
Ann Arbor Friends Meeting 1420 Hill Street, Ann Arbor MI 48104 734-761-7435 **January 18, 2026**

Clerk: Karen Connor 734-717-6353 Meeting Website www.annarborfriends.org
Meeting Worker: Luiza Duarte Caetano 734-761-7435
Meeting Closer: Bill Riccobono 734-255-8677
Quaker House Resident Host: Daniel Luzarraga 973-908-2612
For all Meetings for Worship, including Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, the Zoom link is:
<https://tinyurl.com/AAFM-Zoom> (Zoom Meeting ID: 818 7021 4329).

Sunday, January 18 (* = See Announcement)

9:30 Unified Meeting for Worship — Blended
11:00 (time TBA) Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business — Blended

Wednesday, January 21

7:00 What Does it Mean to be Quaker? *
Corner Room & Zoom

Thursday, January 22

10:00 FCNL – Washtenaw Advocacy Group; Corner Room *

Sunday, January 25

9:30 Meeting for Worship — Screen-free
10:30 Common Hour
10:35 Reading & Discussion; Fireplace Room
10:45 CCF Parents' Meeting
11:30 Meeting for Worship — Blended

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

From the Nominating Committee: Just before the holidays, the Nominating Committee mailed and emailed letters asking you to consider your participation in Meeting committees in the 2026-2027 year. We also asked how you would like to be contacted by the committee. Please respond as you can, and let one of us know (Johanna, Thomas, Laura) if you need a copy of the electronic and/or paper letter, or want to respond directly to one of us. Thank you for all that you are doing, and for all that you might consider doing in the future.

New Mailing List: There is now a new mailing list/google group for Friends who participate online (in any capacity) to share community, information, and updates. Everyone in the AAFM community is welcome to participate. To request to be added to the group, go to this link:

<https://groups.google.com/a/annarborfriends.org/g/online-friends/about> and click on "Ask to join group".

If you need any help with the new google group/ mailing list, feel free to email Marni Rachmiel (sfsmarn@gmail.com) or Matt Butler (apooltoswim@gmail.com).

CCF Announcement: Breaking with recent tradition, there **will** be First Day School this coming Sunday regardless of the Meeting for Business. **All children in attendance at the hybrid meeting at 9:30 will be escorted downstairs at 9:45** by Julie who will read a children's book about immigration enforcement and separation before speaking with the group about what's happening in our country and ways we can peacefully work towards peace and justice within our communities.

Because this is a difficult topic no matter the age group, Julie will be letting the children guide the conversation, and she'll be using resources from familyworksseattle.org to help our littlest friends process their thoughts. Children will write letters about their thoughts or draw pictures, and if there's time, we'll compile them into a small book together. **At**

10:30, First Day School will end, and childcare will begin.

Meeting for Walking has ended for the winter. We will resume in March. If you have questions, please contact Naomi at naomig@umich.edu or Nancy and Tom at netaylor324@gmail.com.

Reading and discussion will meet at 10:35am on January 25, 2026, in the Fireplace Room. We will be discussing the role of "certainty" in our lives. We look forward to seeing you there. The reading can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/43yr9wyp>.

Young Adult Friends, YAFs ages 18-35ish meet for dinner on the second Sunday of each month at the home of an older Friend. Last Sunday 17 YAFs came for dinner at Naomi's condo. Austin assisted in-house and food was contributed by Laura L, Bill R, Nancy T, Nancy S, Robin, Kevin and Roomi. Many thanks to all who participated. For information on this and other YAF activities contact Lily at lily.wiest@gmail.com.

What Does it Mean to be Quaker?

Wednesday, January 21; 7:00 p.m. | Corner Room and on Zoom <https://tinyurl.com/AAFM-Zoom>

This is an open discussion for both new and old members to learn and discern together on issues about how Quakerism impacts our spiritual practices and the way we live our lives. For new people, this is a place to ask questions about things that are not immediately obvious about our spiritual community. For other members, it's a place to explore something which has been on your mind or heart, where you wonder how other Friends might help you see clearer.

Friends Committee on National Legislation's Washtenaw Advocacy Team

January 22, 10:00–12:00 | Corner Room

Join the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) Advocacy Team when we meet every month on the fourth Thursday from 10:00 a.m.–noon. Because we have both Ann Arbor and Chelsea members, we toggle between the two locations for meetings. Our purpose is to build relationships with our members of US Congress, and to support bills promoting matters of peace and justice. Sometimes we meet with the staff of our Senators and Representative; more often we make phone calls, or write letters to the members or to newspaper editors. We are amply supported by the large, expert staff in the Washington DC office of FCNL and by other Advocacy Teams in Michigan.

Our elected officials need constituents who will encourage, teach, appreciate, and hold them accountable to work for the common good. Governed by members of the Religious Society of Friends, FCNL acts in faith to create a world free from war, a society with equity and justice for all, a community where every person's potential may be fulfilled

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Force may subdue, but Love gains: And he that forgives first, wins the Lawrel. ~ William Penn

and an earth restored. One current issue is urging congressional members to oppose the transfer of more weapons of war and military support to Israel. Questions? Contact John Gourlay (john@weathervanefarm.net) or Nancy Taylor (netaylor@comcast.net).

Reparative Justice and the People Enslaved by Quakers: **January 27, 2026, 7-8:30 pm**, on Zoom. Join Ann Arbor and LEYM Friends for a session about one of the reparative justice commitments made by our meeting, sponsoring African American student interns. The **339 Manumissions and Beyond Project** grew out of a Quaker's leading to honor the lives of those who had been enslaved by Quakers. We have an opportunity to learn about how that seed is growing into a major reparative genealogy endeavor. Avis Wanda McClinton and Dennis Gregg will share that story and invite us to explore its reparative power, its legacy for American history, and its meaning for Quakers today. JOIN on the regular [Zoom worship link](#) January 27, 2026, 7-8:30 pm EST.

Final Friday Luncheon

Susan Hartman and Lillie and Neil Shadle will again be hosting this gathering, on **January 30th**, this time at the Shadle's. Please join us anytime between 11:00 and 2:00, for a simple meal and good conversation. Address: 5341 McAuley Drive, Apt. 302, Ypsilanti. This is St. Joseph's Village, a retirement center on the Trinity Health campus. Finding it can be difficult, so keep your GPS handy.

AMONG FRIENDS

Temporary home for a couple with a baby at Mott Hospital needed. Natalie Holbrook-Combs, of our AFSC office, is seeking a studio apartment, mother-in-law quarters, or a temporary rental for a young couple whose six-month old son is receiving care here. They are not eligible to stay at the Ronald Macdonald House. The need is for at least three months' stay. Contact Natalie at nholbrookcombs@afsc.org, 734.330.0555 (cell).

Hello! I'm a 45-y/o recent returnee to MI (named Heidi and now in the alt-ac space) seeking a medium- or potentially longer-term housing arrangement someplace (in the Ann Arbor, Ypsi, or Detroit areas) conducive to getting by without a car. I'm extremely flexible [and respectful, quiet, clean, joyful, and a fun (and hopefully funny!) conversationalist if desired] and could envision anything from house-sitting for snowbirds or folks on sabbatical to inhabiting an out-building, apartment, or spare room... and will happily contribute in whatever ways (household tasks, splitting bills, and/or potentially renting) would be necessary and/or appreciated! Please message heidimcg@gmail.com, with much gratitude.

How Does the Bible Speak to Us?

Join a small group of Friends who meet weekly for about 45 minutes. We use the [Friendly Bible Study](#) method which is a uniquely Quaker approach to reading the Bible. We are currently working our way through the gospel of Luke. We meet via the AAFM worship link: <https://tinyurl.com/AAFM-Zoom> on Thursdays at 9:30 am. All are welcome to join. If questions, please contact Bill (billriccobono@gmail.com) or Naomi (naomig@umich.edu)

The Reparative Justice committee has started collection and delivery of items for the 24-7 Outdoor Pantry at Peace House. The box is in the lobby next to the stairs, with a list of needed and accepted items (also a link to the list here: [Needs and Wants list](#)). Friends have volunteered to deliver the food each third Sunday. Bring your food items any time.

Hope Clinic in Ypsilanti is requesting the donation of new can openers. Many of their friends in need benefit from shelf-stable canned goods, which require can openers!

Donations can be dropped off in-person during business hours (9a-4p weekdays, 9a-12p Saturdays), or direct-shipped to Hope Clinic, 518 Harriet St. Ypsilanti, MI 48197. Order [Online & Direct-Ship to Hope](#).

COMMUNITY EVENTS

February 13-15, 2026, the Quaker Hill Conference Center in Richmond, Indiana is hosting a Godly Play/Faith & Play training workshop, "Playing in the Light."

More than a workshop on storytelling or focused only on a particular curriculum, "Playing in the Light" is an opportunity to gather in community and consider how we approach spiritual formation and support for families in our meetings and churches. In addition to demonstrations and practice with Godly Play and Faith & Play stories, the weekend includes presentations/discussions on the spirituality of children, creating spaces that nurture spirit-led learning, adapting Godly Play for Friends, and supporting children and their families in community.

This experiential approach has tools that can be used with other resources, and Friends are also finding ways that the stories can anchor intergenerational worship. Those who have previously attended a training will find they go deeper in their practice. And for some, the weekend is a personal spiritual retreat more than preparation for service to a religious education program. It is a weekend full of stories and welcoming all of us into a bigger story of faith in community. [Flyer available here.](#)

In these times, we need music to encourage each other to stay strong, build community, and act for justice. Come to the next Resistance Songs Sing-Along on **Sunday, February 15**, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. We'll be at the [Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd., Suite 1, Ann Arbor](#). Everyone's welcome to sing along, lead a song, or just clap! Bring songs to share, instruments, and your energy! Kel Anders from AAFM is available to answer questions.