

OVYM 202nd Annual Sessions

June 8 – 12th, 2022 at Mount Saint Joseph University, Cincinnati OH

An Invitation to OVYM Annual Sessions: Embrace the Healing Power of Community

The Planning Committee is thrilled to welcome our OVYM community to in-person annual sessions, where we hope the intimate setting of the Mount St. Joseph campus and the joy of being together foster a deepening of our ties to each other and to Spirit. Come enjoy our usual programs—workshops, worship sharing, and more for adults, field trips and service for youth, swimming, stories, and outdoor play for children. And our talent show for everyone! Feel free to share your talent, however great or small, on the huge stage of the University Theatre. We will also enjoy the green space of the Quad and the conviviality of shared meals, and we will labor together over the business of our yearly meeting. Together, we will explore how to heal ourselves and our community after two challenging years of isolation. Masks are required in public spaces because our youngest children still cannot get vaccines. Those of you who prefer to wear masks and keep your distance, please be assured that we have planned with you in mind, from a separate seating area in the dining hall, to a mask-required worship sharing group, and a strict policy for COVID safety. We also have opportunities to participate by Zoom. By the time you read this, we may have already confirmed our room and meal reservations with The Mount (by May 25th); however, if you haven't registered to attend in person and still hope to attend, reach out to our registrar, Eric Wolff, registrar.ovym@gmail.com and see if there is room at the inn. There's still time to register as an on-line only participant. Please complete your registration by June 7. To see the schedule, find information/permission forms for youth programs, access the registration form and other details, go to our Annual Sessions web page at <https://www.ovym.org/events/2022-annual-sessions/>

Submitted by Gloria Bruner on behalf of Planning Committee

Dear Friends:

What an exciting time! We are just a few weeks away from our first in-person annual session gathering since 2019. I'm looking forward to being together again, seeing how the young folks have grown (and how the older folks have grown, too), meeting the new Friends who have joined us, and relishing the silence that grounds our worship and our work.

Our Quaker faith is inherently communal. When we come together in worship and discernment, there is more Light available and a more profound understanding of the Truth. Our "community muscles" may be a bit atrophied after so much time apart, so the 2022 annual sessions bring us an opportunity to rediscover the joy of communal worship and business, while also offering us a fresh start.

At the Executive Committee meeting in February, an ad hoc group was formed to assess the organizational and committee structure of the yearly meeting. This is a vital time to ask ourselves who we want to be when we come together as Quakers across the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana region.

Rachel Ernst Stahlhut



What is alive and Spirit-filled about our time together and the work we do? What opportunities do we find when we build connections and deepen our faith together?

I can't wait to find out!

In preparation for annual sessions, the Planning Committee has carried a heavy load, both in finding a new site when Earlham College was unavailable and in navigating the ever-changing Covid situation to create a safe and healthy environment for everyone. Thanks also to our Registrar, the Children's Program Committee, and all of the other Friends faithfully doing the work of the yearly meeting as we prepare to gather.



OVYM PLENARY SPEAKERS

Thursday June 9, 2022

Gloria Stearns-Bruner *Love will Gather Us*

Community is the incarnation of Love. We were made for this but we think we don't know how. There may be fragmentation, discord, exhaustion, and we think we can't connect. Let us begin again from within. Let us deepen our shared experience of this Love, the Source of healing in our communities.

In this plenary we will create a sacred space inviting the Holy to come in through worship, music, reflection and sharing. We will ask, "What is coming to light within us and where it is growing?" We will begin in silence followed by a Spirit-led musical offering, then reflect on a query in small groups, and share with the large group in creative ways. We will close with music and silent worship.

All we really need is already here. May this time of "communal eldering", experiencing God's love deep within, as the spring of living water, nourish and guide us so we can truly embrace the healing power of community.

Gloria Stearns-Bruner, a violinist and music therapist, creates unique ways of expression through improvisation reflecting what she hears in nature, experiences on her personal journey, and faces in our society. Her wellspring is the Quaker spiritual practice of deep listening in silence. Gloria's work includes audio recordings, multimedia projects, workshops, collaborations, and public gatherings.

Gloria began her journey in Washington, D.C. in 1983 volunteering with Sojourners, a social activist Christian community and magazine then living in L'Arche, an intentional spiritual community for individuals with disabilities. Gloria met her husband of 34 years and raised their four children moving to Bloomington, IN in 2003. Bloomington Friends Meeting actively supports Gloria's ministry in music and activism through ongoing loving guidance and counsel.



Friday June 10, 2022

Angela Hopkins



Born in Ohio and raised in the Missionary Baptist church, Angela became a Friend in Nzoia, Kenya, where she met Priscilla Makino, pastor of a meeting there. The two traveled extensively in ministry throughout Africa and the US. Through a journey of discernment she returned to join the Friends in the US, where she was released to found the Friends Center for Racial Justice in Ithaca for Friends everywhere.

OVYM Workshops

Friday June 10, 2022

Paul Buckley: *How is your Meeting a Community?*

Each of us lives in multiple overlapping and interconnected communities. Some we are born into, while others we choose to join. Each one provides us with an opportunity to test, refine, and express our beliefs, attitudes, and preferences. Claiming membership in a community is a way to define ourselves to others. As we live into that commitment, community can be more than just a group of people. It can embody our testimonies – a way we witness to the world about what we believe to be most important. This workshop is an opportunity for each participant to explore what kind of community their monthly meeting is and how it empowers its participants.

The workshop will have a short period of presentation, but will mostly consist of small group discussion and sharing by the whole body. We will start with worship and close with worship sharing.

Paul Buckley worships with Clear Creek Friends in Richmond, Indiana. Paul is the author of numerous articles and books on Quaker history, faith, and practice. When possible, he travels in the ministry urging spiritual renewal among Friends. His most recent book is *Primitive Quakerism Revived: Living as Friends in the Twenty-First Century*.

(Workshops continued next page)

(Friday workshops continued)

Deborah Jordan and Bill Cahalan: *Gratitude, Grief, and Compassion for Earth*

After an introduction to our healing circle and a reflective time outdoors, we will reconvene. As part of the larger community of life, we will share thoughts, feelings, and experiences about our appreciation for our interbeing with Earth as well as our sorrow for the losses we know are happening. As Joanna Macy writes, “Pain for the world- the outrage and the sorrow – breaks us open to a larger sense of who we are. It is a doorway to the realization of our mutual belonging in the web of life.”

Workshop activities: An introduction to each other and the workshop; reflective time alone (listen, write, draw) outdoors; large group worship-sharing with queries, closing.

The Wild Edge of Sorrow by Francis Weller is a wonderful introduction to this work as is **Earth as Lover, Earth as Self** by Joanna Macy and just spending time in nature listening would be helpful.

Deborah Jordan and Bill Cahalan are members of Community Friends Meeting. Deborah is an Earth lover and experienced facilitator who has been involved in healing work for decades. Bill is an organic gardener and a psychologist who includes immersion in nature as part of his healing work. Both helped found CROW (Citizens for Rights of the Ohio River Watershed).

FCNL: Amplifying Calls for Economic Justice

In person and by Zoom. Presenters:

Abibat Rahman-Davies, FCNL Domestic Policy Associate, <https://www.fcnl.org/people/abibat-rahman-davies>

Alex Frandsen, FCNL Communications Strategist, <https://www.fcnl.org/people/alex-frandsen>

Abi and Alex will host a workshop that outlines the key legislative efforts in Congress to promote economic justice and show participants how to make their voices heard in the media to assist in these efforts. The exact focus is to be determined, given that much could change in Congress in the coming months, but the plan is to focus on expansions to the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit. We can also discuss the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act, or pivot to another issue if something more pressing arises prior to the workshop. Abi will provide policy background and present on the issue, and Alex will follow by discussing opportunities for publication in the media through op-eds or letters-to-the-editor (LTEs). We'll leave time for plenty of questions and set aside the last 15-20 minutes to allow people to draft up their own LTEs.

The format will be part sharing information, part question and answer/discussion, and part hands-on activity.

In preparation, Friends may want to peruse FCNL's Economic Justice policy page for recent updates at:

<https://www.fcnl.org/issues/economic-justice>.

Diann Herzog: Gifted for Healing – All Gifts Lead to Love

We will explore how all our spiritual gifts, working together, strengthen and uplift our communities.

Time will be divided up equally with presentation, activity, and discussion.

It is recommended that Friends familiarize themselves with the spiritual gifts listed in scripture in preparation for the workshop.

Diann McFarland Herzog has been a member of OVYM and Fall Creek Meeting for 22 years. She has also been an affiliate member of Ohio Yearly Meeting Conservative for 20 years. She is a lifelong spiritual seeker.

Saturday June 11, 2022

OVYM Religious Nurture and Education Committee: *Welcoming Newcomers and Bringing New Life to our Meetings*

We will focus on how we can deepen and challenge our meetings to become communities that welcome and include newcomers of all ages and backgrounds. There will be a mix of presentation and smaller discussion. Presenters will be members of the OVYM Religious Nurture and Education Committee. “Grow Our Meeting Toolkit” would be a good resource to look over in preparation for this workshop.

Gloria Stearns-Bruner: *Prayer Songs: Openings to ourselves and each other*

We will be writing original music springing from worship sharing. Each participant will discover a word or phrase that reflects their relationship with Spirit. No musical skill is needed. Gloria will assist with the adding a very simple melody with or without instruments. We will sing together and seek to deepen connections with Spirit and each other in expressive, creative ways.

Gloria Stearns-Bruner is a member of Bloomington Friends Meeting, IN and has been a Friend for 35 years. She is a clinical music therapist in private practice and a violinist, currently following a leading in music ministry and activism, writing music as led by Spirit for personal and cultural healing.

**Betsy Neale and Richard Mitchell: Historical Jesus- Welcome to the Table
(Zoom workshop)**

A critical reading of the Gospels and other writings about Jesus shows him to have been a healer who welcomed all to his table, especially the poor and destitute. He empowered his followers to practice healing themselves. How can we follow this Jesus in our lives today? We will present material from the critical Jesus scholarship of the last few decades and invite questions and discussion throughout the presentation. There will be a combination of presentation and discussion.

Betsy Neale and Richard Mitchell are members of Lexington Friends Meeting. They have been studying the contemporary scholarship on the historical Jesus for several decades and have presented this material to Friends in various monthly and yearly meetings, and the FGC Gathering.

Angela Hopkins: TBA

OVYM 202nd Annual Sessions

EMBRACE THE HEALING POWER OF COMMUNITY

June 8 – 12th, 2022 at Mount Saint Joseph University, Cincinnati OH

<p>REGISTRATION Registrar: Eric Wolff e-mail: registrar.ovym@gmail.com Tel: 513-378-8730 Times: Wednesday 1:00 - 6:00 PM Thurs - Sat: 8:00 - 8:30 AM, & other hours TBA. If you expect to arrive after 5:00 PM contact Eric in advance.</p> <p>YOGA led by Ashley O'Brien*, Eastern Hills Friends. daily 7:35 AM-8:05 AM held in the Interfaith Chapel</p>	<p>MEALS The Dining Hall of Seton Center. Breakfast: 7:30-8:30 AM Lunch: 12:30 - 1:30 PM Dinner: 5:30 - 6:30 PM</p> <p>MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP 7:00 - 7:30 AM daily, held in the Interfaith Chapel The interfaith chapel is open daily between 7:00 AM - 10:00 PM for meditation and private worship.</p> <p>INTEREST GROUPS Info posted at the registration desk.</p>	<p>WiFi is available throughout the university. Check in at the registration desk to obtain network information.</p> <p>BOOKSTORE In the Aretz room in Seton Center. Hours to be announced.</p> <p>EXHIBITS lobby of Seton Center</p> <p>REMINDER: Turn in room keys by 2:00 PM Sunday to MSJ staff at Seton Center desk.</p>
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**Ashley teaches yoga to people of all ages and abilities. Please wait for worshippers to leave the chapel or enter quietly. Please bring a mat as the floor of the Chapel is ceramic tile.*

Living Witness: Paul Buckley & Peggy Spohr Corona Room, Thursday 1:45-3:15 PM

WORKSHOPS (locations TBA)	
Friday 1:45-3:15 PM	Saturday 1:45-3:15 PM
<p>1) Gifted for Healing – All Gifts Lead to Love Leader: Diann McFarland Herzog</p> <p>2) How is your Meeting a Community Leader: Paul Buckley</p> <p>3) Gratitude, Grief, and Compassion for Earth Leaders: Deborah Jordan & Bill Cahalan Location: Earth Connection, opposite Seton</p> <p>4) Amplifying Calls for Economic Justice Leader: Abibat Rahman-Davies & Alex Frandsen, FCNL Staff Delivered in person AND Zoom (link TBA)</p>	<p>5) TBA Leader: Angela Hopkins</p> <p>6) Outreach & Integrating Newcomers Leader: Religious Nurture & Education</p> <p>7) The Historical Jesus Welcomes All to His Table Leaders: Betsy Neale and Richard Mitchell Delivered via Zoom, link to be provided</p> <p>8) Prayer Songs Leader: Gloria Stearns-Bruner</p>

PLENARIES (Recital Hall)	
Thursday 7:00 - 8:30 PM	Friday 7:00 - 8:30 PM
Gloria Stearns-Bruner <i>Love will gather us</i>	Angela Hopkins TBA

(Adult schedule continued next page)

WEEK AT A GLANCE

WEDNESDAY: Day Coordinator: Peter Hardy Tel: 859-351-3475

1:00 PM	Registration open	
1:30 PM	Child Sexual Abuse prevention training	(Clifford Rm)
3:00 - 5:00 PM	Meeting for worship with attention to business	(Corona Rm)
6:30 - 8:00 PM	Welcoming activity & worship	(Interfaith Chapel)
After 8:00 PM	Parent/Guardian/Sponsor meetings with Children & Youth Programs (See Children/Youth schedule)	

THURSDAY: Day Coordinator: Peter Hardy Tel: 859-351-3475

8:45 - 9:45 AM	Worship Sharing (sign up and locations posted at registrar's table)	
10:00-12:30 PM	Meeting for worship with attention to business	
	(Corona Rm)	
12:30- 1:30 PM	Anti-Racism Drop In Center (Zoom only)	(Clifford Rm)
1:45 - 3:15 PM	Living Witness Paul Buckley & Peggy Spohr	(Corona Rm)
3:30 - 5:00 PM	Meeting for worship with attention to business	(Corona Rm)
6:15 - 6:45 PM	Singing	(Recital Hall)
7:00 - 8:30 PM	PLENARY – Gloria Stearns Bruner “Love Will Gather Us”	(Recital Hall)

FRIDAY: Day Coordinator: Ben Griffith Tel: 502-330-4989

8:45 - 9:45 AM	Worship Sharing (sign up and locations posted at registrar's table)	
10:00-12:15 PM	Meeting for worship with attention to business	
12:30- 1:30 PM	Anti-Racism Drop In Center (Zoom only)	(Clifford Rm)
1:45 - 3:15 PM	Workshops (titles/leaders on reverse; locations/descriptions near Registration desk)	
3:30 - 4:30 PM	Memorial Meeting	(Interfaith Chapel)
4:30 - 5:30 PM	Healing Center	(Interfaith Chapel)
6:15 - 6:45 PM	Singing	(Recital Hall)
7:00 - 8:30 PM	PLENARY – Angela Hopkins Title TBA	(Recital Hall)
9:00-10:00 PM	Interest Groups topics posted in Seton; see registration desk for locations.	

SATURDAY: Day Coordinator: Martha Viehmann Tel: 513-324-8953

8:45 - 9:45 AM	Worship Sharing (sign up and locations posted at registrar's table)	
10:00-12:15 PM	Meeting for worship with attention to business	(Corona Rm)
12:30- 1:30 PM	LUNCH – Simple Meal with savings donated to Right Sharing of World Resources	
12:30- 1:30 PM	Anti-Racism Drop In Center (Zoom only)	(Clifford Rm)
1:45 - 3:15 PM	Workshops (titles/leaders on reverse; locations/descriptions near Registration desk)	
3:15 - 4:15 PM	Healing Center	(Interfaith Chapel)
4:15 - 5:15 PM	Intergenerational activity	(TBA)
6:15 - 6:45 PM	Singing	(University Theatre)
7:00 - 8:30 PM	VARIETY SHOW	(University Theatre)
9:00-11:00 PM	The Afterthoughts Café pizza and socializing	(Theatre Lobby)

SUNDAY: Day Coordinator: Gloria Stearns Bruner Tel: 812-320-2679

8:45 - 9:45 AM	Worship Sharing (sign up and locations posted at registrar's table)	
10:00-11:00 AM	Meeting for worship with attention to business & reading of epistles)	
11:15-12:15 PM	Worship	
12:30 – 2:00 PM	Lunch and committee meetings	
2:00 PM	CHECKOUT Return keys to MSJ staff at the Seton Center desk by 2:00pm or when leaving	



Mount St. Joseph University Quad

Source: MSJ website

OVYM 202nd Annual Sessions June 8 – 12th, 2022
EMBRACE THE HEALING POWER OF COMMUNITY
DAILY SCHEDULE for CHILDREN and YOUTH

Meal Times: 7:30-8:30 AM Breakfast. 12:30-1:30 PM Lunch. 5:30-6:30 PM Dinner

All ages welcome to join **Hymn Singing** on the stage prior to plenaries: 6:15-6:45 PM

Evening Hours: Children's Program ends at 8:30 PM. The Middle Youth Program ends at 9:30 PM
9:30-11:00 PM Teen Time. Friendly Helper Volunteers needed to remain with teens after 11:00 PM.

YOUTH SCHEDULE

Special Events:

Wed. 8:30-9:00 PM Mandatory parent/guardian/OVYM sponsor meeting. Seton 3rd floor lounge.

Thur. 1:30 PM Depart for Holocaust & Humanity Center. Drivers needed.

Fri. Rafting Trip Depart after breakfast. Drivers and rafters needed.

Sat. 1:30 PM Service Trip departs after lunch. Imago Environmental Ed Center. Drivers needed.

Wednesday

2:45 - 5:30 PM Hang out. Get acquainted. Seton 3rd floor lounge /MSJU campus

6:30 - 8:00 PM Welcoming activity and worship. Interfaith Chapel

8:30- 9:00 PM Mandatory parent/guardian/OVYM sponsor meeting. Seton 3rd floor lounge.

9:00 - 11:00 PM Hang out time

Thursday

8:45-9:30 AM Worship Sharing and Meeting for Business

9:30-12:15 PM Activities

1:30-5:00 PM Visit to Holocaust and Humanity Center

7:00 PM Teens attend Plenary / MY activities until 9:30 PM

8:30 PM Teens return for evening activities/Teen Time

Friday

8:45 AM Depart for Rafting trip

3:00-5:15 PM Youth program

7:00 PM Teens attend Plenary. MY activities until 9:30 PM

8:30 PM Teens return for evening activities/Teen Time

Saturday

Same as Thursday through lunch.

1:30 - 5:00 PM Service Trip (Imago)

7:00 - 8:30 PM Variety Show

9:00-11:00 PM Free Time

Sunday

8:45 -10:00 AM Epistle Writing and Closing

10:00 -11:00 AM Read epistle at adult Meeting for Business.

11:15 -12:15 PM Meeting for Worship

CHILDREN'S SCHEDULE

Children's programming is located on the 2nd floor lounge of the Seton Center

Wednesday

Program runs 2:45 - 8:30 PM.

5:30-6:30 PM Dinner

6:30 - 8:00 PM Welcoming activity & worship (children leave worship early)

8:15 - 8:45 PM Parent/ Guardian meeting with staff and Children's Committee

Thursday, Friday, Saturday

Program runs from 8:30 AM to 8:30 PM with children joining families for meals as desired.

Activities include crafts, story time, games, swimming. We will be outdoors as much as possible.

Saturday 7:00 PM: Children attend variety show and perform a skit

Sunday

Program runs 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM.

Children write an epistle to read at the adult Meeting for Business. They will attend worship for 20 minutes or so.

A note about masks. Adults are expected to wear masks when in the presence of children as children may not be vaccinated. Children above 2 years are expected to wear masks when in doors.

Check out. Mount Saint Joseph University expects us to vacate our dorm rooms by 2:00 PM on Sunday. Please check with Mount St. Joseph staff about what to do with linens. Turn your key in to MSJ staff at the registration desk in the lobby of Seton Center.

George Fox (1624-1691)

Karen Campbell, Community Friends

George Fox was born into a world of political and spiritual chaos. England was being torn apart in a lengthy and bloody civil war which lasted from 1642 to 1651. The Parliamentarians ("*Roundheads*") fought against the Royalists ("*Cavaliers*"). In 1649 King Charles I was beheaded. Puritan leader Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658) became the Lord Protector of England from 1653 to 1658. He became both head of state and the government. A major issue of all this turmoil was over governance ("Should we have a monarch or a Republican Commonwealth?") Another issue was over religious freedom. The Church of England was, in effect, disbanded and the Puritans attempted to restructure the state church like the Presbyterian. In the face of this arose a large number of sectarian groups. It was a time of extreme trauma in the body politic and in Christianity. Traditional authorities were gone. 85,000 people died in combat and it is estimated that an additional 100,000 died from disease. Many thought it was the apocalypse.

George Fox was born in July of 1624 in Drayton-On-The-Clay, now known as Fenny Drayton, Leicestershire, England. Even though the village was a Puritan stronghold, George's parents, Christopher Fox, a weaver, and Mary Lago, were devout members of the Anglican Church. George had three younger siblings. By all accounts, young George was a very serious boy and young man deeply concerned about spiritual truth and his salvation. Around the age of twelve, he was apprenticed to a shoemaker. In 1643, he left his apprenticeship to seek a deeper assurance about his salvation. He was a devoted reader of the Bible and he wanted to look beyond the Scripture to find a continuing inspiration. On his lengthy pilgrimage throughout England, he asked his questions to Anglican Priests and Puritan/Presbyterian ministers. He found the answers from the authorities unhelpful. After eight years of increasing spiritual despair George had a visionary experience of the Light. A voice came saying that there is one who can speak to thy condition and he is Jesus Christ himself, Christ the great teacher.

George began to preach. He was a charismatic speaker and drew large crowds. His "*openings*" led him to reject attending services in "steeplehouses." Baptism and Communion are interior realities and do not need to be ritualized outwardly. Worship itself need not be ritualized outwardly on one spot with stained glass windows and an altar/communion table. Since all human beings have "*that of God*" within themselves, everyone is a priest, including women. Consequently, there is no ordination. He rejected hymns, creeds, and sermons. He believed that the Light of Christ's teaching in Scripture is the same as the inner Light in everyone. People gathered around him became known as "*The Children of the Light*" and also "*The Friends of Truth*." Friends rejected the sacramentality and other liturgical aspects of the Anglican and Presbyterian traditions. The early Friends were considered radical Puritans but nonetheless they rejected Calvinism and its teaching that only the "*Elect*" receive the Light and find salvation. The Friends, like many of the other sectarian groups of the time, were offering hope to conflict-weary people. But these were also people of great expectation believing in the imminent, if not present, apocalypse. There is nothing formulaic in Quaker worship to impede the Light. It is God's creative Light which judges and heals. The early Quaker ministers thought of themselves as prophets, prophets of a new age. Friends were to fight "*the Lamb's War*" against sin outwardly and also inwardly. The Light within brings salvation and the recognition of the Light in others enlightens the world. George Fox was also a noted healer. Wherever he traveled he healed hundreds.

Many Quaker ministers were ardent missionaries including George Fox. Quakers first settled in North America around 1656. He visited Holland, Ireland, and Scotland in 1671. George visited Barbados, Jamaica in 1672, and then Maryland in 1673. He also met with Native Americans and affirmed their status as children of the Light. George Fox was a writer known for his "*Journal*" and "*Women's Speaking Justified*." He married Margaret Fell who became known as the Mother of Quakerism and was a charismatic preacher and writer herself. George Fox was able to encourage other sectarian groups to join with the Quakers. He spent the last decade of his life organizing the structure of Quaker Meetings. He died January 13, 1691 in London, England.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Announcements

1. As part of our child safety policies, Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting requests criminal background checks on both staff and volunteers working with our children and teenagers under 18. We also offer this service to monthly meetings for youth workers. You can find [consent forms on our website](#) for both volunteers and staff. Please contact Susan Lee Barton (admin@ovym.org) for details.
 2. DO YOU WANT TO RECEIVE THE QUAKER QUILL ON PAPER?
In order to receive (or continue receiving) *The Quaker Quill* on paper, you need to contact Susan Lee Barton (admin@ovym.org or 1117 South A Street, Richmond, IN 47374). We are updating our mailing list and need to make sure that the copies we are printing are going where they are needed. (Each copy costs approximately \$1.20 to print and mail.)
Advantages of receiving online copies: Color photographs! Weblinks for more information! Saving the yearly meeting money!
We are happy to mail paper newsletters to those who want them. If you are already receiving *The Quaker Quill* in the mail, contact [Susan Lee Barton](#) before the end of the year if you would like to remain on the mailing list. Thanks for your help in updating our mailing list!
 3. "Would you like to receive 2022 Reports in Advance by mail? Whether or not you will be attending sessions, e-mail admin@ovym.org before June if you would like to receive reports on paper."
 4. Want to keep up with announcements in between issues of The Quaker Quill? Please check out our new announcements webpage (<https://www.ovym.org/announcements/>)! This is for events happening or deadlines due before the next issue of The Quaker Quill. There is a form on the webpage to submit announcements.
- Submitted by Susan Lee Barton, OVYM Administrator*

As Way Opens: OVYM Meetings Reflect on the Pandemic Cecilia Shore and Peter Hardy, Miami Quarter

In the spring of 2022, we sent a short survey to meetings, asking that the clerk (and perhaps another Friend) complete it on behalf of their meeting. We received at least one response from each active meeting. Three meetings sent two responses; in these cases, when the ratings were discordant, the most moderate responses were included, and all open-ended comments were included.

A striking thing about the data is the adaptability that Friends have shown in this crisis; including the discovery that the Spirit can in fact move in an online-format. Half of the meetings report using multiple formats for meeting for worship/business over the course of the pandemic, when chosen from a list of: In person only; Online only; Hybrid (simultaneous online and in-person); and/or Both online and in person, but not simultaneously. The most frequently tried format for worship and business was hybrid simultaneous (10 meetings). Details about the technology used and suggestions for effective use can be found in the comments section at the end. The authors were struck, when reading the comments, that Friends care so much about community that they have found, and will continue to find, creative ways to be together, e.g., video needlework groups, outdoor walks together, and outdoor worship as weather permits.

About half of the meetings reported having more than 20 members. Only 2 reported more than 20 in-person Friends in worship on First Days. Two meetings reported that 0 Friends attend by video conference, six meetings reported 1-5; five reported 6-10, and 2 reported 11 or more. Interestingly, although higher membership tended to be related to higher in-person attendance, the two highest video attendances were in meetings toward the mid-range of meeting membership. The smallest meetings either meet in-person only, or divide their attendance between separate online and in-person meetings. Only 2 meetings report an increase in attendance through the pandemic, both of which report meeting in hybrid format. Six reported decreases: 3 of these met only in person, 3 have tried multiple formats for meeting. Going forward, 12 meetings anticipate using a hybrid format, whereas 4 anticipate in-person only meetings.

A key question for us in assessing our health is the quality of worship. Again, we have evidence of the adaptability of Friends in trying times. When asked, "How would you describe the quality of the worship you currently practice as 'gathered,' with a sense of the Divine in the community?" Friends are generally positive: five reported "often", eight reported "sometimes" and only 2 "rarely." Friends are generally very positive regarding the **quality** of vocal ministry: 11 reported "satisfied" and 5 reported "mixed/neutral". They are less positive about the **quantity** of vocal ministry with 5 "satisfied", 9 "mixed/neutral" and 1 "dissatisfied".

Equally important evidence regarding our resilience is conduct of meeting for worship with attention to business. When asked what, if any, changes they had made in their conduct of business, 9 either reported no change or did not respond. Comments are listed below. When asked about how easy/hard it was to find a sense of unity in discerning Divine leadings in business, 13 of the responses were "about the same as before," with only 2 reporting "harder."

Friends are generally optimistic about the trajectory for service activities, in-reach and sense of community, and outreach activities. In each of these categories, nearly all responses were either "mixed/neutral" or "decreased but this appears likely to rebound."

A large source of suffering, however, appears to be in First Day School/Youth activities. Half the meetings (7) reported that the pandemic had decreased these, and that they were likely to remain depressed. Almost as many reported that the pandemic's effect was mixed/neutral. For the future of our religious society, we need to discern a way forward for supporting children, youth, and families. In the comments about needs/sufferings listed on p. 10, it is clear that Friends also feel cut off from elders and high-risk Friends and miss their presence.

Survey of meetings continued next page

When asked about any good things that had come out of the pandemic, the comments below evidence two themes: the delight at being able to worship with distant Friends, and a deeper awareness of the preciousness of community. The importance of community and connection was also frequently mentioned among advice to other meetings about coping skills (comments below). Friends' optimism and adaptability are also evident in their responses to, "How do you see your meeting moving forward in the next year or so?" (Comments below). They mention new attenders, and hopes for more in-person connections, service activities, and children's/youth programs. They also express the expectation that we will need to continue to adapt to circumstances, to be gentle with each other, to seek God's will, and to move forward as way opens.

Please tell us the type of technology you have used to allow on-line only or hybrid meetings.

We have multiple ipads set up in the room. Only one mic is active to prevent feedback, so there is a designated chair for speakers.

We like the multiple ipads, as it allows everyone to be seen in one of the small groups.

Kandao Pro Camera (similar but less expensive than Owl), PC, projector and screen

Computer and microphone in meeting, zoom

Laptop, Bluetooth microphone/speaker

We use Zoom. For hybrid meetings, we have two cameras, a microphone, and a large monitor in the meeting room.

Zoom, lately using an OWL (combined microphone, speaker and camera)

Zoom over wifi

We use a PC with ZOOM with one camera and a large TV in the meeting room. We are using overhead mics as well as well as a wireless hand mic for audio. The overhead mics were installed originally as part of a audio assistance system.

MiniMac computer, TV screen and a conferencing camera/microphone (not Owl)

Laptop connected to a cell phone hotspot. Just installed a Verizon hotspot this morning! for the time being we will continue with laptops.

Zoom

Zoom

Zoom

We meet over Zoom. We recently installed room microphones, a remote-controlled camera that can pan across the room, a large screen monitor.

Zoom with laptop and external mic and camera

If your meeting has used technology in your meetings for worship, do you have suggestions or practical tips for its most effective use?

Tried several options, none are more than adequate. No longer requiring masks helps significantly

A microphone helped those in meeting hear others on Zoom.

We have not found a good method yet.

Those speaking in meeting, either for vocal ministry or during announcements, should stand near the microphone to be heard on Zoom. We have a member who monitors the Zoom meeting and makes sure everyone is muted, assists when someone has technical difficulties, etc.

An ad hoc committee of tech people who take turns, begin set up about half an hour before worship begins.

Have a tech committee for support. Communicate with both online and in person Friends to make sure all needs & concerns are addressed

Don't set expectations too high and keep working at it until it works for your Meeting.

Live people need to approach the microphone if they are seated away from it in order for Zoomers to hear. A larger TV screen would be better for us.

Video and microphone on, unless household has lots of noise, then mute that person unless they are talking

You get what you pay for in our experience. Needed are a good quality mic and camera, a stable internet connection, and sufficient bandwidth.

If your meeting has implemented changes in how they conduct meeting for worship with attention to business, please describe what changes your meeting has made?

None or no response: 9

Some reports are emailed to the meeting rather than being distributed and discussed in person

We have been flexible, and have adapted to gentler expectations of our clerk and ourselves during covid.

We are still not sharing meals together at the meetinghouse, so we don't have a lunch break before business meeting. This means the meeting ends sooner.

For over a year we were totally online because the college where our meetinghouse is did not allow anyone on campus. That was followed by our meeting house being unavailable during remodeling by the college.

Using Zoom. We start 15 minutes later to allow people at the meetinghouse to get home after dropping off other people.

Having fewer meetings (alternating months)

We are working to making our meeting for worship with attention to business more spirit-led with longer centering worship at the beginning of Meeting and more waiting worship throughout.

Survey of meetings, continued next page

What do you feel is the best thing(s) that has come out of the pandemic for your meeting?

Contact with distant Friends who are now frequently with us
More newcomers, including young adults. Perhaps the pandemic created a need.
not sure
Learning to use technology
Appreciation for the size and openness of our Meetinghouse
I'd say it has resulted in a deeper awareness of our vulnerabilities and the precious opportunities to be together.
Friends who are not able to attend in person (due to family situations, illness, disability, living a long distance away) can attend virtually! We had two amazing meeting retreats, one virtual with Deborah Shaw, and one hybrid with Ken Jacobsen, that spoke to our spiritual needs very powerfully during the pandemic.
Increased appreciation for the ability to gather in person, greater longing for community.
Using Zoom has allowed some members to attend, who have until now been unable to attend due to illness/disability or distance.
Using Zoom has allowed distant Friends, who we don't see regularly, to join us for worship
We have reached out to one another in a variety of ways to help maintain our sense of community
Being able to worship with out-of-state members
Determination to continue in place
Nothing good
Increased attendance including 3 new families with young children.
Hybrid meeting has allowed us to reconnect with distant Friends. We have Friends serving on committees who are not currently living in Louisville.
Accessibility of online worship to distant and physically challenged Friends

What is the greatest need(s)/source(s) of suffering that your meeting has experienced due to the pandemic?

Hosting/setting up for meeting has become the responsibility of only a few people. If they can't come, we don't meet.
Inability to worship with Friends in retirement community
Lack of connection between those online (older and more likely to be leaders) and rest of meeting. We have newcomers that many Friends do not know.
More distance overall, fewer members
Reduced interpersonal connection
Lower attendance and less engagement from the membership. This has reduced incoming donations, resulting in some struggles to keep up the maintenance on the Meetinghouse.
The forced absence of some Friends from meeting.
There have not been as many opportunities for interpersonal connections and social interaction, at a time when we most needed these connections. There are a few older Friends who are not comfortable attending in person and who are also not comfortable with technology, so they have been completely out of touch. Families with young children are slow in returning to meeting, and we greatly miss the presence of the children.
Some conflict over use of technology.
Listen to each other's concerns and ideas and don't fear technology
Only being able to see some high-risk Friends via Zoom
Our leaders such as in Pastoral Care and Ministry & Counsel are feeling burned out after 2 years of intensive attention to Meeting affairs. Nominating Committee is having a difficult time completing a slate for some positions.
Lack of contact with local members.
not together as much
We really struggle with our practice of starting meeting for worship with hymn singing
Some of us are not comfortable with either zoom or in person yet and we all feel increased distance from each other.
Social isolation has taken a huge toll on everyone, and the loss of a physical gathering place greatly contributed to that. It's been challenging to balance safety with providing a welcoming space for newcomers and supporting the social needs of Friends.
Near total absence of religious education programs for children, and lessened engagement of members and attenders as a spiritual community

Does your meeting have any practical suggestions that you think will help other meetings in positive coping with the pandemic?

Answering personally, I think some Friends are overly cautious. I think we can follow the CDC.
Spend time checking in with each other.
Pray for one another.
Reach out to each other, and provide opportunities to share in small groups about what is most important in our lives.
We have tried to share responsibility and to stay in touch with one another through a variety of activities such as meeting to do needlework and crafting as well as walking in the park. Experiment With Light groups have started and participants find this highly motivating.
Encouraging vaccinations
Be open to online meeting for worship and business. Those of us who have attended have found this to allow a sense of gathered worship.

Practical suggestions continued next page

Survey of meetings, continued from previous page

Practical suggestions continued...

Making space for feelings has been helpful. We had a called meeting which focused solely on expressing our feelings around some big decisions we will address in the coming months. The pandemic had separated us in ways we hadn't recognized until we started intentionally expressing our feelings and releasing our concerns to the Meeting. Individually, we are being more intentional about reaching out to each other for one-on-one conversations.

Remain diligent in attempting to maintain personal contact with individual members and attenders with whom we have infrequent contact.

How do you see your meeting moving forward in the next year or so?

I think we will increase our service/outreach presence. We are already participating more this year in community and interfaith events to increase visibility.

We are experiencing a gentle increase in interest having slipped considerably in attendance

Hopefully, returning to more corporate activities in person. We will continue to have an online option

We did better last summer when we met outside. We will likely do this again when the weather improves

Hopefully returning to in person only.

We will continue to meet as we are able. Hopefully if there is not another wave, we will be able to consider once again having events and perhaps even doing some outreach.

We continue to seek deeper connections with each other and with the Divine, we look forward to having more time with each other.

We continue to long for new carpeting.

We plan to continue the hybrid option. We have hired child care providers and hope that in the summer months we will have more children returning. When younger children can be vaccinated, we hope young families will be more comfortable coming back.

As God wills. We have already been surprised with a few new people finding us.

We are just beginning to think about how the large size of our worship room dwarfs the small number of Friends attending. This is going to be a difficult issue to address because many Friends have a sentimental attachment to the space which may get in the way of the health of the Meeting.

We are trying to get our First Day School active again, but this will depend on the course of the pandemic and vaccines for younger children. We re-started adult education programming in Third Month. We are moving to pay off our mortgage early since our bank is being sued for red-lining. We hope to participate in multi-faith activities to support racial equity.

As we have in the past

Continuing to adjust. Some like the hybrid and will continue to Zoom in even though they live close by. Others hate Zoom and a few have stopped coming altogether. Our very small children's program has collapsed.

Developing childcare and First Day programming for our children. Trying to strengthen our singing before worship. Working to continue after-worship book discussions.

I think Hybrid is here to stay. We will need to figure out how to allow for technology in the Meeting Room without centering technology in our worship.

The next year or so is going to be challenging. It appears a good number of Friends may not be returning to pre-pandemic levels of participation. The work of the Meeting is falling on the shoulders of fewer people.

MEETING NEWS

Bloomington

Following our well received Experiment with Light workshop last fall, we have now established 2 ongoing Experiment with Light groups which include most of the original 23 participants. Friends emphasize the spiritual power of participation in these groups compared to individual worship or meditation.

We are holding small but steady social groups: one where the participants bring creative projects to work on while visiting with one another and more recently another is gathering to enjoy refreshments and conversation together. Our book discussion of *Fit for Freedom* was completed this spring and we are moving forward to reading Heather McGhee's book *The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together*. This was a selection for the Bloomington Multifaith Alliance to which our Meeting belongs, which has led them to study patterns of housing and school segregation here.

We were not able to write a formal minute from the whole community but several officers were authorized to send a letter of support and funds for the *amicus curiae* brief for the lawsuit for religious freedom of the Green Haven Preparatory Meeting in New York Yearly Meeting that has moved to the Supreme Court.

With the local group, Citizens for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel, we co-hosted a presentation by Phil Emmi on the opportunity for political cooperation between these entities and Jordan to address dire water shortages and their environmental impact in the region.

Our nominating committee has found that many Friends and attenders are feeling very drained by the long pandemic restrictions and discouraging news reports. We are looking forward to several upcoming events to address ways to remedy this since we have clerk positions for 4 key committees that are vacant. On the bright side there remain many committees who are feeling full of vitality and looking forward to meeting the challenges.

Submitted by Christine Carver

Campus

Campus Friends continue to gather for worship in the T. Canby Jones Meetinghouse on the campus of Wilmington College. Friends appreciate that Wilmington College has agreed to provide and pay for a new sign for the meeting house to read: “A Welcoming and Inclusive Meeting”.

In February, Campus Friends joined the *amicus curiae* brief participants in support of the petition for a writ of certiorari in the *Green Haven Prison Preparative Meeting v. NYS Department of Corrections & Community Supervision* case. In support of the inmates’ right to hold a Business Meeting we wrote:

“In our experience as Friends when we gather for business, decisions are reached by listening to each other and to the Divine voice as corporately we seek to discern what God is leading us to do in this particular situation. Our decision is recorded as a minute which expresses the ‘sense of the meeting.’ We leave with a deep recognition of having participated in a meeting for worship while we attend to business.”

In February we also reconstituted “Inner Search,” an adult discussion group held on the first and third Sunday at the rise of meeting for worship. Under the leadership of Stephen Potthoff, Friends are reading and discussing Doug Gwynn’s book *Conversations with Christ*. Our First Sunday fellowship meal and Fifth Sunday Friend presentations continue to strengthen our friendships.

Campus Friends hold meeting for worship at Cape May Retirement Community the second and fourth Tuesday of the month. Our time together keeps us in loving relationship especially with Friends in assisted living.

Submitted by Patricia Thomas

Clear Creek

Clear Creek Meeting moved back to a newly renovated Stout Meetinghouse in March, and members were thankful to have had the use of the Earlham School of Religion building while Stout Meetinghouse was undergoing renovations. Friends continued to reflect on the spiritual impact of technology on our meeting format.

Adult Religious Education presented a discussion of early Quaker women in February and a discussion in March on the topic of letting go and sacrifice.

In April, the anti-racism group hosted Archer Bunner, a teacher at Richmond High School whose classes include AVP training, to speak about restorative justice initiatives at the high school, how such practices are received by students, and whether they might reduce the pathways from school to future incarceration for some teens. Clear Creek Meeting members have been working with an ad hoc committee within Whitewater Quarterly Meeting on how best to address the issue of Confederate flags offered for sale and on display at the upcoming Levi Coffin Day Festival in Fountain City, IN, in September. Meeting members also participated in the Black Quaker Lives Matter Film Festival.

Our book group met to discuss books of note, including *When My Time Comes* by Diane Rehm.

Peace and Social Concerns drafted a minute regarding concerns about changes in American Friends Service Committee. The minute was forwarded to the AFSC, our Quarterly Meeting, the executive committee of Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting, *Friends Journal*, and the *Western Friend*. In February, Peace & Social Concerns committee facilitated a discussion on the Alternatives to Violence Project. They also hosted a consideration of priorities for Friends Committee on National Legislation in March.

The retreat committee planned quarterly events for reflection, connection, and renewal. The first retreat was held on March 6. The second is proposed for the afternoon of May 15 at Quaker Hill. The third is from August 20 to 21, with an overnight at a State Park. The fourth is proposed for November 6 at Virginia Cottage.

We held a memorial meeting for our longtime attender Peter Stowe under the care of Clear Creek Friends on April 2.

Fourteen Friends and friends of Friends attended our FUN (Friends in Unity with Nature) on a lovely walk through Earlham’s Wildman Woods in April. We enjoyed fellowship, flowers, and fun!

Submitted by Karen Bays-Winslow

Community

Community Friends has had visitors and new attenders this spring. We also lost a dear Friend, Jean Crocker-Lakness, who passed away in April after a long illness. She was a member of our meeting and Cincinnati Friends (FUM) for a long time. She will be greatly missed.

Our Unity with Nature and House and Grounds committees have been active this spring. They are removing invasive species from our woods and cleaning up the grounds around the meeting house. Unity with Nature also presented a second hour about Spirituality of Creation.

We have had many excellent second hour programs this spring. Gene Marquis brought in music from his vast collection and discussed how each of the selections were spiritual in nature, even popular songs. It gave us new insights into the music in our lives. We had a two-part series, including a movie, about Howard Thurman, Martin Luther King’s spiritual advisor, led by Adam Clarke, a theology professor from Xavier University. Although not a Quaker himself, he was greatly influenced by Rufus Jones and other Quakers. Our outreach committee was instrumental in spreading the news to other congregations. We are having another two-part second hour, involving panel discussions with our six “birthright” members (born into a Quaker family). The children had an Easter Egg hunt (See photos next page.)

Paulette Meier shared chants from her most recent CD with the community. We participated in the chants and were very moved by the experience. Her first CD “Timeless Quaker Wisdom” is acapella, and her new CD, “Wellsprings of Life: Quaker Wisdom in Chant” has instrumentation and vocals. These are available from Paulette. She would love to share her chants with other OVYM meetings. She travels quite frequently and recently led chanting with Marcelle Martin at a Pendle Hill workshop. Our meeting continues to support her in her ministry.

The Congolese family we have been supporting has become independent recently. Hooray! The Sanctuary Coalition, of which we are a member, is making plans for helping a Nigerian family arriving to America soon.

We send greetings to all our friends and fellow meetings and hope to see you at OVYM yearly sessions.

Submitted by Susan Gerke

(continued next page)

Community Friends Easter photos, continued from previous page

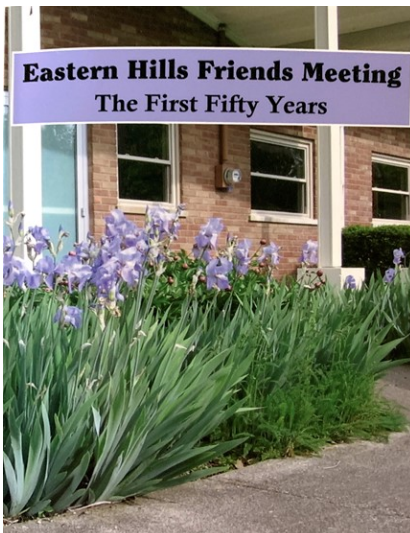


Dayton

This March, we celebrated our five year anniversary of occupying the Meetinghouse. The Meeting has grown in new members in the past two years so much we had to update our Meeting Directory! Members contacted Governor DeWine in opposition of Senate Bill 215 which would allow concealed carry of handguns without a permit. The Meeting had an Easter celebration potluck with an egg hunt for the children. The following week, we mulched, trimmed branches, and tended the garden. Phil Henry and Dan did some drywall repair. Carol Anne Ferlauto and Robbie Coleman who had to have a small wedding during the pandemic have requested a full wedding celebration in June. Since there are so many newcomers, there are plenty of potential nominations for committees. In April, some of us attended a conference at the University of Dayton on racism and the church. We discussed our concerns about prison reform, environmental degradation, and immigration reform as being priorities for FCNL to focus on. There was discussion about starting a sewing class for immigrants connected with Cross Over Community Development. Phil Henry was in our prayers since he recently had knee surgery. The Meeting still faces challenges in getting Zoom attendees acquainted with the new attendees who come for in-person worship.

Submitted by Scott Hadley

Eastern Hills



Our meeting turns 50 this year! To mark the occasions, we published a history of our first 50 years. If you would like a copy, please contact our clerk, Dale Hayes, and include your mailing address with your request:

Clerk.EasternHills@gmail.com. The celebration will culminate in July with a time for reminiscences and our first potluck since March of 2020. The women of Eastern Hills returned to monthly gatherings and enjoy spending more time together. As spring has returned, so, too, has the need for one of our twice yearly work days. By the time you read this, we will have tackled all the usual yard work and cleaning chores and spruced up our portico with a little fresh paint—assuming we don't have too many rainy days!

Submitted by Martha Viehmann

Lafayette

We grow with the spring flowers!

We have several new attendees, frequent visitors, a new member and our first Day School has four preschoolers. Accordingly, the child care committee has been dusted off, and age-appropriate books are being collected for the tots. One set of books that we have been unable to find is a curriculum. The one offered by the FGC bookstore is a purely Christian curriculum: we need one that is more universal and which focuses on unprogrammed Quaker peculiarities *per se*. Suggestions would be welcome.

Our new tenants are keeping the yard tidy as the lawn, spring flowers and tree pollens are bursting out and we look forward to meeting outdoors again. The repairs to the meetinghouse encourage vanity. We are cautiously shedding our masks in the fresh air. Life is good.

Like the crocus

It will blossom profusely

And rejoice with (quiet) rejoicing and (murmured) shout of joy. (Isaiah 35:1-2)

Submitted by Michele Tomarelli

Louisville

Louisville Friends have weathered the past two years fairly well and are slowly coming back together in person with an ongoing option for virtual participants. We have a steady 16-18 people in Meeting for Worship and more in Meeting for Worship for Business than we had pre-COVID! We've also had a fairly steady trickle of visitors when folks have been present at the meeting house. We've made several adaptations to the meetinghouse with air filters, video and audio equipment, so that we can continue hybrid meeting with local and far flung Friends.

The past year has brought sadness with the death of our dear F(f)riend and former clerk, Kevin Klapaak. Kevin was a kind, steady presence, willing to step up and do whatever needed to be done. We miss him tremendously and send our love to his wife Pixie and his dear family. There will be a memorial service for Kevin on May 14, 1 p.m., on the meetinghouse lawn.

In this past year, we have seen new vitality, with renewed committees and energy for growth. We've not had Peace and Social, Care and Nurture, or Religious Education Committees for a while, but now those three committees are back and hard at work. Our Ministry and Worship Committee and House and Grounds continue to do stellar work.

We are in process of holding a number of called Meetings for Worship for Business to discern way forward regarding a second property that we own – a house located just behind our Meetinghouse. Our clerk, Casey Shepherd, is very capably leading these meetings so that we may listen to one another and Spirit as we discern best use of the property.

Submitted by Cindi Goslee

Oxford

Oxford Friends have been busy this quarter participating in the broader Quaker world and in local acts of witness. Nani Ball and Jamie Young have been active in Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW), representing us at the QEW presentations and FCNL-QEW working groups. Doug Jones and Jamie Young visited the primary Quaker meeting in Denmark; we'd like to continue a connection with them. Andrew Garrison, Karen Francis and Cecilia Shore gratefully attended the OVYM Religious Nurture and Education retreat.

Three local Friends participated in a community gathering to protest the war in Ukraine. Our local Earthfest, despite drizzly weather, engaged 5 of us as either participants or attenders on behalf of the meeting and/or Oxford Citizens for Peace and Justice. Two of us participated in Holocaust Remembrance Day on Miami's campus, honoring the victims of the genocides of the Rwandan, Armenian, Sikh people, and the Holocaust by reading their names aloud.

Submitted by Cecilia Shore



Yellow Springs

Though the pandemic isn't what it was, Yellow Springs Friends are acutely aware that it isn't completely over and that the effects it's had are not gone. Each of us individually, and for our meeting as a whole, has changed because of what the pandemic has brought to us. The past two years and three months have made us vitally aware of how much we benefit from the presence of each other, especially in person, but virtually as well. Perhaps it's the advent of spring and the promise of summer that is bringing us a much needed lightening of the spirit right now.

We are finding joy in the (finally!) arrival of spring, which seems to be bringing more old and new attenders to our meetings for worship. Fresh air coming in through open windows with the sounds of birds chirping makes mask-wearing a bit more bearable for those gathered in person, especially without the noise of the heater as it blows warm air outside! A new and improved speakerphone/camera device makes Zoom attenders feel more connected in body and spirit to those in the meetinghouse, while reminding those in person of the presence of those physically absent! Once again, the outdoor Canopy has risen, allowing for possibilities of outside worship and meal sharing.

We have had new people attending, several with older children who, in addition to their parents, have expressed an interest in Quakerism. Warmer weather and the presence of Glen Helen are aids in helping us face the challenge of revitalizing our Religious Education Committee, which has been dormant since March of 2020.

Listening to news and messages our members have shared from outside our meeting - the day long OVYM Religious Education retreat, Quarterly Meeting and attendance at Executive Committees - has encouraged some to consider going to the upcoming in person June OVYM Annual Sessions; concerns for the immunocompromised continue to affect personal decisions about health & safety.

We are looking forward to more contact with other Friends in the coming months, both within our Monthly Meeting and outside in broader Quaker gatherings.

Submitted by Annie Blanchard

WIDER QUAKER WORLD

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)

The Section Meeting of the Friends World Committee for Consultation, Section of the Americas was held online on March 12, 2022. The theme was "Hope and Resilience" and, although this meeting was limited to one day, over 125 Friends from throughout the section gathered to share worship, study, music, and business together. The wide access to online resources among Friends promoted by FWCC throughout the Americas makes it possible for the Section to plan to meet every year, alternating one year online, the next year in person.

FWCC collects data on Quaker Meetings and Friends' churches so that our presence, in all its multifaceted beauty, can be accurately included in the religious census of religious bodies in the United States conducted every 10 years by the American Association of Religious Statisticians. This updated map shows the distribution of over 140,000 Friends throughout the America.

Submitted by Foote Lund



FWCC Midwest

Please mark Saturday, September 24th, as the proposed date for an in person gathering of FWCC yearly meeting representatives and other interested Friends from the Midwest Region. Plainfield Friends Meeting, Plainfield, Indiana, has agreed to host our event. We will likely start with a fellowship luncheon and continue with an afternoon program. We hope to have more information on the suggested afternoon program available by the end of May.

Please share this preliminary information with Friends in your yearly meeting. Thank you!

David Edinger (submitted by Elaine Emmi)

Friends General Conference

- **The 2022 Gathering** will be held **online** July 3rd through 9th. Registration for the virtual Gathering will open in May. **YAY, an in-person** Young Adult and Youth event for families, children, teens, and young adults (ages 0 – 37) will take place in Radford, VA from July 6-10, 2022. Learn more about YAY at: <https://tinyurl.com/FGC-YAY>
Source: <https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcprograms/the-gathering/>
- **Quaker Books** has lots of new titles available, including graphic novels such as *Prophet Against Slavery* and *Discipline!* Check out the latest Book Musings at: <https://tinyurl.com/Books-3-22>
Source: *Vital Friends* April 2022
- **The FGC Ministry on Racism** hosts a number of virtual worship spaces for people of color and white people confronting racism. These occur at different intervals, from weekly to quarterly. Please see the source for this message at <https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcprograms/ministry-on-racism/>.

Friends Committee for National Legislation

FCNL's multi-faceted approach draws on the expertise of registered lobbyists in Washington, DC, the commitment and passion of Quakers and friends around the country in our advocacy network, and the relationships we cultivate with elected officials and community leaders.

We seek a world free of war and the threat of war. Middle East & Iran Nuclear Weapons Peacebuilding U.S. Wars & Militarism	We seek a society with equity and justice for all. Gun Violence Prevention Just Immigration Justice Reform Native Americans
We seek a community where every person's potential may be fulfilled. Economic Justice Voting & Elections	We seek an earth restored. Environment & Energy

For specific actions you can take today, see the source for this article: <https://www.fcnl.org/issues>

American Friends Service Committee

- **UKRAINE: Read AFSC's full statement**, <https://tinyurl.com/AFSC-Ukraine-1> which includes a message from Ukrainian Quakers: The invasion of Ukraine must be stopped – but U.S. military aid is not the answer. **Learn more in this blog from AFSC's Tori Bateman**: <https://tinyurl.com/AFSC-Ukraine-points> 5 things to know about what's happening in Ukraine.
Source: *AFSC Weekend Reading* Feb 26, 2022
- **As global horror unfolds in Ukraine, why is war still legal?** In an article on the Common Dreams website, AFSC's Aura Kanegis writes, "While a world without war may seem unthinkable in our current political context, we sell ourselves short if we refuse to imagine it and demand it," <https://tinyurl.com/Whyiswarlegal>
Source: *AFSC Weekend Reading* April 2, 2022
- **Over a year later and Biden still has not restored access to asylum**: AFSC's Imani Cruz shares an update and analysis on U.S. immigration policies. Today, there are still thousands of people in immigration detention and the border is closed to most asylum seekers. Find out more in this update: <https://tinyurl.com/AFSC-immigration-22>
- **Why our response to climate change must be grounded in climate justice**: The environmental consequences of climate change are evident, writes AFSC's Peniel Ibe. So too, are the social effects. Learn more about how equity and justice should be at the heart of climate action at: <https://tinyurl.com/AFSC-climatejustice>
Source (for previous 2 points): *AFSC Weekend Reading* April 23, 2022
- **Building a community farm in South Central Los Angeles**: For years, residents have worked to transform a 30-year vacant lot into a vibrant community farm. AFSC has been accompanying immigrant families to make the project sustainable since 2015. "Our community farm has been a labor of love," writes AFSC's Crystal Gonzalez. Visit to learn more: <https://tinyurl.com/AFSC-farmLA>
- **How communities are cultivating peace in Africa**: AFSC started working in Africa in 1958, providing aid to refugees from the Algerian War. Today we have active programs in Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, and Zimbabwe. Learn more about how communities are healing from trauma, building economic resilience, and creating conditions for peace at: <https://tinyurl.com/AFSC-peaceAfrica>
- **Align your investments with your values**: AFSC's Investigate project can help you find human rights violations hidden in your investments. Our database includes over 200 company and industry profiles. Learn how companies profit from and support state violence. Then use this knowledge to create change. See <https://tinyurl.com/AFSC-investigate>
- **From the archives**: In 1963, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was jailed in Birmingham, Alabama for leading a nonviolent demonstration against segregation. Eight white religious leaders put out a statement criticizing him. In response, he wrote "Letter from Birmingham City Jail," which was printed and distributed by AFSC. Read more about MLK's connections with AFSC. <https://tinyurl.com/AFSC-MLKArchives>
Source (for previous 4 points): *AFSC Weekend Reading* April 16, 2022

Midwest AFSC Celebrates Youth Activism

- **At work for incarcerated people in Michigan.** A 3-minute video about the work of young people in AFSC's Michigan Criminal Justice Program can be found at: <https://www.afsc.org/file/9890>. This organization works with incarcerated people to publicize, and where possible, mitigate conditions for incarcerated people. Sample collaborators, according to a recent newsletter (<https://tinyurl.com/MCJP-Feb-22>) include Worth Rises: <https://worthrises.org>.
- **Learning community organizing in St. Louis.** In the latest newsletter (<https://tinyurl.com/YAHL-3-22>) from AFSC in St. Louis, Jonathan Pulphus writes that Youth Advocating for Healing and Liberation (YAHL) are working on their 1) Advocacy Project: Researching of Social Justice; 2) Campaign Basics 101: The Desegregation of Busing; and 3) their Relationship Building Activity Calendar for 2022.

Source: Emails from Jon Krieg March, April 2022

Pendle Hill Events and Videos

Community Meeting member Paulette Meier was featured among presenters at a May workshop titled "The Light Within and the Rebirth of Conscience: Quaker Wisdom School with Cynthia Bourgeault, Paulette Meier, and Marcelle Martin." You can see other Pendle Hill events at: <https://pendlehill.org/learn/workshops-courses-events/>.

Most Pendle Hill lectures and presentations are streamed live over the internet, and recorded for later viewing. <https://pendlehill.org/learn/live-recorded-lectures/>

Right Sharing of World Resources

A recent newsletter focuses on the Stamping for Dollars program, which began in 1996 and is currently coordinated under the care of Indianapolis First Friends Meeting. They facilitate the collection and sale of stamps to benefit the work of RSWR in India, Kenya, and Sierra Leone. Stamp hobbyists and their partners experience the benefits of a common mission, as well as earnings for RSWR.

Source: <https://tinyurl.com/RSWR-Q1-22>

REGIONAL FRIENDS

Friends United Meeting

Registration is open now for the **2022 Stoking the Fire retreat**, which will be a hybrid event (in-person and virtual options) from **June 3–5**. This annual retreat is for those afire with the Holy Spirit, who seek deeper faith and bolder witness. Through worship, learning, and fellowship, we will open ourselves to Christ's presence, and allow the Spirit to work within us as we seek God's power. Those meeting in person will gathering in Richmond, Indiana, at Quaker Hill. More information is available on the web page, <https://tinyurl.com/FUM-retreat22> and more will be added.

Source: FUM Newsletter and website

Indiana Yearly Meeting

Page 34 of the 2018 (latest) version of our IYM *Faith and Practice* includes this quote from the Richmond Declaration of Faith, "all war is utterly incompatible with the plain precepts of our divine Lord and Lawgiver." This is a small slice of the testimony we declare as Friends for peace. Based on matters of all human life being precious at all stages and in all circumstances, this testimony has been a core value in our Friends movement for centuries.

As news coverage is, yet again, dominated by tanks, guns, and bloodshed, it is a good time to be reminded of this testimony. And let us also remember a verse that is cited in that Richmond Declaration in this peace section: Matthew 5:44. It reads: "*But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.*"

Please pray for peace in this rising conflict in the Ukraine. Pray for the innocent people who are either losing their lives, or having them uprooted. Pray for families who are attempting to escape the violence. Pray for world leaders who are directly involved that the peace of Christ would prevail in their hearts and they would be led to peaceful solutions rather than war. Pray for other places in the world where conflict may be leading towards violence. Pray our God will move people to peaceful solutions.

Source: Pat Byers, *IYM Communicator* 3-2-2022

Midwest Region United Society of Friends Women

The two chapters of United Society of Friends Women from Western Yearly Meeting and Indiana Yearly Meeting have merged to form a new regional association. United Society of Friends Women International (<http://usfwi.net>) is a long-standing support for missionary work both here and abroad. A sample project is sewing reusable feminine hygiene products for girls and young women in Kenya. The USFW was founded by Eliza Armstrong Cox, who passed away in 1935. Her memoir is titled *Looking Back Over the Trail*, where she described building a women's organization to support foreign missions.

Source: *Forward Together*, newsletter of MR-USFW, January 2022. <https://tinyurl.com/MRUSFW4-22>

Employment opportunity: Ben Lomond Quaker Center

Ben Lomond Quaker Center seeks a full-time, on-site Director and Associate Director or Co-Directors to provide spiritual and practical leadership to West Coast Friends. The Ben Lomond Quaker Center is located in the Santa Cruz mountains near the Monterey Bay. <http://www.quakercenter.org/about-us/employment-opportunities/>

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

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Richmond, IN 47374

We're on the web:
<https://www.ovym.org/>

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