

Ann Arbor Friends Meeting Newsletter

January 2026

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The *Ann Arbor Friends Meeting Newsletter* is published monthly by the Ann Arbor Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

Contents:

Meeting Announcements: 4

Among Friends: 6

Special Messages: 7

Larger Circles of Friends: 9

Community Events: 10



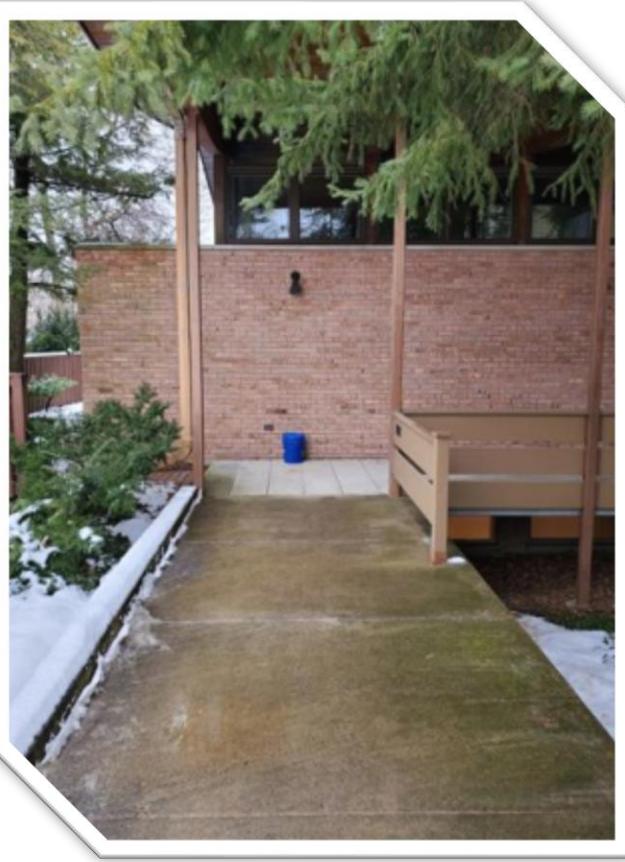
Photo of Walkers courtesy of Naomi Gilbert

To subscribe to the newsletter and weekly handout, email Eric Wozniak at publications@annarborfriends.org.

Please send any entries for the newsletter to Eric at least one week before the end of the month.

Photos by Eric Wozniak unless otherwise noted.

DONATIONS (Tax Deductible): Ann Arbor Friends Meeting relies on donations from members and attenders to cover over 60% of its budget. You can contribute by check via U.S. mail: c/o Treasurer, Ann Arbor Friends Meeting, 1420 Hill St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104. You can also contribute cash or checks in the Contributions Box (on wall next to Meetingroom door) and online at the Meeting's website at: <https://annarborfriends.org/wp/donate/>.



January Meeting for Worship schedule:

- January 4, 11:
 - The 9:30 a.m. Meeting for Worship will be **screen-free**.
 - The 11:30 Meeting for Worship will be **blended** (both in-person and on Zoom).
- January 18:
 - The 9:30 a.m. Meetings for Worship will be held in parallel.
 - The 10:00 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business will be blended.
 - The 12:00 p.m. Meeting for Worship will be blended.
- January 25:
 - The 9:30 a.m. Meeting for Worship will be screen-free.
 - The 11:30 Meeting for Worship will be blended.

AAFM Event Calendar

* = See Meeting announcement for details

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) (* = See announcement).

Thursday, January 1

New Year's Day

6:00 M&C Committee; Zoom

10:30 Common Hour

Singing; Meeting Room *

Finance Committee; Corner Room & Zoom,

<https://meet.google.com/rgc-uhiw-fjp>

Saturday, January 3

2:00 Earthcare Committee; Corner Room & Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8585173612>

Passcode: earthcare

11:30 Meeting for Worship — Blended

6:00 YAF Dinner *

Monday, January 12

7:30 Peace & Social Justice; Zoom

Sunday, January 4

9:30 Meeting for Worship — Screen-free

10:30 Common Hour

Called Business Meeting — Blended

CCF Meeting; QH Living Room

9:30 Meetings for Worship — Parallel

10:00 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business — Blended

12:00 Meeting for Worship — Blended

Wednesday, January 21

7:00 What Does it Mean to be Quaker? *

Corner Room & Zoom

Monday, January 5

10:00 Ad hoc Technology Committee; Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86816485115>

Thursday, January 22

10:00 FCNL – Washtenaw Advocacy Team; *

Corner Room

Wednesday, January 7

5:00 Women's Group Baby Shower; *

Fellowship Room

Sunday, January 25

9:30 Meeting for Worship — Screen-free

7:00 What Does it Mean to be Quaker? *

Corner Room & Zoom

10:30 Common Hour

7:30 Quaker House Committee; Zoom

10:35 Reading & Discussion; Fireplace

Room

10:45 CCF Parents' Meeting

Thursday, January 8

7:00 Membership & Outreach; Zoom

11:30 Meeting for Worship — Blended

Sunday January 11

9:30 Meeting for Worship — Screen-free

6:30 Women's Meeting *

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Message from CCF: We appreciate families' flexibility during this time of experimentation.

Please reach out to Claire Tinkerhess, Julie Cadman-Kim, or Molly Tinkerhess with any questions or feedback about this new schedule.

Nursery care will be available every Sunday from 9:25am-12:45pm

The schedule for the next four weeks looks like this:

9:30-10:30am: First Day School during screen-free worship. Children join worship in the beginning and then attend First Day School.

10:45-11:30am: Common Hour and refreshments (childcare continues through Common Hour).

11:30am-12:30pm: First Day School during hybrid worship. Children join worship in the beginning and then attend First Day School.

Social Saturday and LEYM query

January 3; 5-7:30pm | Meeting Room

Join for fellowship with soup and sandwiches and games. We will discuss the LEYM query (Hybrid meeting in the meeting room with meeting zoom link), break for dinner and socializing, and then reconvene for the summary. Childcare available. Contributions of desserts and salads are welcome but not required.

Query: "How does your Meeting assure that members and attenders receive a solid and well-rounded foundation in the religious thought, experience, the practice of discernment, and the history of Friends? Does your Meeting have an ongoing religious education program? How can the Yearly Meeting assist in this?"

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

There will be a special AAFM women's meeting on **Wednesday January 7**, gathering with Molly Tinkerhess who is expecting a baby in mid-January. All women in the Meeting are invited to come and "shower" Molly with some love and support for her birthing journey. No gifts please.

We will gather in the Fellowship room at 5:15 for a simple supper. Feel free to bring something to add to a salad and sandwich making bar. Then we will move up to the Meetingroom from about 6-7:15 for sharing and singing while meeting attender and henna artist Kel Anders creates a design on Molly's belly.

The regularly scheduled women's meeting will happen on Wednesday January 28 from 6:30-8:00pm.

If you would like to support Molly and Martin Tinkerhess when the baby arrives, you are welcome to sign up on a "meal train" to provide food for their family: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/4gy995>

What Does it Mean to be Quaker?

Wednesdays, **January 7, 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.

Singing

January 11; 10:45 a.m. | Meeting Room

Singing around the Meeting room piano with Peggy and Thomas. 10:45 - 11:25. Bring instruments and play along!

Young Adult Friends, YAFS ages 18-35ish meet for dinner on the second Sunday of each month at the home of an older Friend. The next dinner will be on **January 11** at 6 pm at the home of Naomi Gilbert. For information on this and other YAF activities contact Lily at lily.wiest@gmail.com.

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 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 regular Zoom worship link January 27, 2026, 7-8:30 pm EST (worship link on [AAFM website](#)).

Women's Meeting: Please join us on **Jan 28** at 6:30 pm at the Meeting House for a conversation about how we are taking care of others in the context of meeting, family and other communities, and how we are taking care of ourselves in the face of many choices on how to spend our time. Feel free to bring any craft work you would like to do and share with others while we talk.

Quaker Death Education, a series of events focused on the practical matters surrounding death and dying, will start in February. This series is being hosted by Final Affairs, under the care of Ministry and Council.

These events will be facilitated by Robin and Kate. Robin is an End-of-Life Doula and NEDA-Proficient professional, as well as the President and Co-Founder of the Evergreen End of Life Foundation of Michigan. She has given numerous presentations on end-of-life topics, including legacy projects, the role of an End-of-Life Doula, advance care directives, and other aspects of death and dying. Kate has a long interest in death and dying and experience as a Funeral Services Representative.

All events will be hosted from **3pm–5pm** in the Fellowship Room.

February 7th - End of Life Basics 101 - an introduction to the vocabulary and subjects

April 11th - Quaker Death Cafe - a chance to talk about death and dying with other quakers

June 6th / July 11th - My Five Wishes - understanding and filling out key paperwork

Date TBD - Focus on Considerations for Parents

August 1st - Funeral / planning for after your own death - leaving a simple legacy for loved ones

October 3rd - Life after Death - taking care of things after someone else dies

December 5th - Quaker Death Cafe 2 - a chance to revisit how we feel about death and dying

AMONG FRIENDS

Friends have been notified of the deaths of Nancy and Don Nagler, who died on October 16 (Nancy) and October 21 (Don). They were part of the Ann Arbor meeting in the 1950's. When they moved to Mt. Pleasant, they established the Pine River Friends Meeting (now the Pine River Worship Group) under the care of the Ann Arbor Meeting. They were both active in many activities of the Pine River Meeting and the Green Pastures Quarterly Meeting for many years.

Their obituaries are available at

[Nancy Nagler obituary](https://www.clarkfuneralchapel.com/obituaries/Nancy-D-Nagler?obId=45894911) (<https://www.clarkfuneralchapel.com/obituaries/Nancy-D-Nagler?obId=45894911>)

[Don Nagler obituary](https://www.clarkfuneralchapel.com/obituaries/Donald-Floyd-Nagler?obId=46069677) (<https://www.clarkfuneralchapel.com/obituaries/Donald-Floyd-Nagler?obId=46069677>)

A celebration of their lives will be held in the Mt. Pleasant area in 2026.

Calling all cooks! A group of us under the sponsorship of M&O volunteer to make a home-cooked dish to contribute to the monthly YAF dinners. If you would like to join our group and provide a

dish, perhaps every 2-3 months please email Naomi at naomig@umich.edu. This is a vital part of our nurturing in the Meeting and many hands make light work!

Newer Friends, feel free to check out the [New Quaker Hub](#), a section of the Friends General Conference website geared toward new Friends.

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 a.m.** All are welcome to join. If questions, please contact Bill (billriccobono@gmail.com) or Naomi (naomig@umich.edu)

SPECIAL MESSAGES

Reparative Justice Column

The Reparative Justice Committee invites all Friends to consider the role of reparations in their lives and in the life of our Meeting. To that end, each month we will be offering resources to deepen our understanding of the historical harms which Quakers have perpetrated and/or benefitted from, as well as exploring innovative responses to relationship repair.

To begin the new year, we recommend reading Ta-Nehisi Coates' ground-breaking 2014 article *The Case for Reparations*. Those with a subscription to The Atlantic can read it on their webpage. For others, we have linked the full pdf [here](#).

"Perhaps no number can fully capture the multi-century plunder of black people in America. Perhaps the number is so large that it can't be imagined, let alone calculated and dispensed. But I believe that wrestling publicly with these questions matters as much as—if not more than—the specific answers that might be produced. An America that asks what it owes its most vulnerable citizens is improved and humane. An America that looks away is ignoring not just the sins of the past but the sins of the present and the certain sins of the future. More important than any single check cut to any African American, the payment of reparations would represent America's maturation out of the childhood myth of its innocence into a wisdom worthy of its founders." — Ta-Nehisi Coates

Thanks to everyone who helped with the Rotating Shelter this year. As time goes on it seems there are more men who work and then come to the shelter (it's surprisingly easy to be both employed and homeless in Ann Arbor). In the evenings, we have a large batch of chili along with other things to eat, and we have become known as the "chili church."

I'm attaching the recipe I use for the chili, which maximizes convenience and takes advantage of my proximity to Trader Joe's. It freezes well and is something we have on average once a week, along with some rice and a vegetable.

Here's the recipe in text form:

Shelter Chili

Ingredients

- 2 lbs dried beans (or equivalent canned beans)
- 1 lb ground meat
- 2 large onions
- 1 16 oz jar of Trader Joe's Chunky Salsa or equivalent
- 1 13.75 oz jar of Trader Joe's corn and chile or equivalent
- 1 14.5 oz can of Trader Joe's Diced and Fire Roasted Tomatoes or equivalent
- (tomato paste if needed)
- Ancho chile powder to taste

Instructions

1. Cook dried beans until tender (in an Instant Pot - pressure cook for 40 minutes).
2. Drain off the liquid but hang on to it for now.
3. Brown the meat and the onions.
4. Add the meat, onions, salsa, corn & chile salsa, and diced tomatoes to the pot and stir together.
5. Add some of the reserved liquid from cooking the beans until it's just slightly more liquid than the desired end state. (If it's too liquid, add some tomato paste). You can discard the rest of the liquid from cooking the beans.
6. Heat on the slow cooker setting until ready to serve.

Notes

I get a big order of dried beans from Rancho Gordo once a year - <https://www.ranchogordo.com> - they sell heritage beans from the U.S. and Mexico that give some variety to the chili. I gave the Trader Joe's version of everything because that's what I use. The Corn & Chile salsa adds some spices (coriander seed, mustard seed, crushed red paper, corn, and bell peppers) that work well. I usually use ground pork when I make it at home, but avoid pork when cooking for the shelter since often there are men who don't eat pork.

[The American Friends Service Committee](#) asks you to write your Representative and ask them to cosponsor H.R.3565, the [Block the Bombs Act](#). By introducing this bill, Members of Congress are proactively trying to block the Trump administration from delivering major US weapons to Israel. If enacted into law, this bill would block the following weapons to Israel: BLU-109 bunker busting bombs, MK80 series bombs, GBU-39 small diameter bomb variants, Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAMs), SPICE gliding bomb assemblies, 120mm tank ammunition, and 155mm artillery ammunition, including white phosphorus munitions.

Young Adults Drawn to Quakerism

Many long-time members and attenders of AAFM have been excited over the growing numbers of young people and those with young children who are attending Meeting for Worship.

“Old folks” remember several decades back when First Day School was full of kids who were growing up together in Meeting and who sojourned through their high school years together, at least on Sundays. Some stayed Quakers; others were led in other directions. But their formation, their memories, and sometimes even their friends harken back to their time as a part of a beloved community (to use Quaker jargon).

In order for this to occur, a sense of commitment to the “institution” of Ann Arbor Friends Meeting—to our spiritual community—has to be nurtured. Worshipers need to be drawn to participate in Quaker worship every week, in meeting for business, in common hour fellowship, in potlucks, in getting to know one another through social interactions and mechanisms like Small World Project.

Quakerism may offer seekers and young families what they may be craving in this polarized and contentious time. This transcript (linked below) from public radio in Philadelphia describes this welcome trend.

<https://whyy.org/articles/young-adults-quakers-silent-worship-old-city-philadelphia/>

Ann Arbor Friends Meeting, along with the American Friends Service Committee and a number of other Meetings, is a member of the Apartheid-Free Communities organization. Here are some valuable resources that were shared at the Apartheid-Free Communities Quaker Affinity Group Meeting in June: [Introductory Materials for Apartheid-Free Communities](#). And here is the [Quakers Apartheid-Free Communities webpage](#).

LARGER CIRCLES OF FRIENDS

Gifts and Leadings among Friends

Tuesday, **January 6**, 2026, 7:00 – 8:30pm | Zoom

In this session we will explore the related Quaker concepts of discovering your **Gifts** and following your **Leadings**, in a discussion format that can be repeated in other settings. Hosted by the LEYM Advancement and Outreach Committee, this discussion will be led by Bill Warters (Birmingham Friends Meeting) with assistance from others. A handout will be provided, available via the [webposting](#) about the event. Use this direct [link for Zoom Access](#), or check the LEYM calendar page at <https://leym.org/calendar/>

Nontheist Friends Network Creative Conversations. Please join us on Thursday, **January 8** at 2PM EST for our next conversation. David Parlett will be talking about Samuel Butler as "a nontheist before his time." We look forward to a lively conversation and hope that you will come and add your voice. You may join the conversation by clicking on this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84812726990?pwd=QugCR6EyQVDl0XkyWQMyP1uxrsZdRr.1>

Meeting ID: 848 1272 6990

Passcode: 357556

AFSC Action Hour for Palestine

Via Zoom; **Every Friday at 12:00 p.m.**

Join AFSC staff every Friday at 12:00 p.m. to hear updates from Gaza. Then, take action with us as we contact our elected officials and call for humanitarian access to Gaza. Our elected officials need to keep hearing from us. [Register here](#).

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Peace in Palestine & Israel

Via Zoom; Every **Thursday**, 5:30 p.m.

Join the AFSC to pray for peace in Israel & Palestine. [Register here!](#)

SAVE the DATE: LEYM Annual Sessions in Ashland Ohio

June 18-21, 2026

The 2026 Annual Meeting will be held June 18-21 at Ashland University in Ohio. Our theme: "Finding Hope, Joy and Courage in Community." Our plenary speaker will be Joe Volk, and our bible study leader will be Doug Gwyn.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Voters Not Politicians will be hosting [Writers-Activists Monthly LTE Workshop](#) for people who love to use writing as a form of activism in their local communities, and want to inform as many people as possible about pro-democracy issues affecting Michigan. During this session - **Wednesday, January 14th** - VNP will share strategies for writing Letters to the Editor and other public communications regarding pro-democracy issues including Money Out of Politics and combating voter suppression. There will also be policy discussions on current VNP policy priorities and helpful curated talking points on each policy topic. Each meeting will have updated information on policy and the grassroots media landscape.

Let's Talk About Immigration:

The Public Health Impacts of Increased Immigration Enforcement

Thursday January 15, 2026, 6:00pm-8:00pm

Dexter Township Hall, 6880 Dexter Pinckney Rd., Dexter

Guest Speaker Dr. William Lopez.

Hosted by Trustees Sanders and Abbott

A Professor at the University of Michigan School of Public Health, Dr. Lopez is a local researcher, scholar and community advocate who engaged in community-based research to write two revealing books. His books include, ***Separated: Family and Community in the Aftermath of an Immigration Raid***, and ***Raiding the An American Story of Deportation and Resistance***. Both books are based on the study of immigration raids that have occurred right here in Washtenaw County. He is an engaging speaker, and you are sure to leave with more awareness about the impact of immigration enforcement on the families that are targeted, the effects on our entire community, and what we can do about it.

Voters Not Politicians' Voters Ed Fund is helping voters get civically engaged for the 2026 midterm elections through the [My City Votes](#) Program. Are you...

- Passionate about civic education, especially at the local level?
- Interested in researching city charters and local government policies?
- Looking to lead a volunteer team in one of our My City Votes cities (Benton Harbor, Flint, Saginaw, Muskegon Heights, Oak Park, Pontiac, Warren, or Ypsilanti)?

They are looking for volunteers to join our Volunteer Leadership sub-committee and Research sub-committee. Leadership volunteers will help guide them on what type of civic engagement programming is best for the city. Research volunteers will help develop educational materials including print materials and workshops surrounding municipal government to reach voters in low propensity voting communities. Through local community engagement, they want to expand voter knowledge beyond just

election preparedness to include understanding and engaging their local governments, including grassroots lobbying, participatory budgeting, and local ballot initiatives.

[Please sign up here to sign up to be a My City Votes volunteer researcher, presenter, or volunteer team leader!](#) If you have any additional questions, please reach out to me at alyson@votersnotpoliticians.com.