

November 2025



The Friendly News

Friends Meeting of San Antonio (Quakers)

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Our Meeting house is built on the Payaya People's land.

A Friendly Query

FMSA received this note recently. Good thoughts for these times.

Dear Friends,

My name is Emily Provance, and my home faith community is 15th Street in New York City. For some time, I've been working on writing to each of the Quaker meetings in the United States. My letter does not necessarily require a response.

I've been looking today at a query from Pacific Yearly Meeting: "How do we attend to the suffering of others in our local community, in our state and nation, and in the world community?" I was talking about this just yesterday with a group of Quaker women. It wasn't that we couldn't figure out how to pay attention to the suffering or how to know what we were each called to do to help. That much was clear. No, instead, the question was about how we are aware of the degree of suffering and manage not to become hopeless. We talked about prayer, about singing, about taking breaks. But what seemed to resonate the most with all of us was the necessity of connection with other people, just talking and spending time together. It's something about the way we are created...We can handle so much more in the company of people we care about.

How do you think about these questions?

In Friendship, Emily

You can find out more about Emily at <https://quakeremily.wordpress.com/about-emily/>

Query for November

How are we cultivating a life of “quiet habitation”--both inwardly and outwardly--so that we may be more faithful to the guidance of the Spirit when there are “great stirrings and commotions in the world?”

November 2025 Calendar

Regular Activities

- **Sunday Meetings for Worship**, 10:00 - 11:00 AM
 - In-person in the Meetinghouse and on Zoom
- **First Day School Children’s Program**, every Sunday, 10:00 - 11:00 AM
 - Childcare is available during forums and Meetings for Business
- **Potluck Lunch** - 1st Sunday, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
- **Sunday Forums** - 2nd & 4th Sundays, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
 - In-person in the Meetinghouse and on Zoom
- **Meeting for Worship with Attention To Business**; 3rd Sunday, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
 - In-person in the Meetinghouse and on Zoom
- **Friday Meeting for Worship**, 8:00 - 8:30 AM, Zoom only
- **“Meeting for (Not Just) Weeding,”** 3rd Saturday, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
- 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

November 2 Collection for People with Needs *[see weekly announcements for details]*
November 9 Forum: Citizen Lobbying: Small Actions Bear Big Fruit, with Bill S and Suzanne
November 15 Meeting for (Not Just) Weeding, 9:00-1:00
November 23 Forum: Speaking & Listening in the Light, with Stephen S

First Day School Schedule

November 2 How We Sow, with Gary
November 9 Small Things Show, with Suzanne and Jim
November 16 Will We Know?, with Suzanne
November 23 Clay-to-Go, with Gretchen

A Note About the November Query

By Bill Wilkinson

How are we cultivating a life of “quiet habitation”--both inwardly and outwardly--so that we may be more faithful to the guidance of the Spirit when there are “great stirrings and commotions in the world?”

[Adapted from the words of John Woolman. Moulton, P.P. (Ed.). (1989). *The Journal and Major Essays of John Woolman*. Friends United Press, Richmond, IN, Chapter X]

Woolman's "quiet (or precious) habitation" refers to an inner, spiritual state of peace and tranquility achieved through prayer and devotion to God and is intended to be a protected, spiritual dwelling place that remains calm even amid the chaos and unrest of the world. This stillness of the soul is always accessible when called upon--even in the midst of great tumult. It is related to the Quaker-Quietest notion of listening to the "voice of love." Woolman found this practice to be antithetical to withdrawing from the world, and instead found it motivational to his social justice work. Like many early Friends, Woolman also found biblical support in Isaiah 32:18 which states that "My people shall dwell in a peaceable habitation, in sure dwellings, and in quiet resting places."

Opportunities for Service

The following vacancies remain in the Nominating Committee roster for 2026:

- Recording Clerk
- Recordkeeper (Recorder)
- SCYM Representative
- Property committee
- Ministry & Care committee
- Property Usage Coordinator
- Tech Coordinator
- Webmaster

Please speak to a member of the Nominating Committee (Julie C, Denise W, Bill W, Stephen S) if you feel led to serve in any of these positions (or in another position not currently showing as vacant) or if you would like more information.

Holiday Gift Fair

The FMSA Holiday Gift Fair will be held on **Saturday, November 8th from 8:00-12:00**. Vendors and volunteers are needed. Please sign up at the links below - lots of opportunities for service still available! Spread the word about this fun family event!

- [Volunteer sign-up](#)
- [Vendor application](#)



My Reflections on *Reflections of Nature*

By Rachael Cundey

I wrote this piece after viewing Kat Cadena's work in the Reflections of Nature exhibit at the San Antonio Botanical Garden (<https://www.sabot.org/reflectionsofnature/>):

viewing *Edmond Albius and the Vanilla Orchid* by Kat Cadena

The mist hisses over the plants he knew
on Reunión, the island where he was born
into slavery, that surround his portrait:
a beautiful Black boy tilting his curls toward us
as he smiles into the shining bloom, pollinating
with a flick of his thumb on a twig.
As I gaze at the root of the balm on my lips,
the tour guide explains Edmond's mentor
advocated for his recognition
so that we could see him today. I do not ask why
this mentor valued his story but not his freedom, why he died destitute at 51.
Free at 19, he named himself white.
For the flower he tells me, the flower I loved
enough to multiply what I would never own.
I turn to Kat Cadena. Why I ask
did you paint a Black boy's discovery as Light?

News from SA Stands

L.O.V.I.N. Ordinance Proposed

By Rachael Cundey

SA Stands is supporting a proposed San Antonio city ordinance called the Looking Out for Vulnerable Impacted Neighbors Ordinance. This ordinance would preserve San Antonio's existing Enhanced Library Card (ELC) program in city policy. The ordinance would also expand the program to allow the use of chosen names and gender markers on the cards and establish the cards as sufficient proof of identity for accessing various resources throughout the city. This ordinance would support our immigrant, transgender, and unhoused neighbors who may have difficulty obtaining state and federal identification.

Friends who wish to get involved can email Jade at Sjpacheco4301@gmail.com.

Friends who have questions about the ordinance or would like updates from me can email me at rachael.k.cundey@gmail.com. There will eventually be opportunities for public comment.

In the meantime, SA Stands suggests that all San Antonio residents obtain an Enhanced Library Card at any San Antonio Public Library branch and use it to identify ourselves whenever possible. By doing so we can normalize the use of the cards in our community and show local agencies there is public demand to accept them. All Bexar County residents can walk in and receive one for free. More information on acquiring an enhanced library card can be found here:

<https://guides.mysapl.org/enhancedlibrarycard>

287(g): The Local Engine of a National Deportation Machine

November 5th, 6pm Central Time, online webinar

Presenters:

- Caro Canizales, Immigrant Legal Resource Center (TX)
- Alana Greer, Community Justice Project (FL)
- Maria Jose Espinosa, Carolina Migrant Network (NC & SC)

Across the country, local police are being turned into immigration agents — fueling deportations from within our own communities. Under the 287(g) program, local law enforcement agencies are deputized to carry out ICE's work, giving police the power to question, detain, and transfer people into immigration custody. As anti-immigrant sentiment intensifies and local governments deepen their collaboration with ICE, this program continues to expand rapidly, embedding fear and separation into everyday life.

Join the Resist and Persist Working Group for a popular education-style community call that exposes how 287(g) operates, the harm it inflicts, and the growing movement to dismantle it. The session will also lift up how organizers in conservative states are responding, resisting, and building power to fight back.

This space is designed for organizers and advocates seeking to understand the roots of 287(g), its resurgence under the current administration, and collective strategies to stop its spread.

[Register Here.](#)

A Simple Prayer for Dark Times – Micah Bales

This is an edited version of a sermon preached by Micah Bales on Sunday, 10/05/25, at Berkeley Friends Church. The scripture reading for this sermon was Isaiah 29:13-14 and Matthew 6:5-15.

The complete sermon may be found at <https://www.micahbales.com/simple-prayer-dark-times/>

In these troubled times, it's good to return to basics. We don't need complicated theology or long history lessons—we need to focus on the heart of our faith: what it means to follow God and Jesus here and now.

Faith shouldn't add to life's confusion. Though the way of Jesus is challenging, it's simple. Yet religion can become a distraction—something we hide behind. This was true in Jesus' time as well. In Roman-occupied Judea, many used religion as a tool of control rather than a path to liberation. The Pharisees, though sincere and devout, had turned faith into a religious system that had become an idol,

binding the devout in a web of complex rules and regulations that was detached from those things that God truly desires: love, mercy, justice, and a fidelity to the truth.

Jesus offered a simpler way—listening for God's Spirit, acting with compassion, and seeking God's will moment by moment. In the Sermon on the Mount, he taught his disciples to pray personally and sincerely rather than making a public show of their devotion. Jesus seems to indicate that the point isn't so much the words that we say to God, but the spirit in which we say them.

Jesus' example:

Our Father in heaven, may your name be revered as holy.

May your kingdom come.

May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And do not bring us to the time of trial but rescue us from the evil one.

This prayer centers us on God's order—trusting for daily needs, practicing forgiveness, and seeking deliverance from evil. It is simple and profound, grounding us in God's Spirit and the call to justice and peace.

Recently, a U.S. Department of Defense video used this prayer to glorify military power, equating the oft-used coda to the original prayer, "the kingdom, the power, and the glory," with weapons, flags, and politicians. This is a blasphemous distortion of Jesus' message. Jesus calls us to peace and forgiveness, not to nationalism and violence.

Followers of Jesus must choose which kingdom to serve—the kingdom of love and peace or the kingdom of war and domination. At Berkeley Friends Church, we commit to Jesus' path: looking to God, seeking divine order, receiving what we need, forgiving others, and resisting evil.

Our greatest danger is failing to see how political powers are twisting Christian faith to justify injustice. Raids, cruelty toward immigrants, and violence against the vulnerable are not the gospel. They deliver us to evil, not from it.

We are in a spiritual struggle against forces that divide and destroy. Our refuge is the simple way of Jesus: love God, love neighbor, do justice, walk humbly.

Now more than ever, we must live our faith openly. Let our lives reveal the true gospel—a message of compassion and justice. As Isaiah said, "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me." In this age of hypocrisy, let our hearts stay close to God, following Jesus and the prayer he taught us.

[Thanks to Jim S for bringing this sermon to our attention.]

Too Good to Go

Did you know that every year in the United States, over 91 million tons of food goes unsold or uneaten? This represents a total cost of \$473 billion in food waste across the supply chain. And that doesn't even count the hidden costs: the land, water, and energy used to produce food that never gets eaten.

Too Good to Go is a “social impact company that dreams of a planet with no food waste,” as stated on their website. It was founded in 2015 in Denmark and has expanded to various countries worldwide, including a number of cities in the US. (Yes, San Antonio!). Their mobile app connects users with local stores and restaurants that sell surplus food that would otherwise be thrown away in “surprise bags” at a heavily discounted price. More information is available at <https://www.toogoodtogo.com/en-us> - or just download the app!

[Thanks to Pam S for tipping us off about this app.]

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if you have any news, articles, poetry, etc. to share. Photos are great, too!

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