

March 2026



The Friendly News

<p>Friends Meeting of San Antonio (Quakers) 7052 N. Vandiver (at Eisenhower) San Antonio, Texas 78209</p>	<p>Message Phone: 210.945.8456 Website: www.sanantonioquakers.org Facebook: @saquakers</p>
<p>Our Meeting house is built on the Payaya People's land.</p>	

SCYM Annual Sessions

By Denise Wilkinson

The annual sessions of the South Central Yearly Meeting are coming up soon. The sessions are divided into two parts: the sessions from Sunday, March 29-Wednesday, April 1 will be online, followed by in-person sessions at Greene Family Camp from Thursday, April 2-Sunday, April 5 (with some online activities). The theme is **“Be the Change: Contemplative Action in the World.”** More information about the theme, keynote speaker Christopher Sammond, and the schedule are available on the SCYM website at <https://scym.org/>.

SCYM is a great way to meet Friends from other areas, be involved with YM business, and explore various aspects of Quakerism and one's personal faith through worship, workshops, worship sharing, and fellowship with Friends. There are plenty of fun recreational activities - an ice cream social, campfire, boating, swimming, low ropes course (open to both adults and youth this year), variety hour (show off your talents!), Easter egg hunt, Quaker book sales, arts and crafts display (bring yours!), coloring and puzzle centers, and lots of music (bring your instruments)!

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Query for March
*How can our testimony of simplicity help us in
times of uncertainty?*

March 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

- | | |
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| March 4 | Midweek Meeting for Worship at Gretchen's, 7:00 PM - Email newsletter@saquakers.org for the address if you are interested in attending. |
| March 8 | Threshing Session on Religious Education [see pp.4-5] |
| March 12 | FCNL Policy Discernment, 7:00-9:00 PM [see p.3] |
| March 22 | Forum: TBD |
| March 29 | Forum: Ask a Quaker |

SCYM Annual Sessions

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The SCYM youth program provides supervised activities each day, allowing parents the time and space to become involved in the business, programs, worship, and workshops of SCYM. The camp setting provides a safe space for kids to explore their surroundings and build community in a nurturing environment. It's a wonderful opportunity for Quaker kids to get to know other Quaker kids. It's so much fun to see the kids reuniting each year, so excited to see their YM friends! More information is available on the [Youth Program page](#) of the SCYM website.

Information about the annual sessions and the link to registration is available at <https://scym.org/sessions/annual/upcoming>. The registration deadline for in-person attendance at Greene Family Camp is **Tuesday, March 17th**. FMSA will cover the registration fee for children who attend the in-person sessions at GFC. 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, Denise, Pat, Judy, Jillian).

Special Events

FCNL Policy Discernment



**Plan to join us on
Thursday, March 12, 2026
for FCNL policy discernment!**

7p to 9p • at the meetinghouse and on Zoom

**Email Suzanne (peanut.chew@gmail.com) if you would
like a copy of FCNL's advance documents.
(This is entirely optional!)**

 Friends Committee
on National Legislation
Lobbying with Quakers

Especially for Committee Clerks: Beyond Consensus

The Quaker Leadership Center is offering a workshop, led by Dave Goff, that explores the basics of clerking a meeting within the Society of Friends. While the primary focus is on clerking committee meetings, the principles can be used at all levels of Quaker business. These principles of discernment are effective whether one is clerking at the Monthly Meeting, Quarterly Meeting, or Yearly Meeting level, or beyond. This virtual workshop will be held on Thursday, March 19, from 6 pm to 7:30 pm CDT.

For more information and to register, visit

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/especially-for-committee-clerks-beyond-consensus-tickets-1982454196869?utm_experiment=test_share_listing&aff=ebdsshios

Threshing Session on Religious Education

By Rebecca Cole Sullivan

Why are we calling a Threshing Session?

Please join us after worship on March 8 for a threshing session about the focus of our religious education program. Over the last year, we have reinstated religious education for the Young Friends and expanded the focus for adult RE. As we have done that work, conflicting opinions and a lack of cohesion around larger goals of the programs have cropped up.

At November's Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, the gathered body asked for this session in response to the report from the Religious Education Committee. To fully ground this work, I have reached out to the Yearly Meeting's Ministry and Care committee. A member of SCYM's M&C committee will join us to clerk this threshing session. Even though we have a single committee in charge of religious education, the whole meeting has a role to play in this work.

Let's join together in worship to hear the variety of wants, needs, and experiences. No decisions will be made during the threshing session. Childcare will be provided for the whole time, and additional snacks will be provided to help us stay centered during this conversation.

The following article provides information about the nature of a threshing session ([LINK](#)).

Threshing Session Explainer

From "Meeting Space Threshing Process" by Martha Niemann
(<https://ecquakers.org/article/meetingspace-threshing-process>):

The purpose of a threshing session is to provide a forum where Friends may hear one another's truths, a variety of differing opinions, and absorb information around a complex, controversial, or emotionally charged issue. Expression of diversity of opinion is welcomed and is one of the goals. The overriding desire is to sort out what is important from the multiplicity of available information and opinion. The threshing session differs from a typical Meeting for Business and Worship in that Friends are urged to express themselves openly and passionately; Friends may speak more than once, speak to a point previously made, or ask a question. It is more helpful to the Meeting to address difficult issues openly, rather than to hold back for fear of offending. "Hesitancy to share a strong conviction because it may offend someone, reflects a lack of trust." (Quaker Process for Friends on the Benches, Mathilda Navias).

This trust in each other is what makes community strong. We can be open and honest with each other if we trust that all will hold the other in tenderness, remembering that there is that of God in everyone.

Here are some helpful ground rules:

- No decision will be made in this gathering.
- Come with a sense of humility and openness to new insights and to learn about differing experiences.
- Listen to each person and receive their thoughts.
- Each person has the opportunity to declare what he or she is thinking, feeling, and perceiving.
- Speak from personal experience.

Some practicalities should be noted. Full notice of the planned threshing session will be given to all, in order to allow full participation. No minutes will be developed from the session; however, notes may be taken to capture ideas and information that may be useful in later decision-making. A recommendation may be forwarded to the meeting for worship with attention to business for further discernment. Length of the session is approximately 2 hours; if more time is needed for all to be heard, extension or additional sessions can be made.

Thee Quaker Podcast

If podcasts are your thing, you might want to check out the weekly episodes of Thee Quaker Podcast at <https://quakerpodcast.com/>. Recent programs include topics such as *39 Ways to (Nonviolently) Overthrow a Dictator with Quaker Activist George Lakey*, *Minneapolis Quakers Stand Up to ICE*, *Inside a Conservative Quaker Meeting*, *Why Are Quakers Pacifists?*, *What Do Quakers Believe?*, *A Quaker Response to Crisis with Eileen Flanagan*, and *Do Quakers Read the Bible?*, as well as many others.

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<https://sanantonioquakers.org/newsletters/>

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

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