

543 South Mountain Avenue

Ashland, Oregon 97520

(541) 482-0814

communications@ashlandquakers.org

www.ashlandquakers.org

(Near Southern Oregon University)

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

First-Hour Activity

9 to 10 am

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

2 April Peace/Justice Winning:
On Actions Derived from Minute on
Christian Nationalism—*Details pg 3*

10:30-11 am: Circle of Light

9 April No First-Hour Activity

Rise-of-Meeting:

Soul Food Sunday *Details page 4*

16 April

8:30-10 am: Business Meeting

23 April Quaker Education:
How to Quaker

30 April Peace & Social Concerns:
Feedback from SOU Students who
Attended FCNL Spring Lobby Day

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=SW1sd3pTZjhlb
GRmUWpOY3pZaUFDdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7477317797pwd=SW1sd3pTZjhlbGRmUWpOY3pZaUFDdz09)

Outdoor Worship

Details page 4

SOUTH MOUNTAIN FRIENDS MEETING

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Unprogrammed Worship in Ashland, Oregon

Fourth Month 2023

North American Friends Gather in Oregon

**Sunday 2 July to Saturday 8 July
At Western Oregon University
In Monmouth, Oregon**



FGC
FRIENDS
GENERAL CONFERENCE

Founded in 1900, Friends General Conference, with Divine guidance, nurtures the spiritual vitality of the Religious Society of Friends through providing unprogrammed Quakers and their Meetings with resources and services. Unprogrammed means that worship is based on silent waiting for the Spirit's inspiration

without a pastor or prepared order of worship. FGC aims to articulate, communicate, and exemplify Friends' practices, core experiences, and the call to live and to witness to our faith.

Having come into existence through the merger of several groups of Quakers that periodically convened (such as the Friends Educational Conference), FGC is best known for its "Gathering" of Friends from around the US and Canada during the first week of July. Due to the intricacies of Quaker historic developments, the Gathering rarely takes place on the West Coast. **This is the first time ever that the Gathering will convene in Oregon.**

This year's Gathering carries the timely theme "Listen So That We May Live." During registration, participants select from a range of options and then sign up for weeklong workshops that meet for several hours each morning. Friends choose from various afternoon activities, and they benefit from evening keynotes and entertainers. Meals provide opportunities to informally hobnob with Friends from near and far.

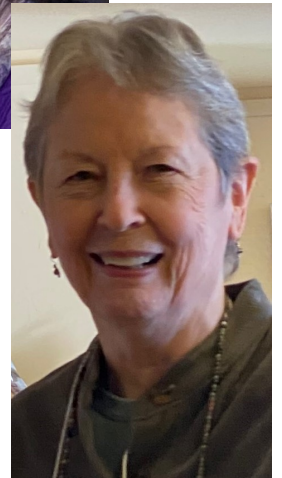
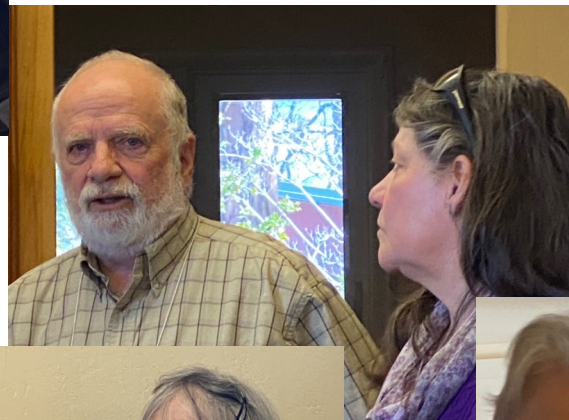
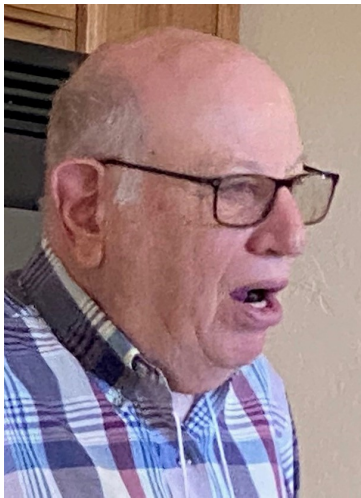
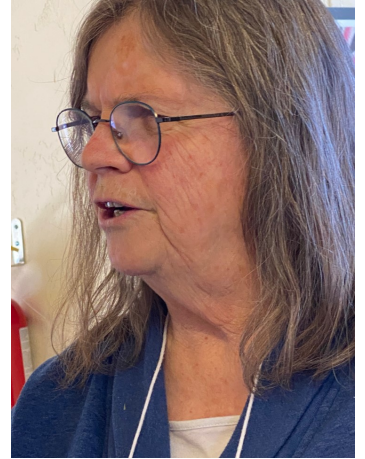
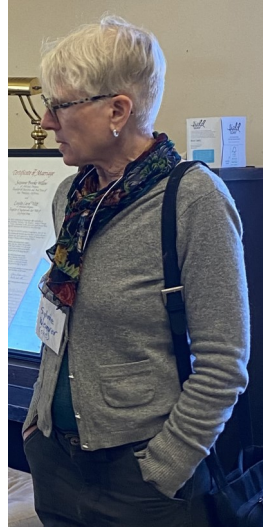
Online registration opens on Monday 3 April, during which Friends select their first and second workshop choice. All who register during the first two weeks of April have equal chances of getting into their preferred workshop; indeed, most participants do. Financial aid is available, especially to those who sign up during this initial registration period.

For Gathering Information (Workshops, Programs, Housing, Meals, Schedule and Registration): <https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcprograms/the-gathering>

Financial Aid: [Financial Aid - Friends General Conference \(fgcquaker.org\)](https://www.fgcquaker.org/financial-aid)

To arrange CARPOOLING and ROOMMATES, contact Crystal Bosbach at Bosbachc@gmail.com —Bob Morse

Coming Together to Remember Lanita



PEACE & SOCIAL CONCERNS

Winnowing on How and to Whom to Disseminate South Mountain's Minute on Christian Nationalism

9 am Sunday 2 April in Person and by Zoom

The 19 March business meeting considered the importance of accompanying this minute with education when disseminating. Herb located this 28-minute video for Friends to watch (before 2 April, if possible) and assess its appropriateness: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ymyAXjc1je4>

As Quakers, we believe that everyone possesses the light of the Spirit, which is how we express what Jews and Christians traditionally meant by asserting that everyone is created in God's image. We also believe that everyone possesses some portion of the truth and that no one possesses total understanding. Still, if a widely held opinion that we regard as mostly erroneous threatens grave harm, we feel called upon to address and oppose it. Such is the case of a cluster of opinions that go under the common name Christian nationalism.

Christian nationalism seeks to merge Christian and American identities. It asserts that the United States was founded as a specifically Christian nation; that it is necessary to be a Christian to be a true American; and that Christianity should be favored and actively supported by the state. A frequent corollary of this ideology is that the United States has been chosen to impose its will on other nations in God's name. Additionally, it often overlaps with, and provides cover for, white supremacy and racial subjugation at home as well as abroad.

We reject all these tenets and implications of Christian nationalism. It distorts both the spirit of our country and of Christianity itself. To be an American does not require adherence to any one religion or to any religion at all. And to adhere to Christianity or any other world religion does not require residence in any one country. People are bound to their countries by their citizenship and to their religions by their faith.



Christians Against Christian Nationalism Statement: Signers Welcome

The organization Christians Against Christian Nationalism believes that "Christian Nationalism threatens our faith and our country." They invite those who identify as Christians to sign their statement which stands up to Christian Nationalism (and which was printed in our January newsletter). After Meeting approved Peace & Social Concerns committee's signing for South Mountain Friends, Herb discovered that only individuals, not faith communities, can sign. Herb signed. If other Friends (who identify as Christian) wish to also sign, follow this link to the group's website: [Christians Against Christian Nationalism](https://www.christiansagainstchristiannationalism.org/). Right under the organization's title are two orange tabs: READ THE STATEMENT and SIGN THE STATEMENT. —Bob Morse

Faith Leaders Say No to Pipeline Expansion



Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, Oregon Interfaith Power & Light, and Washington Interfaith Power & Light are circulating a sign-on letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to oppose a very large expansion of a fracked gas pipeline. The Gas Transmission Northwest Xpress pipeline will run from British Columbia through Washington and Oregon to California. Our Peace & Social Concerns Committee has recommended that our Meeting sign on for the reasons stated in the letter: safety, respect for Indigenous rights, and resisting climate change. Please read the letter and its explanatory introduction [HERE](#) and, if you choose, express your support or opposition to the P&SC Committee's recommendation by emailing me before the April business meeting.

—Herb Rothschild, Clerk, P&SC Committee (herbertrothschild6839@gmail.com)

Soul Food Sunday

Rise of Meeting on 9 April and Subsequent Second Sundays

Sharing Food: We'll supply two different vegan and gluten-free soups as a base for the lunch meal, one of which will be made with people's food sensitivities in mind. You are encouraged to bring a side for yourself or enough to share; please provide a list of ingredients.

Sharing Ourselves: Following lunch, we'll be guided to let our lives speak in small circles, as we deepen community through becoming better acquainted. Queries will focus on "What is growing in the garden of your life, what's being discovered and nurtured, and what no longer feeds the spirit and is falling away?" We can also reflect on how this relates to our Quaker experience. Storytelling circles will be facilitated by Valeria, Mary, and Becky in the worship-sharing tradition. Feel free to bring along your Easter Sunday family/friend guests.

Open Air Worship

4 pm 14 April and Subsequent Second Fridays

At the Shelter Near the Children's Play Area, Blue Heron Park, Phoenix, OR

Martin Kelley, Senior Editor of *Friends Journal*, in the October 2022 issue describes being compelled to exit the Meeting House because of a pre-COVID coughing fit. "I tiptoed out of the Meeting House as quietly as I could and walked outside into the imposing sunlight and noise of a busy downtown. I decided to continue the worship in this state and took a kind of delight in the chaos and movement, giving silent prayers to passersby. Worship without walls was a glorious way to spend a Sunday morning, though, as I recall, I made sure to get back to the Meeting House for coffee hour."

A few pages later in the same issue, Catherine Coggan recounts her time in worship in an assortment of settings. Most satisfying, she learned, was worshipping outside. Catherine expounds upon the many challenges that buildings present—the humming of air conditioning units or the creaking of old wood floors—let alone the energetic and financial costs of maintaining Meeting Houses.

Both authors reflect how outdoor worship raises awareness of being a part of nature, with auditory reminders as the birds and bees sing to the hum of passing traffic. This echoes my own experience of creating a regularly scheduled outside worship group. To me the noise serves as a reminder that we are all connected and that silence differs from stillness. Outside buildings' walls, life resounds with messages. The swaying trees thank me for noticing them. Newly sprouted flowers and freshly grown ground cover fill my visual palette. Things we take for granted become obvious when sitting or strolling among life's green pasture.



Besides joining our Second Friday outdoor worships in Blue Heron Park, I invite Friends to explore holding their Sunday morning worship out on the front or back deck of our Meeting House when weather permits. I leave you with the beauty of this precious song whose words I typically share at the beginning of outdoor worship: [Colors of the Wind - Judy Kuhn - YouTube](#)

—Ká Hering (541-778-5206)

Meeting for Business 19 March 2023

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: Bill Ashworth, Melody Ashworth, Wyatt Banks, Valeria Breiten, Ken Deveney, Ann Gaffney, Andra Hollenbeck, Ariel Love, Bob Morse, Alex Reid, Herb Rothschild, Nancy Spear, Adam Thompson.

Quote & Reflection: "There is always Light. If only we're brave enough to see it. If only we're brave enough to be it."--Amanda Gorman

2023.3.1 Friends approved the 19 February Minutes for Meeting for Worship for Business.

Treasurer's Report: The budget shows a deficit due to Joint Committee donation and purchase of a printer for \$200, late deposits will cover it. Laundry Love funds have been transferred to OHRA so no reports in future. PayPal link for donations does not charge us.

Nominating Committee

Update: The Presiding Clerk announced the one-year appointments of Wyatt Banks, Richard Spencer, Melody Ashworth, Valeria Breiten and Linda Spencer. Andra said this committee is the cornerstone of community building and attention to the health of the Meeting. They will work with Ministry and Counsel Committee to reach out, building confidence in those who could serve as a spiritual practice.

State of Society Report: Andra read the report (see page 9) which will be seasoned for a month.

Joint Committee Report: Bill and Ariel stated the need for an increase in petty cash funds. Overall the financials are better, with rentals in February at \$507 and going up. The property tax owed has been reimbursed by Peace House. Water heater needs service and utilities have increased. Electrifying the house is a priority, with rebates and help from the state assisting with costs. The back fence is being repaired.

2023.3.2 Friends approved an increase in Joint Committee's petty cash fund to \$1000.

Peace & Social Concerns:

Friends are welcome to sign onto the Christians Against Christian Nationalism statement as individuals (see page 3).

2023.3.3 Friends approved the Peace and Social Concerns Minute opposing Christian Nationalism.

Friends discussed actions to support this minute, such as communicating with other religious organizations in Jackson and Josephine counties, and offering education. There will be a winnowing session on First Sunday

in April on this topic (see page 3).

Friends are seasoning a request to sign onto a letter to FERC opposing the expansion of an existing pipeline (see page 3).

Friends' sponsorship of SOU students to FCNL Spring Lobby Days needs funds for support.

Ministry & Counsel: Bob reported that the next Soul Food Sunday will be 9 April, Easter. Friends have responded positively to these socials in building community and welcoming new folks.

Friends General Conference

(FGC): Bob encouraged Friends to consider attending FGC, and Bill added that both FGC and NPYM gatherings will be meeting in Monmouth, OR, back-to-back this summer. Scholarships and financial assistance are available (see pg 1)

Placement of Piano: Friends discussed the advantage of having the piano on rollers so it could be moved to and from the Meeting Room and kitchen. This could increase the possibility of room rentals. Bill Ashworth offered his assistance in managing the move.

Respectfully submitted,
Andra Hollenbeck, Presiding Clerk
Nancy Spear, Recording Clerk

Youth Climate Walkout

10 March 2023

Youth Focus:

Electrification



Among the adults present in support of the articulate and determined Ashland High and Middle School students was a small but mighty Quaker contingent.

Getting to Know Javan Reid

This interview is one of many to come, as we focus on the wisdom, spiritual life, and rich experience of our fellow South Mountain participants.



Javan and Alex Reid have inspired and gifted South Mountain Friends Meeting with their wisdom and participation for over five years. Javan came with a Presbyterian background and education in Philosophical Theology, or Process Theology. He describes this as a wholistic presence with nature and community. His focus has always been on fellowship, making people feel safe, and treating spiritual matters delicately. He never taught of hell and damnation but rather to follow the Spirit by participating and contributing to community.

Javan grew up in a big family in a small town in North Carolina, with roots in Scottish and Cherokee heritage. He worked as a campus minister in several colleges and universities, always very involved in community organizing. He helped coordinate student efforts and teach-ins against the war in Vietnam and the US obstruction in South America, as well as the need for housing for the poor.

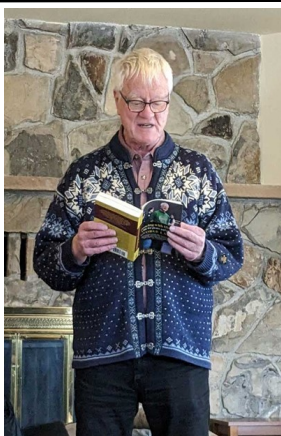
In 1980, Javan began working with the Hupa Tribe at their Presbyterian Church. In 1985, he moved to Humboldt coast where he ministered with a joint church of Lutherans and Presbyterians. In such work, Javan always supported tribal ceremonies and customs. The church grew by his bringing people together, celebrating with lots of parties, and advocating consensus-building and community action. Church elders and Tribal elders worked together as equals.

When asked about what wisdom he'd like to pass on, he advised the importance of following the Spirit, participating and contributing to the community. Javan is currently on the Peace and Social Concerns committee and would like to see our Meeting focus on advocacy and community-building regarding freedom and social, political, environmental, and human rights. His experience has taught him that the community grows strong when asking "What can we do together to make a difference?" Working and playing together and circling up to together study the issues and take action builds relationships.



Our conversation led to wondering what our Meeting can do about the white supremacy agitation in Idaho and what advocacy efforts could unite our work together. The idea arose of arranging an afternoon retreat to focus, hold our intentions in the silence, and clarify our call to action. Javan and Alex have much experience in generating and manifesting successful social change.

Friends are encouraged to share their concerns and leadings with such committees as Peace & Social Concerns or Ministry & Counsel or directly with Javan. —Becky Hale



Missed George Lakey's Visit to Ashland?

Quaker George Lakey, renowned nonviolent activist and educator, spoke in Ashland 7 March 23 on a national book tour. To read Herb Rothschild's Ashland.news article on George's afternoon talk at our Meeting House, click [HERE](#). To watch George's talk that evening at the Ashland UCC Church, click [George Lakey in Ashland March 7, 2023 - YouTube](#).

A book review of George's memoir *Dancing with History* is available at progressive.org. Peace House has several copies available for sale at their office.

Collated by Peace House; Photo by Deborah Rothschild

The New Colossus

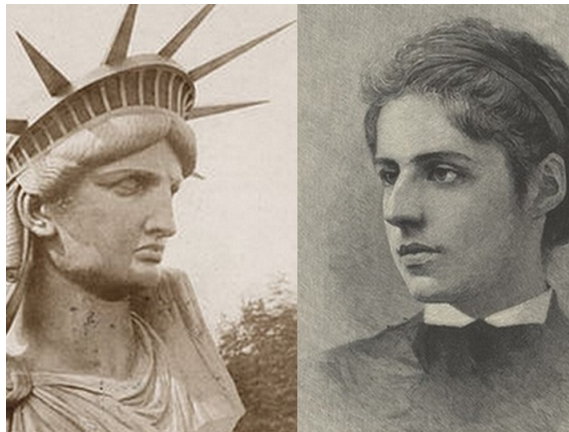
(These words appear on a bronze plaque which was placed on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty in 1903)

**Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles.**

**From her beacon-hand
Glow world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.**

**“Keep, ancient lands, your storied pomp!” cries she
With silent lips. “Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”**

—Emma Lazarus (written in 1883)



“This poem has become synonymous with the Statue of Liberty, [especially the lines]: ‘Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.’ [Also in this poem], Lazarus names the statue ‘Mother of Exiles.’

Sadly, a more accurate description of how we treat some immigrants these days would be ‘exiler of mothers.’”

—Robert Weissman, President of Public Citizen

Advices & Queries on Stewardship of Money & Other Resources

We seek a sound relationship to money and other resources, making decisions that reflect our testimonies of integrity, simplicity, equality, peace, and care for creation.

Our household and meeting spending plans are evidence of what is important in our lives.

We pay a fair wage to our employees and offer comparable pay for comparable work.

We refrain from hazardous speculation or participation in business matters that may be ethically suspect. We seek to invest our money and time in ventures that are planned to benefit the social or environmental good as well as to provide a fair rate of return.

Obsession with the things we have is a sickness. So also are envy and helplessness when we feel we haven't enough. Whatever our state of economic affairs, gratitude for what we have helps to prevent worries over losing it or resentment of others who live differently.

We accept our gifts and recognize with profound gratitude any opportunities to share them generously. We embrace and uphold Friends commitment to improving the human condition with all available gifts.

As Friends, we examine our decisions about money and other assets, and look in them for the seeds of war, injustice, and environmental damage.

How do we use our time, talents, and material possessions to reflect that they are gifts from God?

As individuals and as a meeting community, how do we show that we are stewards and not just owners of the property and resources in our care?

How does the Spirit guide us in our relationship to money?

How do our choices reflect the working of Truth and Love in our lives and in the world?

How do we avoid judging others, and ourselves, by worldly criteria of wealth or status?

How do we answer to that of God in those who have less than we do? in those who have more than we do?

How do we use the gifts we are given in ways that build community and bring us closer to the Source and Center?

What is our "fair share"? How do our social and economic choices help or harm our vulnerable neighbor—human and non-human? Can we identify "the seeds of war" in our choices?



[F]inancial stewardship in harmony with the testimonies is as much a part of our spiritual life and journey as prayer and meditation.

Our efforts to live simply and reject superfluous consumption of material goods should not be equated with a superficial belief that money is inherently "bad" or at best a necessary evil that should be ignored.

By ignoring finances and not exercising thoughtful stewardship, we risk allowing money to have more control over our lives

rather than less. ...

What does our spending, especially our contributions to our monthly and yearly meetings, Friends organizations, or other charities, say about what is important to us?

—Connie Brooks, 2009



South Mountain Friends Meeting

State of Society Report 2022-2023

South Mountain Friends Meeting is a consistent Meeting of approximately 40 local people and about 20 attending Meeting for Worship each week. Emerging from the restrictions of the pandemic, our meeting has experienced a year of reflection and rejuvenation. We find ourselves experiencing a new energy.

Meeting Worship and Organization

Through a series of spiritual listening sessions, worship sharing and threshing sessions, we developed a fresh approach to our Meeting that has brought new found joy. We began by formulating an Ad Hoc Nominating Committee charged with finding ways to rethink our Meeting structure, rebuild our community and deepen our personal and spiritual connections.

Our Ad Hoc Nominating Committee simplified our committees to just Ministry & Counsel, Finance, Peace & Social Concerns, Friendship & Hospitality, and Joint Ownership Committee (see below) with officers Presiding Clerk, Communications Clerk, Treasurer, and Recording Clerk. The other committees have become what we call interest groups with people self-selecting where their leading directs them.

The Ad Hoc Nominating Committee also began small neighborhood groups that gather to share socially and spiritually and as a way for us to get to know each other better. These groups have brought new connections and delight to our Meeting. This Ad Hoc Nominating Committee also secured a refreshed and engaged Ministry & Counsel who have started monthly soup potlucks and various community-building activities.

Our Meeting continues to utilize our technology to hold “hybrid” meetings that allow friends from afar and those not able to travel to Meeting to worship with us.

To extend our Meeting’s practice of holding people in the Light, South Mountaineers volunteer to hold people in the Light throughout the month and gather monthly in a Circle of Light meeting. One longtime Quaker and member of our Meeting is also holding a monthly education meeting called *How to Quaker* to review some history and basics of being a Quaker.

We lost one longtime member this year and held a memorial meeting. We also have two elders currently in hospice.

Peace and Social Concerns

Our Peace and Social Concerns Committee continues work on several endeavors. They have organized sponsorship for two Southern Oregon University students to attend FCNL’s Spring Lobby Days 2023. A large group of us marched in our local Pride Parade. We continue to provide reparations through financial support of a local Black-led organization called Black Alliance and Social Empowerment (BASE) and are hoping for further involvement. We held an informational session on the influx of Christian Nationalism to a rural community and decided to sign on to the Christians Against Christian Nationalism statement, as well as crafting our own minute denouncing the premise of the Christian Nationalists.

Money and Property

The joint ownership of our building in Ashland, Oregon, with the Peace House, a local values-aligned organization, continues to work well. Our finances have returned to healthy levels with our joint efforts to rent out the building to community groups. This helps with our financial responsibilities for the building.

Coming out of the pandemic brought challenges, and we have found ways to turn these challenges into opportunities for a new sense of community and energy. We are enjoying our quest for joy in the Spirit. —Andra Hollenbeck, Clerk, South Mountain Friends Meeting

Officers

Presiding Clerk: Andra Hollenbeck 601-6421
Treasurer: Adam Thompson 201-8255
Recording Clerk: Wyatt Banks 404-502-9523
Communications Clerk: Jean Semrau 488-6855
Joint Committee Delegates: Ariel Love 925-212-2118;
Bill Ashworth 778-9470

Standing Committees

Ministry and Counsel: Cathy McDaniel 770-3318,
David Runkel 210-0031, Rochelle Webster 646-5186,
Becky Hale 601-3084, Bob Morse 482-8849, Crystal
Bosbach 930-4222, Andra Hollenbeck (*ex officio*)

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

***Finance:** Fran Curtis 482-1095, Adam Thompson
(*ex officio*)

***Friendship and Hospitality:** Crystal Bosbach
930-4222, Ká Hering, Karen Maleski, Cathy McDaniel

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

*All area codes are 541 unless otherwise noted
* = new and longtime participants welcome*

Interest Group Contact Persons

***Adult Education:** Bill Ashworth 778-9470
***Art Displays:** Becky Hale 601-3084
***Building & Grounds:** Merlin McDaniel 770-3318
***Child Care:** Ken Deveney 488-5506
***Circle of Light:** Crystal Bosbach 930-4222
***Free Writing Friends:** Becky Hale 601-3084
***Library:** Fran Curtis 482-1095
***Men's Group:** Ken Deveney 488-5506
***Neighbors in Need:** Alex Reid 707-499-9146
***Outdoor Worship:** Ká Hering 778-5206
***Racial/Climate Concerns:** Bob Morse 482-8449
***Tech Support:** Valeria Breiten 480-688-7442

Other Contact Persons

Interfaith Ministries: Gizelle Luccio 944-0748
Newsletter: Bob Morse 482-8449
NPYM Coordinating Committee: POSITION OPEN
(*meetings are quarterly, on Zoom*)
Web Site Administration: Bob Morse 482-8449

Small Local Groups

***Dancing Bears group:** Valeria Breiten 480-688-7442
***Outliers group:** Pam Johnson 535-1940 & Becky Hale
601-3084
***Quaker Neighbors:** Jean Semrau 646-8225
***Late Afternoon group:** Ken Deveney 488-5506

South Mountain Friends Meeting

543 South Mountain Avenue

Ashland, Oregon 97520