

OCTOBER 2026



The Friendly News

Friends Meeting of San Antonio (Quakers)

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

Intergenerational Worship - An Experiment

By Rachael Cundey and Jillian Randles

On Sunday, October 25th, children and adults will join together for intergenerational worship.

What Is Intergenerational Worship?

On a typical First Day, our community gathers in the meeting room at 10:00 and after about ten minutes, the Young Friends file out to First Day School. For intergenerational worship, Friends of all ages are invited to remain in the meeting room for the full hour of worship.

Why Are We Doing This?

This idea had two roots: first, during our threshing session on religious education, the Religious Education Committee heard a strong call for more intergenerational connection. While the committee considered how to follow that leading, Rachael heard Melinda Wenner Bradley speak. Melinda is a co-founder of the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC) and served as the first clerk of the Faith and Play Group. She shared about her experience with intergenerational worship in West Chester (PA) Friends Meeting:

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October 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
- **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, 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
- 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#

Upcoming Events

- October 11 Forum: Quaker United Nations Office, with Sarah Clark (See info about Sarah on the [FMSA calendar](#))
- October 17 Meeting for (Not Just) Weeding, 8:30-11:30 am
- October 25 [SCYM Faith & Practice](#) - Testifying to the Life of the Spirit, cont.
- November 7 Memorial Meeting for David Bristol, Saturday, 2:00 pm (in-person & on Zoom)

Intergenerational Worship - An Experiment

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"It's not about grafting children onto our worship and giving them stuff to keep busy, but inviting them into the experience of worship fully and making room for what might help them to enter and be in that contemplative space."

~ Melinda Wenner Bradley, ["Children in Quaker Worship"](#)

In addition, some Friends had a similar experience with intergenerational worship at the 2026 South Central Yearly Meeting sessions.

The Religious Education and Ministry & Care Committees met to discuss the idea. While children are welcome to remain in worship with adult Friends any week, our goal with intergenerational worship is not only to encourage the Young Friends to begin engaging with worship beyond the ten minutes at the beginning of meeting each week, but also to give

everyone the chance to experience worship in a new way and to find meaning in unexpected moments.

The committees were jointly led to bring the following minute to the July Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, where it was approved.

MINUTE 2026-07-02: Friends Meeting of San Antonio recognizes Friends of all Ages form our community. In that spirit, we approve an experiment in quarterly intergenerational worship. Friends will be invited to worship in an intentionally age-inclusive environment, where anyone is welcome to give vocal ministry, sit on the floor, and engage with quiet materials provided by the Meeting or brought from home.

What Should I Expect?

On October 25th, the Meeting's clerk, Rebecca, will open worship with a Faith & Play story, after which we will enter waiting worship. Friends are encouraged to sit wherever they feel comfortable (even on the floor!), and feel free to color, journal, or engage in whatever other quiet activity they find contemplative. Neither the Faith & Play story nor the quiet materials are "just for kids." Everything is for everyone. Of course, those who prefer to sit quietly without any activity are welcome to do so.

In preparation for this worshipful experiment, over the past few months in First Day School, the Young Friends have occasionally been working on quiet activities and making small items for keeping hands busy. Materials will be available to pick up on the way into the meeting room, or Friends may bring their own items if they so desire. Childcare will be available for any Young Friends who need to leave the meeting room before the hour is up.

We hope you will attend and worshipfully experiment with us! Friends' feedback will help us to determine what works well for our Meeting and what changes should be made in our next intergenerational session.

"A Quaker Meeting is not a meditation group; it is a community, where people share their lives and minister to each other. The aim of Quaker worship is not an hour of undisturbed silence. It is a shared openness to the Spirit that is present among us to challenge, guide and to heal. All of us, of any age, can discover this source of life and make it visible to others."

~ Craig Barnett, ["Nurturing the Seed"](#)

Rilke Poems, set 2

Rilke's The Book of Hours: Love Poems to God

Translated by Anita Barrows and Joanna Macy

*Last year a group of Friends, led by Gary, were studying Rainer Maria Rilke's **The Book of Hours**. They had planned a forum to share some of the poems that had spoken to each of them, but Meeting for Worship and forum were canceled that day due to bad weather. We will share a few of the selected poems each month. No doubt Gary and the other participants would love to discuss them with you!*

Why am I reaching again for the brushes?
When I paint your portrait, God,
nothing happens.
But I can choose to feel you.
At my senses' horizon
you appear hesitantly,
like scattered islands.
You stand there, peering out.
I'm all the time seen by you.
The choruses of angels use up all of
heaven.
There's no more room for you
in all that glory. You're living
in your very last house.
All creation holds its breath, listening within
me,
because, to hear you, I keep silent.

I, 18

Only as a child am I awake
and able to trust
that after every fear and every night
I will behold you again.
However often I get lost,
however far my thinking strays,
I know you will be here, right here,
time trembling around you.
To me it is as if I were at once
infant, boy, man and more.
I feel that only as it circles
is abundance found.
I thank you, deep power
that works me every more lightly
in ways I can't make out.
The day's labor grows simple now,
and like a holy face
held in my dark hands.

I, 62

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