

FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING

OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Newsletter, Seventh Month, 2021

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Meeting for Worship During the Pandemic

Friends are now meeting for hybrid worship every 1st day at 10:30AM. Friends may meet physically outdoors (weather permitting) under the roof of the chickee hut on the Orange River in Buckingham.

Friends who prefer to meet via Zoom instead may do so. Each Friday an invitation to Zoom worship is sent to our entire e-mail list, identifying the hyperlink and meeting number. People may join early either physically or via Zoom at 10:00 a.m. for conversation and fellowship.

For directions to the chickee hut, call 239-313-6201 or e-mail the e-mail address above for directions.

QUERIES & ADVICES *from Faith & Practice of Southeastern Yearly Meeting*

Third Section:

To what extent is our personal life in accord with Quaker principles?

7. Self-Discipline & Responsibility

Queries:

- Do we attend meeting for worship regularly and punctually?
- Do we participate in meeting for worship with a concern for business and support it financially and with personal service according to our resources and abilities?
- Are we conscientious in fulfilling all obligations of state and society that are not contrary to our religious convictions?
- Are we punctual in keeping promises, just in payment of debts, and honorable in all our dealings?
- Do we choose recreations that strengthen our physical, mental, and spiritual life, avoiding those that may hinder others, our Earth, and ourselves?
- Do we act responsibly concerning substances and behaviors that can become addictive?

Advices:

- Take heed, dear Friends, to the promptings of love and truth in our hearts, which are the leadings of God.
 - Bring the whole of our life under the healing and ordering of the Holy Spirit, remembering that there is no time but this present.
 - When tempted to do wrong or to despair, call upon God with an open heart, confessing our weaknesses and our needs.
 - Be mindful at all times of our connection with the Divine and others—avoid substances, behaviors, and activities which diminish this connection.
 - Be aware of the ill effects of mind-altering or habit-forming drugs, intoxicants, gambling, and other detrimental practices.
 - Choose recreations that increase our vitality, self awareness, and peace of mind and strengthen our will to create what is good.
 - Make thoughtful use of our time.
 - Guard ourselves and our children in our choice of print, electronic media, and other entertainments. Avoid those that promote violence and disrespect for human beings.
 - Friends, strive to be courteous and responsible while driving.
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Treasurer's Report

Not much happened in the expense area in June. July will have the entire year contribution to SEYM and the purchase of the Meeting Owl device. Donations have been very generous so our expenses have come out of checking with no need to dip into savings or reserves. At this point all major expenses for 2021 are paid, so it is anticipated that we will have a healthy balance in the checking account as we enter 2022. This will be good as we enter into Yurt building or negotiations for another place to meet.

-Paul Davis

FtMMM Funds Report 6/30/2021

General Funds

Checking	9,878
Gen Fund Savings	40,393
Gen Fund Fr Fiduciary	<u>31,783</u>
Total General Fund	82,054

Meeting House Funds

Savings	93,333
MH Funds Fr Fiduciary	<u>14,789</u>
Total Meeting House Funds	108,122
FtMMM Total Funds	\$190,176

June 2021 Income vs Expenses

June Income	\$2,580
June Expenses	\$285

Report from Religious Education Committee

Dear F/friends,

Greetings. This little document will serve as both minutes from the last meeting of the Religious Education Committee and a draft toward our report with recommendations to Ft. Myers Monthly Meeting, for your review and improvement.

We met July 3 at 9 AM until about ten thirty, with the following proposals to recommend to the Meeting:

Recommendations on process for Quakerism 101

1. That the Meeting support seven sessions for Quakerism 101, drawing from our work over some months and around the world to seek suitable approaches and materials for our needs to recommend to the Meeting;
2. That the first session be worshipful consideration of J. Brent Brill's book Holy Silence, to be ordered in July for Friends to read and consider over the summer for personal practice and in preparation for our first session together;
3. That our Quakerism 101 sessions be held on the third Sunday of each month from October 2021 through April 2022 at 12:30 for approximately one hour, having given up our earlier idea of 9 A.M. as crowded;
4. That each session be preceded by providing the full membership with written materials drawn from our diligent search of many available resources;
5. That the sessions themselves be conducted in the manner of Meeting for Worship, with an introductory set of remarks by one of rotating members of the Religious Education Committee followed by contributions, questions, discussion (with cross-talk to be allowed, even encouraged).
6. That all members and attenders be invited to participate, and invited to tell us whether they plan to attend, and by what modality, so we know how to arrange setup for how many.
7. That we order a copy of the current SEYM Faith and Practice for each participant, timed for our beginning session both as a possible reference aid during our sessions and as a gift to those who join us.

As Friends in Melbourne Meeting have written,

“We have no dogma, no creed, no preachers, no sacraments. We believe in the Light Within, ‘That of God in everyone,’ upon which our Testimonies of Simplicity, 2021 strive to witness to the world in our daily lives. Join us in the immediacy of a shared spiritual experience.”

Quakerism 101 content from Religious Education Committee

1. **October 17, 2021** The Importance of Silence to Quakers.
Led by Jeanette Botha. Background material J. Brent Bill's *Holy Silence*.
2. **November 21, 2021** Context, History, Leaders, and Events of Early Friends
Led by Susan Oehl. Background materials from Friends General Conference, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and Durham Friends Meeting pp. 1 – 7.
3. **December 19, 2021.** Friends' Special, Curious, Clear, Peculiar Terminology
Facilitated by Donna Anderton. Background materials from Friends Central Meeting and Friends General Conference.
4. **January 16, 2022.** The Inner Light, division of Friends, modern beliefs and actions, leadership in peace, racial concerns, and other matters.
Led by Tom Miller. Background materials from Melbourne Meeting, pages 7 – 15, and Durham Meeting, pages 7 – 15.
5. **February 20, 2022** Interests, Challenges , and Contemporary Issues for Friends Ranging from Spirituality to Racial Concerns to the Environment and others. Led by Nancy Howell, Susan Oehl and Religious Education Committee members. Background materials from Berkeley Friends and others.
6. **March 20, 2022.** Southeastern Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice. Led by Donna Anderton and Religious Education Committee members.
7. Brief Evaluation of this Quakerism 101 and Looking to the Future: Quakerism 101 participants.

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*Thank you,
Tom Miller*

The Pot Luck Lunches Have Returned!

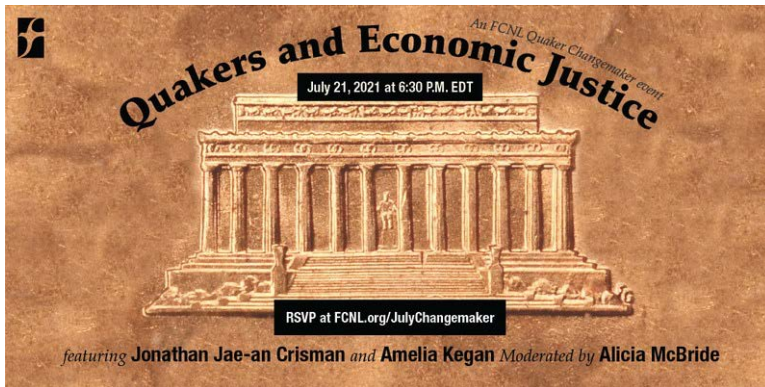
Friends have been able to get around the Covid restrictions regarding worship by instituting Zoom worship, then hybrid Zoom & in-person worship. But many have shared their sadness about not having our traditional community building activities. But, as of earlier this month we reinstated the pot luck lunch. The lunch was held at and around the chickee hut in Buckingham, and will continue to be held there on the first 1st day of each month following worship until we relocate the physical worship gathering. It's not quite what we had in the past. It doesn't serve those who are connected to worship via Zoom only. And it is dependent on decent weather. But it's a big step back to a full sense of community.





Friends Committee
on National Legislation
Lobbying with Quakers

As our country recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic, we're presented with a once-in-a-generation opportunity to fix our economy and invest in children and families. FCNL's July Quaker Changemaker event will highlight Quaker advocacy for a just and inclusive economic recovery. It will outline the critical role of faith voices in this effort.



Panelists include Jonathan Jae-an Crisman--a longtime FCNL supporter and advocate--and Amelia Kegan, legislative director for domestic policy at FCNL. Alicia McBride will moderate the conversation.

Click on this link to [Register to join the conversation on July 21 at 6:30 p.m. EDT.](https://www.fcnl.org/JulyChangemaker)

Ever faithfully onward,
Bobby Trice
FCNL Quaker Outreach Coordinator

USEFUL WEBSITES FOR FRIENDS

- <http://seymquakers.org>..... Southeastern Yearly Meeting
- www.fcnl.org..... Friends Committee for National Legislation
- www.fgcquaker.org Friends General Conference
- www.afsc.org..... American Friends Service Committee
- <http://fwcc.world> Friends World Committee on Consultation
- www.quakerspeak.com..... QuakerSpeak: A Quaker YouTube Channel
- www.quakerhouse.org Quaker House, Fayetteville
- www.quakervoluntaryservice.org Quaker Voluntary Service
- www.quno.org Quaker United Nations Office



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Religious Society of Friends
c/o Richard Frechette
138 Pinebrook Dr.
Fort Myers, FL 33907-5988*

Address Correction Requested

MEETING CALENDAR

<i>1st Days (Sundays)</i>	<i>Meeting for worship in a hybrid format: in person at Buckingham chickee hut or via Zoom. An informal conversation time begins at 10:00 a.m.</i>	10:30 am
<i>Each Friday</i>	<i>Informal worship at Buckingham chickee hut.</i>	10:30 am
<i>Sunday, 8/1/21</i>	<i>Potluck at chickee hut</i>	At rise of worship
<i>Sunday, 8/8/21</i>	<i>Meeting for worship with attention to business</i>	1:00 via Zoom