



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 Acre). 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 Acre each Wednesday morning at 10:30 a.m. For directions to Peace Acre, call 239-313-6201 or email:

ftmyers.quakers@gmail.com

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?

6. Home, Family, & Relationships

Queries:

- *Do we make our home a place where love, peace, happiness, friendship, and refreshment of spirit are found and where the presence of God is experienced?*
- *Do all members of our family receive our affection and understanding?*
- *Do we take care that responsibilities outside the home do not encroach upon the time and loving attention our family needs?*
- *Do we acknowledge and support all relationships and families, whether conventional or not, that are based on love and commitment?*

Meeting Directory Available

A pdf file of the Ft. Myers Quaker Meeting Directory is available to our Meeting family.

Ask Richard Frechette (Rich.Frechette@gmail.com) to e-mail you a copy. Or, if you are unable to open up or print down a pdf file, ask Richard to make a paper copy for you.

Contributions to the Meeting can be made payable to Fort Myers Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, and can be sent to:
FMMM,
Denise Runyon
125 Pinebrook Dr,
Fort Myers, FL 33907

- Does our family set aside First Day and other times for worship, service, rest, and refreshment of spirit?

Advices:

- Live in love, and learn from one another. Try to live simply.
- In our family life, encourage reliance upon God's guidance and help for each day's needs.
- Remember the value of beauty in all its forms.
- God's gifts are for all to enjoy; learn to use them wisely.

(Editor's note: This space is usually reserved for the Minutes of the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business. We did not meet this month.)

New Meetinghouse Update

We are inching closer to groundbreaking. We have received a request from the County for additional information and for various clarifications. Our Engineer is preparing a response to be submitted this week. Once these clarifications are presented, we are hopeful that an approved development order will be received, but we cannot present you a solid target date. Our selected general contractor is ready to move forward as soon as we have received all of our permits.

~ Helen, Paul, Richard, Suzanne, Pat



Religious Education Report

The Religious Education Committee met May 9, 2024 to review the recent 3-part worship-sharing series based on *Holding One Another in the Light* by Marcelle Martin; and to consider future programs.

The committee was in unity that the worship sharing series was valuable and well received by the FMMM community. It seems to have been timely given that a number of us are dealing with health challenges. The question was asked if these needs are opening the way for perhaps more attention to healing in some way, for example a Meeting for Healing, or a community-wide Healing Prayer Circle.

Other suggestions were offered for consideration and we welcome feedback from the meeting community about these:

1. Perhaps schedule the worship sharing in a way that we would meet weekly,
 - possibly all on zoom on a day and time separate from Meeting for Worship.
 - meet before Meeting for Worship.
2. Plan a Worship Sharing in Fall 2025, based on a pamphlet. The committee is open to suggestions for the pamphlet. "Four Doors to Meeting for Worship" by William Taber was suggested in our Committee.
3. Have a Day-Long Retreat, in coordination with other committees (M&C, P&SC), perhaps in Winter 2025 when we are at our fullest attendance.
4. Participate in larger Friends' programs as a community. In this way, we do not have to create the whole program on our own, and the Meeting deepens from this shared experience.
 - planning as a community to participate in a spiritual deepening e-retreat (online) offered by Friends General Conference (FGC).
 - for more of us to attend the SEYM yearly meeting (in spring 2025).

Please feel free to contact any member of the Religious Education Committee with your feedback and preferences: Denise Runyon, Deb White, Jeanette Botha, Susan Oehl, Sheilana Massey.

An Opportunity to Create a Friends Microschool with the Unitarian Universalists

In a synchronistic flow of events “way has opened” for the FMMM to partner with the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Myers (on Shire Rd. - the site for our future Meeting House) to develop a Friends School in the form of a microschool. A microschool is a small private non-traditional school, often with multiple grades in a classroom, that is not controlled by the state of Florida Department of Education, but is eligible to receive tuition grants from the state of Florida that can go toward tuition costs.

Two streams converged for this opportunity. 1) Suzanne Frechette has been meeting with the SEYM Call Committee who are exploring the concept of developing a Friends Microschool in Florida, probably in the Tampa area. This committee has been working on this for a few months and made contact with the Friends Council on Education and Friends Schools for resources.

2) Suzanne received a message from Reverend Sue Gabrielson, UU Congregation about the possibility of having a Friends School on their campus. They are looking at how to better utilize their buildings to serve the community. Reverend Sue was the

director of a Friends School in Monteverde, Costa Rica before coming here full time. The UU campus has the physical classroom space (up to code

for schools) and outdoor space, interest from teachers, and a local daycare that is bringing a PreK program to their campus.

With all these logistics in place it seems to be a fabulous opportunity to consider having a Friends School under the guidance of the FMMM on the campus of the Unitarian Universalists.

Suzanne and Denise met with Reverend Gabrielson and Debbie Dunlap (member of UU congregation with Montessori teaching experience) on Saturday June 8, to consider how to proceed. It was a productive meeting. All agreed it should start small, probably with the early grades, K, 1,2,3, and possibly 4.

We wish to engage the FMMM community in discussion about our support for this project. Do Friends wish to continue with the development of a Friends School at the UU campus? Would we commit to providing Board Members and taking it under the guidance of the FMMM?

~ submitted by Denise Runyon

Peace and Social Concerns Committee

At our May 20, 2024 meeting Chris Ruhnke was invited to share his concern about the 75 year civil war in Myanmar (formerly Burma) between the Karen (Kah-Ren) people, who are Christian and have been seen as collaborators with the British during colonial times, and the Buddhist majority. We decided to educate ourselves. Chris R. Offered to show an informative movie related to this issue on Sunday, June 2. Committee members volunteered to:

- Contact CeCe Yokum, who has had experience with Quaker Peace Teams.
- Contact former FMMM attender, Amy Periera, who worked in Myanmar for several years.
- Contact Quaker Peace Teams (The Meeting makes contributions to this Quaker organization.)
- Try to learn more about the Karen people.

In other business:

Chris McBride volunteered to contact candidate Kari Lerner to encourage her to attend and/or have a booth at the upcoming Juneteenth celebration which will be held on June 15th at Roberto Clemente Park in Fort Myers.

We thanked Richard for submitting the editorial of our Peace statement to the News Press which was published in a recent Sunday editions in Fort Myers and Naples.

LIFE members are encouraged to attend the next Fort Myers City Council Meeting on Monday, June 17 at 4:20 PM as we continue to work for affordable housing justice in Lee County. A few volunteers will speak about the need for the city to support the not for profit Housing Authority so that they can move forward on new affordable housing in Fort Myers. Those who attend to support the speakers are encouraged to wear red.

Reminder: Lyn Charlton is collecting donations to Mision Peñiel in Immokalee on the first Sunday of each month. Current needs for the rainy season include umbrellas, light rain jackets and ponchos.

~Submitted by Carolyn Stanley

FMMM Funds Report for 5/31/2024

General Funds

Checking	6,368
Gen Fund Savings	38,381
Gen Fund Fr Fiduciary	32,699
Total General Fund	77,448
Meeting House Funds	
Savings	481,837
MH Funds Fr Fiduciary	15,216
Total Meeting House Funds	497,053
FMMM Total Funds	574,501

May 2024 Income vs Expenses	
May Income	\$ 2,100
May Expenses	\$ 266*
* Zoom	



USEFUL WEBSITES FOR FRIENDS

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

MEETING CALENDAR		
Each First Day	Meeting for Worship in a hybrid format: in person at Peace Acre or via Zoom. An informal conversation time begins at 10:00 am.	10:30 a.m.
First First Day of each month	Potluck lunch at Peace Acre (Chickee Hut).	Upon rise of worship
Each Wednesday	Mid-week Meeting for Worship at Peace Acre. This is in person only.	10:30 a.m.
Third First Day	Singing before worship.	10:00 a.m.