

543 South Mountain Avenue
Ashland, Oregon 97520
(541) 482-0814

ashlandquakers@gmail.com
www.ashlandquakers.org

(Near Southern Oregon University)

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

First-Hour Activity

9 to 10 am

Discussions via Zoom

First-Hour Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85099502775?pwd=VmgxVFFzVkhYUkhRYkpNYmJ6TGZUdz09>

**FALL BACK:
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS
ENDS ON 7 NOVEMBER**

7 November

Uprooting Racism: Worship
Sharing Exploring Caste (See p. 5)

14 November Spiritual Listening

on Zoom: Reflections Emanating
from Meeting's October Retreat

Rise of Meeting: Outdoor Brown
Bag Lunch; Location TBD

21 November

Meeting for Business (9-10:30 am)

28 November

Adult Education: Quakers and
Conscientious Objection. Convened
by Bill Ashworth. (See p. 7)

Meeting for Worship

11 am to Noon

At Quaker Meeting House
OR

By Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7477317797?pwd=SW1sd3pTZjhlbGRmUWpOY3pZaUFdDz09>

WALKING WORSHIP

(See p. 8)

SOUTH MOUNTAIN FRIENDS MEETING

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Eleventh Month 2021

A World-Wide Community of Friends



In 1937, Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) was formed to help bring Quakers together across theological and cultural diversity. Peace work before and during World War I brought Friends together across the Atlantic, which gave purpose to their continuing connections.

The concept of a world organization to express the sense of world fellowship of Friends arose as an important part of the evolution of the Religious Society of Friends in the first two decades of the twentieth century. This was partly influenced by the 1920 Friends World Conference in London and the Young Friends Gathering in England. At that time, there was no other organization which linked together yearly meetings and other Quaker bodies around the world, and so the vision of an organization arose to keep Friends connected and in touch with each other across the diverse spectrum of the Society.

The primary task of FWCC is to help Friends appreciate and develop unity within the diversity of the Quaker family.

There are differences of language, culture, and tradition, and in the emphasis placed on different aspects of our common Christian and Quaker heritage and witness. Friends worship in a variety of ways, and by increasing understanding of these differences, FWCC helps Friends both deepen and enlarge their own understanding of their faith and life as Quakers.

Five strategic areas of FWCC work:

- Working for the sustainability of all of God's creation
- Addressing spiritual issues of privilege and historical injustice
- Funding Young Adult Friends in their travel and ministry
- Building bridges across Quaker traditions
- Developing greater financial and organizational stability

For more information:
[FWCC](http://www.fwcc.org)

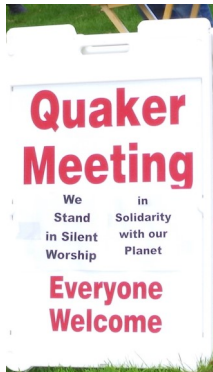
—Bob Morse



Friends World
Committee for
Consultation

Local Faith Communities Join Quaker-Led Climate Action

18 Oct 2021



About 50 participants representing 4 paths of faith and 6 congregations in 3 Rogue Valley cities joined silent worship and offered endearing vocal ministry.



Missing from Quaker Photo: Alex and Javan

Circle of Friends: A Year of Grit and Grace

As the Circle of Friends bereavement support groups for Alameda Fire refugees wind down a year after they began, we reflect on the circles' worth and value. It's been a blessing to have provided a needed service to our neighbors who lost their homes and so much more in the fire.

Facilitators observed that despite how disparate and different the participants were, they bonded so deeply, been so present for one another, and felt free to share what they were feeling with other fire refugees who could hear it without judgment or need to fix or respond with hollow re-assurance. They felt less alone in their grief and fear. Their love, authenticity, and vulnerability have been healing medicine for everyone.



Participants found the South Mountain Friends-initiated Circle of Friends to have been a valuable support:

"It's difficult to express how grateful I am for our grief group. Being with people who truly know the amount of loss and deep pain has been a Godsend."

"I feel closer to the people in this circle than other friends because of how we shared our hearts."

"So grateful for this time together in honesty and integrity"

"It's a safe place to be tender."

"It's easier going through it with all of us."

"Always feel after this group that I've been seen and known in a way I haven't been before."

"Very nourishing to hold each other in this space. I can draw from that."

"Now in the presence of so many heartfelt feelings, to hear you all speak, I find myself resting in a conscious understanding; there's something soft in the landing."

"This group has been one of the greatest gifts from the fire."

One facilitator captured in a word (and a poem) how we three Friends feel toward South Mountain Friends Meeting for all the support and endorsement our circles received: Gratitude.

—Bob, Valeria, and Becky

*Gratitude
for the coordinators, who nurtured an idea, and
brought it to life,
with sincere hope for healing in a time of great
loss.*

*Gratitude
for the ongoing leadership and kind support of
those called to serve.*

*Gratitude
for the co-facilitators who answered the call to
become partners
reaching out, reaching in, reaching around in
connection.*

*Gratitude
for the teachers, giving guidance along the way,
offering time, attention, insight.*

*Gratitude
for my team-mate, bringing compassion,
enthusiasm,*

*experience, and a deep well of wisdom to every
gathering.*

*Gratitude
for the one who brought scattered neighbors
together
creating a virtual gathering of familiar faces.*

*Gratitude
for the generous ones
who arrived with the grief of unspeakable loss,
and delved, with courage, grace, grit, and
honesty.*

*Individuals who gave of themselves,
with kindness and strength, respect and
presence,
speaking and listening from the heart, for the
benefit of all.*

*Gratitude
for the caring connections, deep healing,
tears and laughter. Love. Gratitude.*

A worshipful community is a healing community in which we reveal ourselves without fear, trusting our vulnerability to that Spirit which alone knows our hearts. There is the dialogue of soul with Spirit and the sharing of that with each other. In these ways we lift each other up tenderly. —Shirley Ruth Parks Tweed, 1982

Advices & Queries on “Community”



“Let your life speak” is traditional advice for Friends. The life of a Quaker meeting also speaks: by giving practical support for members and attenders in need; cherishing the children and young people finding their spiritual paths; encouraging, guiding, and eldering Friends with love in discernment or in following leadings; welcoming new seekers; and stepping forth in Spirit-led witness in the wider world. Thus, community acts as a spiritual as well as a practical safety net—a place for communal discernment and for testing leadings within the shared wisdom of the group.

Being part of a community requires us to practice compassion and patience. As members of a community, we pay attention to each other and rely on each other; we consciously nurture our interdependence. It’s not always easy. It’s nevertheless vital to our shared spiritual journey.



The spirit of a Friends community might be described as “the testimonies made visible” through the interactions and mutual care of its members. Creating a community of love, trust, compassion, and forbearance, where differences are respected and every voice is valued,

is important to our witness to the world. The Friends community inspires, nurtures, and supports our concerns for peace, social justice, and environmental action; it is the seedbed from which our actions grow.

How do we foster love, truth, and harmony within our meeting community?

Is our community a shelter where we can grow in the Spirit?

How can our community provide the best combination of safety and challenge to encourage spiritual growth?

How do we as individuals share our gifts with the meeting?

How do we as a community help individual Friends find their own gifts and share them with others?

How do we as individuals support the spiritual health of the meeting?

How do we as a community support the spiritual health of individual members and attenders?

How do we make our meeting a beloved community and a living testimony—for all members and attenders, wherever they are in their own spiritual journeys?

How do we create a radically inclusive culture?

How does our meeting community reflect the Spirit and Truth at the center of our lives?

**In the kindergarten
of the School of
Love that we
attend with one
another in
community,
we can lead one
another by
meeting love with
love. With grace,
we may even be
able to meet
unlove
with love.**

**—Patricia Loring,
1999**



Exploring Caste to Better Understand Race

Uprooting Racism Worship Sharing on Zoom (see link on p. 1)

9 am Sunday 7 November

"Caste is insidious and therefore powerful because it is not hatred; it is not necessarily personal. It is the worn grooves of comforting routines and unthinking expectations, patterns of a social order that have been in place for so long that it looks like the natural order of things."

—Isabel Wilkerson



We will begin our discussion with a **brief video** in which Trevor Noah interviews Isabel Wilkerson, providing an overview of Wilkerson's understanding of caste. In her 2020 book *CASTE*, she identifies eight "pillars of caste," or features of caste systems, which consistently occur in the three caste societies described in her book: India, Nazi Germany, and the United States.

The 8 Pillars of Caste

Divine Will: The belief that social stratification is beyond human control, either divinely ordained or a natural law, as in the Biblical story of the curse of Ham that was used to justify Black inferiority in the US.

Heritability: The belief that social status is acquired at birth and immutable, as codified, for instance, in the US "one-drop rule" that determined Black ancestry.

Endogamy: The prohibition of sex and marriage between castes, as in the former US anti-miscegenation laws.

Purity and Pollution: The belief that the dominant caste is "pure" and must be protected against pollution by the inferior castes, as shown in the segregation of facilities for bathing, eating, education, etc. in the US Jim Crow era.

Occupational Hierarchy: The reservation of the more desirable occupations for the superior castes, as enshrined in US Jim Crow laws that restricted Black people to farm or domestic work.

Dehumanization and Stigma: The denial of individuality and human dignity of lower-caste individuals, as through the various arbitrary punishments and restrictions to which enslaved and free Black people were subject to in the US, down to racist carnival games that made violence and mockery seem mundane and amusing.

Terror and Cruelty: A means of enforcement of the caste system and control of lower-caste people, as through the whippings of slaves or the lynchings of Black people in the US.

Inherent Superiority and Inferiority of castes: The belief that people of one caste are inherently superior to those of other castes, expressed, for example, in restrictions on swimming in the community pool or on overnighting in sundown towns.

"The human meaning of caste for those who live it is power and vulnerability, privilege and oppression, honor and denigration, plenty and want, reward and deprivation, security and anxiety," wrote the preeminent American scholar of caste, Gerald Berreman. He concludes that, "A description of caste which fails to convey this is a travesty."

If you wish to watch the brief video of the interview prior to our 7 Nov worship sharing, click here: [Isabel Wilkerson - Classifying People By Caste | The Daily Social Distancing Show - YouTube](#)

—Bob Morse



Called Business Meeting 3 Oct 21

Friends Present: Bill Ashworth, Melody Ashworth, Beth Aspedon, Crystal Bosbach, Ken Deveney, Andra Hollenbeck, Pam Johnson, Karen Maleski, Jaime McLeod-Skinner, Bob Morse, Jim Phillips, Steve Radcliffe, Alex Reid, Jean Semrau, Adam Thompson, Rochelle Thompson, Mary Ward

Quotations for Reflection “The spirit of worship is essential to that type of business meeting in which the group endeavors to act as a unit...To discover what we really want as compared with what at first, we think we want, we must go below the surface of self-center desires...to will what God wills...To will what we ourselves really want.” —Howard Brinton

“The commitment to searching for unity depends upon mutual trust, implies a willingness to labor and to submit to the leadings of the Spirit, and increases as members grow in Love and in Truth. What do Truth and Love require of us? What is the Divine will for this group at this time? Quaker decision making isn’t compromise, or even a search for consensus. It is a humble acceptance that solutions to our problems are nearby.”
—North Pacific Yearly Meeting’s *Faith & Practice*

Ministry & Counsel: How does the Divine lead us in specifics and logistics during this continuing time of Covid?

Friends expressed concern for the safety of all those taking part in Meeting for Worship and suggested additional safety measures for the Meeting House such as increased ventilation, air filters, and making use of the deck as expanded Meeting space. Safety recommendations will be referred to Building & Grounds and Joint Committee.

Friends also suggested new and safer ways to socialize before and after Worship. The ideas around food and drink will be referred to Friendship & Hospitality and those having to do with worship, such as a “Walking Worship” during winter, will be referred to Ministry & Counsel.

2021.10.1

1. Friends will move forward with care for one another, holding Meetings for Worship in the Meeting House where everyone is welcome. Friends will continue to wear masks, require social distancing in compliance with the state, and use other safeguards as recommended by Building & Grounds and Joint Committee. We trust in each other to search to do what is right to keep each other safe.
2. Friends will continue to offer Zoom as a choice for those who prefer to attend Worship virtually.
3. First hour gatherings will take place on Zoom.
3. A laptop will be purchased for the Meeting to continue providing Zoom access.
4. October 3 will be our last opportunity to gather for Worship in the park unless there are volunteers to clerk the Meeting there, whereupon Worship will continue in the park until the weather becomes inclement. Those so led can pursue outdoor worship options through M&C.

Respectfully submitted,
Andra Hollenbeck, Presiding Clerk
Alex Reid, Recording Clerk

Business Meeting 17 October 21

Friends Present: Bill Ashworth, Melody Ashworth, Terri Brain, Valeria Breiten, Ken Deveney, Maureen Graham, Andra Hollenbeck, Bob Morse, Jim Phillips, Alex Reid, Adam Thompson

Quotations for Reflection “Some people think they are in community, but they are only in proximity. True community requires commitment and openness. It is a willingness to extend yourself to encounter and know the other.”
—David Spangler

“Healing of the Earth is central to all our Quaker concerns. No peace without a planet...No justice without a planet... Those who care about the Earth must feel its woundedness as their own... How can we look our children and grandchildren in the eye unless we do all we can to give them a future? They need to know that we care, and that we tried.”
—Elizabeth Watson in *Faith & Practice*

Minutes

2021.10.2 Friends approved minutes for the 19 September 2021 Meeting for Business with one correction. The beginning of the fifth sentence in the Nominating Committee report should be changed from “Friends reviewed recent recommendations from Nominating and M&C...” to “Friends listed some recommendations made by M&C in the past...”

Treasurer September donations were low but exceeded expenses.

Web Administrator

2021.10.3 Friends support adding the proposed Land Acknowledgement (as revised below) to the home page of the SMFM website and using it as a statement when appropriate. This action is a beginning point for the Meeting to actively support the Land Acknowledgement’s stated goals.



Continued on Page 7

Business Meeting

(Continued from Page 6)

"We respectfully acknowledge that this Meeting gathers in the traditional, sovereign territory of Indigenous Takelma, Latgawa, Shasta and other peoples who have cared for these lands for millennia and continue to do so today. May we honor these original stewards and their rights of self-determination, continue dismantling the systems of oppression that have dispossessed them of their lands, and participate in the care and protection of our shared home."

Meeting Retreat Plans are on track for the weekend of 23-24 October. Friends will explore the topic "How is the Spirit in our Meeting Community?" with retreat leader Jane Snyder.

Friendship & Hospitality will offer snacks and beverages at the October retreat and on Sunday mornings outside on the deck, starting in November.

Peace & Social Concerns and Climate Action
The 17 October Meeting for Worship focused on climate crisis. Friends made signs to bring to silent worship Monday 18 October at noon, outside the Jackson County Courthouse, as part of an international faith-based action guided by GreenFaith to urge political leaders to enact protections immediately for all life on the planet. Friends have been invited to speak on this topic from a Quaker perspective on the Jefferson Exchange Program 25 October.

Library Committee *Friends Journal* is now available online. Several Friends have recently added books to our library shelves.

Ministry & Counsel made an urgent appeal for two more committee members, one of whom would be willing to clerk the committee. After much searching, a recorded minute from the March 1996 Meeting for Business was found that states there are to be six members of M&C. **2021.10.4 Friends request a Meeting volunteer to serve in the temporary position of Archivist to create an index of past minutes that deal with Meeting policies and procedure for future reference** (See sidebar on this page). Those interested in joining M&C or serving as Archivist should inform a member of the Nominating Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Andra Hollenbeck, Presiding Clerk
Alex Reid, Recording Clerk

Quakers and Conscientious Objection

Adult Ed: 9 am Sunday 28 November

Conscientious Objectors (COs) are persons who refuse military conscription for reasons of conscience. Technically, the United States has allowed COs to avoid serving in the army since the era of the Civil War. Practically, the path to this exemption has always been an extremely rocky one. I know this from experience. I am aware of just two current South Mountain Friends who obtained CO exemptions during the Viet Nam War: Merlin McDaniel and myself. A third local Friend, Hazel Ward (known then as Tom), sought exemption but was denied and went underground to avoid service; a past member of this Meeting, Barry Laing, chose the difficult route of requesting CO status while serving in the military, was denied and briefly jailed and spent the remainder of the war in Canada.

Although I had begun attending Friends Meeting, I was not yet a Quaker in September 1967 when I made the difficult decision to give up a safe student deferment and apply to my draft board for classification as 1-O ("One-O": O for Objector). Nor was I a member of either of the two other "historic peace churches" (the Mennonites and the Brethren) for which the CO status was originally created. I was a Congregationalist. It's tempting to claim that this made my application more fraught, except that I know of birthright Friends—my brother-in-law and Hazel among them—whose paths to the 1-O were even harder than mine. My journey was difficult enough, however, and led me to the brink of imprisonment for refusing military service. I will be discussing that journey during first hour on the fourth Sunday of November (Thanksgiving weekend). I'm hoping that Merlin and Hazel will also be present, allowing us to reprise the roles we served together as draft counselors for Rogue Valley youth during the 1970s. —Bill Ashworth

Help Needed: Cataloguing Meeting's Decisions

The Meeting is searching for a temporary archivist to index the minutes of the Meeting for Business as far back as we have records, so that we may avoid disagreements over Meeting policies and/or reinventing the wheel. I will be available to mentor. If you have a leading in this direction, please contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee, listed on the back page of this newsletter.

—Bill Ashworth

Friends Journal

The October 2021 issue of *Friends Journal* is about community—neighbors, equality, protection, and more. Besides our having access to a print copy in the South Mountain Friends library, the magazine is available online:

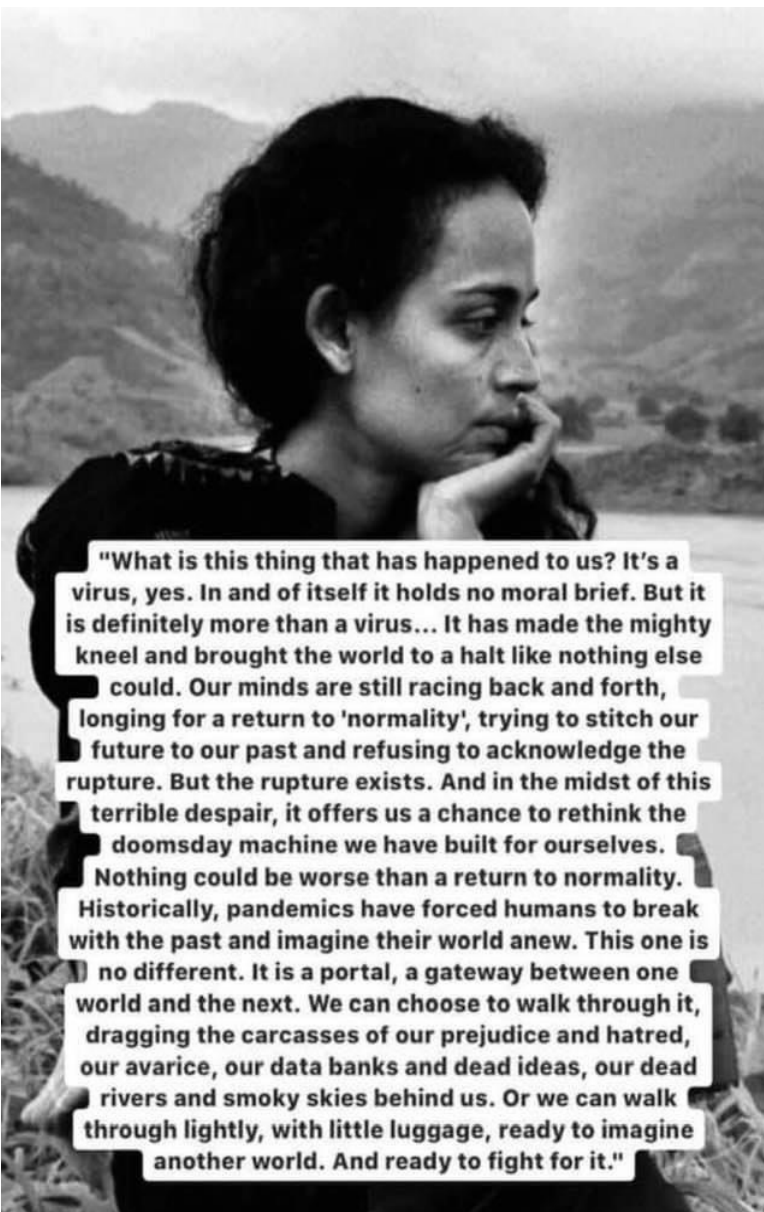


To download the full issue PDF, click here: <https://www.friendsjournal.org/private/FJ-2021-10.PDF>

To read the articles online: <https://www.friendsjournal.org/issue-category/2021/october-2021/>

—Fran Curtis, South Mountain Friends Librarian

May the People Gain Awareness of Their "Under-Understanding"



"What is this thing that has happened to us? It's a virus, yes. In and of itself it holds no moral brief. But it is definitely more than a virus... It has made the mighty kneel and brought the world to a halt like nothing else could. Our minds are still racing back and forth, longing for a return to 'normality', trying to stitch our future to our past and refusing to acknowledge the rupture. But the rupture exists. And in the midst of this terrible despair, it offers us a chance to rethink the doomsday machine we have built for ourselves. Nothing could be worse than a return to normality. Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew. This one is no different. It is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next. We can choose to walk through it, dragging the carcasses of our prejudice and hatred, our avarice, our data banks and dead ideas, our dead rivers and smoky skies behind us. Or we can walk through lightly, with little luggage, ready to imagine another world. And ready to fight for it."

Both Illustrations Contributed by Becky Hale

Walking Worship

Some Meetings have experimented with Walking Worship as a "Covid-Healthy" alternative to in-person meetings. This is simply a group of Friends walking together outdoors, in worship and speaking from that worship either while walking or in an outdoor gathering afterwards. This offers relative security for vaccinated and unvaccinated Friends to worship together. A secure environment can be easily achieved with masks and a bit of social distancing.

The Corvallis Friends Meeting began Walking Worship in March 2020, and they experimented with a variety of formats, most commonly gathering for a one-hour walk followed by vocal sharing and brunch prior to the regularly scheduled Meeting time. In the long run, this proved to be so popular that some Friends, citing the awareness of nature as a positive influence, did not want to come back in after in-person meetings became feasible.

South Mountain Friends Meeting might experiment with Walking Worship for a few months if Friends are interested. All it would take would be someone to take the lead, suggest a route, and invite others to give it a try. If you are interested, please get in touch with someone on M&C, and we will connect you with others who have expressed interest.

—Steve Radcliffe



Yes

It could happen any time, tornado,
earthquake, Armageddon. It could happen.
Or sunshine, love, salvation.

It could you know. That's why we wake
and look out—no guarantees
in this life.

But some bonuses, like morning,
like right now, like noon,
like evening.

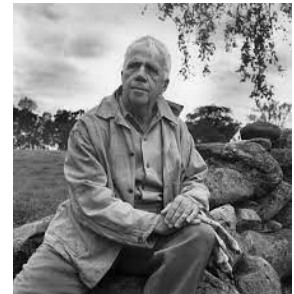
—William Stafford

Contributed by Anya Kumara

A Time To Talk

When a friend calls to
me from the road
And slows his horse to
a meaning walk,
I don't stand still and
look around
On all the hills I haven't
hoed,
And shout from where I
am, What is it?
No, not as there is a
time to talk.
I thrust my hoe in the
mellow ground,
Blade-end up and five
feet tall,
And plod: I go up to the
stone wall
For a friendly visit.

—Robert Frost



For the Quakers by Bianca Bradbury (contributed by Jean Semrau)

Apologies for my poor formatting last month, resulting in not printing the final line of this poem —Ed.

Theirs is the gentle finger on the pulse
of war's old woe.
Persistent, with the clear unrancored eyes
of faith, they go
where disillusion lost the charted way.
Unerringly
they reach across the desperate long miles,
the sullen sea,
and find the thin small fingers in the cold,
and touch, and hold.



MEETING OFFICERS

Clerk: Andra Hollenbeck 601-6421

Recording Clerk: Alex Reid 707-499-9146

Corresponding Clerk: Beth Aspedon 778-1564

Treasurer: Adam Thompson 201-8255

Weekly e-Bulletin Editor: Adam Thompson 201-8255

Newsletter Editor: Bob Morse 482-8449, Sylvie Weaver

Web Administrator: Bob Morse 482-8449

NPYM Coordinating Committee Contact: Sylvie Weaver 717-475-6940

Art Coordinator: Becky Hale 601-3084

Uprooting Racism Coordinator: Bob Morse 482-8449

Experiment with Light: Gizelle Luccio 897-4458

Circle of Light: Crystal Bosbach 930-4222

Joint Committee Representatives: Herb Rothschild 531-2848, Valeria Breiten 480-688-7442

All area codes are 541 unless otherwise noted

Please direct all Meeting-related electronic correspondence to ashlandquakers@gmail.com

*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

MEETING COMMITTEES

Ministry & Counsel: Jim Phillips 482-2388, Steve Radcliffe 479-3487, Melody Ashworth 324-9824, Ken Deveney 488-5506, Clerk *ex officio*

Children's Education & Spirituality: Ken Deveney, Cathy McDaniel, Melody Ashworth

Finance: Jean Semrau, Fran Curtis, Treasurer *ex officio*

Buildings & Grounds: Merlin McDaniel, Raymond Scully, Terri Brain

Nominating: Valeria Breiten, Maureen Graham, Terri Brain

Friendship & Hospitality: Crystal Bosbach, K Hering, Cathy McDaniel

Greeters: Steve Radcliffe, Rochelle Webster, Karen Maleski

Peace & Social Concerns: Herb Rothschild, Ken Deveney, Javan Reid, Elizabeth Hallett, Jim Lobsenz

Library: Fran Curtis, Linda Spencer

Adult Education: K Hering, Jim Lobsenz, Jamie McLeod-Skinner

Homeless Outreach: Alex Reid, Bob Morse, Becky Hale

*Names in **bold** indicate committee convener or clerk*