

# Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting

## FRIENDLY LINE

### March 2026



Love as Action vigil in February, in front of DMVF Meeting. Photo by Jon Krieg.

### Bearing Witness, Building Hope: Love as Action

DMVF Meeting will hold another monthly Love as Action vigil with the American Friends Service Committee on March 21st at 11 a.m. at the corner of 42nd Street and Grand Avenue in Des Moines. Friends can gather early at the meeting house to make or share signs. Afterwards, all are invited to gather for a social time with food. Invite friends to join us!

To help plan, F(f)riends are encouraged to register in advance, at:

<https://www.mobilize.us/afscfriendengagement/event/914450/>

We desire that our presence will give hope to all who see and remind everyone of our moral obligations to one another.

Resources can be found at [afsc.org/love-action](http://afsc.org/love-action).

After March's vigil, AFSC and DMVF will assess whether to continue the vigils.

### Mid-Year Meeting March 28-29, Bear Creek Meeting House, near Earlham

This year's theme is "Yielding Toward an Expressive Practice for Friends," with resource person Carol Spaulding-Kruse (pen name Carol Roh Spaulding), assisted by Billie Wade and Stan Sanders

- Who gets to be creative?
- What is the role of creative expression in everyday life?
- Is there such a thing as writing-in-the-Light?

These and other questions will be addressed "as we explore the idea of yielding as a 'giving way' (to the Spirit) and as generating useful and beautiful returns on our (creative) investment."

#### Schedule Outline:

Saturday/ Seventh Day:

- 10 a.m., Welcome and sign-in (if joining remotely)
- 10:30 a.m. Meeting for Worship
- 11:30 a.m. Welcome from Bear Creek  
11:45 a.m. Lunch  
1:30 p.m. Session 1 of the program 3:30 IYM(C) Interim Committee and Peace & Social Concerns Committee meet.
- 5:30 p.m. Supper
- 7:00 p.m. Session 2 of the program with evening interest groups:
  - "Journaling as Spiritual Guidance" with Billie Wade

- "Yielding to Spirit" with Stan Sanders
- "Generative AI & Human Creativity" with Carol Spaulding Kruse

- 8:30 p.m. Optional group game, "The Minister's Cat"
- 8:45 p.m. Singing (all are invited to join in and bring instruments))

Sunday/First Day:

- 7:30 a.m. Breakfast:
- 9:00 a.m. Pre-Meeting program Session 3, "Queries for Quaker Creatives" with Carol Spaulding-Kruse, Billie Wade and Stan Sanders
- 10:30 a.m. Meeting for worship
- 11:45 a.m. Lunch and farewells

Find more details about the schedule, the program and registration information, at <https://www.iymc.org/midyear-meeting-2/>.

Friends are requested to register by March 15 to help with planning meals and youth activities.

#### ----- What's Inside, includes:

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MEETING FOR WORSHIP  
WITH ATTENTION TO  
BUSINESS

February 8, 2026

Present: Cheryl Sutton, Catherine Dietz-Kilen, Jim Dietz-Kilen, Dorothy Lifka, Katie Jacoby, Peter Clay, Billie Wade, Charlie Brown, Andrea Holveck, Tyler Walpole, Petra Lange, Claire Cumbie-Drake, David Drake

Prior to the Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business, Liz Oppenheimer and August Kalinosky met with Friends via Zoom.

Minute The Meeting expressed its appreciation to Liz and August for their presentation to the Meeting regarding ICE activity in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area and the response of the community.

The Meeting opened with silence. Minutes from the January 2026 Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business were reviewed.

Minute:The Meeting approved the Minutes of the last business meeting with appreciation for the Recording Clerk.

**Treasurer's Report:** (Katie Jacoby) Katie reviewed the financial reports. She noted that the income for the year was 77% of what was budgeted, and expenses were 79% of what was budgeted.

**Finance Committee Report**

(Catherine Dietz-Kilen)

Minutes of Finance Committee Meeting January 21, 2026.

In attendance: Catherine Dietz-Kilen, Katie Jacoby, Dorothy Lifka

1. The committee reviewed and approved the financial statements for October, November and December 2025.

2. A discussion was held regarding the benefits of each committee reporting to the Meeting how the committee's funds were spent or donated. Catherine will contact the committee convenors and request that each committee keep a running total/list of funds spent and provide the list to the finance committee by September 15 of the year, to assist the finance committee in the preparation of the following year's budget and to share with the Meeting.

3. The interest earned on the CDs owned by Meeting will be shown on future financial reports as an increase in value of the CDs. The reports will therefore match the bank records. Interest earned on the mutual funds/checking account will continue to be reflected on the financial statements as monthly income.

4. Katie has discovered that the interest rate on the mutual funds/checking account is greater than for a CD and wisely held off reinvesting the funds in another CD. The matter will be discussed further at the next committee meeting.

5. Katie has the tax letters ready and will send them out before the end of the month.

6. The committee has been discussing the best way to store and access our records. Katie has done a significant amount of research on options. It was decided that we will gratefully make use of the Google Drive that Forrest is setting up for the Meeting. Those

members for the committee who are less familiar with Google Drive plan to accept, with much appreciation, Cheryl's offer to provide tutoring.

Next meeting: February 18 at 9:00 am via zoom.

No action items.

Tax letters were sent out to Meeting contributors.

Minute The Meeting expressed appreciation to the Treasurer for her hard work and to the Finance Committee. Committees are requested to keep track of their donations to help guide budgeting for next year and to remind us of the work the committees are doing.

**Ministry and Counsel**

**Committee Report** (Jim Dietz-Kilen)

The committee is developing a book club opportunity for collective exploration of the book, *Fit for Freedom, Not For Friendship: Quakers, African Americans, and the Myth of Racial Justice* by Donna McDaniel and Vanessa Julye. More to come.

We have one action item, to be shared at Business Meeting—a reminder for Friends to pass along any comments they have in response to the January Friendly Line article on membership by Peter Clay. Please email comments to Jim Dietz-Kilen ([jimdhyphenk@icloud.com](mailto:jimdhyphenk@icloud.com)) to help inform our discussion of requests for Meeting membership, which we will resume at our March committee meeting.

Minute Friends received the report with appreciation for the work of the Ministry and Counsel committee members. Friends are reminded that a purpose of the Ministry and

Counsel committee is for pastoral care of members and attenders. Friends should contact members of Ministry and Counsel if they have a concern for themselves or anyone else in the Meeting.

**Peace and Social Concerns Committee Report (P&SC):**  
(Billie Wade)

Present: Billie Wade (convener), Peter Clay, Patty Wengert, Dick Douglass

The February meeting opened with a moment of silent worship at the appointed time, 12:00 p.m. The Committee discussed at length the budget and how best to distribute funds. One Friend noted that our donations to food banks is lower per capita when compared to other religious organizations. Another Friend mentioned that “donations” connotes a hierarchal structure. The committee will strive henceforth to use the term “sharing of resources”.

The committee identified three organizations with whom to share resources and those checks will be ordered promptly.

Billie gave a heads up that the Meeting for Business will be discussing the Apartheid Free Communities pledge, as a follow-up to the discussion among a small group of Friends several weeks ago.

Dick Douglass is a new member of the committee.

There were no action items.

The meeting concluded at 1:35 p.m. with a moment of silent worship.

Minute Friends support the work of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee. We appreciate their discernment regarding how we as individuals and as a Meeting come together

to share our resources with community groups whose missions we support.

P&SC Announcements:

- 1) A Potluck for Palestine is February 13, 5:00 p.m. at Saint John’s Lutheran Church, Des Moines, IA. P&SC is co-sponsoring the event. Peter Clay has volunteered to help with the set-up and tear-down.
- 2) P&SC invites you to dust off your musical instruments, polish your poetry, practice that song, or whatever else you choose. On First Day, April 19, we will combine finger foods (instead of soup lunch) with a Des Moines Valley Friends Talent Show. There will be a sign-up sheet on the triangle. You’ve got two and a half months to practice!

**Religious Education**

**Committee:** no report

**Outreach Committee:** no report

**Building & Grounds**

**Committee:** no report

**Committee for Migrant and Refugee Concerns (CMARC):**  
(Jim Dietz-Kilen)

Meetings were held Dec. 20, 2025, and Jan. 10, 2026

The committee meeting began and ended in silence. We discussed financial and other support for Muji, a student at Scattergood who has stayed with several Des Moines Valley Friends during his breaks. We agreed to cover the cost of his passport renewal and a small allowance while he completes his senior year at Scattergood. We will try to provide transportation for him if he is able to visit his brother in North Carolina and will cover any related expenses.

We agreed to give \$1,200 to Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice. Ann shared information about upcoming trainings which will also be in the Friendly Line.

We agreed to give \$1,200 to fund DACA application fees through the Ames Sanctuary Interfaith Partners.

We support the AFSC vigil on January 17th at the corner of Grand and 42nd Street.

We discussed the needs of the English classes, 8th and College, located at Trinity Las Americas. Information about how to volunteer to be a greeter/do door duty will be in the February Friendly Line. We will discuss funding needs of the program at our next CMARC meeting.

Next meeting: Feb. 7, 2026, on Zoom. We invite Friends to contact Dorothy Lifka if you would like to be part of this committee.

A small group met to learn about North Star Network. Jim Dietz-Kilen is compiling a list of individuals who are interested in volunteering. Friends should contact Jim if they are interested. Friends are encouraged to communicate regarding sensitive information through an encrypted network such as Signal.

Minute We expressed appreciation for the work of CMARC. We especially appreciate the work of Jim Dietz-Kilen. to coordinate a meeting to learn more about North Star Network. We also appreciate the sharing of CMARC resources with organizations whose missions we support.

**Nominating Committee Report**  
(Andrea Holveck)

It was decided that committees and other positions would be two-year terms. The nominating committee will not be contacting you until next fall. However, if you wish to change to a different committee or have your name removed, please contact Andrea Holveck, Cindy Winchell or David Drake. We appreciate everyone who contributes to the work of the Meeting.

The Meeting is requesting that Nominating Committee appoint an individual from the Meeting as a representative to the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL).

Next Nominating Committee: October 2026.

Minute The Meeting expressed appreciation for the work of the Nominating Committee.

The list of positions and committee assignments ran in the February Friendly Line and is updated with a few changes, below.

**DMVF Meeting 2026 Committees**

Co-clerks Dorothy Lifka and Charlie Brown

Recording Clerk Forrest Determann

Asst. Recording Clerk Claire Cumbie-Drake (Peter Clay as backup)

Treasurer Katie Jacoby

Asst. Treasurer Dorothy Lifka

2nd Hour Scheduler Carol

Spaulding Kruse (also updates the Directory)

Query Facilitator Billie Wade

Query Recorder Susan Meyers

Asst. Query Recorder Peter Clay

Finance Committee Catherine Dietz-Kilen, (Convener), Charlie Brown, Cheryl Sutton

Ministry & Counsel Jim Dietz-

Kilen (Convener), Dorothy

Lifka, Gordon Bivens, Andrea

Holveck, Peter Clay, Deborah

Fisch, Billie Wade

Peace & Social Concerns Billie

Wade (Convener), Patty

Wengert, Petra Lange, Peter

Clay, Dick Douglass

Religious Education Dorothy

Lifka, Andrea Holveck, Ann

Robinson, Carol Spaulding

Kruse, Cindy Winchell, Deborah

Fisch

Buildings & Grounds Charlie

Brown (Convener), Fred Nelson,

Bob Henderson

Library Deborah Fisch

(Convener), Patty Reynolds,

Dorothy Lifka

Friendly Line Ann Robinson,

Billie Wade

Property Management Fred

Nelson, Bob Henderson

DMARC Representatives Kari

Noble, Andrea Holveck

FH Board Representatives

Deborah Fisch, Billie Wade,

Dorothy Lifka

Outreach Ann Robinson, Billie

Wade, Katie Jacoby, Forrest

Determann, Lindsey Baker

Audit Committee Billie Wade,

Peter Clay

\*\*\*Hospitality: Hosting

Scheduler, Supplies and Potluck

organizing: Charlie Brown –

backup with Charlie?

House Scheduler Claire Cumbie-

Drake

Committee for Migrant and

Refugee Concerns Dorothy Lifka

(convener) Jim Dietz-Kilen,

Peter Clay, Andrea Holveck, Ann

Robinson, David Drake, Patty

Wengert, Patti McKee.

Interfaith Alliance Rep. Dorothy Lifka

Nominating Committee Andrea Holveck (Convener), David

Drake

**Library Committee:** no report

**Friend's House Board Report:**

Friends House Board Meeting-

Jan. 16th, 2026, 1:00 p.m.

Present: Cole Fuller (Clerk),

Dorothy Lifka, Randy Adams,

Geral Blanchard, Billie Wade,

Deborah Fisch, Kathleen

McQuillen, Renee Cawthorn

Moment of silence

- Financial Report: (Randy Adams)
- Office Rental Rates
  1. Cole and Dorothy have teamed up to review and assess office spaces. Some may be over- or under-valued.
  2. Dorothy to reach out to renters and see if they have areas they would like to see fixed, and if so, would that make them more likely to pay more for rent.
- Safety & Building Maintenance: Renee provided an overview of quick points pertaining to building upkeep and maintenance.
  1. Roof deterioration and options for preserving life of roof. Still some more research and information needed. Gerry has had this new technology done to his own roof. Possibly finding others who have testimonials to offer.
  2. Hanging entry branches wasn't covered in discussion.
  3. Pests have been under control with no critters inside since installing the ultrasonic repellent system. Thanks to Gerry for the suggestion.
  4. Mike from B&G

Committee is meeting with Midwest Lock to simplify the office key situation. He will receive an estimate and pass that along.

- **Cleaning & Building**  
Appearance: Renee will be resuming her cleaning position. Carpet cleaning for stairs and second floor. Would like to go with a hypoallergenic option. One that doesn't use harsh chemicals and perfumes. Stretching carpet was also suggested for stairs and second floor. This could also alleviate any sort of tripping hazard.
- **Tenant Requests:** It was agreed that a sink will not be installed in Suite 6. There were many concerns around this topic. It was suggested a portable sink could be used as an option. Renee will send the board's decision and recommendation for other option.
- **Property & Grounds:** Tree stump options were not discussed. Moved to April meeting along with landscape options for the back along the fence line.
- **Leasing & Occupancy:** Currently, still have signs in front yard. Renee will post vacancy on FH website. Kathleen volunteered to share vacancy on her own personal social media page. Others could help spread the word on their own pages.
- **Reminders/ Announcements:**
  - Scattergood students stay has been confirmed. Dorothy will get the Overnight Guest Policy contract for them to sign.

- Lawn service doesn't include any weed killer.
- Deferred Items: Air conditioning moved to April meeting.
- 2026 Meeting Dates:  
April 17th @ 1:00 p.m.;  
July 17th @ 1:00 p.m.;  
October 16th @ 1:00 p.m.

Minutes provided by: Renee Cawthorn- Friends House Manager

Friends who are interested in use of the Meeting House grounds, such as creating a space for children or gardening, should contact Katie Jacoby for further discussion.

Minute We express appreciation for DMVF representatives on the Friends House Board and for the special relationship between Friends House and DMVF.

**New Business:**

February/March Love in Action Vigils at the Meeting House – Peter, Katie and Deborah have agreed to take the lead in organizing the February vigil. They will reach out to Jon Krieg to discuss the event logistics and determine the timing.

A letter was shared regarding the vigils from AFSC's Brian Blackmore, Director of Quaker Engagement, thanking Friends meetings for participating in this effort and encouraging others to consider being part of this shared effort to resist authoritarianism through the power of Love as Action.

If you are interested and need assistance please reach out to [LoveasAction@afsc.org](mailto:LoveasAction@afsc.org).

Friends are encouraged to reach out prior to other interested

individuals and organizations regarding the event.

Minute: The Meeting supports hosting a vigil with concern for immigrants on Saturday, Feb. 21, 2026.

With no other business, the Meeting concluded with silence.

**A Service in Solidarity with Refugees and Immigrants**

Several of us from DMVF meeting joined dozens of others from many different faith communities at First United Methodist Church for this very moving service on February 22nd. Among the speakers were Pastor LaTonya Calderon of First United Methodist Church, Mak Sucasca from Global Neighbors and Fazal Moneer Adil, an author and speaker who is an Afghan refugee.

Pastor LaTonya helped us understand that today ICE functions very much as the Slave Patrols did during the time of enslavement in our country. She went further in stating that this newly emboldened militarized force could function to protect and carry out the wishes of the authoritarian regime in many other ways than simply "immigration enforcement."

Mak, a refugee from Bosnia who came here in the early 1990s, told us that in the first couple of weeks that the Global Neighbors Multicultural Welcome Pantry, located at 3010 6th Avenue, has been open, they have served over 1,500 people! The collection during the service will go to support this important, culturally respectful food pantry. It is a new, first-of-its-kind, 2,000-square-foot facility to

serve immigrant and refugee households. A partnership between Knock and Drop Iowa, DMARC and the Food Bank of Iowa, it offers culturally specific food options with no income or residency requirements.

Kathleen McQuillen of Catholic Peace Ministry shared stirring words from Pope Francis, “After you pray for the hungry people in our midst, then you feed them! And then you pray again.” We were reminded of President Kennedy’s words, “Here on Earth God’s work must truly be our own.” Kathleen also strongly encouraged all of us to reach out to our Iowa elected representatives as 10 of the twenty-one anti-immigrant bills introduced this session in the Iowa legislature remain viable, and we need to raise our voices up to tell those who represent us that we do not support these bills, that we support our immigrant and refugee neighbors and community members.

All of us who attended this solidarity service for the most vulnerable among us left feeling uplifted and inspired to continue our Spirit-led work to stand with and for those who came here to contribute to our country’s flourishing while building their own better lives.

-- contributed by Patti McKee, Jon Krieg and Peter Clay

## Upcoming Events

### **DMVF Book Sale**

March 14, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., and March 15 after Meeting

### **Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) 2026**

**March 28-29 (Saturday-Sunday)**, Bear Creek Meeting near Earlham. (See page 1).

### **Palm Sunday Peace Service**

March 29, 7:00 p.m. Aldersgate Methodist Church, 3600 75th St. Urbandale.

**April 19 DMVF Talent Show & Light Lunch** – More details coming soon.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Iowa Yearly Meeting Conservative Yearly Meeting, July 22-26 at Grinnell College.

## News of Our Friends



DMVFriends Ann Robinson (left), and Carol Spaulding Kruse enjoyed visiting Brock Wommack (center) in Richland, Missouri, last fall. (A good time was had by all!) Photo recently shared by Brock.

### **Hosting Schedule**

Mar 8 – Ann & Ted  
Mar 15 - Peter & Andrea  
Mar 22 – Charlie & Dorothy  
Mar 29 – Deborah & Katie  
Apr. 5 – David & Claire  
Apr. 12 – Jim & Catherine

You can keep track of the hosting schedule at the DMVF web calendar for hosting [here](#).

If you feel led to serve the meeting as a host, contact co-clerk Charlie Brown at 515-689-6470.

## **Des Moines Valley Friends**

**Meeting for Worship:** Sundays at 10 a.m., at the Meeting House and by Zoom via email invitation from co-clerks, Charlie Brown and Dorothy Lifka, at [clerk@desmoinesvalleyfriends.org](mailto:clerk@desmoinesvalleyfriends.org)

**Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business:** Held on the second First Day each month at 11:45 a.m.

**Query Discussions:** First Sundays, Noon - Online & in person. Billie Wade, facilitator.

**Upcoming Second Hours:** Mar 8 Day of Remembrance (10:30 a.m.) followed by FCNL (Claire)

Mar 15 Soup Sunday + Book Sale (continued from Mar 14)

Mar 22 Amy Gottlieb (Billie Wade)

Mar 29 Midyear Meeting

**Child Care:** If you have a child who would like to be included in childcare or first day school for older youth, contact Andrea at [aandjholveck@gmail.com](mailto:aandjholveck@gmail.com).

**Building & Grounds:** For questions about the building or grounds of the Meeting House, or housekeeping issues, contact Building & Grounds Committee Convener, Charlie Brown, 515-689-6470.

**Friendly Line:** Send info for the Feb. FL by Fri, Mar. 27, to [anny.robinson1@gmail.com](mailto:anny.robinson1@gmail.com)

**Find us online at:**

<https://www.desmoinesvalleyfriends.org/>.

**Check out our Facebook group** at Des Moines Valley Friends (Quakers) and our (separate) **Facebook page** at Des Moines Valley Friends – Quakers