

April 2026



## The Friendly News

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

**7052 N. Vandiver (at Eisenhower)  
San Antonio, Texas 78209**

**Message Phone: 210.945.8456**

**Website: [www.sanantonioquakers.org](http://www.sanantonioquakers.org)**

**Facebook: @saquakers**

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

## Supporting Immigrant Families

The group we've been working with continues to provide desperately needed support to immigrant families in San Antonio, with help from the community at-large. They outlined the following donation needs in their recent newsletter:

- Black clothes and shoes for several people who recently were hired for new jobs.
- Urgent need for a car. Car donation is an easy process and has a huge positive impact on the family receiving the donation.
- Bikes, beds, and other furniture
- Clothes, household items, food, toiletries, diapers, linens and towels are always needed

In addition, there are a number of different volunteer groups working on ESL classes, direct service needs, gathering and distributing donations, filling out documents, and more. Smaller items can be brought to our collection at Meeting on the first Sunday of each month. If you have larger items like bikes, furniture, or a car to donate, or if you are interested in volunteering, please email [newsletter@saquakers.org](mailto:newsletter@saquakers.org) and we will put you in touch with the appropriate people.

## Query for April

*In this time of increased wars and difficult political situations, how are we considering and sharing our testimonies of Peace and Integrity?*

## April 2026 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
- **Midweek Meeting for Worship**, 1st Wednesday, 7:00 - 8:00 PM
- **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 Weeding,"** 3rd Saturday, 8:30 AM - 12:30 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

- April 1            Midweek Meeting for Worship at Gretchen's, 7:00 PM - Email  
[newsletter@saquakers.org](mailto:newsletter@saquakers.org) for the address if you are interested in attending.
- April 12            Forum: Quaker Work in the World (American Friends Service Committee, Quaker  
Earthcare Witness, and Friends Peace Teams)
- April 26            Forum: Immigration

## Reflections

By Frances Frey

Over the last 9 months, I (very) slowly read *Encounter with Silence: Reflections from the Quaker Tradition* by John Punshon, and I want to share a few messages from it that resonated with me.

First, Punshon distinguished between stillness and silence, and he suggested that the activity of silent worship is, in fact, becoming still, not silent. He described stillness as “a state of great attentiveness...[that] involves an awareness of one's being, not one's doing... Silence is defined from outside, stillness from within.” The word stillness evokes the flat surface of a lake for me, and that image brings with it the inner calm I aim for in worship and beyond.

Second, Punshon states that, “God approaches each one of us in a highly individual way which is very hard to express.” One of my first memories from Meeting is of arriving at the conclusion that we can all have different experiences with God, and that doesn't mean any of us are wrong. As Punshon says, “...there can be diverse insights into the common faith and ...a comprehensive understanding of Christianity will be better able to meet the demands of the future than a collection of narrow sectarian ones.” I would broaden that to say that a comprehensive understanding of God will serve us better now and in the future.

Finally, in a chapter titled "Quaker Sacramentalism," Punshon explains why Quakers don't baptize or participate in the eucharist. When I read this chapter, I was flying home from Oregon, where I had attended Catholic Mass with my sister, so this chapter met me where I was. In a liberal Meeting like ours, many in attendance may not claim the identity of Christian, but I often do, and I have sometimes been troubled by the omission of these sacraments. Punshon suggests that both were carryovers from the Old Testament, and that the good news of the gospel is freedom from outward convention. He also argues that both can be seen as symbols: “Baptism is a beginning, a turning of the heart to God, and there is no other way to enter the kingdom.” The eucharist is “an invitation to a direct experience.” Sacraments are sometimes described as “outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace,” and it seems to me that Quakers take this to its logical conclusion. The grace is there with or without the sign.

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

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