



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

Spirit-Based Discussions
Hybrid: Both In-Person
and via Zoom at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7477317797?pwd=SW1sd3pTZjhlbGRmUWpOY3pZaUFDdz09>

4 December

No First-Hour Activity

11 December

Winnowing Session on Committee Structure (details on page 3)

Rise-of-Meeting: Simple Meal
(details on page 3)

18 December

Meeting for Business (8:30-10 am)

25 December

No First-Hour Activity

Meeting for Worship

11 am to Noon

Hybrid: Both at the
Quaker Meeting House
and by Zoom at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7477317797?pwd=SW1sd3pTZjhlbGRmUWpOY3pZaUFDdz09>

SOUTH MOUNTAIN FRIENDS MEETING

THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

Unprogrammed Worship in Ashland, Oregon

Twelfth Month 2022

Ashland Food Project

Sharing Food/Building Community



The Ashland Food Project began nearly a decade and a half ago with one man, his twin sons, and a red wagon, collecting non-perishable items for the Ashland Emergency Food Bank. Soon, this evolved into a simple, door-to-door food-collection system that enables neighbors to join together to combat hunger in the Ashland/Talent area, a system that has proven so successful that it's been replicated throughout the region and beyond.

Food donors sign up at [Ashland Food Project - Sharing Food, Building Community](#) to get assigned to a neighborhood

coordinator who provides the donor with a green bag. Donors need only purchase one or two items per week and store them in the bag. On the second Saturday of each even month, donors place their full bags outside their front door so that neighborhood coordinators can collect them and leave behind an empty green bag. The coordinators deliver all the bags to the Ashland Emergency Food Bank where volunteers are on hand to unload the cars, empty the bags, and sort the food.



Friend Ken Deveney has arranged for our Quaker Meeting House to be a food donor site. Friends are encouraged to fill the green-bag basket in the foyer. The next pick up will be Saturday 10 December (making Sunday 4 December an excellent day to contribute).

All non-perishable items are accepted. These items are most needed: Almond or rice milk, canned fruit or tomatoes or ravioli, cooking oil, pasta, pork and beans, tuna, tofu, broth, cereal. Special items for holiday boxes include: Cranberry, olives, stuffing, cornbread mix, canned gravy, green beans, yams, gloves, socks, scarves.

—Bob Morse

Advices & Queries on Mutual Care

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?



“Compassion is not a relationship between a healer and the wounded. It's a relationship between equals. Only when we can know our own darkness well can we know the darkness of others. Compassion becomes real when we recognize our shared humanity.”

—Pema Chodron

There Is A Spirit Which I Feel

Can I, imprisoned, body-bounded, touch
The starry robe of God, and from my soul,
My tiny Part, reach forth to his great Whole,
And spread my Little to the infinite Much,
When Truth forever slips from out my clutch,
And what I take indeed, I do but dole
In cupfuls from a rimless ocean-bowl
That holds a million million million such?

And yet, some Thing that moves among the stars,
And holds the cosmos in a web of law,
Moves too in me: a hunger, a quick thaw
Of soul that liquefies the ancient bars,
As I, a member of creation, sing
The burning oneness binding everything.

—Kenneth Boulding, 1945



This poem is from a small book of sonnets by Quaker Kenneth Boulding which he based on the last words of the 17th century “fiery Quaker” preacher James Nayler, who spoke them two hours before his death in 1660.

Winnowing Session on Committee Structure

First Hour: 9 am Sunday 11 December (Hybrid: In-person & zoom)

Last spring, we noticed a lack of inclination among Friends to populate our committees. Such groups have traditionally provided the space in which Quakers share concerns, discern leadings, and make decisions under the guidance of Spirit. Subsequent threshing and winnowing sessions revealed a collective sense of our Meeting's lack of joy and Spirit. Out of such discussions, as well as conversations taking place among the ad hoc nominating committee, arose possible ways to simplify discernment and utilize Quaker process that's more inclusive, inviting, and fun. One idea is to create five umbrella groups under which various committees could gather: 1) Ministry & Counsel, 2) Legal & Financial Concerns, 3) Outreach & Peace/Social Action in the Community, 4) Communication & Technology, 5) Friends Education. We'd like to use the winnowing session in December to further discern how we should configure our committees and invite you to attend the First Hour to together find a way forward. —Andra Hollenbeck



Shared Simple Meal

Rise-of-Meeting (about 12:15 pm) Sunday 11 December

In the spirit of Quakers to celebrate the many holiday traditions happening in December, Friendship & Hospitality invites YOU to a Simple Meal—Two Different Soups! Both will be vegan, gluten-free, and yummy. My soup will differ from Ká's in that I will attend to all food intolerances. I'm already aware of such sensitivities to bay leaves, onion, cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, and gluten. **Please let me know of other vegetables, herbs, or spices that you avoid.** To complement the meal, please bring your own brown-bag lunch or food to share with others (gluten-free bread/crackers, cheese, hummus, etc.). May we together exchange food, friendship, and joy!

—Crystal Bosbach (bosbachc@gmail.com)

Outside Ministry

Two Events:

4 pm Friday 9 December Outside Worship/Discussion
Thursday 29 December – Monday 2 January Retreat

4 pm Friday 9 December * Outside Worship * Blue Heron Park, Phoenix, OR

We will meet at the large willow tree closest to the playground, or, in the case of rain, under the nearby shelter. We'll bring our own chairs. I will explain author Victoria Looz's term "Wild Church," then read a nature-based piece of prose or poetry. During the subsequent 45 minutes of silence, we'll sit or, if led, wander. Following the silence, there'll be time for (optional) sharing. After the hour, we may choose to continue fellowship at a close-by restaurant.

Thu 29 Dec – Mon 2 Jan * Retreat at Camp Latgawa * An Hour from Medford or Ashland

This United Methodist camp recently came under new management whose stated goal is to welcome different groups and families. Accommodations are dorm-style rooms where we bring our own bedding. If everyone's okay sharing two to a room, there's a comfy building that houses twelve adults. There is no penalty for single occupancy. The cost for housing and two meals a day (breakfast and dinner) is \$50 per day. Food allergies and preferences are accommodated. An upfront deposit of \$50 is required, with the remainder being due upon arrival. Checks are preferred. By 27 December, I will need to receive your deposit and be informed of the number of days you plan to attend. There will be a registration form to be completed. The address of the camp for inputting your GPS: 13250 S Fork Little Butte Creek Rd, Eagle Point.

As an extension of my developing outside ministry, there will be silent mornings with outside time encouraged. We will gather each afternoon to share what has arisen within us. After a 6 pm-ish dinner, there will be quiet (but not necessarily silent) activities such as puzzles, games, and fire-gazing by the large fireplace. Alone, personal retreat time is also supported. I envision a song circle on New Year's Eve.

—Ká Hering, 541-778-5206 or kathleen4bees@gmail.com



Unpacking the Confusion about Quakers

There's a lot of confusion about who Quakers are and who we aren't. We are not Amish or Mennonite. There may be some Quakers who don't have electricity, but the vast majority of us cook, surf the internet, light our homes, and watch TV the same way non-Quakers do. "[Are Quakers Amish](#)" is a YouTube video, less than five-minutes long, that explains both historical and present differences between the Amish and Friends. Among the Amish, women have no positions of leadership and hold no authority in the church. From the very beginning, Quakers have viewed men and women as equals. In fact, because women were reluctant to speak up back in the 1600's, men and women met separately both for worship and for business. Once women found their voices, the dual meetings were reunited.

The man on the Quaker Oats box lived a whole long time ago when a lot of people dressed that way. In Quaker circles folks hung onto that style longer than most, but, now, we each choose our own style. That runs the gamut from T-shirts to suits. We do tend to lean toward the casual side of dress. It's simpler, and simplicity is one of our testimonies. A lot of us dress more for comfort than for style. And some of us have a style all our own. We accept everyone in whatever clothing suits their personality, their budget, and their comfort. In meeting, there's room for all of us. You might want to leave any noisy jewelry and your favorite scent at home, however. We won't make you leave, but you will notice immediately how distracting it is as we quiet ourselves in worship.



As for children, that's the kind of distraction all of us love. Noises and outbursts from babies and small children are signs of life. As they grow, children learn to listen to Spirit as the adults do. Quakers are not ageist. Spirit speaks to people of every age, and a child who feels Spirit-led to speak is listened to with reverence. Each family makes its own decisions about their children. We have childcare arrangements.

And now a word about what Quakers aren't—cults. A cult has a charismatic leader who must be obeyed, a hierarchical structure, top-down decisions that are imposed on the rank and file, and members who are told with whom they may associate. And then there's Quakerism.

We call the person who facilitates our meetings a clerk. This position comes with not one shred of power and precisely zero monetary compensation. The clerk is a servant to the meeting who volunteers for the post because s/he is respected enough to be asked. In unprogrammed Meetings such as [South Mountain] Friends, there is no hired minister. Instead, we are all charged with ministering, not only to each other but to the wider world as well. In our non-hierarchical system, each person is as important and empowered as every other.

Each local Meeting (called a Monthly Meeting because we handle business matters once a month) makes its own decisions as a group. We hear everyone's point of view, continually turning the process over to Spirit, allowing divine assistance as we seek solutions with which everyone resonates. Having a leader to dictate would be easier sometimes, but it isn't our way. There is no voting; our process is one of patiently allowing Spirit to guide us toward unity.

We do have larger groups called Yearly Meetings (guess how often they meet) that handle business matters for the group of Monthly Meetings they serve. But we have no mechanism for the Yearly Meetings to impose any decision on the smaller groups. The only way any change can be considered by the Yearly Meeting is for it to be presented by one or more Monthly Meetings. Even then, the Yearly Meeting cannot act until every Monthly Meeting has had the opportunity to hear about, consider and decide for themselves. It's very grass-roots. It can also be messy and frustrating, sometimes taking a very long time. But when we do make a decision, no one's views has been pushed aside, and there's no minority faction that feels like they lost.

We value family highly and work to promote harmony. We do not impose a definition of family or tell anybody who to love. We have no process of shunning; in fact, we work on reconciliation between individuals, families, communities, and nations. William Penn said, "Let us then try what love will do," and we attempt to follow his suggestion.

—Borrowed in part from the Chattanooga Friends Meeting website (Submitted by Gizelle Luccio)

Called & Scheduled Meetings for Business 13 & 20 Nov 22

Land Acknowledgement: This Meeting gathers in the traditional, sovereign territory of Indigenous Takelma, Latgawa, Shasta and other peoples.

CALLED BUS MEETING 11/13/22

Friends Present: Bill Ashworth, Melody Ashworth, Wyatt Banks, Crystal Bosbach, Fran Curtis, Ken Deveney, Becky Hale, Andra Hollenbeck, Pam Johnson, Ariel Love, Karen Maleski, Cathy McDaniel, Bob Morse, Steve Radcliffe, Alex Reid, Jean Semrau, Nancy Spear.

Quote & Reflection: "Trouble of soul can teach us things that raptures never could—not only patience and perseverance, but humility and sympathy with others." —Edward Grubb, Quaker Peace Activist 1854 -1939

2022.11.1 Friends approved the minutes for the 16 October Meeting for Worship for Business.

2022.11.2 Friends, having seasoned the nomination, approved with gratitude the appointment of Adam Thompson to Joint Committee for a one year term.

2022.11.3 Friends approved for seasoning the nomination of Crystal Bosbach, Becky Hale, Cathy McDaniel, Bob Morse, David Runkel, and Rochelle Webster to the Committee for Ministry Council.

The Ad Hoc Nominating Committee is also proposing a change to the name of Ministry and Counsel Committee to Ministry Council. The members will support and assist the Presiding Clerk in overseeing and caring for the life of the Meeting, with attention to pastoral care.

2022.11.4 Friends expressed gratitude for the work and dedication of the Ad Hoc Nominating Committee.

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

BUSINESS MEETING 11/20/22

Friends Present: Bill Ashworth, Melody Ashworth, Crystal Bosbach, Valeria Breiten, Ken Deveney, Janine Devereaux, Becky Hale, Ká Hering, Andra Hollenbeck, Bob Morse, Alex Reid, Herb Rothschild, Jean Semrau, Nancy Spear, Adam Thompson.

Quote & Reflection: "Seeking and waiting for Truth's leadings is a discipline through which all can grow in patience, unity, and love. Decisions under the guidance of the Spirit knit the loving community together." —*Faith and Practice*

Approval of Minutes

2022.11.5 Friends approved the Minutes of the Called Meeting for Worship for Business on November 13, with the following correction: Minute 2022.11.3 should read: Committee for Ministry and Counsel instead of Ministry Council.

Treasurer's Report: We received more donations than expenses for October with a healthy balance in our accounts. The Laundry Love account is active and the balance looks good. We will need to request replacing supplies from the Peace House Manager. The printer is in need of ink. A new printer may be needed, and the Communications group will meet to discern.

Ad Hoc Nominating Committee:

2022.11.6 Friends approved with gratitude the appointment of Crystal Bosbach, Becky Hale, Cathy McDaniel, Bob Morse, David Runkel and Rochelle Webster to the Committee for Ministry and Counsel.

Committee Meetings

Meeting discussed the need to make open committees' places and times accessible to all. Though Zoom is convenient, meeting in person benefits personal relationships. Committees are encouraged to put committee meeting information on the Website schedule page and in the newsletter, using the website as it is a good communication tool. Perhaps the Committee for Ministry and Counsel could provide guidance regarding committee meetings.

The Second Sunday Winnowing for Business Meeting has been needed. With consultation, the Clerk can determine topics for discussion that would streamline Business Meeting.

2022.11.7 Friends approved the Second Sunday to be designated for Winnowing. The Presiding Clerk, with consultation, will choose the topic.

Creation of new Committee Structures

A proposal for a restructuring of committees was introduced with information about possible umbrella committees of Ministry and Counsel, Finance, Outreach, Communications, Education. Information will be posted through the newsletter for winnowing in December.

Continued on page 6

Business Meeting

20 Nov 22 *Continued*

Quaker decisions are made collectively through committees. If the title of Corresponding Clerk is to be the same as Communications Clerk, we will need to minute that change.

Peace & Social Concern

Interfaith Climate Concern - Bob Morse reported that Cherice Bock of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon is organizing Earth Summit on February 5th at Ashland's Presbyterian Church. Quakers involved in helping are Becky Hale, Ken Deveney, and Bob Morse.

Lobby Day and Habitat- Herb Rothschild reported on the FCNL Spring Lobby Day 25-28 March 2023. A Rogue Valley group wants to support it also. Sponsors are making sure it's safe, and they will look into the idea of a chaperone. This effort is progressing, and P&SC will have definite proposals next month.

Gizelle originally informed us of a Habitat for Humanity build in Ashland. Merlin and others are interested in participating, but the build has been delayed. Bill will contact Ashland's Presbyterian Church and let us know.

Friendship & Hospitality

Crystal Bosbach reported that Greeters are needed for first Sundays. Ariel Love and Wyatt Banks are greeting on second Sundays. The Meeting is invited to gather for a Simple Holiday Meal on 11 December after worship. Two vegetarian soups will be provided, and we are encouraged to brown-bag or bring something to potluck share.

Newsletter

Friends are encouraged to provide articles for the newsletter.

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

13 November Winnowing Session

We collectively/personally would want our Ministry Committee to be . . .



A place where anyone can go if they have a leading or a personal or Meeting-related concern; a group to go to for help or discernment

A larger group [than it's recently been] where Friends can find [at least] one person with whom they can talk

A gathering of Friends who have a clear pulse of everyone—all those attending Meeting—and who keep pace with the spiritual ministry within our Meeting, bringing balance to the Meeting experience

All Friends on the Ministry Committee to be in the position of pastors, substituting for the paid pastors which we Quakers don't have

Ministry Committee needs to attend to the tasks previously written in our Meeting's job descriptions or delegate those tasks to other people or places in our Meeting

Meeting should value and empower this group to determine how they together can see what is best and find joy and nurture in that experience so that nurture can be shared in our Meeting

We can trust that a variety of tasks will emerge and that things will be cared for when they arise. As has already been happening through the COVID era, others doing the work of the Meeting can assist the committee

Want the committee members to be empowered in spiritual search and trust that the necessary tasks will be accomplished

May this committee have the chance to have fun and not get too serious

As we've been doing for a while now, let's encourage ourselves to think outside the box

Allow the gifts of those on the committee to be expressed

—Reported by Nancy Spear; written by Bob Morse

Honoring Aidan Ellison



On 23 November 22, the second anniversary of the murder of a 19-year-old Black Ashland High graduate, Aidan Allison, the school's Truth To Power Club invited community members to join them in a commemorative vigil. Pictured here are club leaders and supportive faculty surrounding event organizer Ashland City Councilmember Gina DuQuenne. The backdrop is a mural of Aidan that the club painted in time for this date one year ago. Among the other local BIPOC people also portrayed on the high school's wall was Gina's likeness. The question posed to the community was, "What will YOU do now to undo the systemic racism that underlies such needless death?" —Bob Morse

Native Self-Determination and Sovereignty

The Native Organizers Alliance supports and mobilizes Native peoples in the protection of our lands, waters, resources, and ways of life. Through our advocacy, capacity building, and campaign support, we've made transformational changes in mainstream leadership and policy.

Through grassroots movements rooted in traditional Indigenous values, we can better promote equitable outcomes and improve the quality of life in Indigenous communities.

Here are some political and cultural victories from November 2022, Native American Heritage Month:

Nearly 80 Native candidates—about half of whom are women—won their races up and down the ballot.

We again proved that the Native vote matters, rallying Native peoples, overcoming voter suppression, especially in states where close races determined control of the senate.

More museums are reckoning with their racist histories of stealing remains, hair, and sacred objects from Native Peoples.



We helped organize the upcoming second Tribal Nations Summit at the White House geared toward protecting Tribal treaty rights and strengthening sovereignty. —Submitted by

Becky Hale



MEETING OFFICERS

Clerk: Andra Hollenbeck 601-6421

Recording Clerk: Nancy Spear 626-437-8913

Communications Clerk: Jean Semrau 488-6855

Treasurer: Adam Thompson 201-8255; Fran Curtis (assistant)

COORDINATORS/REPS

Joint Committee Representatives: Herb Rothschild 531-2848, Adam Thompson 201-8255

Newsletter Editor: Bob Morse morse@mind.net, Sylvie Weaver (assistant)

Web Administrator: Bob Morse 482-8449

NPYM Coordinating Committee Contact: OPEN

Art Hangings: Becky Hale 601-3084

Racial/Climate Concerns: Bob Morse 482-8449

Homeless Outreach: Alex Reid 707-499-9146

Circle of Light: Crystal Bosbach 930-4222

Library: Fran Curtis 482-1095

Tech Support: Valeria Breiten 480-688-7442; Mary Ward 890-2186

All area codes are 541 unless otherwise noted

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

MEETING COMMITTEES

Ministry & Counsel: Cathy McDaniel 770-3318, David Runkel 210-0031, Rochelle Webster 646-5186, Becky Hale 601-3084, Bob Morse 482-8449, Crystal Bosbach 930-4222, Clerk *ex officio*

Nominating (ad hoc): Valeria Breiten 480-688-7442, Pam Johnson 535-1940, Ken Deveney 488-5506, Jean Semrau 646-8225, Becky Hale 601-3084

OPEN COMMITTEES

ANYONE MAY ATTEND/PARTICIPATE:

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

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

Friendship & Hospitality: Crystal Bosbach, Ká Hering, Cathy McDaniel; **Greeters:** Rochelle Webster, Karen Maleski, Nancy Spear, Ariel Love, Wyatt Banks

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

Adult Education: Melody Ashworth, Bill Ashworth, Ken Deveney

Joint Committee (reps listed above)

South Mountain Friends Meeting

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