

543 South Mountain Avenue

Ashland, Oregon 97520

(541) 482-0814

communications@ashlandquakers.org

www.ashlandquakers.org

SUNDAY AM SCHEDULE

First-Hour Activity

9 to 10 am

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

5 April No First Hour Activity
10:15-11 am: Circle of Light

12 April **Worship Sharing Session**
on how Quaker culture mediates the Indigenous and Western Worldviews
Details on Page 2

19 April **Business Meeting**
new time 9-10:30 am
IN PERSON ONLY (for hybrid, contact Rochelle in a timely fashion)

26 April **How To Quaker**
Discourse and then Worship Sharing on the Testimony of Equality
Simple Breakfast to Follow

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

Meeting for Worship

11 am to Noon EVERY Sunday
Hybrid: Both at the Quaker Meeting House and by Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7477317797pwd=SW1sd3pTZjhIbGRmUWpOY3pZaUFDdz09>

SOUTH MOUNTAIN FRIENDS MEETING

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)
Unprogrammed Worship in Ashland, Oregon
Fourth Month 2026

We Are Each Other's People

We are each other's people, and we have inherited the lie that we are not each other's people. That the people of the past, the people of the future, the people of the present who live in different skins or have different hair or speak different languages or who practice different religions or who vote for different parties or have different bodies are not our people.



And this lie is treason; this lie is blasphemy; this lie has led to this moment. If we can speak our history plainly, acknowledge our present candidly, and embrace each other genuinely, we expose the lie to the healing effects of truth.

We must insist that all of the places that have been the sites of human-inflicted pain, as well as human-created joy, belong to us; if we remember each group and individual tortured and reviled, beaten and raped, bullied and murdered, then we are mending the fabric of our nation and the universe.

Walk with me down streets of ignorance in suburbs. I'll walk with you where no one greets us down sidewalks of small towns. Walk with me through the quiet anger of the countryside, and I'll walk with you through resentment, confusion, and misunderstanding of the city. Name with me all that is shameful about making peace with racism and finding comfort in the presence of violence, poverty, and inequality. If we can bear witness to the shared delusion that democracy and fairness could ever truly thrive in such a moment, we may be able to save each other.

Reconciliation and redemption cannot be achieved in these few minutes we have together. But in this moment of mourning, let us commit to exposing the lie of a glorious and innocent past, to dismantling the institutions of a deeply unjust present. Let us commit to each other, in sickness and in health, for richer and for poorer; let us commit to pursuing truth, justice, understanding, compassion, and respect for as long as we each shall live.

Let us confess the wrongs we have done, those we have ignored, and those of the institutions we believed in. Let us seek forgiveness, acting our way into feeling, feeling our way into action, listening our way into a new understanding. We are each other's people. I am your people, and you are mine.

Excerpted from Sarah Willie-LeBreton, a Sociologist and Black Quaker, Providence Monthly Meeting

Understanding Indigenous & Western Worldviews

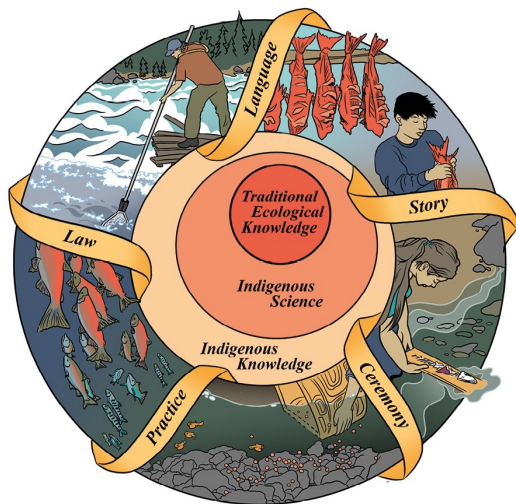
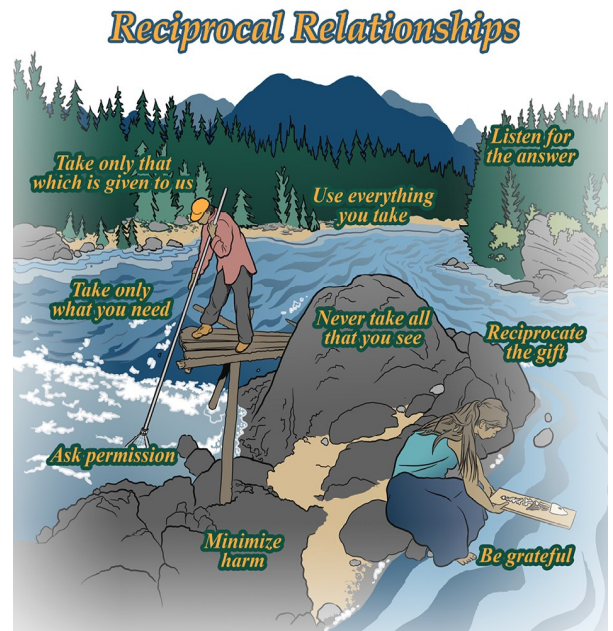
Worship Sharing on How Quaker Culture Mediates these Worldviews
9 am Sunday 12 April

The Toward Right Relationship Interest Group Presents this Query:

How does our Quaker culture serve as a microcosm for
“All of us on Earth Being One in the Light”?

Worldviews: Indigenous (I) vs Western (W)

- 1.(I) Spiritually orientated society. Beliefs concerned with preservation.
- 1.(W) Scientific, pragmatic, utilitarian. Concerned with progress.
- 2.(I) Multiple truths, multiple realities. Individual experience matters.
- 2.(W) Concerned with finding one truth and declaring it law or science-based.
- 3.(I) Society is relational. “All my relations” include people, environment, objects.
- 3.(W) Compartmentalized and segmented society.
- 4.(I) The land/Earth is sacred and given to care for.
- 4.(W) The land is utilitarian and given for use.
- 5.(I) Time is non-linear, cyclical in nature, and measured in cyclical events. The seasons are central to this cyclical concept.
- 5.(W) Time is linear and very structured with clocks and calendars. Progress is key.



- 6.(I) Feeling comfortable is measured by the quality of relationships with all sentient beings.
- 6.(W) Comfort is goal-oriented and comparative (aka “internalized capitalism”).
- 7.(I) Human beings are not the most important in the world.
- 7.(W) Human beings are central and have a monopoly on consciousness.
- 8.(I) Wealth and work are done for the community.
- 8.(W) Amassing wealth is for personal gain.

Tomi Hazel Ward, Althea Godfrey, Hazel Jordan, Bob Morse

Friends Meeting Outdoor Work Party

9 am - noon Saturday 11 April at the Meeting House

Fellow LIGHT Workers: Many Hands Make LIGHT work

All are Welcome



What Shan't Thou Say?

The above title is Quaker speak for the following excerpted article by Lauren Jones, PhD, who called her composition, "Things White People Should Stop Saying." Shan't is the ancient contraction for shall not. Dr Jones describes herself as a Black woman and as being "professionally Black," meaning that she studies race and gender and works in DEI. Living through the ICE occupation in the Twin Cities, constantly navigating danger while supporting her community, Dr Jones found that certain phrases she often hears from white folks rose to the level of intolerable.

We are all immigrants; this nation was built by immigrants: Please don't erase Black Americans and Native people. We either were already here or were forced to come to this land. Indigenous people have tended to the land, water, and wildlife for generations, and Black people built many of the structures, and our labor built the economy. Puerto Ricans, as citizens, are also not immigrants. It is deeply offensive. If your family had agency in their choice to be here, there is no shame. But that isn't all of our story.

This isn't America; this isn't who we are: Turtle Island was home to millions of Native people for perhaps thousands of years prior to colonization. While there are still plenty of Natives in the US, they have very little land and power in their own indigenous homeland. My ancestors and millions of others were kidnapped and brought here in chains. They were beaten, raped, and robbed of their identities and labor in order to create wealth for generations of colonizers. Both Native and Black people in this country continue to experience daily violence via the US government. That is to say nothing of the ongoing violence we inflict on other countries including but certainly not limited to Palestine, Cuba, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Iran. Let's be honest about this country and its history. This is absolutely America. This is what America does, and what many of its citizens have voted for. From the first moment Europeans landed here, violence and subjugation have been core to the American project.



Calling for unity and peace, but not for justice. People have a reason and a right to be angry, to protest, and to demand justice from their governments. Neither you nor anyone gets to police anyone else's feelings about seeing their neighbors be kidnapped, abused, and killed.

Focusing on "civil discourse": You (yes you!) are vulnerable to the whims of the government/billionaire class and, therefore, are "working" class and should be on the side of the powerless, the oppressed, the disenfranchised. Speaking in soft tones and using polite language will not get us any closer to liberation. Instead of asking the marginalized to be "civil" while they are murdered, demand the powerful to treat the rest of us like humans. As Assata Shakur told us "nobody in the world, nobody in history, has ever gotten their freedom by appealing to the moral sense of the people who were oppressing them."

I know that people like to believe that their intent is what matters when it comes to words, but it is actually impact that is important. Consider how these simple phrases may indicate your allegiance to white power and hegemony. Consider how they may (continue to) drive wedges between white and non-white communities. Consider how solidarity is so critical, yet so fragile. Consider your relationship to power and how marginalized people may already have some level of distrust because of that. We will win, but we will do so when we honor the breadth of each other's identities and experiences.

Contributed by Ká Hering

Meeting for Worship for Business 15 March 2026

Friends Present: Valeria Breiten, clerk; Andra Hollenbeck, Bill Ashworth, Melody Ashworth, Ken Deveney, Bob Morse, JoAnne Sustrick, Rochelle Webster, Adam Thompson, Herb Rothschild, Ká Hering, David Runkel

First People Acknowledgement: [South Mountain Friends Meeting](#)

Treasurer's Report – Adam reported that we continued to have a large surplus and proposed moving funds to a Rogue Credit Union money market account.

2026-03-1 Approval was given to moving some funds to a Rogue Credit Union money market account with signatories Adam Thompson and Ann Gaffney.

Other Action Items

2026-03-2 With great pleasure, the transfer of Josephine Olson's membership from Albuquerque Monthly Meeting was received. Josephine had been an active member there for 35 years and already, despite health issues, has become a regular attender with our Meeting for Worship and at neighborhood and women's group gatherings. A welcome is being planned.

2026-03-3 Approval was given to the Joint Committee's 2025-26 budget that ends 30 June. The budget projects income of \$24,613; expenses of \$18,457 with a net income of \$6,156.

Announcements and Discussions from Committees

A memorial meeting will be held at 2 pm Saturday 23 May for long-term member Pat Scuitto, who died at the end of last year. Jean Semrau and Fran Curtis are drafting a Memorial Minute with Pat's family, and the Friendship and Hospitality Committee will be coordinating refreshments after.

There was a lengthy discussion of the ideas that came out of a threshing session on holding a Meeting retreat in the fall on our Meeting's values and how we live those values and a listening session with Ashland High School students on their concerns for the future. The ad hoc committee on abundance will follow up on planning the retreat, while Jamie McLeod-Skinner and Bob Morse will advance the idea of a session with high school students.

The potential benefits and drawbacks of moving the first hour presentations from 9 am to 9:30 were discussed and set aside for seasoning.

Approval was given to holding a third worship sharing session on relationships with Native American people on Sunday 12 April.

A proposal from Ká Hering for our Meeting to host a Willamette Quarterly Meeting this fall with an emphasis on Young Adults was discussed. Some reservations were raised about all the Meeting would be required to do, along with some expressions of enthusiasm for the idea. The first step would be to talk with the Quarterly Meeting which schedules meeting dates and locations. Ká agreed to be in contact with the Quarterly clerk.

Peace and Social Concerns Clerk Herb Rothschild asked for suggestions to be emailed to him by the middle of next week for organizations to receive Meeting donations. Two students from the valley, with our support, will be attending Spring Lobbying Days in Washington, DC, this year. He also asked Meeting members to help display "No War" signs in Medford on March 28, the day of a No Kings rally. A session is planned for 29 March to help Friends Committee on National Legislation prioritize issues that will be before the US Congress in the next session.

Bill Ashworth reported on the financial difficulties facing Yearly Meeting which is dipping into reserves to fund current expenses. This could lead to an increase in Meeting assessments. A new treasurer is also being sought.

On behalf of Joint Committee and Building and Grounds, Merlin McDaniel reported that room rental rates are being reviewed and that a spring outdoor work party will be held from 9 am to noon on Saturday 11 April.

Meeting was closed after a period of worshipful silence at 10:10.

Business Meeting to next meet Sunday 19 April. This will be an in-person meeting, but special arrangements will be available through Rochelle Webster for participation via zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Valeria Breiten, Clerk
David Runkel, Interim Recording Clerk

Advice From a Tree

Dear Friend
Stand Tall and Proud
Sink your roots deeply into the Earth
Reflect the light of your true nature
Think long term
Go out on a limb
Remember your place among all living beings
Embrace with joy the changing seasons
For each yields its own abundance
The Energy and Birth of Spring
The Growth and Contentment of Summer
The Wisdom to let go like leaves in the Fall
The Rest and Quiet renewal of Winter
Feel the wind and the sun
And the delight in their presence
Look up at the moon that shines down upon you
And the mystery of the stars at night
Seek nourishment from the good things in life
Simple pleasures
Earth, fresh air, light
Be content with your natural beauty
Drink plenty of water
Let your limbs sway and dance in the breezes
Be flexible
Remember your roots
Enjoy the view!

—Ivan Shamir

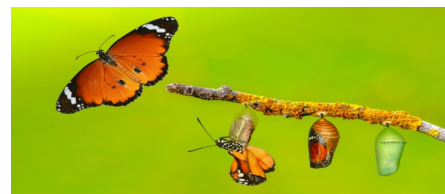
(submitted by Anya Kumara)

Advices and Queries on Witness

Quaker witness results from our practice of integrity. When we speak Truth through both our words and our lives, we provide an example, or witness, to the world about what we believe that Truth to be.

We are glad to tell in words as well as deeds about the Truth and Faith that are in us. We seek fellowship with others of our own faith and with all people, realizing the oneness of humanity under God. Our witness is characterized by humility and a willingness to learn from others. We are constantly reminded that Truth is greater than the knowledge any one of us has of it. God did not put all the fruit on one branch.

Throughout our history Friends have testified that our lives are not meant to conform to the ways of the world but that we are meant to contribute to the transformation of the world through the Light of Truth.



We remain open to new leadings of Spirit, while taking care not to outrun our Guide.

Witness calls us into action.

We follow the witness that we are called to, with a whole heart, understanding that no one person can carry the weight of the whole world.

While we seek affinity with others who share the same concerns, we also seek opportunities to find common ground with those who have differing points of view.

Speak Truth to power with love.

Above all, the Light is visible in each person who is open to it. It is visible in people's passion for justice as well as in their relationships with all around them. It is made manifest in the odd mix of fierceness and gentleness of heart they demonstrate as they go about their day.

—Margery Post Abbott, 2009

How do our lives testify to our convictions as Friends?

What are we doing to share our faith?

How do we speak Truth tenderly, so that others may hear it?

What ways do we find to cooperate with people and groups with whom we share beliefs and concerns?

Do we listen with love and respect to those with whom we disagree?

How do we respect and encourage the witness that arises out of our meetings?

Are we faithful in witnessing to Truth in our community and to the world?

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: [OUR SCHEDULE](#) |
[AshlandQuakers](#)

Officers

Presiding Clerk: Valeria Breiten 480-688-7442
Assistant Clerk: Rochelle Webster 646-5186
Treasurer: Adam Thompson 201-8255
Recording Clerk: Ann Gaffney 603-490-7193
Communications Clerk: Jean Semrau 646-8225 with Kitty Cable (tech support) and Marian Spadone (admin support)
Joint Committee Delegates: Richard Spencer 707-543-6330; Merlin McDaniel 301-6054

Standing Committees

Ministry and Counsel: Andra Hollenbeck 601-6421, David Runkel 210-0031, Jean Semrau 646-8225, Jim Lobsenz 206-399-2782, Valeria Breiten/Rochelle Webster (*ex officio*)

Nominating Committee: Adam Thompson 201-8255

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

***Finance:** Ann Gaffney, Jean Semrau, Adam Thompson (*ex officio*)

***Friendship and Hospitality:** Ká Hering 778-5206, Crystal Bosbach, Cathy McDaniel, JoAnn Sustrick

Welcomers: Andra Hollenbeck, Bob Morse, Tara Jones, Fernando Gapasin, Richard Spencer

All area codes are 541 unless otherwise noted

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

South Mountain Friends Meeting

543 South Mountain Avenue

Ashland, Oregon 97520

Interest Group Contact Persons

***Adult Education:** Bill Ashworth 778-9470
***Applied Improv:** Rochelle Webster 646-5186
***Art Displays:** Becky Hale 601-3084, Marian Spadone 503-252-1624
***Building & Grounds:** Merlin McDaniel 301-6054
***Circle of Light:** Crystal Bosbach 930-4222, Nancy Spear 626-4377-8913
***Free Writing Friends:** Becky Hale 601-3084
***Friends Men's Group:** Ken Deveney 482-2173
***Friends Women's Group:** Althea Godfrey 261-5329
***Meditation on Peace/Love:** Ká Hering 778-5206, Fernando Gapasin 503-917-1286
***Outdoor Worship:** Ká Hering 778-5206
***Racial Concerns:** Bob Morse 482-8449
***Song Circle:** Rochelle Webster 646-5186
***Young Adult Friends:** Hazel Jordan 360-229-5498
***Zoom Support:** Samantha Archer 385-645-1546, Rochelle Webster 646-5186

Other Contact Persons

Librarian: Tara Jones 817-471-5120
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:** Lucy Edwards 941-7539
***Quaker Kin:** Bob Morse 482-8449

**All new and longtime participants welcome*