

543 South Mountain Avenue

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SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

First-Hour Activity

9 to 10 am

Spirit-Based Discussions
Hybrid: Both In-Person and
via Zoom (link below)

2 March Discussion: Our hopes &
fears in these times *Details Page 3*

10:15-11 am: Circle of Light

9 March Educational Session:
Quakers & Indigenous People
Details on Page 1 ZOOM ONLY

16 March ZOOM ONLY

8:30-10 am: Business Meeting

23 March How to Quaker:
Quaker Silence *Details on Page 3*

A Light Breakfast to Follow

30 March Winnowing Session:
How shall our Meeting honor Native
Peoples? *Details on Page 1*

Meeting for Worship

11 am to Noon

Hybrid: Both at the Quaker
Meeting House and by Zoom
(link below):

[https://us02web.zoom.us/
j/7477317797pwd=SW1sd3pTZjhlbGZmUWpOY3pZaUFDdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7477317797pwd=SW1sd3pTZjhlbGZmUWpOY3pZaUFDdz09)

Outdoor Worship on the Back
Deck 11-11:45 am Sundays

SOUTH MOUNTAIN FRIENDS MEETING **THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)** **Unprogrammed Worship in Ashland, Oregon** **Third Month 2025**

Quakers and Indigenous People

In Preparation for our Guest Speaker Paula Palmer

9 am Sunday 9 March ONLY ON ZOOM

What began as a re-evaluation of our Meeting's Land Acknowledgment has deepened into an exploration of how Quakers have historically related to Indigenous people and a discernment of what it means for South Mountain Friends to currently be in right relationship with Native Peoples.

Paula Palmer of Boulder Friends Meeting, is a sociologist who for the past dozen years travels in Quaker ministry, working with Native and non-Native people to build relationships based on truth, respect, and justice as part of her Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples ministry.

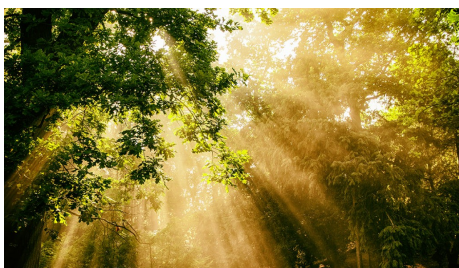


When asked what the historic interactions of Friends and Native Peoples mean to us today, Paula explains that it is clear that Quakers were instrumental in implementing the forced assimilation of Native children. Through a lens of European Christian superiority, Quakers tried to remake Native children in their own image. In Paula's extensive research of Quaker writings of the era, she found "no appreciation for what the children would lose in this process; it was for their own good." In the words of children who were students at the Quaker Indian boarding schools, Paula discovered a litany of loss (of their family and kinship relationships, of their names and language, of their knowledge of the land and ecology, of their cultural competence and pride). From our 21st century vantage point, we're learning how Native people suffered and continue to suffer the consequences of actions that Friends committed 150 years ago with the best of intentions. Quakers were then witnessing the near complete slaughter of the original inhabitants of this continent and concluded that giving Indians the skills to assimilate would save them. Unlike other boarding schools erected to Christianize the children, the Quakers simply wanted to "civilize" them. Paula asks, "Can we hold those good intentions tenderly in one hand, and in the other hold the anguish, fear, loss, alienation, and despair borne by generations of Native Americans?"

Native organizations are not asking us to judge our Quaker ancestors. Paula says they're asking, "Will Quakers join us in honest dialogue, acknowledge the harm that was done, and seek ways to contribute toward healing processes that are so very needed in Native communities?"

Subsequent to this 9 March educational session focused on learning and feeling, South Mountain Meeting will hold a winnowing session during first hour on Sunday 30 March, focused on discerning how we wish to honor Indigenous People today.

—Bob Morse



May you not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world.
 All things break and all things can be mended.
 Not with time, as they say, but with intention.
 So go. Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally.
 The broken world waits in darkness for the light that is you.
 —L R Knost (Contributed by Crystal Bosbach)

There are moments
 when I am overwhelmed
 by the enormity,
 the unfathomable hugeness,
 of the pain of the world.
 I am paralyzed by the news,
 shaken by the faces
 of hunger and disease,
 war and death.
 When all I can do is weep
 for the brokenness,
 for the hatred,
 for the wounding that gets
 passed by as simply what is.
 But then...

but...
 then...
 something
 someOne,
 speaks a word in my core,
 a still small voice
 that moves mountains,
 a wind-sweeping slap
 of wings beating against
 the powers
 and the principalities
 and I rise.
 I do what I am able,
 where I am found.
 I live and,
 in that living,
 call to life abundant,
 life anew,
 life that shakes
 the foundations,
 and is hope
 for the world.
 In my own
 small corner
 of the world.
 Is it strange
 That when I do,
 I can see that others are
 doing the same,
 too?

—Richard Bott
 (Contributed by Lyn Martens)

It may be that when we no longer
 know what to do
 we have come to our real work,
 and that when we no longer know
 which way to go
 we have come to our real journey.
 The mind that is not baffled is not
 employed.
 The impeded stream is the one that
 sings.

—Wendell Berry



The history of nonviolent struggle shows that we have
 more power than we think. People have ousted dictators,
 ended occupations, and overthrown authoritarian regimes
 over and over again. In the past few months, Bangladesh
 successfully rose up against its corrupt and repressive
 regime, and South Korea halted an attempted power grab
 under martial law. Dramatic change is possible even under
 difficult conditions. —Rivera Sun/Nonviolent News

Ká Hering recommends this website
[Nonviolence News – The world is changing.](#)



I do not speak of God; I speak of love.
 I do not speak of the devil; I speak of intolerance.
 I do not speak of angels; I speak of service.
 I do not speak of death; I speak of the value of all life.
 The truth is not an opinion or a belief.
 It cannot be found by shouting and argument,
 but in the silence of a simple living compassion.
 If we do not serve all beings with a loving heart,
 what do we contribute to the world?
 What value does our life really have?
 The new day begins with our own intimate reflection
 —how much more can I give?
 May all beings everywhere be safe,
 secure and harm free.
 May all beings be happy.
 —Michael Kewley (Contributed by Jean Semrau)

Our Hopes and Fears Arising out of this Political Climate

A Discussion: 9 am Sunday 2 March

After the FDA approved the drug Prozac in 1987 for anxiety and depression, it became one of the most prescribed drugs in the US. But while those feelings can be signs of mental illness that require medical treatment, there are political conditions in which they are signs of moral health. Nonetheless, they can be debilitating. So, **the Peace & Social Concerns Committee will facilitate a sharing about our fears and hopes** during the current political condition of our country.

The committee encourages Friends to avail themselves of the opportunity it offers. **Burdens are always lighter when they are shared.** Beyond that, ideas for self-care are likely to emerge. Among those, some people find relief by taking public action, and there are members of South Mountain Friends Meeting involved in actions they can talk about.

As Dr. Mark Hyman, founder and medical director of The UltraWellness Center, has said, “The power of community to create health is far greater than any physician, clinic, or hospital.”
—Herb Rothschild

Making Some Noise About Quaker Silence

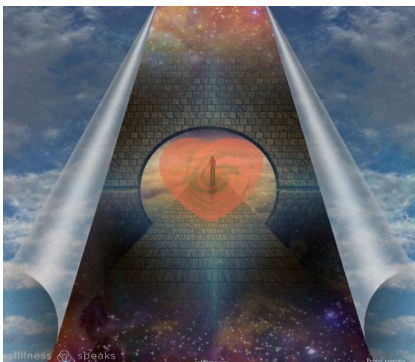
How To Quaker: 9 am Sunday 23 March

This month in “How to Quaker,” our topic will be the way we worship. Why silence? Why *shared* silence? What happens when we worship together in silence? It's a little different for each of us, of course, but there are commonalities. Quaker silence is an evolved tradition, as structured in its own way as Catholic liturgy. So little happens on the surface, though, that it is easy to miss this, and newcomers may find themselves puzzled about just what it is we are doing. Indeed, we all may be a bit puzzled.

Quaker worship is a communal seeking, not a mishmash of individual seekings by people who simply find it convenient to sit together. We gather in silence because we find the gathered silence a powerful pathway to God. “Much of what we do may be personal,” notes British Quaker John Punshon, “but we come before the Lord in a body.” We are not just sharing an hour of worship; sharing is part of the worship.

At the beginning of the hour, there is always a great deal of chaff to be gotten rid of—worries about job or family or country, plans for the afternoon, stray bits of music or movies or dreams. Slowly these settle. The Meeting finds its center and begins to deepen.

As deepening occurs, worship becomes—I was going to say “easier,” but that isn't the right word. It may actually be very difficult, but it becomes inescapable. God compels our attention. If there is to be vocal ministry, it will usually start here. Messages in a deepening Meeting do not answer each other directly, but they often address the same theme, and there is a heightened sense of waiting between them. In Quaker terminology, the Meeting is becoming “exercised.”



If we are lucky, the final stage is a gathered (or “covered”) meeting. The Meeting unites in a shared sense of the Presence. Vocal ministry either deepens greatly or disappears entirely; all are attentive to each other, and to the Light within. Punshon again:

Words, symbols, and thoughts can pull away the briars, cobwebs, and old planks that obstruct and clutter up the doorway of the heart, but when the door itself swings open, we leave them all at the threshold. It is then we enter the real sanctuary, and the silence comes alive.

—Bill Ashworth

Advices & Queries on Ministry

Ministry is a motion of Love and a response to both internal and external needs. We are all called to ministry, and there are many occasions when we can minister to one another in the Life and Light.



Friends seek to discover the gifts and discern the service to which we are called. In making life choices, we consider ways that offer the fullest opportunity to develop our individual abilities and contribute to the wider community while providing for ourselves and our families.

In daily work, we seek to manifest a spirit of justice and understanding, thus giving a living witness to the Truth. Friends recognize that we are given gifts for the use of the meeting and the world. The meeting seeks to recognize and nurture the use of those gifts. Remember that our simple presence can be a ministry – at a bedside or at a protest.

True ministry is a state of servanthood, for that is the root meaning of the word to minister: “to serve.” —Lloyd Lee Wilson, 1996

Are we careful to wait for and move under the leading of the Spirit in the exercise of our gifts?

How do we minister to each other, offering and receiving advice and support in a spirit of love and humility?

Do we hold with tenderness each of the varieties of ministry exercised among us?

When our ministry involves social and political action, how does it stay grounded in Truth and Love?

How does our meeting nurture and support calls to service?



Quaker Voluntary Service

QVS is a 9.5 month Fellowship program in which young adults between the ages of 21-30 build intentional community, work full time at social service and social change agencies, and explore themes of spiritual and personal growth with local Quakers. Fellows receive housing, transportation, food, support for health and wellness (including access to health insurance if needed), and a monthly stipend, while engaging in regular workshops and retreats that allow for continuing education in social justice, faith, and community building topics. Placements currently occur in Boston, Philadelphia, the Twin Cities, and Portland, Oregon.

For more info or to apply: [Quaker Voluntary Service | Community. Service. Transformation.](#)

Interested? Apply NOW (by the end of February)

Sorry, news of QVS came to me just before this deadline. —Ed.

Quaker Events Open to the Greater Community

Free Writing Friends: every MONDAY afternoon

Song Circle: 6:30 pm 2nd TUESDAYS

Meditation on Peace & Love: 5-6 pm every THURSDAY

Details at [OUR SCHEDULE | AshlandQuakers](#)



Meeting for Business 16 February 2025

Friends Present: Bill Ashworth, Melody Ashworth, Crystal Bosbach, Valeria Breiten, Ken Deveney, Ann Gaffney, Althea Godfrey, Ká Hering, Andra Hollenbeck, Zach Klaphaak, Ariel Love, Bob Morse, Herb Rothschild, Josephine Olson, Nancy Spear, Adam Thompson.

Quote & Reflection: “There is no greatness where there is not simplicity, goodness, and truth.”
~ Leo Tolstoy

2025.2.1 Friends approved as presented the Minutes from the January Meeting for Worship for Business.

Treasurer Report: Last month’s decision to increase our donation to Black Alliance and Social Empowerment (BASE) back to our pre-pandemic giving levels will be seen in the February financial statement. Our finances are healthy. Although donations are down, our spending is down even more. We have over \$8,000 in our bank account, not including the donation from Andrew Yavelow.

Ministry & Counsel (M&C): Events on 9 and 30 March to honor Native People are described on pg. 1.

M&C reminds Friends that sometimes vocal ministry in worship is a song. Friends are welcome to sing along. When the song ends, it is enveloped in silence just as is other vocal ministry.

Friendship & Hospitality (F&H): The second game night was last night. Teens still have not yet attended, but a wide range of ages did attend. Thursday’s Meditation for Peace and Love is on the Peace House calendar indicating that it’s sponsored by the Meeting. It is now hybrid as well.

It was announced that a rally in support of passing the “pollution fee” to curb natural gas in new construction will precede the 2/18 Ashland City Council Meeting. Testimonies encouraged!

Peace & Social Concerns (P&SC): Herb, Ken, and Valeria will be interviewing two candidates this morning to attend Friends Committee on National Legislation’s (FCNL’s) Spring Lobby Days. These candidates were identified by Sayla Rodriguez, our 2023 recipient, who is still involved in activism. Sayla will be taking care of the travel arrangements, and Herb will arrange the finances and submit an itemized receipt from Sayla to Adam.

The local democratic party has been monitoring for Christian nationalism actions in the community. There is thought that this work will happen at the School Board level. The phrasing is “depoliticizing education.” There has been some talk already at one Medford School Board meeting. Ann shared that she

is considering running for School Board and would appreciate Friends’ thoughts and experiences as she discerns her ability to serve in that way. Bob reached out to Rev. Dan Fowler from Ashland First Presbyterian to get an update on the work of his congregation. Andra reported that in Idaho the work of Christian nationalism is primarily at the state level.

28 February is a blackout as a show of support for DEI actions and a protest against the government’s attack on DEI programs and other initiatives. During this blackout, those participating will not buy anything from major corporations or online, nor post on social media. The focus is to buy and support your local community and avoid the major corporations that have taken over the government. The message is that the firehose approach is not working, and we are just going to turn it off at our end.

The greatest threat right now from new governmental action is to immigrants. It helps that we are a sanctuary state, which means that local and state law enforcement cannot cooperate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Peace & Social Concerns will be facilitating a discussion during First Hour on First Sunday in March to discuss how people are feeling in this new administration and what they are doing about it (details on page 3).

Parking: Friends asked for an update on the parking and railing with an eye towards our Friends with limited mobility. Joint Committee meets once per quarter and so has not yet met since the issue was raised. Joint Committee will be meeting on 27 February. Nancy shared that her understanding about the parking is a discussion of the handicapped parking spots in the driveway. Bill shared that the handicapped parking sign means that the parking there is reserved for those with handicapped signs 24 hours per day. Ministry and Counsel has been discussing the parking issue, and Bob will amend our description of parking options at our website to include that handicap parking is available in the driveway. Friends are still discussing the possibility of a shuttle. Ann shared that when mobility is an issue, it can be difficult to get in and out of other vehicles and suggested that valet parking be considered instead of a shuttle. Friends discussed potential parking solutions including monitoring our use of spots to see if we regularly exceed our 8 allocated spots and making a paper notice that can be posted on the dashboard.

Respectfully submitted,
Valeria Breiten, Clerk
Ann Gaffney, Recording Clerk

Officers

Presiding Clerk: Valeria Breiten 480-688-7442

Treasurer: Adam Thompson 201-8255

Recording Clerk: Ann Gaffney 603-490-7193

Communications Clerk: Jean Semrau 488-6855 along with Mary Ellen Gordian and Kitty Cable

Joint Committee Delegates: Ariel Love 925-212-2118; Bill Ashworth 778-9470

Standing Committees

Ministry and Counsel: Bob Morse 482-8849, David Runkel 210-0031, Crystal Bosbach 930-4222, Andra Hollenbeck 601-6421, Althea Godfrey 261-5329, Merlin McDaniel 301-6054, Valeria Breiten (*ex officio*)

Nominating Committee: Richard Spencer 707-543-6330, Wyatt Banks, Althea Godfrey, Nancy Spear

***Peace and Social Concerns:** Herb Rothschild 531-2848, Ken Deveney, Jim Lobsenz, Steve Radcliffe

***Finance:** Nancy Spear, Ann Gaffney, Adam Thompson (*ex officio*)

***Friendship and Hospitality:** Ká Hering 778-5206, Crystal Bosbach, Cathy McDaniel, JoAnn Sustrick;
Welcomers: Andra Hollenbeck, Tara Jones, Rochelle Webster, Fernando Gapasin, Richard Spencer

*Newsletter submissions are due to Bob Morse
(morse@mind.net) Tuesday after Business Meeting*

Interest Group Contact Persons

***Adult Education:** Bill Ashworth 778-9470

***Art Displays:** Becky Hale 601-3084

***Building & Grounds:** Merlin McDaniel 301-6054

***Child Education:** Ad Hoc Children's Committee

***Circle of Light:** Crystal Bosbach 930-4222

***Free Writing Friends:** Becky Hale 601-3084

***Friends Men's Group:** Ken Deveney 482-2173

***Friends Women's Group:** Althea Godfrey 261-5329

***Library:** A Friend

***Neighbors in Need:** Alex Reid 707-499-9146

***Outdoor Worship:** Ká Hering 778-5206

***Racial/Climate Concerns:** Bob Morse 482-8449

Other Contact Persons

Interfaith Ministries: Gizelle Luccio 944-0748

Newsletter: Bob Morse 482-8449

NPYM Coordinating Committee: Bill Ashworth 778-9470

Web Site Administration: Bob Morse 482-8449

Monthly Neighborhood Gatherings

***Dancing Bears group:** Herb Rothschild 531-2848

***Outliers group:** Becky Hale 601-3084

***Quaker Neighbors:** Jean Semrau 646-8225

***Sunday Afternoon group:** Ken Deveney 482-2173

** = All new and longtime participants welcome*

All area codes are 541 unless otherwise noted

South Mountain Friends Meeting

543 South Mountain Avenue

Ashland, Oregon 97520