faith; Envisioning Our Shared Future”

Daily Schedule

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
7:00 – 7:30		Morning Worship	Morning Worship	Morning Worship	
7:45– 8:15		Yoga	Yoga	Yoga	Yoga
8:15 – 8:30					
8:30– 9:30		Worship Sharing	Worship Sharing	Worship Sharing	Worship Sharing
9:30-10:00					
10:00-11:00		Children’s Program	Children’s Program	Children’s Program	Meeting for Business
11:00 – 11:30					Meeting for worship (2)
11:30 – 12:00					
12:00 – 1:00		Middle Youth/ Teen + story time	Middle Youth / Teen + puppets	Middle Youth / Teen / Intergen social hr	
		Help Desk	Help Desk	Help Desk	
1:00 – 2:30	Orientation / Welcome	Meeting for Business	Workshops #1 / 2 / 3	Workshops # 4 / 5 / 6	
2:30 – 3:00					
3:00 – 4:00		Teen Program	Teen Program	Teen Program	Memorial meeting
4:00 – 5:00		Healing Center	Healing Center	Healing Center	
6:30-7:00	Meeting for Worship				
7:00 – 9:00	Meeting for Business (1)	Plenary (Cathy Roma)	Plenary (Emily Provance)	Talent Show	

Help Desk: Help and Registration will open daily from 8:00 to 8:30 and 12:00 to 12:30

Morning Yoga. Thursday and Friday morning sessions will be led by Deborah Jordan; Saturday morning session led by Bob Holada; Sunday morning's session will be a pre-recorded session kindly offered by Kaia Jackson.

Meal times are not explicitly scheduled. Friends are encouraged to take meals as they are able.

(1) Wednesday's meeting for business is likely to begin at 7:05.

(2) Sunday's Meeting for Worship (about 11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m.), will have an opportunity afterwards to visit with Friends

ORIENTATION AND WELCOME ACTIVITY

Annual sessions will officially begin with an orientation followed by a welcoming and community building activity on Wednesday afternoon through Zoom. The link will be on the OVYM website annual sessions page, along with other sessions information.

The orientation will last about 30 minutes and go through the ways we'll be using Zoom through the rest of the week and include a chance to practice.

Anyone who would like some assistance beforehand in learning how to access Zoom may email csimmons45387@yahoo.com or call Carol Simmons at 937-232-4250, and a Friend will happily get in touch with you and walk you through the process.

PLENARY SPEAKERS

Thursday, June 18, 7-8/8:30 p.m.

Cathy Roma: "Count It Joy: Conducting Choirs in Ohio Prisons for 30 Years"



A choral conductor and social justice activist, Cathy believes in the transformative power of music to change lives on an individual and societal level. She began working in prisons as a faculty member at Wilmington College and eventually founded three separate choirs in Ohio prisons, all of which remain active, though temporarily halted during the COVID-19 pandemic shutdown. Cathy will speak about her choral work in prisons and for social justice; show some videos from highlights of her choirs' activities; and engage in dialogue with OVYM annual sessions participants via Zoom.

Cathy is a member of OVYM's Yellow Springs Friends Meeting. A native of Philadelphia, she became familiar with Quakers as a student at Philadelphia's Germantown Friends School, where she is a graduate. Eventually moving to southwestern Ohio, Cathy founded and directed MUSE: Cincinnati Women's Choir, retiring from the group in 2012. That same year she received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses. She more recently founded the World House Choir, based in Yellow Springs, which she still leads.

Friday, June 19, 7-8/8:30 p.m.

Emily Provance: “The Inheritance”

What is the call to faith that we inherit from those who came before? How do we embrace it? What does that mean? At what point, exactly, does the faith become *ours*? Once we have it, what does it mean to steward it? And how do we prepare this inheritance to be passed along?



In this session, we will alternate between large-group listening and small-group discussion, using stories and queries to explore the broader subject of inheritance. Friends of all ages are welcome to participate; those who find it hard to be still are encouraged to bring coloring, knitting, doodle pages, etc.

Emily is a member of Fifteenth Street Meeting and thinks of New York City as home, though she now travels in the ministry full time. She came to Friends after seventeen years of searching for a faith community. She understands the Religious Society of Friends to be a covenant community and has spent time with Friends from various branches of the tradition in Kenya, Belize, Britain, Ireland, Tanzania, Palestine, Mexico, Peru, and the United States. She is an associate of Good News Associates.

WORKSHOPS

Friday, June 19, 1-2/2:30 p.m.

1) OVYM@200: His Story, Her Story, Their Story

Facilitator: Paul Buckley, a member of Community Friends Meeting, is a Quaker historian and theologian and the author of several books.

Paul writes: “The history of OVYM is like the history of a forest. Telling the story of a few big trees doesn't capture the essence of the woods. With activities modeled on the Smithsonian Institution's StoryCorps, we will be looking at how we each contribute to the ongoing history of our yearly meeting. Each participant will have the opportunity to record their story. The recordings will be made available to everyone in the yearly meeting.”

Come prepared to speak to one of two queries:

Query 1 (For those not born into a Quaker family): Why did I first come to a Quaker meeting?

And more importantly, once you knew who we are, why did you come back?

Query 2 (For those born into a Quaker family): Why did you keep coming?

2) Support within Meetings in Changing and Uncertain Times

Facilitator: Dale Hayes, of Eastern Hills Monthly Meeting, on behalf of OVYM's Religious Nurture and Education Committee

How do we maintain our spiritual community and offer care to one another?

This workshop will explore how we can best support the diverse needs of Friends at this time and beyond, including nurturing our children, aiding those facing financial insecurity, and those who are vulnerable due to health concerns. What are some of the creative practices our meetings have discovered?

3) Poetry and Play-dough

Presenters: Gloria Stearns-Bruner, of Bloomington Friends, and Kaia Jackson, OVYM Youth Secretary. Gloria is a licensed music therapist, and Kaia is a new graduate of the Earlham School of Religion.

In this workshop inspired by “On the Spirituality of Lightheartedness,” by Helen Steere Horn, we will play with words and shapes to explore lightening our burdens in our shared future.

Note: Please make the play-dough ahead of time:

Ingredients

- 1 cup of flour
- 1/3 cup of salt
- 1/2 tablespoon of canola or vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup of water

Essential oil/food coloring if wanted

Directions

1. Put water in a bowl and add food coloring/essential oil (optional). Add canola/vegetable oil.
2. In a separate bowl, mix flour and salt together.
3. Stir dry ingredients into wet ingredients.
4. Knead together on a flat surface.

Saturday, June 10, 1-2/2:30 p.m.

4) A Joyful Earthcare Path: Contemplative Walking as Worship

Facilitator: Bill Cahalan, of Community Friends Meeting, on behalf of OVYM Earthcare Committee

Our work to heal the deteriorating human-Earth relationship can be paralyzed by discouragement or despair. But we can be helped to face the environmental crisis we are in, moving into essential action, by regularly cultivating gratitude and developing community. As we do so, we find that a rhythm between joy and grief is essential to living a full life.

We will briefly discuss ways to complement our usual indoor worship through contemplative, deep listening encounters with the land communities in which we all live. Then, most of our time will be spent on taking an individual (or family) walk near our homes or other desired locations, with an invitation to “see with new eyes” while opening to the presence of Spirit in the beings and cycles of land and sky. We will end by coming back together online through Zoom with a brief worship sharing.

5) Bible study through the light of Queer Theology

Facilitator: Anthony Kirk, a recent graduate from the Earlham School of Religion with a master of divinity degree

In this workshop, we will begin with an exploration of Queer Theology, which has three components (as modified from the definition by Episcopal priest and theologian Patrick Cheng):

1. Theology done with LGBTQ people.
2. Theology that purposely opposes social and cultural norms regarding gender and sexuality. It seeks to unearth hidden voices or hidden perspectives that allow theology to be seen in a new light.
3. Theology that challenges and deconstructs boundaries.

From here, we will explore a passage of scripture together through the light of Queer Theology.

Queer folks and allies alike are welcome and encouraged to participate!

6) FCNL: Preventing War with Iran and Ending War in Yemen

Facilitators: Hassan El-Tayyab and Alicia McBride, of Friends Committee on National Legislation

This workshop will provide a space for participants to hear the latest news from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, and get a legislative update on FCNL's Middle East policy advocacy on ending U.S. support for the Saudi war on Yemen, restoring humanitarian assistance to Yemen, and preventing a new war with Iran. This workshop is a chance to get in depth policy analysis, engage in discussion around these pressing topics, and learn about opportunities we can take action to advance peace in the Middle East region. OVYM Friends may remember that Alicia, who has family ties to OVYM, was a guest at sessions several years ago.

For more information on FCNL's work in this area:

- Here is the link to FCNL's USAID Yemen letter: <https://www.fcnl.org/>
- Here is an ask for Yemen: <https://www.fcnl.org/updates/>
- Here is the Iran ask: <https://www.fcnl.org/updates/>

Interest Groups

Friends are invited to arrange interest groups of their choosing during the evening hours after the business meeting on Wednesday and the plenary sessions on Thursday and Friday — or even days within a month of the start of sessions (the Zoom account is good for 30 days).

If you have an interest group you would like to have listed in on the OVYM annual sessions page, please send the title to csimmons45387@yahoo.com. Zoom call-in information will then be assigned and noted on the website.

Talent/variety show (7:00-9:00 p.m. Saturday, June 20)

Yes! It's happening! And this unconventional year give us a chance to think imaginatively about sharing our talents. You could sing, dance, offer a family skit, show a short video, play an instrument, read poetry, tell jokes, or show off your beautiful garden or cool Lego structure. Sign up by emailing benovym@mac.com or call Ben Griffith (502) 330-4989.