

March 2025



## The Friendly News

### **Friends Meeting of San Antonio (Quakers)**

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## SCYM Annual Sessions

The annual sessions of the South Central Yearly Meeting will take place in April. The sessions from Sunday, April 13-Wednesday, April 16 will be online, followed by in-person sessions at Greene Family Camp from Thursday, April 17-Sunday, April 20 (with some online activities). The theme is "Creating Collective Integrity Through Personal Experience." More information about the theme, keynote speaker J.E. McNeil, and schedule are available on the SCYM website at <https://scym.org/>.

FMSA members - including children and youth! - are encouraged to consider attending. It's a great way to meet Friends from other areas, be involved with YM business, explore various aspects of Quakerism and one's personal faith, and participate in fun recreational activities. Regular YM participants from FMSA will be glad to tell you more about what it's like! This includes Val, Bill & Denise, Bill & Pat, Gretchen, Carol, Joe & Crystal, Suzanne & Rebecca, and Rachael (online attendee).

FMSA will cover the registration fee for children who attend the in-person sessions at Greene Family Camp. Scholarships for adults are also available from FMSA, with additional support available from SCYM if needed. For more information, contact a member of the FMSA Ministry & Care Committee (Julie, Bill W, James, Denise, Pat).

## Advice for March

*In the midst of uncertainty and chaos, how can we access the light within to guide our actions and maintain our commitment to peace, equality, and integrity, both individually and as a community?*

## March 2025 Calendar

### Regular Activities

- **Sunday Meetings for Worship**, 10:00-11:00
  - In-person in Meetinghouse and on Zoom
- **First Day School Children's Program**, every Sunday, 10:00-11:00
  - Childcare is available during forums and Meetings for Business
- **Midweek Meeting for Worship at Gary and Vivian's home**
  - First Wednesday of each month, 7:00 PM
  - 307 E. Mistletoe Avenue (between McCullough and St. Mary's, we will keep the colored lights on)
  - Please join us!
- **Potluck Lunch** - 1st Sunday, 11:30-12:30
- **Sunday Forums** - 2nd & 4th Sundays, 11:30-12:30
  - In-person in Meetinghouse and on Zoom
- **Meeting for Worship with Attention To Business**; 3rd Sunday, 11:30-12:30
  - In-person in Meetinghouse and on Zoom
- **Friday Meeting for Worship**, 8:00-8:30 am, Zoom only
- **"Meeting for Weeding,"** 3rd Saturday, 8:30-12:30
- For ALL Zoom Meetings:
  - [CLICK HERE](#) to join by Zoom; ID # 976 0522 6497; passcode: 194077
  - by telephone at +1 346 248 7799, then enter ID#

### Special Events

- March 9      Forum: How can we, as a community, best serve the needs of families that attend meetings?, 11:30-12:30
- March 15     Meeting for Weeding, 8:30-12:30
- March 23     Forum: Discussion of Quaker Speak video, 9 Core Quaker Beliefs, 11:30-12:30

## First Day School Schedule

March 2: Cooking for Potluck with Gretchen

March 9: Integrity, emphasis on the gritty

March 16: Are you who you say you are?

March 23: Integrity and the Meeting

March 30: Quaker History: American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)

## March Forums

As a result of our forums on the State of the Meeting and on how to welcome and support new attenders, we are offering two new forums. On March 9th we will share ideas on how to best support, as a community, families (new and established) that attend meeting. On March 23rd, we will watch and discuss the Quaker Speak video on [9 Core Quaker Beliefs](#).

## Quaker Questions?

**Everything you always wanted to know about Quakerism but were afraid to ask**

Are you curious about some things about Quaker faith and practice? Let us know! Email [ministry@saquakers.org](mailto:ministry@saquakers.org) with your questions and we'll respond in future newsletters.

## Other Online Worship Opportunities

Looking for some other opportunities for online worship throughout the week? Here are some resources:

- FMSA online worship, every Friday, 8:00-8:30 am (See Zoom link on p.2)
- [SCYM Wednesday Midweek Worship](#), 7:30 pm
- List of online Meetings for Worship put together by Western Friends and organized into Meetings taking place daily and on specific days of the week. This list does have an orientation to Pacific/Mountain Times so be sure to check the times carefully. <https://westernfriend.org/quaker-worship-and-fellowship-online/>

## Court's Order Blocks Immigration Enforcement in Specific Houses of Worship

Update to an article in the February newsletter about a Quaker lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Homeland Security:

On February 24, 2025, the U.S. District Court of Maryland issued an order blocking the Trump administration's policy that enables immigration officials to enter houses of worship indiscriminately to conduct immigration enforcement operations. The order,

which outlines the ways in which the Trump administration policy is likely to violate religious freedom and expression rights, applies to Plaintiffs' houses of worship only. This includes New England, New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore Yearly Meetings; Adelphi and Richmond Monthly Meetings; Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and Gurdwara Sahib West Sacramento. The order is temporary, pending the outcome of the trial addressing the initial complaint. A date for the trial is not known at this time.

A second, similar complaint in which Friends General Conference (FGC) joined a group of 27 religious groups that was filed in the Federal District Court for the District of Columbia has had a motion hearing scheduled for April 4, 2025 at 10:00 am. This is the first scheduled hearing in this case. To learn more about the case, go to the Friends Journal article [here](#).

## Community Updates

### Quaker Community Fair

The annual FMSA Quaker Community Fair will be held on Saturday, May 10, 2025, 9:00-1:00. Joseph will serve as coordinator. The fair will require people to help with a number of tasks, including site coordinator, publicity, signs, cash master, trash master, greeter, set up crew, food and drinks, artists, children's activities, book sale, and organization tent. Joseph will provide us with more information in the coming weeks.

### FMSA Supports Our Local Community

FMSA approved a donation to the [Interfaith Welcome Coalition](#) at our February business meeting. Individual donations are also welcome, and there are also volunteer opportunities.

FMSA is also collecting items for people in need. This collection will only take place each First Day (Sunday) of each month. A collection box will be on the breezeway outside the Meeting Room entrance. The items will be delivered Sunday afternoon. Watch the weekly announcements for specific needs for each upcoming month.

Current needs include:

- Clothing – adult and children all sizes
- Non-perishable food
- HEB gift cards

### Rilke Reading Group

If you're interested in participating in the discussion of poems in "Rilke's Book of Hours: Love Poems to God," contact Gary at [vgmac1026@gmail.com](mailto:vgmac1026@gmail.com). More information is available in the article published in the February newsletter.

## Donations for Religious Education

As you clean out your craft rooms and move on to new hobbies, the Religious Education (RE) program would be glad to receive any of the following, even opened packs or incomplete sets:

- fun paper (construction, scrapbooking, painting, drawing, etc.)
- markers that work
- crayons in any condition
- colored pencils
- safety scissors (esp. a left-handed pair!)
- floor pillows

You can drop any goodies off in the RE room or in the RE milk crate in the community room. Thank you for letting us give your supplies a new home!

## Help for Contacting Your Congressional Representative

If you're interested in calling your Congressional representatives but could use some suggestions on how to proceed, check out **5 Calls** - <https://5calls.org/>. It helps you find your legislators and provides background on timely issues, as well as suggested scripts for calls.

Subscribe to the monthly newsletter and weekly announcements at  
<https://sanantonioquakers.org/newsletters/>

We welcome input for newsletters. Please email [newsletter@saquakers.org](mailto:newsletter@saquakers.org)  
if you have any news, articles, poetry, etc. to share. Photos are great, too!

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