

Faithfulness in the Storm
Invitation to Annual Sessions from the Planning Committee

We may each feel buffeted by the winds of economic turmoil, the rain of threats to our democracy, and the hail of disruption to scientific research, systems of care for people and for the environment, and more. Personally, sorrows and worry may cloud our spirits. Such storms press upon us from all directions. In this chaotic time, our Quaker faith and practice provide a path to peace and stillness.

Let us find respite from the storms by gathering together to renew our faith and build our community at the 206th OVYM Annual Sessions, scheduled for June 17-21 at Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio. Together we will explore the theme of “Faithfulness in the Storm” through worship sharing, plenaries, workshops, business sessions, and more.

Annual Sessions offer a rich experience for all ages. In this issue of the Quaker Quill and on OVYM.org, you will find information and schedules for the children’s program (which includes childcare for the youngest attendees), youth program (for ages 11-18), and adults as well as possible activities for Young Adult Friends (ages 18-35).

Please register as soon as possible by finding the Registration link at <https://www.ovym.org/events/2026-annual-sessions/>. Registration should be live when the Quill arrives in your in-box. We need to estimate attendance and meal counts by May 18. Registration closes on May 23; after that date, registrants may incur extra fees or be unable to secure a dorm room or meals.

The Planning Committee has been caught in a whirlwind of changes since we began preparations in August. Yet way has opened so that we can offer wonderful opportunities to our beloved yearly meeting. Join us in navigating a new college campus and seeking Faithfulness in the Storm.

Martha Viehmann, Planning Committee Clerk

Dearly Beloved Friends,

I am very encouraged by the actions I've heard being done in many of our meetings. So much goodness and Light is being generated within our communities and beyond. Your loving kindness and care is remarkable.

We are carrying a lot individually and collectively, and I feel grateful to be in a community that supports one another. Let's remember to lean not only on each other, but to lean on the Source - the ever present and faithful Light.

As our thoughts and hearts turn toward preparations for OVYM annual sessions, let's turn our attention to the One who directs and guides us into right relationship with all of life. I often say that we are unprogrammed but not unprepared. Reports, agendas, schedules, and programs are important to the smooth flow and practical usefulness of our gathering, but let's also be spending equal time preparing in Spirit.



Diann Herzog
Clerk

Dear God, please be with us and share your holy presence with us, that we may accomplish your will on earth. I look forward to seeing all who will be gathered at Wittenberg College. May peace and unity prevail.

*In Love,
Diann*

Our Plenary Speakers

Thursday June 18th

Keith Runyan

We Are the Ones We Have Been Waiting For



These words, first penned by June Jordan to commemorate resistance to South African apartheid, and echoed by Alice Walker and Hopi elders alike, remain a rallying call to our work in prophetic times. What would it look like if we Quakers faced the anxieties of our age not with shortcuts or escapism but with courage, unwavering faith, and submission to the call?

Keith Runyan is the General Secretary of Quaker Earthcare Witness, an activist, speaker, and father. With a background in education and public ministry, Keith first became widely known among Friends through a 12-day hunger strike calling the Quaker community into greater integrity with the climate crisis. Since 2024, he and his family have traveled in the ministry through QEW on the Road, encouraging prophetic, grounded action in response to planetary emergency. He now leads QEW's efforts to build a global Quaker climate action network and local campaigns—strengthening relationships, mobilizing conscience, and working toward an Earth restored.

Friday June 19th

Joyce Ajlouny

In a Time of Fracture, We Persist Boldly from our Deepest Calling

The American Friends Service Committee, conceived in the storm of World War I, continues to be guided by the Quaker belief in the divine light of each person. For over a century, that conviction has driven AFSC to challenge unjust systems and promote lasting peace. Today, that mission continues with renewed urgency: to resist, to build, and to persist. General Secretary Joyce Ajlouny will speak to the work AFSC is doing to build peace with justice in 2026. She invites Friends to listen deeply for the call to witness—and to answer with collective action.

A Quaker leader who is committed to helping bring peace and justice to communities globally, Joyce Ajlouny has deep experience in international development and relief, education and non-profit management. Under her leadership, AFSC is entering its second century with a bold strategic revisioning and planning initiative for the next decade (2020-2030).

A Palestinian American, Joyce started her career in international development in Palestine. She served as country director for Palestine and Israel with Oxfam-Great Britain, chaired the Association of International Development Agencies there and took on leadership roles at the UNDP and UNFPA. Prior to joining AFSC, Joyce served as the director of the Ramallah Friends School, a leading K-12 Quaker school in Palestine, for 13 years, where she led a diverse staff to transform the school academically, physically and financially.

Joyce holds a master's degree in Organizational Management and Development from Fielding Graduate University in California. She and her husband have three adult children.



Watch our website <https://www.ovym.org/events/2026-annual-sessions/> for updates on Yearly Meeting!

Living Witness



Gwen Halsted found her calling as a family physician to the medically underserved. In retirement, her activities include co-clerking Clear Creek Monthly Meeting, coordinating the local FCNL Advocacy Team, and community environmental concerns. Michael Birkel has taught at Earlham College and Earlham School of Religion. He has written on Quaker history and spirituality, and has been active in interfaith encounters for many years. Together, the two of them enjoy walking in the woods, music, and time with their granddaughter.

Workshops

Friday 1:45-3:15

Lewis Webb Jr. - *On the Row and In the Light*

Lewis is the U.S. Peacebuilding Director of AFSC. Together we will reflect upon how our faith shapes our individual and collective views on capital punishment and calls us to accompany the people sentenced to death across the states of Indiana, Ohio, and Kentucky. We will learn their names and their stories. We will explore ways to walk with them through spiritual and emotional support including, if so led, writing to them in real-time. We will also explore methods and opportunities to advocate for healing over vengeance and restoration over revenge.

Ellen Hodge - *Caring for Each Other*

Ellen is a member of Fall Creek Meeting. Since Quakerism is a ministry of all believers, it's up to Friends to meet each other's needs for comfort, support, and celebration. Our needs for this pastoral care can be especially acute in times of conflict and fear like those we are living through now. When many of us feel stressed and depleted, how do we find the motivation and spiritual energy to meet one another's needs for emotional, spiritual, and sometimes even physical support? In this workshop, we'll look at the basis for pastoral care and explore ways to provide it.

Peter Hardy - *An Alternative Method of Discernment applied to Determining our Charitable Contributions*

Peter is a member of Lexington Friends Meeting. Many monthly and yearly meetings contribute a portion of their annual budget as charitable donations. Meetings typically contribute to several Quaker organizations such as FGC, FCNL, and AFSC as well as non-Quaker organizations that work on issues of concern to Friends such as peace and non-violence. Deciding which organizations to contribute to and how much each should receive is difficult. Many more well-deserving organizations seek our attention than we can support. The consequence is that many meetings are paralyzed and unable to revise their list of organizations they have kept for decades. In this workshop we will use an experiential strategy to decide on the list of organizations and the amount each should receive. In Part I of the workshop participants will enter into discernment to name organizations they wish to consider as recipients of our charitable contributions without specifying the amount each would receive. In Part II, each participant will be given 500 units of Quaker play money to be distributed as they feel led among the organizations named in Part I. The final product of the workshop will be an ordered list of organizations and a fraction of a total budget that the participants believe each organization should receive. This list will be recommended to the OVYM budget and finance committee for their consideration in determining OVYM's charitable contributions. By participating in the workshop, Friends will learn a different technique of discernment which could benefit the yearly meeting and their own monthly meeting.

Marti Matthews - *Writing to Remember: What have I learned about "Faithfulness?"*

We will pool our collective life experiences to mine for wisdom and guidance on our theme: Faithfulness in the Storm. Please bring your favorite writing implements to this workshop.

Saturday 1:45-3:15

Keith Runyan - *We Are the Ones We Have Been Waiting For*

Keith is the General Secretary of Quaker Earthcare Witness. In a time of breakdown – what would it look like for us to rise to this time not as one of Armageddon but prophecy? Through queries, silent reflection, partner dialogues and hymnals – we will experiment with this reframe – leaning in to ask what is ours to do to midwife a future where wisdom, justice, courage, and love overcome fear.

Sandy Felt and Rachel Ernst-Stahlhut - *Spirit-Centered Faithfulness in the Storm*

Please join Social Action Coordinator Sandy Felt and FGC Associate Secretary for Events Rachel Ernst Stahlhut in a social action workshop! Everyone is welcome. We'll learn from Quaker quotations, reflect on our leadings, and get creative. Let's talk about spiritually grounding our worldly social action, framing the meaning of our social action with spirit, and finding a stable center from which to lift ourselves and one another up. Let's find the calm eye of the storm together, and remember that storms can't hurt the sky. Let's create together and rediscover how faithfulness comes into play with every act of creation.

Steve Angell - *James Nayler, George Fox, Martha Simmons and the 1656 Ride into Bristol: What Role Did Arguments Over Women's Religious Leadership Play in This Episode?*

Steve Angell, author of "Martha Simmons: A Life" and co-editor of "Early Quakers and Their Theological Thought, 1647-1723" and "The Oxford Handbook of Quaker Studies," will invite workshop participants to reconsider James Nayler's horseback ride into Bristol, England, re-enacting Jesus's triumphal entry into Jerusalem, and the terrible consequences that followed, on the occasion of the 370th anniversary of the ride. Particular attention will be paid to Nayler's, George Fox's, and Martha Simmons's views on women's ministries and the way that differences between them on that subject may have made the Quakers and Nayler more vulnerable to outward attack.

The Healing Center at Annual Sessions

The Healing Center returns to OVYM for 2026 and will be coordinated by healing practitioner Tim Morand.

This is a space to lay down our burdens and open to the healing Light. Whether you are new to Yearly Meeting or a longtime Friend, we invite you to come: sit or move or talk or write or listen - we'll see what the offerings are this year. What would you like to offer? This year's offerings will unfold as Friends are led.

We need healing practitioners, Friends who want to hold the space in prayer, and, of course, those who want to receive. Giving and receiving often blend together as we open ourselves to channel the Divine. Friends who serve the yearly meeting or their monthly meeting are especially welcome to partake. Is there a gift or practice you'd like to bring?

Please contact Tim Morand if you are interested in being involved with the Healing Center at Annual Sessions either at morandtim@gmail.com or by text at 513-807-6532

YOUTH SERVICES COMMITTEE IS HIRING!

The Youth Services Committee is looking to hire two paid staff members to run the youth activities — along with support and oversight from members of the Youth Services Committee and the help of volunteers. See the OVYM website for the paid staff job description. Paid staff and volunteers must have a background check before sessions (contact Susan Lee Barton at admin@ovym.org for a free check) and complete a Child Safety and Abuse Prevention Training session offered early in the afternoon on the first day of sessions.

If you have questions and want to talk about the Youth Program, please contact Carol Simmons at csimmons45387@gmail.com or 937-232-4250

OVYM 206th Annual Sessions

FAITHFULNESS IN THE STORM

Wednesday June 17th through Sunday June 21st at Wittenberg University, Springfield, Ohio

<p>REGISTRATION Shouvlin Atrium (First Floor) Registrar: Eric Wolff e-mail: registrar@ovym.org Tel: 513-378-8730 Wednesday 1:00 - 5:45 PM Thurs - Sat: 8:00 - 8:30 AM, & other hours TBA. <i>If you expect to arrive after 5:00 PM contact Eric.</i></p>	<p>MEALS Dining Hall in Benham-Pence Student Center (BPSC) Breakfast: 7:30 - 8:30 AM Lunch: 12:30 - 1:30 PM Dinner: 5:30 - 6:30 PM Daily Opportunities (Thurs – Sunday) 7:30 AM Yoga 7:00 AM Morning Worship, TBD</p>	<p>REMINDER: ROOM KEYS Turn in room keys by 2:00 PM Sunday Note: Charge for lost key is \$100</p> <p>GOLF CART SERVICE – There will be a cart to help those who need a ride.</p> <p>EXHIBITS – Quaker Organizations Shouvlin Atrium (Near Registration)</p>
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PLENARIES	
Thursday 7:00 - 8:30 PM Koch Hall	Friday 7:00 - 8:30 PM Koch Hall
<i>We Are the Ones We Have Been Waiting For</i> Keith Runyan	<i>In a Time of Fracture, We Persist Boldly from our Deepest Calling</i> Joyce Ajlouny

Living Witness: Michael Birkel & Gwen Halsted, Clear Creek FM Thursday 1:45 - 3:15 PM TBD

WORKSHOPS Meeting Locations TBD	
Friday 1:45-3:15 PM	Saturday 1:45-3:15 PM
<p>① <i>On the Row and In the Light</i> Lewis Webb (<i>In person and Hybrid</i>)</p> <p>② <i>Caring for Each Other</i> Ellen Hodge</p> <p>③ <i>An Alternative Method of Discernment Applied to Determining our Charitable Contributions</i> Peter Hardy</p> <p>④ <i>Writing to Remember: What have I learned about "Faithfulness?"</i> Marti Mathews</p>	<p>⑤ <i>We Are the Ones We Have Been Waiting For</i> Keith Runyan</p> <p>⑥ <i>Spirit-Centered Faithfulness in the Storm</i> Sandy Felt and Rachel Ernst-Stahlhut</p> <p>⑦ <i>James Nayler, George Fox, Martha Simmons and the 1656 Ride into Bristol: What Role Did Arguments Over Women's Religious Leadership Play in This Episode?</i> Steve Angell (<i>In person and hybrid</i>)</p> <p>⑧ <i>Space Holder</i></p>

Location Name Abbreviations: Shov (Shouvlin), BPSC (Benham-Pence Student Center)

KEYS FOR DORM ROOMS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE WITTENBERG EVENT STAFF

You will be responsible for returning your key at checkout. If there is no record of your key being returned, you will be charged a replacement fee of \$100.

ADULT DAILY SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

WEDNESDAY: Day Coordinator: TBD

1:00 PM	Registration Desk opens	First Floor	Shouvlin Atrium
1:45 - 2:45 PM	Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Training		Shov 205
3:00 - 5:00 PM	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business		Shov 105
6:30 - 8:00 PM	Welcoming Activity & Opening Worship		Shov 105
8:30 PM	Parent/Guardian/Sponsor Mtgs with Youth Program		Firestine Hall

THURSDAY: Day Coordinator: TBD

8:30 AM	Parent/Guardian/Sponsor Meetings with Children's Program		Firestine Hall
8:45 - 9:45 AM	Worship Sharing (sign up posted at registrar's table)		
10:00-12:15 PM	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business		Shov 105
1:45 - 3:15 PM	LIVING WITNESS – Michael Birkel and Gwen Halsted		TBD
3:30 - 5:00 PM	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business		Shov 105
6:15 - 6:45 PM	Singing	Kissel Auditorium	Koch Hall
7:00 - 8:30 PM	PLENARY – Keith Runyan	Kissel Auditorium	Koch Hall
8:30-10:00 PM	Interest Groups topics posted Shov Atrium; see registration desk for locations.		

FRIDAY: Day Coordinator: TBD

8:45 - 9:45 AM	Worship Sharing (Go to your group that you signed up for!)		
10:00-12:15 PM	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business		Shov 105
1:45 - 3:15 PM	Workshops Details on page 3 of this newsletter		
3:30 - 4:30 PM	MEMORIAL MEETING		Shov 105
4:30 - 5:30 PM	Healing Center; organizer: Tim Morand (see article on page 4 to get involved)		
6:15 - 6:45 PM	Singing	Kissel Auditorium	Koch Hall
7:00 - 8:30 PM	PLENARY – Joyce Ajlouny	Kissel Auditorium	Koch Hall
8:30-10:00 PM	Interest Groups topics posted Shov Atrium; see registration desk for locations.		

SATURDAY: Day Coordinator: TBD

8:45 - 9:45 AM	Worship Sharing		
10:00-12:15 PM	Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business		Shov 105
12:30- 1:30 PM	Lunch– Simple Meal with savings donated to Right Sharing of World Resources		
1:45 - 3:15 PM	Workshops Details on page 4 of this newsletter		
4:30 - 5:30 PM	Healing Center; organizer: Tim Morand (see article below to get involved)		
6:15 - 6:45 PM	Singing	Kissel Auditorium	Koch Hall
7:00 - 8:30 PM	VARIETY SHOW and GATHERED SILLINESS	Ground Floor	BPSC
9:00-11:00 PM	The Afterthoughts Café food and socializing	Ground Floor	BPSC

SUNDAY: Day Coordinator: TBD

8:45 - 9:45 AM	Worship Sharing		
10:00-11:00 AM	Meeting for Business - Reading of Epistles		Shov 105
11:15–12:15 PM	Closing Worship		TBD
12:30 – 2:00 PM	Lunch and Committee Meetings		
2:00 PM	CHECKOUT Return keys to Wittenberg Event Staff by 2:00 pm OR when leaving.		

YOUNG ADULTS (18-35) SCHEDULE

This year's schedule is limited; it can expand more with help from volunteers--if interested please reach out (Uta Brewington- 937-301-6782)

Young adults always get 50% off. If you have concerns about transportation or finances, we can work to solve the problems holding you back. Coming part time is always an option as well. If you have a question or want to give any input, my email is u-brewington@hotmail.com or text at (937) 301-6782 I hope to see you there!

Top level of the dormitory will be the young adult gathering area and where materials will be located for down times.

YAF SCHEDULE

Wednesday

6:30-8:00 Get settled in and connect over the welcome activities

Thursday- Friday

- Big encouragement to meet at mealtimes.
- Take some time to immerse yourself in the adult schedule.
- There will be mailing materials to mail to our political leaders. Prompts will be given for inspiration or feel free to write something from the heart.
- A craft will also be available for down time or a creative outlet.

Saturday

1:45-3:15 Workshops

3:30-5:15- Help make birthday kits for children in need, working with the local Wilmington program to make local kids' birthdays special.

7:00-8:30 Variety show

Sunday

10:00-11:00 Epistle sharing and “see ya next times”

YOUTH DAILY SCHEDULE: FAITHFULNESS IN THE STORM

Activities are subject to change depending on the number of participants, their ages, and interests.

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

Special Events:

- Wed. 8:30-9:00 PM Mandatory parent/guardian/OVYM sponsor meeting. Late arrivals should check in with Youth staff upon arrival.
- Thur. 8:45-3:00 PM Rafting on the Little Miami River with RiversEdge. Depart after breakfast. Obtain packed lunches from the dining hall. Please be sure that David Hyde has a signed waiver for each participant. Waivers can be obtained at the Registrar's desk.
- Sat. 7:00-8:30 PM Variety Show.

Wednesday

Location: Second-floor Lounge of Firestine Hall

2:45 - 5:30 PM Settle into the residence hall. Hang out. Get acquainted.

6:30 - 8:00 PM Multigenerational welcoming activity and worship.

8:30 - 9:00 PM Mandatory parent/guardian/OVYM sponsor meeting with youth.

9:00 - 11:00 PM Evening activity and hang out time.

Thursday

Location: Second-floor Lounge of Firestine Hall

8:45 – 3:00 PM Rafting

7:00 PM Teens attend Plenary. Middle Youth choose between Plenary and organized activity.

8:30 PM Evening activity

Friday JUNETEENTH

Location: Second-floor Lounge of Firestine Hall

8:45 – 9:45 AM Worship Sharing and Meeting for Business

2:00 – 3:00 PM A private tour of Gammon House with a docent. Gammon House was a station on the Underground Railroad. It was one of three stations in Ohio owned by a free person of color.

3:00 - 5:15 PM Quiet activities

7:00 PM Teens attend Plenary. Middle Youth choose between Plenary and organized activity.

8:30 PM Evening activity

Saturday

Location: Second-floor Lounge of Firestine Hall

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

10:00 -12:15 PM A service project with the St. Vincent de Paul Society. St. Vincent de Paul helps people in need in the Springfield area. Most recently they have helped members of the Springfield Haitian community. Adults are encouraged to participate; no credentials are required.

1:15 - 3:45 PM Workshop

4:00 - 5:15 PM Practice for the Variety Show

7:00 - 8:30 PM Variety Show

9:00-10:00 PM Afterthoughts Cafe with pizza

10:00-11:00 PM Free Time

(next page)

Youth Schedule continued

Sunday Second-floor Lounge of Firestine Hall
8:45 - 9:55 AM Epistle Writing and Closing
10:00 - 11:00 AM Read epistle at adult Meeting for Business
11:15 AM - 12:15 PM Closing Meeting for Worship

Possible daytime activities: Activities may include an art project or outdoor games.

Possible evening activities: board games, film with discussion, crafts (for example: creating origami mobiles, sculpting with found-objects, or painting rain barrels)

CHILDREN'S SCHEDULE

- Location is the first floor lounge of Firestine Hall. Details will be posted at the Registration area by Wednesday afternoon, and look for a sign on the door.
- Activities include crafts, story time, games, and swimming or going to a splash pad. We will be outdoors as much as possible.
- Parent/Guardian should speak to Hannah Branson if you miss the Thursday morning meeting.

Wednesday

Program runs 2:45 - 8:30 PM

Please introduce yourself and your child to Hannah Branson as you arrive.

2:45-5:30 get to know you activities in Firestine Hall lounge

5:30-6:30 PM Dinner

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

8:30 PM Please pick up your child

Thursday 8:30 AM: Parent/Guardian meeting with Children's Program staff at Firestine Hall first floor lounge.

Thursday, Friday, Saturday

Program runs from 8:30 AM to 8:30 PM. Children join families for meals as desired.

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

Saturday 7:00 PM: Children attend variety show and perform a skit. Children may stay at the Variety show or leave early and return to the children's lounge in Firestine Hall.

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 closing worship for the first 20 minutes or so and then go to the apartment Firestine Hall lounge until lunch.

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions Deadlines REGISTRATION DEADLINE — May 23, 2026

We are building a new section on the Annual Sessions webpage with information about costs, what to bring, and more. You can access the registration form there, too. Look for it on the 2026 OVYM Annual Sessions Webpage. To Register for OVYM Annual Sessions, click on this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/OVYM26Reg>

Our meal & lodging numbers need to be firm weeks before arrival, so PLEASE register now!

If you want to register AFTER May 23rd, you must contact our Registrar Eric Wolff. Leave a message at 513-378-8730 or email registrar@ovym.org with "OVYM" in subject line. Late fees may apply.

For the latest information on Annual Sessions, visit our OVYM.org website: <https://www.ovym.org/events/2026-annual-sessions/>.

Dorm room keys will be available during specific times. Please check the website for details, which will be available by the time you receive the Quill. **Note** that anyone arriving after dinner begins is unlikely to be able to get into the dorm and will have to make alternate arrangements for the night.

Financial Assistance for You to Attend OVYM Annual Sessions

The cost of holding events on college campuses continues to increase, and inflation has markedly increased food prices. This year, the Yearly Meeting Planning Committee has had to increase the registration fee and charges for meals and rooms so that the cost of annual sessions to the yearly meeting remains sustainable. People who arrive in time for Wednesday dinner and stay through Sunday lunch and stay on campus in a double room will be charged \$365; in a single room, the charge is \$425. But don't let these fees keep you away. Find out how to get help with your OVYM Annual Sessions bill here: <https://www.ovym.org/resources/financial-assistance/>

Printed Copies of Publications Requests Deadline May 15

If you want printed copies of Reports in Advance, OVYM Directory, or Minutes from the 2026 OVYM Annual Sessions, let our Administrative Assistant Susan Lee Barton know here: <https://tinyurl.com/RequestPubs>. Deadline for requesting printed copies of Reports in Advance and the Directory is May 15th. Susan Lee will bring these copies to Annual Sessions, or mail on request.

News from our Social Action Coordinator

Spring springs, and No Kings! Here's hoping this report finds you all well in the aftermath of what Indivisible is calling the largest day of protest in US history.

In early March, Dayton Friends Meeting hosted a Watch Party for the March Resistance Lab, led by Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal. We had about 15 people attend, a few from outside Dayton. We learned about resistance and went into breakout groups for some interesting brainstorming about which actions could be the most uncooperative with respect to the current administration. A few of the many things discussed were: cancelling Amazon Prime memberships, supporting the QuitGPT movement (using Claude instead of ChatGPT, since Claude's founder Anthropic refused to give the Pentagon unrestricted access to its AI for mass surveillance of Americans or producing AI weapons that kill without human oversight), protesting the data center in Wilmington (a recent headline, "Temporary restraining order prevents city from moving forward with data center plans," sounds promising!), and escorting disenfranchised voters at the polls. We learned about the following websites: Boycott-Central.com, resistandunsubscribe.com, and maydaystrong.org.

Eastern Hills Friends Meeting was involved in planning a Braver Angels event in Cincinnati called "Skills for Disagreeing Better", which happened just a few days later. Two Dayton members joined two Eastern Hills Quakers for this powerful event. Thank you to Martha Viehmann and Rick Boyce for providing dinner hospitality to us Dayton travelers!

We continue to have social action worship sharing every other Sunday at 5PM on Zoom, though we're skipping one and reconvening on April 19th because I'll be traveling. Topics and turnouts for the past few months have been as follows: Magic Penny (5), Be Not Afraid (6), Braver Angels (5), and Boycotts (3). Folks can visit the social action page of OVYM's website for worship sharing details: <https://www.ovym.org/our-work/social-action/>.

We have 31 people in our Signal group chat and have had some good information sharing back-and-forth. We haven't done anything yet with our new Courage Collective, QUAKE (Quakers United Around Kinship and Equality), but other events being hosted and/or publicized across OVYM included Creative Resistance – Artivism, Technology and the Right to dissent (hosted by UD) and Great Ohio Climate March (organized by Third Act). If anyone from Fall Creek, Fort Wayne, Mississinewa Gathering of Friends, or Yellow Springs would like to join our Signal group chat, please send me a text on Signal at 937-315-1609. We are connected with 75% of OVYM meetings, but would love to connect with all of them!

My plans to visit Meadow Circle of Friends were thwarted by illness, but I hope to try again when I get back from my trip. I would like to make plans to visit the remaining meetings: Mississinewa Gathering of Friends, Louisville, and Lafayette. If you belong to one of those meetings, please reach out to me and suggest a date!

I will be away for the first half of April. Texting is the best way to reach me while I'm gone. I hope to see you at Yearly Meeting!

Sandy Felt, Dayton Friends Meeting
Social Action Coordinator, OVYM
SAC@ovym.org, (937)315-1609



Watch Party: more fun than watching YouTube alone!

Eugene Rutz of Braver Angels



Meeting News Campus

In our adult discussion group held twice-monthly prior to meeting for worship, participants have begun reading and discussing *The Journal of John Woolman*. We decided to hold two sessions on Chapter 1 as there was so much we wanted to delve into.

As a Second-Hour activity, we discussed Campus Friends' recommendations for FCNL's upcoming priorities in congressional legislation. In brief, our five recommended priorities include: 1) Emphasize an equality not circumscribed by social standing; 2) protection and care of the environment, recognizing the interdependence of the entire living and natural world; 3) reject the glorification of violence, and persistently support the conscientious objection option; 4) counter the erosion of democracy by guarding voting rights and opposing threats to constitutional liberties; and 5) for FCNL to continue to promote and set an example of civility and respect in political discourse, and similarly, to pursue domestic and international relationship-building.

In late March, Campus Friends affirmed a "Minute on Violence in Iran" which originally was approved by a new Quaker monthly meeting in Tennessee. The minute will be submitted to the U.S. senators for Ohio and the U.S. congressperson who represents Wilmington where Campus Friends' meetinghouse is located.

In our semi-annual distribution of community/college funds which come from the collection basket we set out monthly, Campus Friends decided to halve the total revenue between two organizations in the community. The Clinton County Youth Council and the Wilmington Hope House (an emergency overnight shelter for women and children) each received \$135.50.
Gary Hufferberger

Clear Creek

Clear Creek has been busy during the frigid winter months, building and extending community, as well as searching for ways in which we can deepen our spiritual connections with each other.

On the last Saturday in January, eighteen Clear Creek Friends gathered for a meeting retreat. We spent the day together considering the topic "Sustaining Spiritual Community." We shared worship, conversation, food and laughter.

Facilitation of the day's activities was provided by various Clear Creek Friends. We spent time one-on-one, in small groups and in the whole group considering prompts about our own ideas and experiences, brainstorming and discussions. We had the opportunity to create and share the meaning behind strands of prayer beads. We considered hope for the future. There were opportunities for informal conversations, quiet reflection and listening to music relevant to the retreat topic. The day began and ended with a time of worship.

Some of the questions we considered were: Which meeting activities are most meaningful to me, and why? When did someone in meeting say or do something that helped me emotionally or spiritually? When I feel irritated, angered, or hurt at something that is said or done by someone in the meeting community, what do I usually do and why? What happens for me or in me during meeting for worship? What do I value about the spiritual community of Clear Creek? What do we want to see more of in our spiritual community?

Every first Sunday of the month, our after-meeting discussion is a worship-sharing on the OVYM query for the month. Members of Ministry and Counsel take notes from the query discussions which they use, along with meeting input, to compose the state of the meeting report.

In January another one of Clear Creek's Second Hours was devoted to consideration of statements and queries from 4th graders at Carolina Friends School on relations between Quakers and Native Americans. A reply was drafted and sent, and exploration of the topics of restitution and relationship with First Nations is ongoing.

In February, we received a report on the OVYM Sexual Misconduct Training that was attended by two members of our meeting. We also heard about travels among Australian Friends from a member who participated in a residency at Silver Wattle Quaker Centre in New South Wales.

In March, Richmond Friends from all four local meetings met to help Friends Committee on National Legislation discern priorities for their lobbying in the next legislative session. The local FCNL advocacy group has met multiple times with staff members from Senator Todd Young's office to lobby for peace in the US and in the world.

We welcomed Karen Atcheson, from Lafayette meeting, who shared information about mindful planning for end of life, including the options for the disposal of our bodies in ecologically sensitive ways. We were also visited by Carol Simmons from Yellow Springs meeting, who led a discussion on youth services within OVYM.

We look forward to the renewal of spring, while we continue to work and pray for peace, both at home and abroad.

Erica Pearson

Community

Dear Friend Don Rucknagel died at home Feb. 14th. The celebration of his amazing life will occur May 9th. We're welcoming a new member who has jumped right in by reviving our newsletter. Visitors continue to show up – and some return. There were 10 children at First Day School recently.

We're looking for ways to support the Community Committee in the work of setting up and cleaning up as they are feeling burdened recently. Thanks to our House and Grounds committee, there's a new refurbished dish washer.

Several surveys have been completed of late. One was the FCNL survey. Environmental issues unsurprisingly came out as the #1 concern, with immigration and economic inequality the next 2. Friends also responded to a survey about what helps in worship and what distracts - cell phones led as the most bothersome distraction.

We grieve the state of the world as we organize joyfully for a better one. Folks are clearing a room for sign making in the basement. Lots of Friends participated in a variety of rallies around the region on No Kings Day.

While monthly potlucks seem to be one of the favorite after-meeting activities, we've also had lots of interesting, informative Second Hour programs. The last Second Hour program in March was an inspiring presentation on "Civil Disobedience: From Early Quakers to the Freedom Rides" presented by David Fankhauser who was a Freedom Rider. His mother and stepfather, Polly and Amos Brokaw were longtime residents of the meetinghouse and community activists. He ended by leading us in a rousing song – *Woke Up This Morning with My Mind Stayed on Freedom*.

Deborah Jordan



Dayton

In late January a storm with over a foot of snow had the entire meeting worship online for the first time.

On February 2 many attended an event called "Here We Stand: Faith Leaders for Immigration Justice and Family Unity" in Springfield. Faith leaders and community members from across the country came together to stand in solidarity with the Haitian immigrants in Springfield community.

Dayton Friends is concerned for immigrant families that have been attending meeting and are looking into ways we may help them. The meetinghouse hosted "Immigration Worship Sharing" in February and is having a weekly "Solidarity Sing-a-long" in unity with Miami Valley Immigration Coalition to offer comfort and support to those who are affected by recent events.

Several members went to "Creativity, Black Excellence, and the Civil Rights Movement", at University of Dayton. Author Dr. Jack Marchbanks and artist Willis "Bing" Davis led conversation with stories from their deep experience in the Black cultural arts movement, exploring the ways that jazz, poetry, and the visual arts have contributed to movements for social justice, self-determination, and cultural recognition.

On February 21, Dayton Friends hosted a potluck supper to meet the new Friends General Conference Governing Board where we had the opportunity to share news and views with them.

We have been holding Audrey Malhotra's Grandma Iza in the light. Her health is very poor and she has recently fought heart failure. Conversely, Dayton Friends was very happy to hear that after a full review of the evidence, Albine Bizimana's uncle (who had false accusations against him) had the immigration charges dropped against him by the Attorney General.

There have been several emotionally intense meetings where many have felt led to speak their pain about what the government has been allowing to happen. We may form a support committee to help those who are struggling.

Phil Henry is looking into contractors and costs about refurbishing the garage for other uses. (next page)

Dayton continued

There are also plans to restart the “Writing in the Spirit” group.

Members took part in a nationwide Zoom called “The Resistance Lab”. The event consisted of a series of training on non-violent movements, as well as how to incorporate interactive conversation with others to help create community and build our resistance movement.

Scott Hadley

Fall Creek

We are keeping up our educational activities. We completed our discussion of Phil Gulley’s book, *If the Church Were Christian* and are contemplating a Quakerism 101 class. Every other week before meeting for worship turned out to be a good pattern for us. And on every first Sunday, we offer Faith and Play to the children of the meeting.

We are getting estimates for Phase 2 of the renovations to the resting room. The upgrades will include an ADA-compliant restroom, which will make our meetinghouse much more welcoming to our aging population, as well as to others with mobility issues.

Two groups use our meetinghouse regularly. A community support group called “Remembering Together” meets on Wednesday evenings. The Pendleton Pride youth group continues to meet and to decorate our basement for special occasions like Valentine’s Day. We love the brightness that the group brings to our meetinghouse.

One of our newer Friends is playing a key role in establishing a Regional Advocacy Group of FCNL. A training will be held at the meetinghouse on April 5.

We are participating in a “Day of Racial Healing” on April 11 at the invitation of “Standing Up for Racial Equity.” The event will be in Anderson, Indiana.

We’re particularly excited to host a reenactment of Frederick Douglass’s speech at Fall Creek Friends on Friday, May 15. All proceeds will go to the building fund of our historic meetinghouse.

Ellen Hodge

Lexington

We are holding forth amid the strife and turmoil of our world. We find more people are coming to our doors seeking Truth and some place to restore their Spirits. Potlucks after rise of worship, First Hour discussions and continuation of “Quaker 8’s” help to fuel our community. Worship has seen attendance hovering between 40 – 50 people on a consistent basis. Our meeting for business is getting too crowded to fit the tables we usually set up!

Four notable efforts we have undertaken are 1) learning how to use non-violent communication, 2) Starting our journey with Quaker Connect and taking the time to imagine our community, 3) becoming a dementia-friendly congregation, and 4) Beginning our work on responding to sexual violence if it occurs in our meeting.

A working ad hoc committee has shepherded us to think about how we communicate non-violently. They are the “Listening in the Light” group and we have utilized some of their work as we found ourselves in a conflict. Our spring retreat in mid-April will be dedicated to learning about these skills.

Quaker Connect is a project of FWCC Section of the Americas and OVYM has three meetings participating! We will be trying out new ways of “doing” and we look forward to following the progress of all the meetings involved. The work will take a couple of years and require us to experiment the way we go about being Friends. Please see the article “OVYM Meetings Involved in Quaker Connect” later in this issue of the *Quill*.

Our meeting has experienced the full reality of the growing number of people with dementia. It is directly touching a number of our meeting households. We took this picture after we received our dementia friendly training. People with dementia and caregivers need our support!

And we had a LFM member report on her training to become a “responder” to reports of sexual violence that might occur at OVYM events. We are fortunate to have a number of Friends at LFM who have been a part of this long discernment with OVYM. This will help as we begin to discern how we respond and are grateful for OVYM’s continuing efforts.

Finally, we expect to be vital and vocal to protect our democracy, encourage rethinking our country’s mistaken course to go after immigrants and refugees, and to raise the ever-lasting question of “Why War? Let’s See What Love Can Do.”

Ben Griffith

SEE PHOTO NEXT PAGE



Miami

Butterworth Farm meeting for worship, picnic and all-round-good-time-in-the-country day will be held June 28, 2026 at Butterworth Farm, 9299 Sibcy Road, Maineville, Ohio 45039. We will gather for morning tea at 10:00-11:00, followed by meeting for worship at 11:00.

Butterworth Farm is the home of Phil and Gretchen Stone, Nancy and Louis Neumann, and generations of Butterworths before them. The Butterworths were part of the Quaker migration of the early 1800s, leaving Virginia to settle in a state where slavery would never be allowed. Their home became part of the Underground Railroad. The actual railroad, visible from the front porch, is now a paved bike path, alongside the Little Miami River. Bring bikes or kayaks if you like. Kayaks can also be rented at Loveland Paddlesports (513-683-4611). We can wander around the family graveyard, and chat about the history of the farm. Al McGrew's geologic creek walks receive rave reviews. You can fish in the pond, or swim in the spring-fed (chilly!) pool. Musical instruments are welcome.

Please bring food to share after meeting. Dishes and drinks will be provided. We could host some out-of-state guests who might not want to drive both ways in one day. If you have accessibility issues, let us know.

Please RSVP to Gretchen by phone or email before June 26 at 513-224-8467, or gn.stone@yahoo.com.au. **Y'all come! Please!**



North Meadow

State of the Meeting Report

North Meadow Circle of Friends seems to be undergoing a transition lately. Evalyn Kellum, one of our beloved founding members, died 5 September 2025 after extended illnesses. The end of the year saw two families, including our clerk and a trustee, move out of state for new jobs; our only child who attended was also part of that relocation. We are pleased that recently a few new young people have started attending meeting for worship. We have also welcomed one new baby, born to a long-time member.

(next page)

North Meadow cont.

Recognizing that our meeting is both aging and having diminished participation, we were led to apply to FWCC's Quaker Connect meeting revitalization program. We are excited to be participating in the 2026-2027 cohort, which is currently providing an opportunity to explore our wider community and history as a meeting. Individual members and attenders continue to be active in promoting peace and social justice in a variety of ways, as they are led.

Part of our wider community is Iglesias Amigos (affiliated with Indiana Yearly Meeting), which has used our meetinghouse in recent years for both meeting activities and residences. We hope to find ways to overcome the language barrier between our meetings.

We continue to have representation on Herron-Morton Place Neighborhood Association, which for decades has sponsored the Talbot Street Art Fair on a June weekend every year. We support this well-attended event, which partially takes place outside our meetinghouse.

Our finances continue to be strong after selling our unused north lot. We are currently opening an account with Friends Fiduciary fund that will generate yearly revenue to use for supporting various Friends' and other groups and causes. We recently held a second threshing session to discuss to which organizations we should contribute.

North Meadow Circle of Friends

No Kings Rally

by Chris Newlon

Our members and attenders enjoyed a sunny, but slightly chilly, day in at the No Kings rally in downtown Indianapolis. (If one of us seems grumpy, it's because he couldn't find a public restroom – unfair both for the homeless and for visitors, he says.)

Bill and I stuck with our traditional “War is Not the Answer” signs in protest of both the ICE war in the streets (at home) and the new war with Iran (abroad). The Duvalls took aim at tyranny, while the Strietelmeyers protested both the Iran war and wealth inequality.

Bill and I were hesitant to use the newly provided posters by Lindsay Hadley and IFCL that specifically showcase Quakerism, but Dave and Dinah boldly tried out one of them. The results were quite interesting. Dave reports that other attenders at the rally were very curious about Quakers and wanted to take selfies with them. This made me realize that these rallies are important as a marketplace of ideas, in addition to their role in protest and solidarity. Reading everyone's signs was the whole point of being there. The unions were well represented, as were the socialists, the environmentalists, and every other cause the current administration spurns. The people attending these rallies are looking for a path forward; and we Quakers do provide a path. It is little wonder that we are suddenly finding our staid, quiet meetings flooded with interested young people. So, I heartily encourage everyone to make use of Lindsay's posters (available at <https://quakercall.net/>) for future rallies and events. They are not grandstanding but feed the public's hunger for information.

Oxford

Oxford Friends has continued to support the local unhoused population. Some of us individually provided food donations to the guests staying at the Winter House (which served 28 people over 3 months). Several guests were moved into stable housing at the end of this time and received “Welcome Baskets” with basic household and personal supplies for their new homes. The meeting constructed and donated one of these baskets to refill the supply at the local food pantry and social services center.

We have been keeping tabs on the local response to immigration enforcement. Two of us participated in an introduction to community organizing to identify and record ICE activity. We minuted our concern regarding the separation of families, the lack of due process for detainees, and the militarized tactics which deny constitutional rights.

Some Second Hours have focused on discerning FCNL priorities and reflecting on the state of our meeting.

At the time of writing, we are planning a Gathering for April 19 at a local park. We hope to have worship, a potluck and participate in a guided wildflower tour of that area. We also held a joint meeting with a programmed meeting to talk about outreach.

Cecilia Shore

Yellow Springs

Each Sunday (First Day) at our meetinghouse begins with meeting for worship at 8:30 am. Our current adult religious education program is held on the second and fourth Sunday (First Day) of the month at 9:45 am. Friends listen to short Quaker Speak videos on a topic and then settle into a worship sharing style discussion. From 10:45-11:10 am Friends sing in the worship room. Again, meeting for worship begins at 11:15 am. There has been a modest increase in attendance at our 11:15 am meeting for worship. In the depth of winter 15-20 people would gather. Perhaps because of the Spring weather, in recent weeks 30 people have worshiped at 11:15, with an additional 2-3 Friends on Zoom video. A few visitors from the region have become regulars. Often Quakers traveling through the area join us. In addition, five or six regularly attend 8:30 am worship. Depending on the week, light snacks or a full potluck lunch is served after our 11:15 - 12:15 worship.

As the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) of 10-20,000 area Haitian immigrants has been extended pending a Supreme Court ruling, our support for immigrant families in Springfield has expanded. Our Peace and Social Justice Committee collects donated food and health supplies for delivery to Springfield. Organizing this has strengthened our No Kings concerns and participation in recent rallies. The weekly Saturday noon Peace Vigil on a street corner in downtown Yellow Springs continues.

The Yellow Springs monthly meeting appoints half the Board members of our local Friends Health Care Association, Inc. which oversees the Friends Care Community (FCC), a local nursing home, assisted living facility, short term rehab center and seniors independent living neighborhood. Some of our meeting members are FCC residents. With changes in the eldercare economic world our FCC will be making significant changes in the next few years. Although our monthly meeting does not have direct responsibility, Friends began the Association in 1977 and continue as stewards in a wider network of concern and FCC support in the Yellow Springs area.

Don Hollister

OVYM Meetings Involved in Quaker Connect

Friends from OVYM who attended our 205 th annual sessions at Wilmington College may remember the presentation by Jade Rockwell of FWCC. Jade spoke about a FWCC program called Quaker Connect (QC) and she invited OVYM meetings to apply to join it. FWCC describes QC as “a laboratory for 21 c Quakerism” to emphasize that QC involves meetings doing experiments toward strengthening and renewing a meeting’s life. It was a surprise to Jade, but I think not to any of us who heard her speak, that three OVYM Meetings: Bloomington, Lexington, and North Meadow Circle of Friends, applied to join QC.

Our three meetings, along with eight other meetings and churches across North and Central America, form the 2 nd cohort of the QC program. Each meeting in the cohort appointed apprentices, and the group of apprentices recently met at Quaker Hill in Richmond for our kick- off retreat. Our cohort consists of a variety of Quaker meetings and churches including unprogrammed meetings like us three, programmed meetings in Indiana, and evangelical Hispanic churches in the US and Latin America. At the retreat each meeting took a turn leading worship and we learned that Quakers cover a spectrum of styles of worship! We shared the results of our first experiment: mapping the area around our meeting house and we are beginning our second experiment: creating a time line of our meeting to gain context of where we have been and where we may look to experiment in the future. The next two years will be full of experiments to find how our meetings can connect more strongly with those around us.

We encourage OVYM Friends to hold us in the light and to check in with us to learn about the QC program. We also encourage OVYM Friends to consider joining QC for the next cohort.



Peter Burkholder, Michael Fallahay,
Nicholas Graham Hall, Peter Hardy,
Steven Pavey, Anne Reynolds,
Naomi Satterfield

Wider Quaker World

Friends World Committee for Consultation (Section of the Americas) is coming HERE!

The 2027 Friends World Committee for Consultation's Section of the Americas annual spring meeting will be at Quaker Haven (Syracuse, Indiana) in 2027! If you're interested in being involved in the planning, please contact Tom Rockwell of Western Yearly Meeting. The meeting will be March 18-21 2027.

Source: Tom Rockwell, via email from Susan Lee Barton

Friends General Conference (FGC)

- 2026 FGC Gathering July 7–12, 2026 in Burlington, Vermont; an in-person event for all ages. The theme for the 2026 Gathering is “A Window and a Door: A Prayer.” This theme is inspired by a poem (<https://www.friendsjournal.org/window-door-prayer/>) by LVM Shelton. The poem talks about willingness, grounded connection, and hospitality to strangers. <https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcprograms/the-gathering>. Registration is open now. Deadlines: All youth (high school and younger) need to register BEFORE June 1. Adults can still register after that but there is a late fee. Registration closes June 15.
Sources: Vitality 2-7-26, email from Susan Lee Barton, FGC website
- International Young Adult Friends gathering (<https://tinyurl.com/IntLYAF26>) in England from August 12-16, 2026. The organizers share: "In the midst of a difficult time and a hurting world, we sense that there is life and light in earnestly seeking guidance from a power beyond ourselves." If you're interested in attending but not sure, then fill out an Expression of Interest form (via above link) to be in touch with the organizers.
Vitality 2-7-26
- Tip for newcomers to the Quaker faith: Explore "Invitational Spirituality" and "Everyday Spirituality, Every Day." These activities include queries and group activities ready to go. They're provided by the Spiritual Deepening Program at FGC, and they are great for an Adult Religious Education session! See: <https://tinyurl.com/deepeningworkshops>
Vitality 1-23-26
- Quaker Call to Action. Last month, more than 1,000 people met for the Quaker Call to Action, which covered joyful resistance in a time of tyranny. A video of Phil Gulley's presentation is at: <https://tinyurl.com/PgulleyQCall>.
Vitality 2-7-26
- You can participate in the Quaker Coalition for Uprooting Racism by: reading about a transformative class experience <https://tinyurl.com/QCURCohort24>, learning about the key theories that guide QCUR <https://tinyurl.com/QCURtheory>, or attending a program. QCUR also accepts donations to continue the work of racial justice!
Vitality 2-7-26
- Free list of intergenerational games at <https://tinyurl.com/Intergengames> on FGC's website. You'll find FGC favorites like "Noah's Ark" along with energizers, brain teasers, creative games, and activities that help people attune and connect. These games are great for adults as well as youth. Take a look to expand your repertoire!
Vitality 2-27-26
- Join our Neurodivergent Friends gathering! We worship together, build community, and share our experiences of the gifts and challenges of being neurodiverse folks among Friends. Over time we may explore what we need to fully engage in the life of our meetings; how to communicate our needs to our communities; ways that we experience the Divine; openings and blocks in meeting for worship; how to support Friends with other kinds of disabilities; and probably many other topics. The discussion group will be held on second Tuesdays at **1pm ET/10am PT AND 7pm ET/4pm PT** for 1.5 hours. Please sign at the following link <https://tinyurl.com/FGCNeurodivergent> if you're interested in participating. Drop in when you are able. There is no registration fee required to attend this Spiritual Deepening offering.
- Transition in FGC governance: This spring Friends General Conference Governing Board recently met for its inaugural meeting. After decades of service under the Central Committee and Executive Committee structure, the Governing Board is now part of a new three-body governance model. The formation of the Governing Board is marked by faithful discernment, intentional preparation, and dedicated commitment.
Faithful Discernment. Last October, Central Committee members joyfully approved a transition in FGC governance. The newly-adopted governance model aims to better serve meetings, broaden service opportunities, and strengthen inclusion. It is designed to be both sustainable and Spirit-led.
Meeting In-Person. From February 20-22, 2026, the Governing Board gathered near Dayton, Ohio. This three-day gathering marked the transfer of authority from the former governance structure to the current one. As can be

imagined for a first board meeting, the board spent time on a wide range of topics. Several members who were present reported that the meeting went well and they felt the new board as a whole demonstrated a high level of commitment to FGC and all those we serve. During the meeting, FGC's Finance Committee Clerk, Paul Mangelsdorf, shared additional information about FGC's finances. Board members built and developed shared understandings so that they can better serve FGC Friends long-term. We're grateful so many members of the new board spent time traveling so they could have their first face-to-face meeting together. We know that this weekend helped people to forge the ties that will serve Friends well over the coming years.

Intentional Preparation. Before board members met in Ohio, FGC offered a thorough introduction and orientation for new members. This included five one-hour orientation sessions to help board members develop a shared understanding of the work ahead. The sessions highlighted the duties and responsibilities that board members carry. They acclimated board members to key practical elements of the work: FGC finances, fundraising, and planning for the future. They also traced the evolution of FGC and its programming. I am grateful for the time that board members have spent to build a strong foundation together.

Dedicated Commitment. While FGC's new bylaws state that the board must meet at least four times a year, the group agreed that more meetings would be appropriate in the near term. Several board members expressed an eagerness to dive more deeply into the work before them, and for additional time in worship.

Vitality 3-6-26

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)

- Welcoming asylum seekers in Costa Rica In February 2025, the Trump administration deported over 200 migrants to Costa Rica. Most were from Eastern Europe and Central Asia. None spoke Spanish or knew where they were being sent. When local Quakers heard, they took action. Monteverde Friends Meeting joined AFSC and partners to pressure the Costa Rican government to free the migrants. Our efforts were successful. After the migrants were released, Friends stepped up to provide housing and other support to families as they figured out their next steps. (See source below for details from *Friexxnds Journal*.)
Weekend Reading 1-17-26; Original source: <https://www.friendsjournal.org/welcoming-the-stranger-2/>
- Trauma healing in South Sudan. In South Sudan, AFSC is supporting people working to build peace in their communities. We focus on helping peacebuilders find healing for their own trauma. That helps to ensure that they are able to get the care they need, while strengthening their resilience and ability to assist community members. Watch this video to hear from some of these peacebuilders: <https://tinyurl.com/Sudanhealing>.
Weekend Reading 1-31-26
- Palantir moves from Denver to Miami after mounting public pressure. For over a year, community groups—including AFSC—have organized to expose and isolate tech giant Palantir. This company's surveillance tools help ICE track and deport people, and help Israel conduct war crimes. This week, following countless actions outside their Denver headquarters, Palantir announced it's moving to Miami. "The pressure Palantir has felt in Denver will be following them around the country," said AFSC's Kenny Morris. "It's time for Palantir ties to be cut nationwide. They will not be welcome in Miami, either." To learn more, visit our Purge Palantir campaign page: <https://tinyurl.com/AFSCPalantir>.
Weekend Reading 2-21-26
- Monthly Events: Love as Action vigils. <https://afsc.org/love-action>; **Protect, Resist, and Build** webinars. <https://afsc.org/protect-resist-and-build-afsc>.
Weekend Reading 3-14-26

AFSC Midwest

- Ensuring no kid goes hungry while school is out. By Jon Krieg and Rick Wilson. This summer just got brighter for around 240,000 kids from low-income families in Iowa. After two years of advocacy by a coalition including AFSC, Gov. Kim Reynolds agreed to opt into the USDA's Sun Bucks program. This program will provide eligible students with \$120 in food assistance during the three months when school is out. Read more: <https://afsc.org/news/ensuring-no-kid-goes-hungry-while-school-out>
Weekend Reading 1-10-26
- What it was like to take a stand against ICE and Border Patrol violence in Minnesota. By Jon Krieg In the Twin Cities, Quakers and other faith community members are taking a stand for immigrant rights. Last month, more than 1,000 people of faith held a nonviolent action at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. Longtime AFSC volunteer Becky Flory, a member of the Twin Cities Friends Meeting, was one of them. Here she shares her experience: <https://tinyurl.com/ICEMinnesotaAFSC>. *Weekend Reading 2-14-26*

- Years of organizing lead to big wins for youth safety in Chicago. Youth with AFSC Chicago Peacebuilding are helping move money from police vacancies to non-police crisis response, summer jobs for youth, and more. In December, the Chicago City Council approved a budget that included nearly all the spending and revenue demands our coalition—the Public Health and Safety Campaign—had been striving for. These historic wins will change the material conditions in communities across Chicago. Along with allies, AFSC helped redirect \$30 million in funding for 500 Chicago Police Department (CPD) vacancies to alternative areas. Additionally, we redirected \$50 million from CPD overtime pay. Read more from asia smith: <https://tinyurl.com/AFSC-Chicago-wins-youth>.
Email from Jon Krieg 2-12-26

Quaker Heritage Center

Wilmington College will present a gallery exhibit titled “The Strange Fruits of Our Labor” at the Meriam R. Hare Quaker Heritage Center, March 17 through June 5. QHC Director Tanya Maus noted the exhibit “explores collaboration, resilience and the transformative power of creative exchange that transcends incarceration.” Created in partnership between educator and artist Megan Christiansen and incarcerated student Donna “Shababy” Brown, “The Strange Fruits of Our Labor” is inspired by Billie Holiday’s classic song, “Strange Fruit,” and its historical legacy. Through shared making, monoprints were created from organic materials found within the prison, and the students’ artistic responses added, creating a visual dialogue about memory, resistance and shared authorship. This collaboration was produced at Dayton Correctional Facility in 2025. This exhibition also features select works from incarcerated artists at Wilmington College’s three prison education program sites: Dayton Correctional Facility, Warren Correctional Institution and Lebanon Correctional Institution.

Source: <https://tinyurl.com/QHCStrangeFruits>

Quaker Earthcare Witness (QEW)

Quaker Earthcare Witness offers a number of resources, such as events (your meeting can even request an online workshop), videos (available on demand), pamphlets for sharing, mini-grants, and curricula for adults and children. See:

Source: <https://quakerearthcare.org/resources/>

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)

- [Here] is the testimony from the Oberlin, Ohio, Advocacy Team on how they are engaging in the struggle for justice and peace: <https://tinyurl.com/Oberlin-advocacy>.
- Westfield Friends School participated in FCNL’s priorities process. This reflection describes middle school students learning about how faith and values inform an organization such as FCNL: <https://tinyurl.com/WestfieldFCNL>.

Indiana Yearly Meeting

Hello, dear Friends,

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42-47

....What we need to keep in mind, however, is that with all of these [characteristics of a healthy church/meeting], it must start with each of us as individuals. Spiritually healthy churches are made up of spiritually healthy people.

Consider these questions:

- What kind of *person* am I in the process of becoming?
- What kind of *people* are we becoming together as a church?
- What are we devoted to right now?
- If Acts 2 were written about us, what would it say?

From: Pat Byers - General Superintendent

IYM Communicator 2-4-26

Friends Music Camp

Friends Music Camp is rebooting this summer after closing during the COVID-19 lockdown. The dates are July 5-19, 2026. The place is Goshen College, in Goshen, Ind.

Youth ages 10-17 who have at least a year of musical study in private lessons or school ensembles are welcome. There are no auditions, and while the camp was founded on Quaker values, all faith backgrounds are welcome.

Campers are encouraged to register early this spring so organizers can best plan for staffing needs, camper accommodations, potential ensemble and class offerings, and other considerations. Scholarships are available.

To learn more about the camp or to register, go online to friendsmusiccamp.org, or call Carol Simmons, 937-232-4250, with additional questions.

Memories from Last Year's Sessions



THANK YOU PLANNING COMMITTEE!



SEE YOU AT WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY IN SPRINGFIELD, OH!

Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting

OF THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

1117 South A St.

Richmond, IN 47374

We're on the Web at:

<http://www.ovym.org>

The Quaker Quill is published three times a year by Ohio Valley Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. The first annual submission deadline is August 15 for the September issue. The second submission deadline is January 15 for the February issue. The third submission deadline is April 1 for the May issue.

Thanks to Susan Lee Barton for proofing
Printed on 100% recycled paper

Let us no longer be blinded by the dim theology that only in the far seeing vision discovers a millennium, when violence shall no more be heard in the land wasting nor destruction in her borders; but let us behold it now, nigh at the door lending faith and confidence to our hopes, assuring us that even we ourselves shall be instrumental in proclaiming liberty to the captive.
Lucretia Mott, 1793-1880

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