

LEYM 2026 Workshop Offerings

Friendly Persuasion in an Election Year

Justin Hurdle, FCNL staff



The Friends Committee on National Legislation is a national, non-partisan, Quaker advocacy organization that lobbies Congress and the executive branch to advance peace, justice, and environmental stewardship. As we move closer to another consequential election in November, Friends have a role to play. One way to participate meaningfully in the democratic process is by effectively engaging candidates running for office. This workshop will provide tangible strategies centering Friends' strengths of listening and engaging all candidates with curiosity so that individual Friends, groups, and Meetings can make their voices heard, uplift policy priorities, build relationships, and hold elected leaders accountable. It will also open space for shared learning and brainstorming among attendees, leaning into the fundamental notion that within community we find strength.

Body and Soul in Balance

Thomas Taylor (Ann Arbor Friends Meeting)

Using some of the simpler moves in Tai Chi we open and balance body and spirit. We free the joints to stretch the tendons and muscles. We give gratitude to our physical selves, asking how they would like to move so as not to fall. We'll learn alternatives to sitting, proprioceptive sensibilities and practice worshipful movement.

Pittsburgh Quakers Help Revitalize the Anti-War Movement in the Local Community through Neighborism, Resistance and Resilience

Claire Cohen, Wanda Guthrie, Joe Guthrie, Beth Schongar, Michael James, and Ryan Reagan - all members of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee of Pittsburgh MM.

This workshop will describe how the Pittsburgh MM Peace and Social Concerns Committee has been playing a vital role in revitalizing the local Anti-War Movement in Pittsburgh by bringing together other local faith groups and peace and justice groups. By describing what we have been doing, giving an analysis of what has worked and what has not, we hope to be an example and inspiration for other Monthly Meetings and Worship Groups in LEYM since we believe that in this time of war and violence perpetrated by our own government, Quakers can and should play a vital and formative role in helping to rebuild and revitalize the much-needed Anti-War Movement in this country.

Take an Art Break

Wink Covintree (Birmingham Friends Meeting)

Renew your spirit with some time to relax and learn a few Zentangle-type patterns. We'll collect ourselves during a short silence, then some easy stretching. I will teach a few patterns as well as provide handouts for those and others. I'll bring small cards (one-sided card stock of various sizes and colored.) One side of most cards will have the words from our theme lightly outlined in block letters - JOY—HOPE—COURAGE—COMMUNITY. Participants can add patterns to the cards. I'll bring Micron pens, pencils and other supplies. Feel free to bring your own art materials. I should have enough basic tools for everyone.

Conflicts within Meetings- A framework for discernment and resolution

Dennis Gregg (Ann Arbor Friends Meeting). Others may be added

The workshop will provide a framework for thinking about the different kinds of conflicts that can arise between individuals, or groups, within a meeting. The workshop will begin with the presentation of framework that described the different kinds of conflicts that can arise and the underlying cause(s). We will discuss in the workshop whether this framework is complete and add to it if necessary. We will then "test" the framework by asking participants to describe conflicts they have observed in their meeting (without given particular names) and suggest where that conflict fits in the framework. We will then, using a series of queries with small groups, examine practices that can help resolve conflicts, particularly those which are not long-standing. The final portion of the workshop will be about how to transform conflicts rooted in personal animosities, clashes in values, or opposing long-term spiritual beliefs into openings for spiritual discernment. Once again, small groups will examine their experiences and share with the larger group.

Taking Courageous Action for Palestine with AFSC

Zoe Jannuzi (AFSC Palestine Activism Program Coordinator) and Erika Gable (AFSC Director of Leadership Gifts)

Come learn about the American Friends Service Committee's humanitarian work in Gaza and our advocacy and activism for Palestine here in the United States! Zoe Jannuzi, Palestine Activism Program Coordinator, and Erika Gable, Director of Leadership Gifts will present. They will share opportunities to take courageous action for peace and justice, focusing on a new downloadable exhibit, "Why We Record: Defying Fragmentation and Erasure in Palestine" and the Apartheid-Free Communities network. Participants will leave with a better understanding of both current realities in Gaza as well as AFSC programming on Palestine and feel confident taking next steps in community.

Quaker Makers Meet the Future

Bill Warters (Birmingham Friends Meeting)

Where spiritual leadings meets innovation! Explore how 3D printing and current AI tools can spark new ideas while preserving Quaker values of community, simplicity, and service. We'll use artificial intelligence as a creative brainstorming partner, watch a live 3D printing demonstration, and dive into hands-on collaborative crafts. Share how your own maker practice—whether high-tech or handmade—connects to your spiritual life. All experience levels welcome. Bring your curiosity and creativity!

Finding Joy, Hope, and Courage in Radical Resistance

Joe Volk, FCNL Executive Secretary Emeritus, Member Ann Arbor MM, attended Kendal MM (PA)

We'll engage in a conversation about our experiences of Speaking Truth to Power, of Exercising the Power of Love, and of Relying on the Force of Truth — from organized public Nonviolent Direct Actions to quiet individual Acts of Neighborly Kindness and everything in between. We'll share how we have experienced Joy, Hope, and Courage in troubled times and places, both at home and abroad. We'll look forward to what and how we may be called to witness for the rule of law during this period of authoritarian rule.

The Quaker journey with Godly Play and the development of Faith & Play

Ann Pettigrew Nunes, a Trustee of Faith & Play Stories, attends Cincinnati Friends Meeting and is a member of Wilton Quaker Meeting, (Wilton, CT).

Godly Play and Faith & Play are storytelling programs which enable people of all ages to explore and experience the power of the Divine together. Godly Play and Faith & Play stories use Montessori-style materials to tell sacred stories, the parables of Jesus, and Quaker stories of faith, practice and witness. This workshop will provide an introduction to the storytelling program as well as sharing an example of a Faith & Play story, with time for discussion and sharing of ideas about using these stories as a tool for intergenerational worship as well as in First Day/Children's Meeting programming.

Money- The Spiritual is not separate from the Practical

Traci Hjelt Sullivan, Executive Director of Right Sharing of World Resources

When you think about the practical realities of money in your life, what feelings or images come up? Do those same things surface when you reflect on how Spirit shapes your relationship with money? In this Right Sharing of World Resources workshop, we'll explore where these experiences overlap and where they differ, through guided conversation about how we use money and the spiritual traditions and writings that inform our lives.

Paper Weaving

Beth Volk, attender at meeting at Kendal in Kennett Square, PA

Make paper weavings to decorate a notecard you plan to send your legislators, your grandchildren, or your grandparent. They're creative, colorful and satisfying to make. No previous experience required...but, if you plan to attend, you will need to bring your own scissors. (Tweezers are optional, but very helpful to also bring along! The leader provides a variety of paper, samples of weavings, and notecards --as well as advice and inspiration. Ages - 6-100 with finger dexterity a requisite.