



## Clerk’s Message from Joseph Mills A Vibrant Organization

For my last clerk’s message for the *Bulletin*, I cannot emphasize how impressed I am about our Yearly Meeting. It is such a vibrant organization with so many active Friends supporting each other in various endeavors. I know of no other organization anything like it. Serving as interim Yearly Meeting Clerk has been easier than I anticipated, as everybody else is doing all the work. I will confess that a previous Yearly Meeting Clerk told me it would feel that way if everything was going as it

should. Some of us had a lovely time with Pittsburgh Friends, who provided the most gracious hospitality at Representative Meeting. We enjoyed seeing the improvements to their meetinghouse and worshipping with them. I encourage all Friends to attend worship with other meetings while traveling, both within and outside our Yearly Meeting.

Looking forward to seeing everybody at Annual Meeting in June.

Joseph Mills

### 2025 Representative Meeting

Thirty Friends from 13 Meetings and one Worship Group attended this year’s Meeting in Pittsburgh – half in person, half online.

Friends were able to view Pittsburgh’s meetinghouse improvements and view a slide presentation about LEYM put together by Advancement & Outreach, which the committee plans to take on the road when visiting Meetings, especially small ones that have limited contact with the YM.

Representatives approved using the Travelling Ministries Fund to cover expenses of A&O members when visiting Meetings and Worship Groups.

Representatives also approved the reading of passages from State of the Meeting reports along with epistles from other groups at the start of business meetings during Annual Meeting.

Treasurer Tom Kangas reported that finances are in good shape. He presented a draft of the 2025-26 budget. This included a \$1 increase in the per member contribution to \$43.

Ministry & Nurture continues to hold periodic “clerks’ chats,” which have been well-attended.

Publications Committee is looking for Friends willing to help report on the Annual Meeting workshops for the *Annual Report*.

Adult & Family Program and Arrangement & Site committees reported on preparations for Annual Meeting.

Nominating Committee identified its most pressing needs are for an Assistant Clerk and additional people to serve on Publications & Archives.

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# We Make Us Complete! Two Invitations from Advancement and Outreach

Advancement and Outreach committee is gearing up for intervisitation! We want to hear and see what's going on in our membership, and, if there's interest, share information about what is happening in the LEYM community with a new slide presentation. We're particularly interested in visiting Meetings that are smaller and we don't know as well, but are eager to visit as many Meetings as possible. If you're interested in having someone from LEYM visit, please let us know.

As we get ready for Annual Meeting, we are thinking about how we all fit together. We invite every

## Friends Committee on National Legislation Update

Submitted by John Deikis, FCNL Representative

The Friends Committee on National Legislation continues to work on peace and social justice issues. As the oldest religious lobby in D.C., it employs a staff of professional lobbyists with expertise in various complex areas. Moreover, it supports an *Advocacy Corps* of college students and a nationwide network of over 1500 citizen lobbyists as a part of its *Advocacy Teams* program.

Recently, FCNL's online network generated over 650,000 emails to Congress expressing opposition to the war in Gaza and Lebanon.

Last November's Quaker Public Policy Institute was held in Washington and online to train regular folks in lobby skills and visits to their senators' and representatives' offices. The "ask" was to co-sponsor and vote in favor of the *Joint Resolutions of Disapproval* to block the sale of offensive weapons to Israel. It was followed by the annual meeting of the General Committee, the organization's governance body comprised of Quakers from around the country.

At the Annual Meeting, FCNL's legislative priorities for the 119th Congress were developed using input from monthly meetings around the country. These are aspirational, as the actual legislation FCNL pursues

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Meeting to create a "puzzle piece" that we can display in Ashland. We're not looking for fancy designs or art (although that's fine, too) – we are hoping that words or pictures on it will help communicate some of your uniqueness to us, and what gifts you bring to our wider community. We're also hoping for:

- **Size:** big enough to fit on a piece of posterboard or flip chart paper.
- **Meeting name:** Put the name of your Meeting on the back, not the front – that way, people can see if they can guess which Meeting it represents!
- **Delivery:** You can send it with people who are coming (best) or mail it to one of us – whatever works best, as long as we get it before June 12.

For more information, contact us:

[SusanDHartman@gmail.com](mailto:SusanDHartman@gmail.com) or [barbaralesage@hotmail.com](mailto:barbaralesage@hotmail.com)

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# 2025 Annual Meeting

## “Mending Our Nets: The Power of Becoming Whole”

June 12-15 at Ashland University – [leym.org/annual](http://leym.org/annual)

You’re Invited to the LEYM 2025 Annual Meeting! Lake Erie Friends will be returning to Ashland, Ohio, for our summer gathering and we’d love for you to join us. Our children and youth program is eager to welcome and support families wishing to attend. The timely theme is “Mending Our Nets: The Power of Becoming Whole.” Based on the strong response to this year’s workshop call (we have thirteen accepted workshops – see descriptions later in this issue), we can see that people are excited about getting together to share their gifts, make new connections and try to make sense of the new reality. Registration will once again be fully online (see details later in this issue), opening on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Plenary to Feature Pamela Haines

As reported in our last Bulletin, the Friday evening plenary session on our theme will feature Pamela Haines, a long-time member of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Eco-Justice Collaborative, who is active in Quaker Earthcare Witness, and who plays an advisory role with Right Sharing of World Resources and Friends Peace Teams. She has deeply

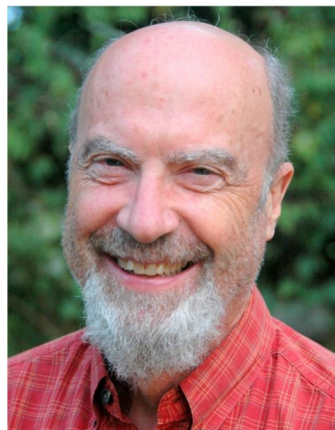


explored Friends’ relationships to money, as a co-author of *Toward a Right Relationship with Finance* and author of *Money and Soul* and as the author of many blog posts at [pamelahaines.substack.com](http://pamelahaines.substack.com). In addition to the plenary, Pamela will be offering a workshop titled “Speaking Our Truth: What Canst THOU Say?”

### Bible Study to Feature Douglas Gwyn

A new opportunity this year will be Bible Study sessions offered by Doug Gwyn, a retired Friends/Quaker minister and former scholar in

residence at Pendle Hill with deep experience in pastoral ministry, peace education, teaching and



research-based writing and theology. His recent work has explored some of the communing/commonist movements today that seek to define and protect various natural and cultural resources as a common heritage among all the species of life on earth, connecting it to early Quaker movements with similar impulses.

You can see some of his many publications at the website [douglasgwyn.life](http://douglasgwyn.life).

Online access to events via Zoom will be limited. People wishing to remotely attend our Friday evening Plenary and the various business sessions can register for Zoom access information at the Annual Meeting webpage.

### A Full Children and Youth Program

The Youth and Children Committee is excitedly planning for a fun Youth Program at LEYM Annual Meeting. We had several new friends join us for the first time last year, and we are hoping for several more this June. The Youth and Children program offers morning and afternoon activities for young Friends from infant through high school. We have an experienced team of eight adult volunteers, with two adults assigned for each age group. The program will offer age-appropriate activities and outings to promote cooperative play, peaceful living, mindful care of the Earth, and artistic creativity. Children



under the age of 3 eat free, with a 40% food discount for those under 13 years old. In addition to bringing their children, adult attenders of Annual Meeting have also brought grandchildren and nieces/nephews. For details about the Youth and



Children program, please reach out to Diane Mott, Clerk, at [mottfam45@gmail.com](mailto:mottfam45@gmail.com). We hope to see you in June!

**Schedule of Activities**

The schedule below provides a high-level overview of the many events our annual meeting features, including worship and Business sessions, worship sharing, Bible Study, workshops, lunch-time table

discussions, an Open House at the Ashland Center for Nonviolence, informal birds-of-a-feather social time, bookstore and information table browsing, and night owl movies. Something for everyone.

Visit <https://leym.org/annual> to see more about our annual meeting. Please spread the word, bring a friend or family member, and **get registered before May 9<sup>th</sup>**, when the general registration fee will go up.



**Preliminary Schedule in Broad Strokes (adjustments may be made)**

Thursday, June 12	Friday, June 13	Saturday, June 14	Sunday, June 15
TRAVEL TO ASHLAND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Early Worship</li> <li>● BREAKFAST</li> <li>● Worship Sharing</li> <li>● Bible Study</li> <li>● Ashland Center for Nonviolence Open House</li> <li>● MFW w Attention to Business</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Early Worship</li> <li>● BREAKFAST</li> <li>● Worship Sharing</li> <li>● Bible Study</li> <li>● Workshops Session 2</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Early Worship</li> <li>● BREAKFAST</li> <li>● MFW w Attention to Business</li> <li>● Epistle Sharing</li> <li>● Meeting for Worship &amp; Closing</li> </ul>
Onsite Check-in Opens at 12:30	LUNCH (w Newcomer Welcome Table)	LUNCH (w Topic Groups)	LUNCH
Executive Committee Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● MFW w Attention to Business</li> <li>● Workshops Session 1</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● MFW w Attention to Business</li> <li>● Workshops Session 3</li> </ul>	Executive Committee Follow-up Meeting
DINNER	DINNER	DINNER	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Newcomer Orientation</li> <li>● Informal Birds of a Feather Time</li> <li>● Welcome and Roll Call Session</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Informal Birds of a Feather Time</li> <li>● Bookstore Browsing</li> <li>● Plenary Session with Pamela Haines</li> <li>● Evening Collection</li> <li>● Night Owl Movie</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bookstore Browsing</li> <li>● Evening Celebration w world dance</li> <li>● “Citizen George” film showing, exploring the life of George Lakey</li> </ul>	

# LEYM 2025 Workshop Offerings

Once again Friends have answered the call and we have a great selection of workshops that will be offered at this year's Annual Meeting in Ashland. See more information at [leym.org/annual](http://leym.org/annual)

## **Speaking our Truth: What Canst THOU Say?**

Presenter: Pamela Haines (Central Philadelphia Friends Meeting)

**Workshop Description:** Awash in words from the outside – news, advertisements, sermons and speeches, political theory, cultural debate – it can be hard to claim our own. In this workshop, we will heed the challenge attributed to George Fox: “Christ sayeth this and the prophets say that, but what canst thou say?” Come prepared to reflect on what you know about speaking truth and the forces that encourage or discourage it; to practice speaking your own truth in front of others; and to commit some of that truth to writing.

## **Revitalizing Your Networks Through Intergenerational Events**

Presenters: Ruth Cutcher (Durango MM/IMYM, QVS), Liz Anderson (Downer's Grove MM/OVYM), Jackie Lamars (Pittsburgh MM/LEYM)

**Workshop Description:** This workshop's goal is to provide tools for Quaker communities to build networks intergenerationally in a variety of mediums. This workshop will provide examples of in-person and online events that Quaker Voluntary Service (QVS) uses to bring together multiple generations throughout the service year. We will also highlight effective intergen events and activities that we have learned about through our work with Friends. In this workshop we will practice creating a welcoming environment with activities you can try in your own committees and intergenerational gatherings. Throughout QVS's 12 years of building intergenerational community, we have learned to experiment with our networks to keep folks engaged!

## **We Aren't In Traffic, We Are Traffic**

Presenter: Susan Loucks (Pittsburgh Monthly Meeting)

**Workshop Description:** Quaker meetings are ideally places where power is shared broadly. However, we come conditioned by power relationships in society,

carrying complicated relationships with authority. What does healthy power really look like in our organizational life? Join us to explore and explode typical (and problematic) patterns of power in flat organizations.

## **Make a Surprising Spiral Circle Book!**

Presenter: Wink Covintree (Birmingham Friends Meeting)

**Workshop Description:** We will be making small books which when folded closed, will be pie-shaped, and which will open into a surprising spiral. In the sense that nets can be mended, you will glue together four paper circles that have been slashed (or cut, to be less dramatic) to form one whole small book. This workshop is hands-on and requires you to be able to fold circles accurately, cut, and apply glue. It's not hard, and there's no sewing involved. I will bring the necessary supplies. If you have a bone folder, pencil, scissors, pens, markers, glue stick or other things like that which you already use, you might find them handy. A continuing line of text can be written around the edges of the spiral. I'll bring some possibilities for that. Alternately, you could draw an unwinding image, or incorporate collage. It's nice to have something inside the pages that reveals itself as the book is opened.

## **Weaving Safety Nets from Community Fabric**

Presenter: Lewis Webb, Jr. (American Friends Service Committee)

**Workshop Description:** The workshop will bring the American Friends Service Committee's (AFSC) vision of a world beyond prisons and policing where safety is found within our communities. This is our North Star. AFSC has mapped seven guideposts on our journey to dismantle systems of incarceration, surveillance, policing, and other forms of state control and replace them with human-centered alternatives. During our 90 minutes together, we will utilize popular education techniques to explore ways we can individually and collectively impel governments and companies to divest from the prison and military industrial complexes; accomplish restorative justice practices that reduce harm and transform conflict; develop and spread narratives that protect those most

targeted by state violence, and strengthen intersectional movements for peace and justice.

### **Getting into Good Trouble: Theories of the Third Side from People Who've Been There**

Presenter: Bill Warters (Birmingham Friends Meeting)

**Workshop Description:** This session will explore various possible roles played by conflict intervenors (aka Third Siders) in situations of social conflict. We'll take a look at some of the very pragmatic models espoused by experienced social conflict intervenors such as Jim Laue (Community Relations Service), Bill Ury (Harvard Negotiation Project), Raymond Shonholtz (Partners for Democratic Change), and Quakers Adam Curle (Peace Studies, Bradford University) and George Lakey (Training for Change). The session reviews a range of scholarly models that these peacemakers came up with to try to understand and mend social conflict during their time. We'll think together about how our Quaker legacy and personal experiences have prepared us for the work that lies ahead. What roles might we play? What does good trouble look like for current-day Friends?

### **F/friends in Unlikely Places**

Presenter: Micah MacColl Nicholson (Friends Committee on National Legislation)

**Workshop Description:** The Friends Committee on National Legislation is a national, non-partisan, Quaker organization that lobbies Congress and the Administration to advance peace, justice, and environmental stewardship. This workshop will give opportunities to practice strategic dialogue and communication across differing values and perspectives. We'll discuss how these practices draw on Quaker beliefs, tradition, and practices of spiritual grounding, and how they can be effective tools for relationship-building and advocacy. Explore ways of working for a more just and peaceful democracy, one conversation at a time.

### **White Noise: One Meeting's Work on Racism**

Presenter: Chuck Esser (Central Philadelphia Friends Meeting)

**Workshop Description:** Do you wish white people in your meeting were more ready and able to talk about their personal experiences with race and racism? Would you benefit from a group where people were accountable to each other for stretching out of their comfortable roles and relationships? Come learn

about Central Philadelphia Friends Meeting's experience of engaging with issues around race.

### **Quaker Values in the Immigration Courtroom**

Presenter: Brian Hoffman (Wooster Friends Meeting)

**Workshop Description:** Five months into the Trump administration and its approach to the issue of immigration, it is a good time to take stock of where we have been in terms of policies and practices in this century, to describe the situation that existed when the current Administration came into power, and to see where we are now. Brian Hoffman grew up on a farm in northeast Ohio and earned his J.D. from The Ohio State University. He worked in private immigration practice for several years before beginning his career in pro bono service. Starting in 2015, Brian helped launch a series of successful pro bono projects, first serving women and children seeking asylum from a 55-acre detention camp in Texas, and then with the Southern Poverty Law Center at a notorious private prison in Georgia. In 2020 Brian became the founding executive director of The Ohio Center for Strategic Immigration Litigation & Outreach, a nonprofit that provides free legal services to people in immigration custody throughout Ohio.

### **Quaker Mending: Recapturing Lost Values of Our Money System**

Presenters: John Howell and Robin Wilson (Athens Monthly Meeting)

**Workshop Description:** The workshop will explore how Quaker values might reshape the money system that underlies the economy – so we can live in an economically just and sustainable world. Our money system is currently being challenged from multiple directions. The resulting political pain and turmoil may present opportunities for change in ways that can come closer to our Quaker values, although pathways to such change present big challenges.

The session will start with a brief review of what money (monetary) systems do. A few critical thought questions will be presented. Participants will then be invited to respond by sharing ideas coming out of their own experiences that point to relevant principles, principles that could contribute to the design of money systems globally, nationally, or in our own communities. No special expertise is required. In the late 1800s, money issues were political and widely discussed; they can be now. We

will think together about what the principles that emerge have to say about our current system and possibilities for the future. In the finest tradition of our Religious Society of Friends, let's share how we will tip over the apple cart and build a better world.

## **Power of Enough**

Presenter: Megan Fair (Right Sharing of World Resources)

**Workshop Description:** How are my relationships and my use of time, energy, and “things” in right balance to contribute to right order in our world, and to free me to do God's work? What is essential? How much is enough?

Through personal reflection, discussion, play, and worship sharing, we will explore queries to discover our power of enough. This workshop curriculum is grounded in Quaker experience, faith, and practice. It has been developed through a series of simple and direct queries. The Power of Enough workshop allows individuals and groups to discuss their understanding of 'enough-ness'; these conversations bring up experiences with connection and climate change:

- Recognize how every personal choice ripples out and touches everyone else.
- Reframe your perspective and create a personal change in behavior.
- Share your new insights with others (keep the ripples moving).

Participants provide a living example to their communities, as they create changes in personal behavior and choices. Queries from the workshop can be discussed again in other circles, and Friends have access to an on-going collective resource document, which describes relevant books, articles, and other inspiration that they can share widely.

## **Renewing our Media, Democracy, Economy and Culture**

Presenter: Robin Wilson (Athens Monthly Meeting)

**Workshop Description:** As Friends from many areas and various viewpoints, we have opportunities for unique sharing and networking. Each of us will be a resource for what has worked for us as defenders of democracy, diversity and sustainability – plus, for us personally, what has worked to fight the lies that make us doubt our oneness. How do we help love, diversity and sustainability to win out over fear, hate and dishonesty? What strategies have worked in our

home towns and regionally? What future action do you envision for reversing our slide into fascist governance?

From our networking together we could strengthen our collective actions by listing our resources and action ideas. Participants are encouraged to bring specific information about groups working in your area. We will have tri-fold displays to post this networking information.

## **Right Relationship and Public Ministry in the Religious Society of Friends: The War for and Against Quakers**

Presenter: Windy Cooler (Friends Incubator for Public Ministry)

**Workshop Description:** This interactive, discernment-based workshop is taken from Windy's recent doctoral work on this topic. What is a prophetic imagination or right relationship, and how do they manifest themselves in you and your community? How are you prepared as a worshiping community to discern, support, and hold accountable calls to ministry?

## **Stimulating DO-able Justice and Peace Work in Our Monthly Meetings: a workshop series**

LEYM Peace & Justice Committee will host two free 2025 workshop sessions helping Monthly Meetings establish or sustain their P&J committee. We will meet online on the afternoons of April 6th and 27th (two hours each) to discuss firsthand experiences of Monthly Meetings successfully:

- **Session 1: Sunday April 6th – 2 to 4pm**  
Forming, developing, and sustaining effective justice and peace work without committee “overwhelm and burnout.” Zoom Access: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4095576895?omn=82061536589>
- **Session 2: Sunday April 27th – 2 to 4pm**  
Finding unity and resources needed when deciding on justice and peace work priorities. Zoom Access: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4095576895?omn=82292697866>

FOR MORE INFO: Don Buckingham, Sr.  
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# LEYM 2025 Annual Meeting Registration

Visit <https://leym.org/annual> to get started.

Our online registration form, which debuted last year, provides a simple way for you to indicate your needs. It will calculate your final fee with any discounts and allow you to pay online via credit card. We will also accept payment by check or cash when you arrive. Once registered, you will receive an email acknowledgment with your details.

**Registration:** There will be no paper registration. If you are uncomfortable working online, please contact Sally Weaver Sommer, our intrepid registrar, who will fill out the information for you. Sally's phone is 419-953-9455. If you only have questions (large or small) you may contact her via email [sallyweaversommer@gmail.com](mailto:sallyweaversommer@gmail.com).

**On-campus lodging:** At Ashland, housing fees are per room rather than per individual. **Kem Hall** is a

## Kem Regular Double



Non-Air Conditioned

## Kem Regular Triple

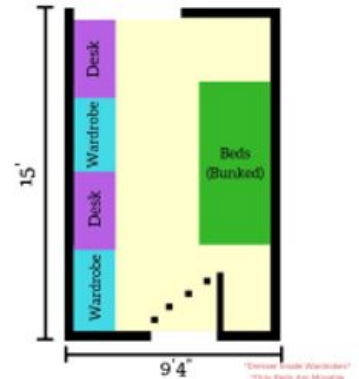


Non-Air Conditioned

**non-air-conditioned** building across from the Convocation Center where our meetings and meals take place. Fees are \$40 per night for a double room with bunked beds and \$45 per night for a triple room with un-bunked beds (a limited option reserved for families.) Volunteers will be available to un-bunk beds in Kem, if desired, so please let us know in the comments box of the registration form if you'd like assistance. Beds are higher off the ground than standard beds. We suggest you bring a step stool, if the height may be a problem for you, as well as a fan and a reading light.

**Clayton Hall** is **air-conditioned** and about a five-minute walk from the Convocation Center. The fees are \$55 per night for a double room. Each room has two bunked beds. Spare mattresses are not available, but sleeping on the floor is permitted. We suggest you bring a reading lamp and an extra blanket. Each room has its own thermostat controls.

## Clayton Regular Double



Air Conditioned

**Additional Registrants:** During this registration process you can add additional registrants who may be sharing your room by selecting "add registrant" near the end of this form. Please indicate each Friend's meal options and linen needs and volunteer interests. By adding their email, they will be signed up to receive the Daily News. If they plan on paying their own fees, they will need to either register for themselves (noting you are their roommate) or arrange to reimburse you later.

If you wish to share a room and have us try to assign a roommate, please check the "assign me a roommate" option found under the "comments" section. We will attempt to make the assignment and adjust fees as directed before you arrive.

Vans and small RVs are welcome to park near Convocation Hall but are not allowed to set up chairs outside the vehicle. If you plan to stay in your vehicle, check "off campus" option on the registration form.

**Off Campus Lodging:** Tent camping and cabins are available at Hickory Lakes Campground, 23 Twp. Rd. 1300, West Salem, Ohio 44287; Tel. 419 869 7587. The campground is about 30 minutes from Ashland University. Rates are \$43 per night for tent space for up to four people and \$75 per night for a cabin sleeping five. Hotels near Ashland University can be found using online booking tools. Hotels nearby include: Hampton Inn and Suites Ashland,



Quality Inn, Wingate, Super 8 and Motel 6. AirBnB and local B&Bs are another possibility. For people planning to camp or stay in a hotel, select the “I’m staying off-campus” item when registering.

**Discounts:** LEYM seeks to encourage attendance by all members of our community. Registrants under 36 years of age have their general registration fee waived. There are three types of additional discounts available using a coupon at check-out: “First Timers” are those over 18 who are entitled to 33% off of total costs; “Youngster Meals” are for those under the age of 13 who get 40% off total meal costs; and a discount for “Program Workers” is for those who staff the youth program, run the bookstore, or serve in other staff roles. With the proper code the registration form will calculate the discount. We do not want anyone to stay away because of cost. Those desiring financial assistance should first contact their Monthly Meetings.

If needs cannot be met by the Monthly Meeting, contact the registrar.

**Get the T-Shirt:** This year our online form includes the ability to order one or more T-Shirts! Note that young Friends participating in the Children and Youth Program will get their shirts for free as part of the separate consent form submission process.

**Consider bringing:** A coffee mug (the dining hall has very small ones), a note pad and writing utensil, a robe to wear to the shared bathroom, your own pillow and blanket (or two if you are in air-conditioning), a reading lamp, a multi-outlet extension cord or power bar, a step stool, a fan, additional towels, and bubbles or other fun outdoor equipment.

## ASHLAND UNIVERSITY

- Amstutz Hall 24
- Andrews Hall 25
- Center for the Arts 2
- Center for Humanities 14
- Claremont Building 36
- Clark Hall 13
- Clayton Hall 9
- College Avenue Apartments 39
- Conard Field House 32
- Donges Field 38
- Dwight Schar Athletic Complex 34
- Dwight Schar College of Education 5
- Eagle Ridge Manor 23
- Facilities Offices 19
- Founders Hall 1
- Fraternity Houses 21
- The Gill Welcome Center/Office of Admission 17
- Hawkins-Conard Student Center 28
- Intramural Fields 33
- Jack & Deb Miller Chapel 16
- Jack W. Liebert Military & Veteran Resource Center 40
- Jacobs Hall 7
- John Ashbrook Center for Public Affairs 15
- John C. Myers Convocation Center 26
- Kates Center for Family & Consumer Sciences 3
- Kem Hall 27
- Kettering Science Center 4
- Kilhefner Hall 11
- Library 15
- Myers Hall 10
- Niss Athletic Center 41
- Patterson Instructional Technology Center 12
- Physical Education Center, Kates Gymnasium 30
- Recreation & Rybolt Sport Sciences Center 29
- Redwood Hall 8
- Richard E. & Sandra J. Dauch College of Business & Economics; Burton D. Morgan Center for Entrepreneurial Studies 18
- Rinehart Center for Religious Studies 15
- Sarver Athletic Complex 37
- Senior Apartments 6
- Senior House 20
- Troop Center 35
- Tennis Courts 22
- Wurster Fitness Center 31
- 630 Claremont 39

## Birmingham MM Sends Valentines for Elected Officials

As part of our witness in the world, Birmingham Friends Meeting tries to maintain meaningful relationships with our elected officials and to encourage them to act in ways that promote peace, integrity and justice. Prior to Valentines Day this year, a group gathered after meeting to create personally signed cards thanking elected officials for their work to restore and protect democracy and support core human values. One of our members, Wink Covintree, formerly an art teacher at Friends School in Detroit, prepared the handmade valentine cards which were then assembled and signed.

*Bill Warters*



Members of Birmingham MM writing Valentine cards to their elected representatives (above) and samples of their work.

## Delaware Monthly Meeting

Delaware Meeting is small, but steady.

Last Spring three longtime attenders moved away, our co-clerks Steve and Kathy Semmler to North Carolina to be closer to their children and young grandchildren, and Panna Flower to Yellow Springs to be closer to her daughter and a retirement living community. We miss them. They were both seasoned Friends and the Semmlers kids grew up in our Meeting.

Marianne Derr is serving as Acting Clerk this year, and Carol Arny as Acting Recording Clerk. Both live in Delaware so it makes it a little easier to stay close to the needs of Meeting. Others live further away, including our long-time and much appreciated Treasurer, Meredith Wolfe.

It is taking time for us to regain our equilibrium. As you know it is a challenge to welcome new attenders who may be new to both Meeting and Friends. Since the fall we seem to have renewed interest by seekers and we welcome them.

*Marianne Derr*

## North Columbus Meeting Report

More than a year ago, the North Columbus Friends Meeting began to hold our Sunday meeting at a rented space in a nearby church. The move was made after years of deliberation and discernment over the lack of accessibility at our beloved, historic meetinghouse. With elevators, ramps and accessible bathrooms, the rented space offered us the chance to truly welcome a wider cross-cut of attendees.



Throughout the year, we continued to discern the future of our physical meeting and what to do with the meetinghouse. We eventually came to unity and decided to sell it. We put the meetinghouse on the market, sold it quickly, and said goodbye with a farewell celebration and commemoration in September of 2024.

The movement of our weekly meeting was a joyous one in some regards. We were able to live out our values of inclusivity and accessibility. But there were losses too. The meetinghouse had served NCFM for



nearly a hundred years. It carried a lot of history. And the inability to gather there for potlucks, workshops and game nights posed a challenge for fellowship.

We have worked to think “outside the building” in the year since, searching for new ways to build and

deepen our connections with one another without a permanent home to call our own.

The Outreach/Inreach committee has done some fantastic work, launching two new fellowship events that don’t require a meetinghouse. First, we’ve started arranging game nights to be hosted in people’s homes where we come together to play board games and card games and share in lots of laughs and amazement to see the competitive edges arise in Friends.

Second, we just launched our first round of friendly supper groups (which is our version of the Quaker Friendly 8s). Nearly 30 people signed up for the initial launch.

As we recently watched a slideshow celebration in our new meeting room, we were so heartened to see all the ways community and fellowship grew even without a permanent home to call our own. As we start our second year in our new space, there’s a renewed sense of spirit and excitement around fostering community in our meeting.

*Brian Edmiston*

## “Songs for the Times” Broadmead Friends 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert

We are pleased that Ann Arbor Friend Paul Tinkerhess will perform a concert in Toledo on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, in commemoration of Broadmead Meeting’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Paul is a talented performer who sings songs of peace, justice and hope. He and his wife Claire were co-clerks of the 2018 FGC Gathering in Toledo.

The free concert starts at 7 pm at Victory Center, 3166 Republic Blvd N, Toledo 43615. A free-will offering will be accepted to go to the AFSC’s Gaza emergency response fund.

Broadmead Monthly Meeting was accepted into Lake Erie Yearly Meeting in June 1974, making 2024 our 50<sup>th</sup> year. There had been groups of Quakers off and on in Toledo and northwest Ohio since the 1940’s, or earlier, but 1974 was the beginning of our current configuration.

We are celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> with two different events. The first was a special Meeting last November, when current and former members and attenders joined together for worship and sharing of memories and memorabilia. That gathering was well attended and enjoyed by all who were there. Our second event will be the concert on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

*Ken Lawrence*

## Youth Fall Retreat

Children and teens are invited to the LEYM K-12 Youth Retreat 2025 this fall. This retreat is a time for youth (and their parents) to enjoy time with Quaker friends. Typical activities include spending time outdoors, playing games, and doing crafts. The camp where we met for years has closed, and we are in the process of reserving space at a new camp in north central Ohio. We are planning the retreat for the first weekend in October, and we will send Meetings and families more details as soon as we finalize the plans.

For questions and details about the retreat, please contact Diane Mott at [mottfam45@gmail.com](mailto:mottfam45@gmail.com). We hope you will join us for a weekend of child-centered community.





**April 1:** Online registration for LEYM Annual Meeting begins.

**April 6:** Stimulating DO-able Justice & Peace Work, Session 1, 2-4 pm (see Page 7).

**April 27:** Stimulating DO-able Justice & Peace Work, Session 2, 2-4 pm (see Page 7).

**May 3:** Broadmead MM 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, at Victory Center, Toledo, 7 pm (see Page 11).

**May 9:** Registration deadline for Annual Meeting.

**May 15:** Deadline for submission of “State of the Meeting Reports.”

**June 1:** Monthly Meeting “Statistical Reports” due.

**June 12-15:** LEYM Annual Meeting at Ashland University.

**July 1:** Due date for Meeting Statistical Reports.

**July 30:** Due date for submissions to the 2025.

**FCNL Update** *continued from Page 2*

are determined by emerging opportunities in Congress as well as organizational capacity and expertise.

**Proposed Priorities:**

- Dismantle militarism at home and abroad while reasserting Congress’ role in decisions around military engagements. Champion initiatives to reduce military spending and to eliminate nuclear, conventional, and newly emerging weapons.
- Ensure U.S. commitment to international peace-building, human rights, diplomacy, and cooperation, and human rights at home and abroad.
- Uphold the community rights and concerns of indigenous peoples, and reform the federal legal and administrative systems to protect tribal sovereignty and self-determination.
- Demilitarize our borders and reform immigration policies to protect fundamental human rights for immigrant communities, regardless of immigration status.
- Transform our current cruel and unjust criminal legal system into one that is restorative and rehabilitative.
- Support gun violence prevention, nonviolent conflict resolution, and community-led safety solutions.

**LEYM Committee Clerks  
2024-2025**

*(Further contact information available in the Annual Records and on the LEYM website)*

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- Work for legislation that addresses poverty, structural economic inequity, and health care inequity.
- Strengthen environmental protections and advance environmental justice in the United States and around the globe.
- Counter the imminent threat of further climate change and support science-evidence-based mitigation and adaptive remedies.