

Quakers in North America

Quakers in North America are diverse in their beliefs and practices. Friends opted to split into various groups because of disagreements throughout the years.

Conservative Friends are a small group that emphasize both the Inward Light and the Bible as sources of inspiration and guidance. They practice unprogrammed worship. Many of them observe the practice of the traditional standards of "plainness" in speech and dress. Their meetings are not part of any larger groups. They are found primarily in Iowa, Ohio, and North Carolina.

Pastoral Friends emphasize the Bible as a source of inspiration and guidance. They practice programmed worship led by ordained clergy. Most pastoral Friends groups are part of the Friends United Meeting. They conduct both service projects and evangelism, and are found primarily in Indiana, North Carolina, Iowa, and Ohio.

Evangelical Friends strongly emphasize the Bible as a source of inspiration and guidance, considering it the ultimate authority for faith and practice. They practice planned worship led by ordained clergy. Their congregations are often called churches instead of meetings, and they are usually part of Evangelical Friends International. They are very active in evangelism and missionary outreach as well as service projects. They are found throughout the United States; largely concentrated in Ohio, California, Oregon, and Kansas. Also in Guatemala and Panama.

Liberal Friends emphasize the **Inner Light** as a source of inspiration and guidance. They practice unprogrammed, spirit-led worship, and have no ordained clergy. Among them are both Christians and universalists. Many liberal Friends groups are part of the Friends General Conference. Some of them are part of both the Friends General Conference and the Friends United Meeting; others are independent or not affiliated with any larger group. They involve themselves in service projects, but not in evangelism. They are widespread throughout the United States and Canada but are mostly found in Pennsylvania, New York, and New Jersey.

(Information obtained from Pendle Hill)

Monthly Meeting for Business: 17 May 2026 14 people attended.

Acting Presiding Clerk, Dee Dee Healey opened the Meeting with a centering devotion on how the stillness of gathered worship allows us to experience God's love and discern where God is leading us. The minutes of last month (May) were read by Linda Daniel and were approved. (The minutes are available in the church office.) The kitchen renovation is in progress. Decisions are being made about the vent and hood for the stove. The old kitchenette has been removed and claimed by members of the Meeting. It was decided that the Friends Coffee Shoppe would remain closed until the kitchen renovation was completed.

Next Monthly Meeting for Business: July 19, 2026 at 9:30 am.

Treasurer's Report – Carolyn presented the balance sheets for May and reviewed the total amount in each fund. (The balance sheets are available in the church office.) At the end of May, the Meeting had \$279,558.87 in combined accounts and certificates of deposit. This total is down from April due to renovation expenses. This is anticipated and will be reflected in the treasurer's reports until the renovation is completed. There was discussion about how to help the Friends Food Pantry fund. The Springsgiving letter specifically requesting donations for the Food Pantry was mailed earlier in the month. We have received good response to the letter.

The Food Pantry will receive a generous donation from a grant through the Unitarian Universalist church which will bring the fund back into a healthy balance.

Ministry & Oversight Report– Future presiders were discussed. On the 5th Sunday, we will have presiders offering "personal reflections" during Meeting for Worship. Shari Green shared her story about international adoption on June 28th. In August, Carolyn Dowling will be our speaker. Tentative future personal reflections include Carolyn Dowling on August 30th. The committee is discussing additional personal reflections for September as part of our 150th anniversary celebration. Special events for the 150th celebration in September will include a carry-in meal for Sunday September 27. The committee continues to stay connected with homebound Friends through visits, cards of encouragement, and phone calls. The committee is grateful for the assistance of the Quaker Women's Circle with this ministry. The Wednesday Bible Study group is reading the book of Acts. Sunday School continues to be well attended with good discussion of We Make the Road by Walking.

Next committee meeting: July 2, 2026 at 2 pm.

New Association of Friends- The annual gathering for nurture and fellowship will be Saturday, September 12, 9:30 am to 2 pm at First Friends Meeting in Richmond. A carpool will be planned for members who would like to attend. More information to follow as it comes available.

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Stewardship & Finance Report– Jan shared that the church signage from Advanced Signs has been completed, thank you to Jack Otley for seeing to this task. There were several positive comments about the new signs.

The kitchen renovation is in progress with decisions being made in regard to the vent and hood for the stove. The former kitchenette has been removed and claimed by members of the Meeting. The new printer for the office is up and running. It will use liquid ink rather than toner cartridges and so far, seems to be working well. The old printers in the workroom will eventually be donated or recycled. **The office needs reams of computer paper.**

Next committee meeting will be Tuesday, July 14 at 2 pm.

Community Outreach Report–The committee discussed how to adjust schedules for both Friends Coffee Shoppe and Friends Food Pantry during the kitchen renovation. The Coffee Shoppe is temporarily closed and the Food Pantry operated as a drive through/walk up for June with approval from SHFB. Friends Food Pantry is available to all residents in Indiana. Donations of shelf stable food items and personal care items are always appreciated. Items for donations include hand crank can openers, canned foods with a pull top lid; tuna and chicken (canned and pouch type), baby wipes. Volunteers are always welcomed and appreciated. 143 households were assisted with food in June. An average household includes 4.6 people. This is an increase in households served and was expected with the 37% increase in cost of groceries compared to last year. Michael Bantz reported 35 of the June food pantry neighbors signed in as first time attenders. Dee Dee expressed gratitude for the \$3,000 grant from the Unitarian Universalist Church Special as well as thanks to all the Food Pantry volunteers.

Next committee meeting is July 6 at 2 pm.

Anniversaries

07/21 Michael & Diana Bantz

Birthdays

07/07 Annette Downing

07/09 Keith Healey

07/10 Helena Fragomeni

07/11 Toni McKillip

07/13 Elizabeth Holbrook

07/13 Matthew Holbrook

07/16 Dee Dee Healey

07/20 Linley Fragomeni

07/25 Bonnie Gribble

Prayers, Concerns, Condolences

Donna Conrad

Debbie Droppleman

Loretta and Steve Hinshaw

Charles Winslow family

Muncie Friends Church

Venezuela victims and survivors

Friends who have lost their way; homeless hungry; angry with life and circumstances.

Pray for each other.

****If you have something to share (birthday, anniversary, prayer concern, or condolence), please reach out to the church office by telephone or email.**

Quaker Women's Circle – The next meeting is Thursday July 9 at 2 pm with plans to take inventory of kitchen items. A “Kitchen Shower” is planned for the August 13th meeting. Quaker women continue to work on the coasters to be distributed with the 150th Anniversary cookbooks which are now in production. Coasters will be given with the first 100 cookbooks sold. Bookmarks will be developed to be given as small gifts as well. Cards of encouragement were signed and sent to homebound friends.

Ladies Night Out- meets the second Friday of every month for fellowship and food. For July, the ladies will gather on the 10th at McAllister's Deli at 5:30 pm. All ladies are welcome to join in the fellowship.

Men's Breakfast- the men gather at Riverside Café on the last Thursday of each month. Time: 8 am. All men are welcome to join for fellowship and breakfast.

Friends Food Pantry-every month on the third Saturday food and personal care items are passed out at our pantry. We operate solely through donation, **so donations are always welcomed and very much appreciated**. For July, the date is set for Saturday, July 18, time: 10 am – 12 noon. For more information, reach out to Dee Dee Healey, lead volunteer.

Friends Coffee Shoppe -This ministry has become a stable place, and an important place to the Muncie community. Currently, the Coffee Shoppe is closed due to the new kitchen that is being built in the East Room. As soon as the renovation is completed, the Coffee Shoppe will re-open. This is also a volunteer and donation based ministry. We are very fortunate to have several friends who help us with both Food Pantry and Coffee Shoppe.

Sunday School- meets on Sunday morning at 9:30 am. Presently, we only have adult Sunday School, however, when the time arises, we will be ready for children Sunday School too.

Meeting for Worship – We gather every Sunday at 11 am to worship together. We have Friends that volunteer to lead worship, sing hymns, and offer a time for centering, reflection and prayer. If you are interested in sharing something, reach out to our Ministry & Oversight Committee.

Monthly Meeting for Business- is the third Sunday of each month at 9:30 am. No Sunday School on this day. All Friends are encouraged to attend and find out how things get done.

RCM Liaison Update –

Linda Daniel reported that Gary McCoy joined the Café staff as “Maintenance Coordinator” on June 1. Matt Albert, who was at the front reception desk, is no longer with the Café. Abby Carpenter, Executive Director, has started interviewing candidates for the position. Close to 20 people have applied. Havel has begun repairs on the AC units. Gary, along with members of the Café, have cleaned up the Adams Street side of the building. Benches and picnic tables have been installed. The IUH Ball Hospital work crew on the September Day of Action will be building new vegetable beds. There are also plans to partner with Muncie Friends Church for the September United Way Day of Action. The plan is to serve water and ice cream to work crews that day. A subcommittee of the Board is now meeting to discuss fundraising and pursuing grants for both operational costs and capital projects. The next fundraising event is the 5K walk on August 8. The next Board meeting is set for July 16.

In September, we will be celebrating 150 years of being a Quaker in Muncie Indiana. For me, it’s been a lifetime of growing, learning, living, experiencing how to live peacefully. Living peacefully in happy times; in sad times; in times of war (wondering and praying that my brother would return home after the war). Growing up in an average neighborhood; walking to school every day, (in my young teen years, I walked with crutches). Walking to Meeting every Sunday (Friends Memorial Church was only five or six blocks from our home). We would often stop at Margaret Garner’s home on the way and then walk together the rest of the way to Meeting. rain or shine; warm or cold. Memories, lots of memories. Watching the building of the East Wing was amazing! Of course, they took down several old houses to make room for the “new” part. Growing up here has been a journey, and it continues to be just that....a journey. I will soon be seventy years young, and I embrace every single memory of this Meeting. To many of you, these words will sound silly, that’s ok. Dee Dee (Davidson) Healey

Our Mission: To nourish hearts and minds, bodies and souls.

Our Vision: A nourished community.

July’s Quaker Trivia....

“It doesn’t happen just on Sunday”

Quakers emphasize the importance of living out one’s faith in everyday life. Quakers believe in the integration of faith and action, emphasizing that religious beliefs should manifest in practical deeds and contributions to the world. Quakers strive to live out their faith in their daily lives, seeking to make a positive impact on society.

Muncie Friends Church: A Quaker Meeting
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The Friendly News

Email: munciefriendschurch@gmail.com

Website: www.munciefriendschurch.org

Sunday School 9:30 am; Meeting for Worship 11 am

***Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 10 am – 2 pm**

***If you need to contact us, PLEASE leave a detailed telephone message or email us.**

***We are a supportive, caring congregation demonstrating Quaker values
in personal relationship with the Light of Christ, that light enabling us to bring the world to God.***