



The Friendly News

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News of the Meeting

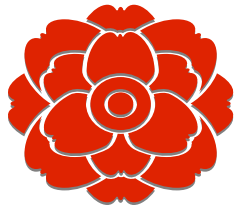
Photos taken February 4 Family and individual photos will be taken after worship for the Friends wall in the community center.

Year End Donations totaled \$12,0079, bringing the 2023 contributions to 118.6% of the year's budget. Meeting thanks everyone who contributed during the year!

Bayard Rustin Film Meeting is considering showing this film sometime in February to celebrate Black History Month. Watch for details in the weekly announcements.

Unhoused Visitors, continued

Correction The January newsletter mistakenly reported that Friends found unity around the minute regarding this subject. Friends continued the discernment in the Meeting for Business of January 22. For now, we seek a balance between mercy and the needs of our property. This includes providing safety for all who are here. Due to the complexities of this issue, the Meeting agreed to form an ad hoc committee to more fully explore our options. Please notify the Clerk at clerk@saquakers.org if you would like to serve on this committee. (Continued on page 3)



February Query What steps can I take to address racism and enslavement in the United States?

We have built our Meeting House on Payaya People’s land.
Here are the direct links for our weekly activities.

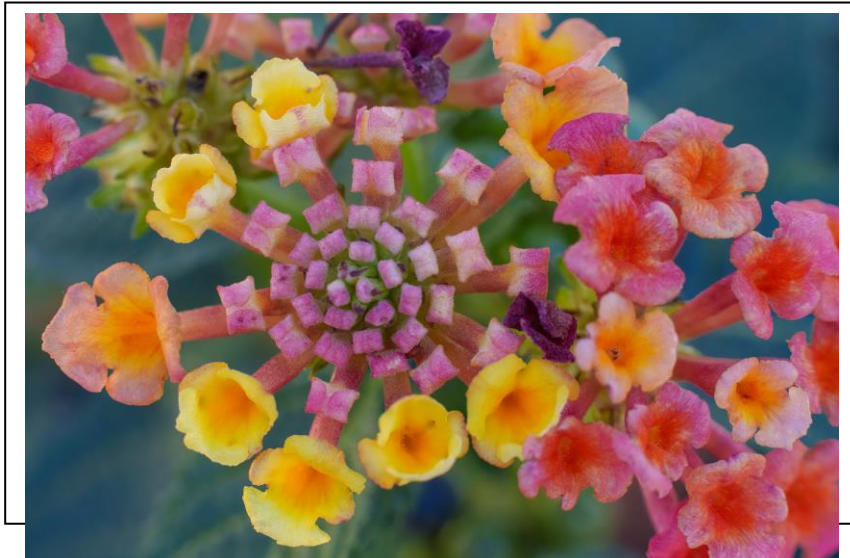
- **Sunday Meetings for Worship**
10-11am, in-person in Meetinghouse & Zoom.
Children’s Program 1st & 3rd Sundays
[CLICK HERE](#) to join by Zoom
ID # 976 0522 6497; passcode: 194077
- **Sunday Forums: 11:30-12:30**
[CLICK HERE](#) to join by Zoom
ID # 976 0522 6497; passcode: 194077
- **Friday Meeting for Worship – Fridays 8-8:30 AM**
[CLICK HERE](#) to join by Zoom –
ID # 976 0522 6497; passcode: 194077
- **1st Sunday Potluck Lunch**
- **3rd Saturday “Meeting for Weeding”**
- **3rd Sunday Meeting for Worship with Attention To Business join by Zoom – Children’s Program**
ID # 976 0522 6497; passcode: 194077
- **For ALL Zoom Meetings: by telephone at +1 346 248 7799, then enter ID#**

Contents

- p 1 News of Meeting; Unhoused Visitors
- p 2 Feb Query; Regular & Special Events
- p 3 Young Friends’ Program; MLK event; Facebook
- p 4 James Mize; Friends’ Conference on Religion and Psychology; Yearly Meeting; Sins
- p 5 Friends General Conference; Interfaith Welcome Coalition; Friends Peace Teams
- p 6 AFSC; Pendle Hill
- p 7 Friends Journal; FCNL
- p 8 Friends World Committee for Consultation

Special Events

- FEB 4 Young Friends 10-11; Potluck 11:15; Photos
- FEB 11 Forum: Membership 11:30
- FEB 18 Young Friends 10-11; Meeting for Business 11:30
- FEB 21 Midweek potluck and worship
- FEB 25 Forum TBA 11:30



Meeting house flowers, photo Jim S

Unhoused (Continued from page 1)

Meanwhile, we are seeking gift cards for meals from HEB and drawing up lists of relevant resources. Members of the Property Committee will continue to monitor activities and will call the non-emergency line of the police department when the cameras indicate possible unsafe conditions.

Young Friends' Program

Renata helps the Young Friends complete their projects. The children learn about the Quaker value of cooperation in creative projects.

Young Friends prepare soup and sometimes cake for the monthly potluck lunches.



FMSA Celebrates Martin Luther King Jr.

Our monthly mid-week potluck on January 17 was followed by worship sharing on queries regarding becoming an anti-racist Meeting and living into that as a life way.

FMSA Facebook Page 

Follow us on Facebook! <https://www.facebook.com/SAQuakers>

Letter from James Mize

We are presently in the grips of an Artic vortex (a euphemism for d.. cold spell) here in the mountains. We're approximately 2500 ft. in elevation, so we have similar weather to Ohio. We haven't closed on our land purchase yet, so we're hanging out and helping around the community as we can, getting acclimated to the hills and its folk. The community at Celo has welcomed us and we participate in worship sharing as weather and schedule allow.

Finding Wholeness in the Midst of Chaos

On February 16-18, the Washington D.C. Friends' Conference on Religion and Psychology (WFCRP) is offering a virtual weekend mini-conference on the topic of "*Finding Wholeness in the Midst of Chaos.*" The conference focuses on the complementary practice of Quaker silent worship in which Friends "center down" and open to the spirit, and the Jungian process of exploring material and "messages" from the unconscious through dreams, creative work, and active imagination.

The Friends D.C. group is affiliated with the Friends Conference on Religion and Psychology that meets annually at Pendle Hill. For details please go to <https://www.fcrp-quaker.org/wfcrp-registration-2024>. This takes you to the registration page. On this page, hover over the "DC Conference" menu item for information on the conference topic, interest groups, and schedule. This is a rich and thoughtful community of Quakers and non-Quakers who have been gathering for nearly 75 years to discuss primarily Jungian topics and how they relate to Quaker ideas.

News of the Yearly Meeting

Being a Quaker Today: Nurturing Our Soul, Brightening Our Light, and Acting on Our Faith

[2024 SCYM Annual Sessions - March 23 - 27 Online and March 28-31 in person and online](#)

This takes place at the Greene Family Camp near Waco, TX. with adult and young Friends programs, worship, games, boating and swimming [weather permitting].

Visit the website for more information.

Quaker Original Sins

Though Quakers strongly emphasize the grace of God, there remain some closet Quakers who still talk about Original Sin. For example:

James Naylor "While riding naked in the streets of Bristol, he failed to stop for tea and crumpets at the Boar's Head Pub." Submitted by Lady Godiva, Chocolatier, Boar's Head Pub. [p 21, Quaker Lite 2 ½ - The Lite Within, by Stan Banker, 2002]

Friends General Conference

[The Spiritual Deepening Library](#) is a collection of exercises meant to deepen the life, worship, connection, and witness of individuals and meetings through the exploration of Quaker thought and practice, sharing and deep listening. The Library has materials for adults and children.

Quaker faith and practice began with a question: ***“What canst thou say?”*** 400 years later, asking questions remains the essence of our faith. The Spiritual Deepening Library invites newcomers, individuals, and meetings to explore the questions that transform lives and take them deeper in the life of the Spirit. It offers resources, readings, queries, and activities that support spiritual exploration for individuals and small groups.

The Interfaith Welcome Coalition (IWC)

IWC continues to have an urgent need for volunteers to join the Mobile Loaves and Fishes Lunch Delivery team. This team delivers lunches every morning during the week. Visit their [volunteer page](#) for more information and to schedule your volunteer time—or volunteer directly on Give Pulse. Visit the website for more information.

Friends Peace Teams (FPT)

Friends Peace Teams is a Spirit-led organization that creates spaces for truth-telling, dialogue, healing, and nonviolent action for justice in 20 countries. In our five Regional Teams, people of many different faiths, ethnicities, and cultures work together to create enduring cultures of peace.

Our Europe Regional Team builds skills among justice and peace workers in Ukraine, the North Caucasus, and Iraq by practicing Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) workshops and offering psycho-social support to people displaced by war.

In five Latin American countries with persistent inequalities and violence, Peacebuilding *en las Américas* conducts AVP workshops and other activities to support families and individuals in crisis.

In the African Great Lakes region, we have programs for healing ethnic divisions and trauma for refugees from wars in Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo, as well as economic empowerment, women’s health, and education for English literacy and agriculture.

Our Asia West Pacific Team recently developed new programs to support displaced persons from Myanmar-Burma and build eco-justice projects in the Philippines and Korea.

In North America, we lift up Indigenous voices and advocate for land return and healing from the harms of genocide, colonization, and forced assimilation, including harms caused by the Quaker Indian Boarding Schools.

Val Liveoak was a co-founder of FPT and worked with it for many years in the Americas. She continues on the Peacebuilding en las Américas Regional Team serving as outgoing Clerk and represents SCYM on the North America Regional Team. The website, friendspeaceteams.org, has many stories about the work they do and resources for peacemaking.

American Friends Service Committee

AFSC's Gaza Emergency Relief

Israeli attacks on Gaza have internally displaced over 2 million people and damaged and destroyed more than half of the homes. Gaza is under total blockade and its entire population is in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, including essentials like food, water, medical supplies, and fuel. AFSC's emergency aid effort is helping to alleviate suffering in the short term and reduce inequality and oppression in the long term.

Now I will do nothing but listen. Walt Whitman, "Song of Myself"

Pendle Hill

"If Quakers were so active in the Abolitionist movement, then why are there so few African American Friends today?"

This haunting query, initially posed by a concerned Black Cuban Quaker visiting Wellesley Friends Meeting some years ago, will serve as a springboard for a presentation challenging Friends to greater commitment to Truth and Justice through new, innovative narratives and models.



In this 2024 Black History Month Monday Night Lecture, Dr. Harold D. Weaver Jr. (Hal), Founding Director of the BlackQuaker Project (BQP), seeks to answer this puzzling question and others pertaining to the Religious Society of Friends in relation to Friends of Color worldwide in the 21st century. He will utilize some of his ministry's major activities to suggest a path forward for the Religious Society of Friends: putting the

Quaker testimony of Justice at the forefront of modern Quakerism, healing historical injustices through a new model for Quakers, and responding to a new understanding of systemic violence through anti-violence, not merely non-violence. Hal will draw on and expand the pronouncements of Friends and non-Friends of various ethnic backgrounds throughout history: African, Asian, European, Latinx, Middle Eastern; the pioneering work of Christian Palestinian scholar-activists Edward Said and Quaker Jean Zaru; video interviews from the Quakers of Color International Archive; and his personal experiences and observations worldwide.

Friends Journal

War, Debt, Grief, and Restorative Justice

by Pamela Haines

When I consider forgiveness, I know that how it plays out in our own hearts and intimate communities is foundational to everything else we do. At the same time, my mind and heart keep turning to the waters in which we swim: the economic and societal forces that shape our sense of reality and possibility in ways that may be difficult to discern.

Does forgiveness even belong in a legal system? In her thoughtful book *When Should Law Forgive?*, Martha Minow begins with this question. If laws are created for the purpose of ensuring accountability to societal norms—by judging and punishing those who cross the line—it could be argued that advocating for forgiveness risks destabilizing the whole system. Yet how can we live without it? [Read more at the website.]

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) approved a policy on reproductive health and abortion at its [November 2023 annual meeting](#). The move came after a year of discernment by Quakers at FCNL and in monthly meetings across the country. Previously FCNL did not take a stance on abortion because Friends nationwide were not in unity on the issue. Quakers called on FCNL to adopt a policy after the 2022 *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision in which the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision that had asserted a constitutional right to abortion.

The policy states: “Quakers recognize that human life is sacred, and that Spirit can guide us individually and collectively. Based on these beliefs, members of the Religious Society of Friends have come to different conclusions regarding abortion. FCNL supports individual discernment in a spirit of love and truth in making reproductive healthcare decisions, as we do in other areas of conscientious moral choice. Government must ensure that people have the legal right to make these decisions. We oppose the criminalization of people seeking, undergoing, or involved in abortion services. We support equitable access to abortion services. FCNL also supports policies that reduce unwanted pregnancies by ensuring equitable access to

contraception, sex education, family planning, fertility and adoption services, and support for all who decide to have children.”

Friends World Committee for Consultation

The **Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)** is a Quaker organization that works to communicate between all parts of Quakerism in a consultative capacity to promote better understanding among Friends the world over, particularly by the encouragement of joint conferences and intervisitation, the collection and circulation of information about Quaker literature and other activities directed towards that end.

The Section of the Americas recently completed a very successful fundraising campaign, nearly doubling the goal, in order to build the tools and programs Friends need in the 21st century. A lot of new projects are just getting started.