



FORT MYERS MONTHLY MEETING

Of the Religious Society of Friends

Meeting for Worship

Friends are meeting for hybrid worship every 1st day at 10:30 A.M. Friends may meet physically outdoors (weather permitting) under the roof of the Chickee on the Orange River in Buckingham. (aka Peace Acres). 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.

Midweek worship

Midweek worship, in person only, is held at the Chickee on Peace Acres each Wednesday morning at 10:30 a.m. For directions to Peace Acres, call 239-313-6201 or email the e-mail address above for directions.

Meeting Mailing Address: 138 Pinebrook Dr.

Fort Myers FL 33907

Telephone: (239) 318-0538 ❖ Website: fortmyersquakers.org

E-mail: ftmyers.quakers@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Deb White: debwhitenfl@gmail.com

SEYM Queries & Advices

Second Section:

How do Friends care for one another?

4th Month: Mutual Care Queries:

- How do we foster a spirit of community among the meeting's members and attenders?
- How does the meeting keep in contact with all of the meeting's members and attenders?
- How does the meeting assist couples and families to communicate, grow together, and rear children in a loving environment?
- Does the meeting community nurture the meeting's children?
- How does the meeting care for those who live alone, the sick, the aging, the widowed, the separated or divorced, and others with families affected by disruption?
- Do we assist Friends in need as their circumstances require?
- How do we labor with and care for those whose conduct or manner of living gives grounds for concern?
- How are visitors to our meeting made to feel welcome?

Advices:

Contributions to the Meeting can be made payable to Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, and can be sent to:

Samuel De Oliveira,
Assistant Treasurer
FtMMM

14180 Vindel Cir
Fort Myers, FL. 33905

- Be truthful and sincere, and thus encourage these qualities in others.
- Through example and education, help each other to recognize and follow the voice of God both in our spiritual lives and in joyful and willing service.
- Watch with tenderness over the opening minds of children. Seek to awaken in them the love and understanding of the life and teachings of Jesus and a sense of security in the love of God.
- Remember that there is a unique potential in each human being as a beloved child of God and that the Holy Spirit may lead children to give wise counsel to listening adults.
- Young people, too, have responsibility to care for the meeting and to participate in meetings both for worship and for business. Faith is needed as a vital part of our living.

Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends Minutes of 3rd Month 26, 2023

A Called Meeting for Business was held in hybrid format on Third Month, 26th day with 16 Friends present.

Clerk Richard Frechette explained that the task of the Meeting was to consider a proposed Minute that summarized the discussion held the previous First Day about a prospective FCNL policy on reproductive health, including abortion. If we as a Meeting were in unity, the Minute would be passed on to FCNL as written. If we were not in unity, the group that came to agreement on the substance of the Minute would send it to FCNL as the discernment of that body.

Friend Denise Runyon read the proposed Minute and opened the discussion. Friends immediately voiced their approval of the wording with only a few changes in wording for clarity: “climate migration” should be changed to “climate-caused

migration” or something similar. “This is not where government should be” could be changed to “Government should not interfere with (or not be involved in) that spiritual journey.”

❖ **Minute 2023-MM-06:** Friends unite with the discernment of the group last week on reproductive health, including abortion, with a few wording changes. It will be forwarded to FCNL as the discernment of the Meeting as a whole:

As Quakers, our core belief is that there is that of God in each of us. When faced with reproductive health decisions, we go to the Inner Light to seek discernment, going deep within, asking the Light about the right thing to do. This is our spiritual journey. Government should not interfere with that spiritual journey.

In order to preserve the freedom of individual conscience and guidance of the Inner Light, we stand with those who hold that bodily autonomy and reproductive choice is a human right. Congress needs to ensure access to free reproductive health care including contraception and abortion.

Congress also needs to ensure quality, affordable child care, close the medicaid coverage gap, provide access to prenatal and postpartum health care, ensure generous, paid family and medical leave, protect people who are pregnant in the workplace, and guarantee more assistance to families, including making the Child Tax Credit permanent.

Restriction on abortion is a first step in the denial of women’s rights in general, evidenced by the progression that is happening to make some forms of birth control illegal. The FCNL statement should include the broader sense of both reproductive rights and women’s rights.

Additionally, since overpopulation is a root cause of the depletion of natural resources, climate-caused migration and the destruction of the earth, access to contraception and reproductive choice should be expanded, not diminished.

While we agree that reproductive rights is an issue where we might not come to unity, what binds us together as a spiritual community is not uniformity of belief, but rather our sense of a common journey on a shared path, seeking the guidance of the Light. Our diversity strengthens us as we walk this path of love, compassion, and justice.

Friends congratulated the ad hoc committee that wrote the Minute.

The Meeting closed in silence.
Respectfully Submitted,
Helen Fox, Recording Clerk

In Memory...



Tom Jacobs, husband of Roxy Jacobs, passed away on March 12, 2023 after a long struggle with early onset Alzheimer's. Fort Myers Monthly Meeting will have a memorial meeting to celebrate the life of Tom on Wednesday, April 26 at 10:30 AM both in-person and via Zoom at Peace Acres.

WORSHIP & POTLUCK WITH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS

APRIL 16

At our last Meeting for Business, Friends agreed that on April 16 - instead of worshipping at the Chickeehut, we will worship with members of the Universalist Unitarian Congregation of Fort Myers at 10:30 AM at their location at 13411 Shire Lane, Fort Myers, off Daniels Parkway. Worship will be in the sanctuary building. The campus is the location of our future Meetinghouse. We will also be sharing pot luck with the UUs following worship. Folks can also join in the worship via Zoom (the Zoom link will be posted in next week's invitation).

USEFUL WEBSITES FOR FRIENDS

- <https://pendlehill.org>Pendle Hill, Quaker Retreat and Resource Center
- <http://seymquakers.org>Southeastern Yearly Meeting
- www.fcnl.org.....Friends Committee for National Legislation
- www.fgcquaker.org.....Friends General Conference
- www.afsc.orgAmerican Friends Service Committee
- <http://fwcc.world>Friends World Committee on Consultation
- www.quakerspeak.comQuakerSpeak: A Quaker YouTube Channel
- www.quakerhouse.orgQuaker House, Fayetteville
- www.quakervoluntaryservice.org.....Quaker Voluntary Service
- www.quno.orgQuaker United Nations

MEETING CALENDAR		
Each First Day	Meeting for Worship in a hybrid format: in person at Peace Acres or via Zoom. An informal conversation time begins at 10:00 am.	10:30 a.m.
Each Wednesday	Meeting for Worship at Peace Acres. This is in person only.	10:30 a.m.
4/16/23	Joint worship and potluck with the Unitarian/Universalist congregation. See announcement of event above.	10:30 a.m.
4/20/23	Discussion group: "Childhood in America" facilitated by Susan Oehl on Zoom	7:00 p.m.
5/7/23	First Day Potluck at Peace Acres	upon rise of worship