

SEYM Gathering & Annual Sessions

April 13-17, 2022

Workshop Descriptions

See the Schedule for updates on which sessions are offered online.

THURSDAY 1:15 PM

Child Safety Training

Creating safe spaces for our youth is basic to welcoming and keeping families in our meetings. As a community, we need to know not only how to prevent abuse, but also how help each child feel safe and included so they can truly enjoy being in our communities.

This new SEYM Child Safety Training is designed for ALL Friends, whether you work with children or not. *It takes a village!* We will cover best practices in caring for different youth age groups, and how to prevent, recognize, and report child abuse. This Child Safety Training is also a requirement for becoming a registered SEYM Youth Worker under the Child Abuse Prevention Program (CAPP).

Facilitators: Cheryl Demers Holton, CAPP Coordinator, and Kody Hersh, Youth & Young Adult Coordinator.

THURSDAY 2:45 PM

Sermon on the Mount (part 1)

We will explore the core of Jesus' teaching – the Sermon on the Mount (Matt: 5, 6, 7) – using the Friendly Bible Study method. Each day we will focus on one chapter from the Gospel of Matthew – Thurs Chapt 5, Fri Chapt 6, Sat Chapt 7 – comparing different translations. You may attend any or all sessions. Bring your favorite Bible if you want to. **Facilitator: Joel Cook**

Queer-Competency in Faith Spaces

The LGBTQ community has long been part of the bedrock that is The Religious Society of Friends. As our understanding of queerness expands so must our approach to inclusion for meet spaces. In this workshop, we will start with an overview of LGBTQ+ identity, how religious trauma impacts inclusivity, and ways to make our meetings intentionally queer-competent. **Facilitator: Dr. Laura McGuire**

Friends Peace Teams

During this workshop on Friends Peace Teams we will demonstrate some exercises we use in Latin America using Alternatives to Violence exercises. We will invite people in the workshop to participate and discuss how these exercises strengthen community building, communication, and problem solving that helps build community and solidarity. **Facilitator: Cece Yocum**

When Theologians Get Together, They Argue; When Mystics Get Together, They Laugh: Minimizing Pain and Maximizing Joy

In this workshop we will study and worship share on ancient Stoic practices to reduce negative emotions (like anger, anxiety, frustration, and envy) and to enhance positive emotions (like happiness, delight and joy).

Facilitator: Jerry Knutson

FRIDAY 1:15 PM

Sermon on the Mount (part 2)

We will explore the core of Jesus' teaching – the Sermon on the Mount (Matt: 5, 6, 7) – using the Friendly Bible Study method. Each day we will focus on one chapter from the Gospel of Matthew – Thurs Chapt 5, Fri Chapt 6, Sat Chapt 7 – comparing different translations. You may attend any or all sessions. Bring your favorite Bible if you want to. **Facilitator: Joel Cook**

Extended Worship

Facilitators: Worship & Ministry Committee members. Cokesbury Room

All Together Now: Welcoming Families & Youth

Creating all-ages community is vital to the future of our Religious Society. We'll explore possibilities for invitation, welcome, and inclusion of families and children in the life of local meetings. How can we prepare spaces and programs to welcome newcomers? How are we called to rethink practices and structures that are barriers to family and youth participation? Participating Friends will explore a renewed vision and specific tools for growing together in spiritual community. **Facilitator: Melinda Wenner Bradley.** Auditorium

Affinity Groups

- **Only White (European American) Friends and Attenders Confronting Racism:** Our racial justice work is sustained in part by staying connected with others doing this work. Gather with other White (European American) Friends and attenders who are addressing racism and Whiteness in our lives and in our Quaker communities. **Co-hosts: Kody Hersh and Susan Taylor**
- **Only Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC)** Come to meet and talk with other BIPOC Friends and attenders. We will create our own agenda, which may include sharing our experiences as Friends. **Hosts: Beverly Ward and another Friend from the Committee for Ministry on Racism.**

FRIDAY 2:45 PM

Extended Worship (continued)

Lobbying Workshop: Healing the Earth and Healing Ourselves

"One good conversation can shift the direction of change forever." --Linda Lambert. There's more to a lobby visit than the ask. It's also a space for healing across political lines and within oneself. Join Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) Florida Advocacy Corps Organizer, Marianne Wareham, for an intimate exploration of the grassroots lobbying experience, focusing specifically on the Environmental Justice for All Act (S. 872/H.R. 2021). In this interactive workshop, we will cover the mechanics of organizing and structuring a lobby visit, and dive deeper to contemplate and maximize the potential for healing and restoration within these pre-arranged conversations. There will be an opportunity to take action incorporated in this workshop. **Facilitator: Marianne Wareham, FCNL**

The Art of Dying Well

We will share wisdom and stories of living well with declining health and preparing for a good death, using Katy Butler's *The Art of Dying Well: A Practical Guide to a Good End of Life* as a guide. "This is a step-by-step guide to remaining as functional and as happy as possible, and as informed and unafraid, through the health stages most of us will traverse (sometimes quickly, sometimes slowly) as time grows finite." *It's helpful not only for older Friends, but also for those with aging parents.* Davida Johns and Peter Crockett, St. Pete MM, had read a lot of the death and dying literature, and were thrilled to discover this book as it covers so much of the years long before active dying. Whether you have read the book or not, they will joyfully share Katy Butler's wisdom. **Facilitators: Peter Crockett & Davida Johns**

The Toxic Truth: Environmental violence at the Homestead detention camp.

From 2016 to 2018 over 22,000 migrant children passed through the Homestead Detention center where they were detained near a superfund site. Learn about the report published by the American Friends Service Committee and Earthjustice, that highlights the intersection of environmental racism and immigration. And how Homesteads community organizing made for a successful campaign to close the largest, for profit, youth migrant detention center in the US. **Facilitator: Guadalupe de la Cruz, AFSC-Miami**

SATURDAY 1:15 – 2:30 pm

Sermon on the Mount (part 3)

We will explore the core of Jesus' teaching – the Sermon on the Mount (Matt: 5, 6, 7) – using the Friendly Bible Study method. Each day we will focus on one chapter from the Gospel of Matthew – Thurs Chapt 5, Fri Chapt 6, Sat Chapt 7 – comparing different translations. You may attend any or all sessions. Bring your favorite Bible if you want to. **Facilitator: Joel Cook Room**

Earthcare: Beyond Build Back Better, What Is Needed for the World We Seek.

This workshop will share information on recent federal legislation, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The Act makes available significant new funding to address transportation (roadways, public transit, etc.), clean water, among other facilities and resources. Information on local disbursements and suggestions on ways to be engaged on the local level in implementation, including Justice 40, will be available. We also will examine H.R.5376 - Build Back Better Act, what is in the act, and what actions are needed to realize the world we seek. Together, we will explore ways to support Quaker and other organizations to respond to the urgency of climate collapse. Please consider bringing forward local examples of concern, responses, suggestions, etc. **Facilitator: Beverly Ward, SEYM Field Secretary for Earthcare**

Welcoming the Ages We Are *(Participants of all ages enthusiastically welcome!)*

Come engage in discussion within and across generations about what our ages and generational identities mean to us and how they shape our experiences. **Facilitator: SEYM Youth and Young Adult Coordinator Kody Hersh. Auditorium**

SATURDAY 2:45-4:00 pm

Resisting Racism with Creativity & Preparation: Bridging the Gulf Instead of Widening It.

The Committee for Ministry on Racism (CMOR) warmly invites Friends to join us in this engaging, interactive workshop led by a few members of CMOR. We will be meeting each other where we are, with love in the Spirit. **CMOR members:** Wendy Clarissa Geiger, Co-clerk (Jacksonville); Susan Taylor, Co-clerk (Tallahassee); Minerva Glidden (Orlando), Beverly Ward (Tampa), Kathy Hersh (DeLand Worship Group), Brad Stocker (Miami), Jane Westburg (Miami, Boulder); Jean Larson (Gainesville), Cheryl Demers (DeLand Worship Group), Katie Green (Clearwater), Mainus Sultan (Savannah)

Spiritual Nurture for Our Friends Communities

All Friends are invited to join in an open conversation about ways that your Meetings or Worship Groups are working together to provide spiritual nurture to your Friends Communities. We have not yet emerged from a difficult two years of social, emotional and spiritual isolation due to the pandemic. Our communities are tired and spiritually drained. What are you and your Meeting doing to address these needs? What could you do? How can we strengthen our Meeting communities spiritually in the coming year? **Workshop Leaders/Clerks: Eduardo Diaz, Richelle Ogle. Sponsored by the Worship & Ministry Committee.**

Peace & Social Concerns Forum

How is Spirit moving us to witness for Peace and Social Justice? Friends are invited to share their concerns as well as the varieties of work and witness they have undertaken. We are not alone in our efforts to seek way forward, and it is helpful to hear how other meetings are proceeding. We can share our examples of networking with faith groups, activist groups and others in our communities. We will learn of actions being taken on a wide array of concerns and of ongoing efforts, and discuss ways we can take action together. Expect to come away with notes, resources, new ideas, and best of all, feeling encouraged and connected. **Facilitator: Phil Stone, P&SC Committee Clerk**

The Gathered Meeting

We will worship share on the tract "The Gathered Meeting," by Thomas Kelly, a twentieth-century Quaker. This document explains the group mysticism that can occur in our meetings for worship when the Spirit is felt by almost everyone. This workshop will also provide an excellent follow up to Nancy Fennell's Michener lecture in January 2022. **Facilitator: Jerry Knutson (Orlando Meeting)**