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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)

3 November Fall Back One Hour: DAYLIGHT SAVINGS ENDS

Winnowing on the Role of Hybrid in our Worship and Business Meetings (see Page 5 for details)

10:15-11 am: Circle of Light

10 November Peace & Social Concerns welcomes ALL to a post-election discussion (See Pg. 5)

17 November

8:30-10 am: Business Meeting

24 November How to Quaker
"Origins: George Fox, Margaret Fell, & the Beginning of the Quaker way."

Hot beverages served to early arriving attendees; light breakfast provided after How To Quaker

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=SW1sd3pTZjhlbGRmUWpOY3pZaUFDdz09>

SOUTH MOUNTAIN FRIENDS MEETING

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Unprogrammed Worship in Ashland, Oregon

Eleventh Month 2024

World-Wide Gathering of Friends Commits to Healing Injustice

To all Friends everywhere, we send loving greetings from the Friends World Committee for Consultation World Plenary, held 5 to 12 August 2024 online and near Johannesburg, South Africa. Our theme is "Living the Spirit of Ubuntu: Responding with Hope to God's Call to Cherish Creation and One Another." *Ubuntu* is a Zulu word that speaks to the power and ceaseless work of the Holy Spirit between us, enabling us to go beyond our individual selves and grasp that "I am because we are."

A local South African Friend shared with us the South African greeting *Sawubona* which means "I see you and not only you, but all who have made you who you are."

We have sought to discern Spirit-led ways forward to honor our commitment to our three interconnected themes: care of creation, the healing of relationships in the light of historic and ongoing injustice, and nurturing Ubuntu. Our past and present reminds us of our capacity to be faithful, courageous changemakers.

Five hundred Quakers from around the world united to determine that Friends should heal historical and ongoing injustice with Reparative and Retrospective Justice:

"We grieve with God for the exponential impact of historical and ongoing injustice. This includes the impact of colonization, forced displacement, slavery, economic exploitation and racism. We are called to disrupt patterns of oppression and division, to acknowledge offenses, to challenge false notions of white supremacy, to repudiate doctrines of discovery, to make amends and to work for reparative and retrospective justice. We are called in our Quaker communities to be patterns and examples, to share gifts and skills, to be brave, to become radically inclusive and to celebrate diversity.

Are we all ready to take up these callings?"

Excerpted: Epistle from the 2024 FWCC World Plenary Meeting





18 South Mountain Friends Marched in the October 2024 SO PRIDE Parade

“Friends have always been especially sensitive to and questioning about the ways in which human beings relate to each other, in a continuing re-examination of their own inner and outer relationships. This consistent component of Quakerism has resulted in the equally consistent and insistent habit Friends have of looking upon and treating all human beings as persons, regardless of age, color, economic status, religion, occupation, [sexual orientation,] or gender.”

—Mary Calderone, 1989



Advices & Queries on Mutual Care

We nurture personal relationships within our Quaker communities by engaging in social and recreational gatherings in addition to our involvement in meetings for worship, business, and committee work. Our needs for love and care, and our response to these needs in others, make up a rich part of our lives. In an exchange truly grounded in love, each of us is both giver and receiver, ready to help and accept help. Neither pride nor fear keeps us from the unconditional love and care of God manifested through others. Let neither comfort nor self-centeredness blind us to our need for others.

We listen to one another with openness of heart and in good faith, aware that greater wisdom than our own is required to meet our human needs. We lift up our hearts to the Source of all wisdom and power.

In what ways do we bring together members and attenders, young and old, in love and community?

*Are we sensitive to each other's personal needs and difficulties?
How do we assist in useful ways?*

Do we visit one another in our homes and keep in touch with distant members?

How do we listen to one another, even beyond words?

How do we provide mutual care while acknowledging our own limitations?

How well are we able to love each other unconditionally?

Fall Outdoor Work Party

9 am – Noon Saturday 23 November

On Saturday 12 October was a successful cleanup effort thanks to Merlin, Raymond, Fran, Ann, and Ká. However, many leaves remain on trees. Thus, we will be raking again in November. Coffee, tea and snacks will be provided. —Ká Hering *Leaves don't fall; trees let go!*

Reflections on our Quaker Booth at the Multicultural Fair



All told, a dozen Friends took turns being present at our booth on a sunny Saturday 28 September

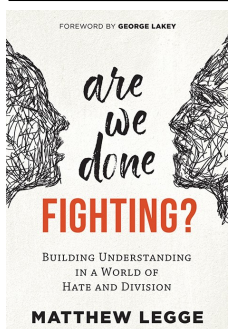
The Multicultural Fair is a warm welcoming inclusive event with over 80 booths! LOTS of people of color! Inclusiveness, playful children, greetings and smiles, music, food, great weather, hanging out with F/friends AND meeting new people—what could be better? Besides, some folks even came to our booth, and they showed interest in and curiosity about Quakers, including a family with three young children.

Ours was an attractive and welcoming booth. South Mountain T-shirts were fantastic. They gave a coordinated look and continued to promote our presence as we walked around viewing how other organizations presented themselves. Our pinwheels were a bit challenging to make, even for adults; perhaps we could borrow from other faith communities such kid-friendly activities as bean-bag throw.



Grandma Melody was grateful that the Meeting organizers' outreach connected her Cave Junction daughter and granddaughter to the activity *(to respond to Spanish-speaking guests coming to our booth)*.

Marybeth's Earth stickers were a big hit: "May I give you the world?"



Based on My Book Are We Done Fighting?

We've worked tips for difficult conversations into a calendar of 1-2 minute videos. One video will be released each week for the next year. You're welcome

to experiment with the tip each week to take your conflict skills to the next level.

You can subscribe to receive the tips by email (<https://QuakerService.ca/Tips>) or find them on our [YouTube](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X](#), or [TikTok](#).

—Matthew Legge, Canadian Friends Service Committee (Contributed by Ká Hering)

Current Community Meals



| ASHLAND COMMUNITY MEALS | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|---|
| DAY | TIME | LOCATION |
| Monday | 4:00 PM | Monday Meals Jackson Wellsprings Entrance |
| | 4:20 PM | Ashland Creek Park |
| | 4:40 PM | Lithia Park Bandshell Mistletoe Road at Tolman Creek Road |
| Tuesday | 4 – 5:30 PM | Uncle Food's Diner Trinity Church Hall |
| Wednesday | 5:00 PM | Potluck on the Plaza |
| Thursday | 3:30 PM | Jobs With Justice Lithia Park Gazebo |
| Friday | 3:30 PM | Jobs with Justice Lithia Park Gazebo |
| Saturday | 12 - 2 PM | BIPOC Sanctuary Public Library (downstairs) |
| Sunday | 5:00 PM | Komack Soup Lithia Park Gazebo |

**Outdoor Worship on
Meeting House's Back Deck
11-11:45 am Sundays**

Powerful Mingling of Quaker Abolitionists, Free Blacks, and Runaway Slaves

Review of *The Kidnapped*

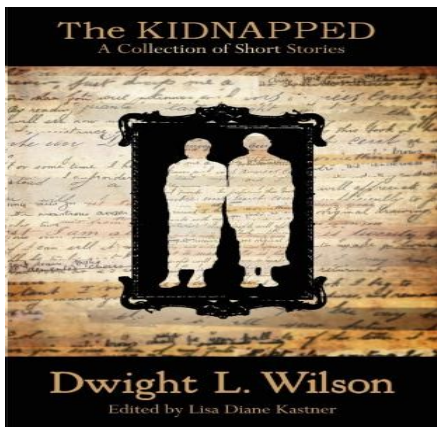
Amidst my wondering what's an appropriate Quaker response to the racism in our valley, the threats to democracy in our land, and the climate crisis on planet Earth, I found myself reading this most engaging Quaker book, *The Kidnapped*.

Although subtitled "a collection of short stories," *The Kidnapped* instead creatively weaves each of these tales into chapters of a consummate historic narrative. Author Dwight L Wilson chooses for his characters a blend of his Quaker and enslaved ancestors, a Who's Who of real-life Quaker abolitionists, and myriad major and minor fictional figures who Wilson brings to life by imbuing them with fitting personalities and blessed agency. Wilson, a former Headmaster of the Friends School in Detroit, is known for his carefully researched historical fiction. We learn from Wilson's writing that his 4th great grandfather was a white Quaker who fell in love with and (illegally) married Wilson's 4th great grandmother, a Black woman who had escaped her earlier enslavement.



For Wilson's 19th Century Quakers living just north of Kentucky in Waynesville, Ohio, the dilemma of institutional racial inequity loomed as overwhelming as Christian Nationalism and Fascism appear to me today. White abolitionists feared Texas's entering the US as a vast territory of slavery, and Blacks, regardless of their "legal" status (married to whites or holding manumission papers), knew that their freedom was precarious and paled compared to the liberties afforded to whites. Likewise, female abolitionists were well aware of their own compromised liberties in a male-dominated society. Interwoven through these tales was an ever-gnawing grief stemming from family members having been ripped apart from one another at the slave-auction block—while simultaneously feeling the loss of culture, language, status, and spirituality that *their* ancestors experienced when *kidnapped* from Africa.

So, what was the source of their hope and the courage underlying their activism?



The veracity of Quaker values was expressed through their plain speech (thee and thou), truth-telling, and frankness as conversations ensued between Black, white, and Indigenous characters. Their courage arose from their steadfast commitment to the Quaker testimonies of equality, peace, integrity, and community. These values and testimonies were forever tested by the presence of slave catchers (mostly white, though some were Black) who *kidnapped* free Blacks and sent them south to become re-enslaved. As well, their Quaker ways were challenged by Indians who failed to acknowledge that some non-Natives lived by a code of nonviolence. Fear and tragedy were commonplace. These "obstacles" simply strengthened the Friends' resolve to improve life for everyone—Blacks, Natives, and whites—even though the results weren't apparent in their lifetimes.

Progress towards social justice ebbs and flows. The persistence and resilience of our collective Quaker forebears give me hope. —Bob Morse

Dwight L Wilson's *The Kidnapped* now resides in our South Mountain Friends library

Quaker Events Open to the Greater Community

Free Writing Friends: 2:30 – 4:30 pm every MONDAY & Song Circle: 6:30 pm 2nd TUESDAYS

Details at [OUR SCHEDULE](#) | [AshlandQuakers](#)

Meeting for Business 20 October 2024

Land Acknowledgement

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.

Friends Present: Adam Thompson, Althea Godfrey, Andra Hollenbeck, Bill Ashworth, Bob Morse, David Runkle, Herb Rothschild, Ká Hering, Karen Maleski, Melody Ashworth, Nancy Spear, Valeria Breiten, Wyatt Banks

Quote & Reflection: *“In the middle of every difficulty lies opportunity”* —Albert Einstein

2024.10.1: Minutes from the 15 September 2024 were approved.

Process Reflection from Ministry & Counsel: Since business meeting is actually worship (with attention to business), let’s allow space after each Friend speaks, patiently allow time for the clerk to recognize and call upon each speaker, and acknowledge the challenges that hybrid meetings place on the clerk.

Treasurer: Adam reported that donations rose this month and that year-to-date income and expenses are relatively even.

Peace & Social Concerns: The local Jefferson Center has invited Herb to speak about Christian nationalism later today at their “salon conversation.” The God & Country discussion/action group has gone on hiatus until after the election. Herb referenced the book *Taking America Back for God*, when quoting that nearly 20% of the populace consider themselves “ambassadors” for Christian nationalism (with implications for the upcoming election). Herb read aloud excerpts from a national peace group’s letter proposing that the Senate deny arms shipments to Israel and urged Friends to write Sen Wyden at US Senate, Washington DC 20210 urging him to support the shipment-denial bill. In response to P&SC’s request for funds for sending students to the FCNL Spring Lobby Days, the treasurer noted that \$1750 has already been budgeted. David reported that Braver Angels continues to hold local gatherings, while facing greater challenges to find opposing-views participants during this election season. Karen suggested that coffee shop discussions be held throughout the Rogue Valley (as opposed to just in Ashland) to increase the chances of diverse views.

2024.10.2 Friends approved Meeting’s signing onto the National Joint Resolution Disapproval letter. Nancy stood aside on this decision.

Friendship & Hospitality: Ká raised awareness that

several Meeting participants are walking challenged, especially in mounting the hill from the SOU parking lot. Bill clarified that our Conditional Use Permit with the City allows for one handicapped-certified car and one non-certified car in our driveway. The weight of the driver’s door impedes easily exiting our cars when parking on the hill outside the Meeting House. Adding a railing along the front path’s concrete step was suggested. Such parking, walking challenges, and hill-climbing concerns were referred to the Ministry & Counsel committee (in consultation with the Joint Committee). In response to insufficient number of greeters, it was suggested that during announcements, Friends share their positive experiences greeting and clarify how greeting is a great opportunity for new comers to be meeting Friends while greeting Friends.

Ministry & Counsel: Committee has discerned Bob as its clerk from now through springtime.

2024.10.3 South Mountain Friends Meeting wholeheartedly approved Karen Maleski’s transfer of membership from Solebury (PA) Friends Meeting, recognizing the many gifts that Karen has already brought to South Mountain.

Ministry & Counsel has discussed some challenges of **hybrid business meetings**, especially for the clerk concerning technological distractions, as well as difficulty seeing everyone and being aware of all those wishing to speak. The committee is aware that there’s pros and cons of the two alternatives—all in-person or all on zoom business meetings.

On Sunday 3 November at 9 am, Friends will WINNOW on the Role of Hybrid in our Worship and Business Meetings.

M&C reminded Friends that after winnowing, if so led, we could “experiment” with a month of “all in person” business meeting and another month of “all on zoom” business meeting.

Calendar: Herb proposed that the **Peace & Social Concerns** committee hold its next monthly “open to all” meeting during first hour (**9 am**) on the **second Sunday in November** so that **Friends might gather and share their post-election hopes and fears.**

Respectfully submitted,
Valeria Breiten, Clerk
Wyatt Banks, Interim 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 & Mary Ellen Gordian 907-570-8859

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; ***Greeters:** Ariel Love, Wyatt Banks, Rochelle Webster, Andra Hollenbeck

*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 488-5506

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

***Library:** A Friend

***Mailchimp:** Peter Orozco 201-699-3948

***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