Des Moines Valley Friends Meeting
FRIENDLY LINE
June 2026



Join Quakerism Course

Join Deborah Fisch as she leads an 8-week course on Quakerism, with a focus on the Conservative tradition. Through presentation and discussion, sessions will explore historical roots, personal spiritual disciplines, authentic community, worship and engagement with scripture.

The course will meet on Wednesday evenings at the meetinghouse (with a virtual option), with worship beginning at 6:30 p.m. and the one-hour class at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend worship, the class or both.

Sessions will build on one another, but if you can only attend a few, please come! For more information, please contact Deborah at dsf.quaker2014@gmail.com.

IYM(C) gathers July 22-26
Register to participate online

This year's theme for the annual gathering of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) will be Strengthening and Sustaining a Community of Hope.

This year's very early deadline of June 1, required by Grinnell College, our host facility this year, means that lodging is probably no longer available. Friends can still register to participate online in the programs, including evening presentations and panels, meaningful discussion, IYMC and Scattergood business and reports and fellowship.

View this year's program and speakers. Register to participate online.



Friends and friends participate in Love as Action vigil in May. Photo by Jon Krieg.

Sharing of Resources – a note from DMVF Treasurer Katie Jacoby

Earlier this year the Peace and Social Concerns committee (P&SC) proposed that donations made by the meeting be referred to as "sharing of resources." The meeting concurred and, as treasurer, I promptly renamed the Donation/Reimbursement/ Payment Request form to Sharing of Resources/ Reimbursement/Payment Request. A small change but one that I think carries significant meaning in how we think about our resources.

(*continued on page 5*)

Pope's Message on AI

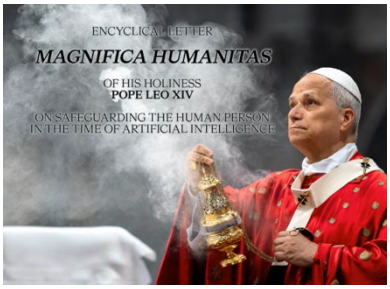
Michael Halloran encourages Friends to review the Pope's recent Encyclical on artificial intelligence (AI) as an important document for faith communities to consider as a critical issue for our time – and the world's future.

It is inspiring that such an important faith leader is calling for deep consideration of technologies and declaring that "AI must serve humanity, not concentrate power."

Micheal is working with the Friends Meeting to plan a discussion soon on the topic. It promises to be an important and engaging session.

To learn more about Pope Leo's message on "Safeguarding the human person in the time of artificial intelligence," here are two relevant links:

- Link to the text version with a Vatican news summary: https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2026-05/pope-leo-xiv-encyclical-magnifica-humanitas-ai.html
- Link to audio version: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6LSZtp_Okkc



MEETING FOR WORSHIP WITH ATTENTION TO BUSINESS

5/10/2026

Present: Andrea Holveck; Billie Wade; Charlie Brown; Dorothy Lifka; Stan Sanders; Cheryl Sutton; Ann Robinson; Claire Cumbie-Drake; and Jim Dietz-Kilen

Approval of Minutes from Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business on 4/12/2026.

Minute: The Minutes were approved with one change: The Library report should express thanks to all of the volunteers assisting with the Library, instead of special thanks to just Katie. Friends expressed appreciation for the work of Forrest, as recording clerk.

Finance Committee: No report. Action Item: We need a second person for our annual Friendly Audit. Please let Catherine know if you are interested.

Treasurer's Report: No report. This month's report will be combined with next month's report.

Ministry and Council Report - Jim Dietz-Kilen, Convener

The Committee has begun work on our State of the Meeting report and plan to bring it to the June Business Meeting for approval.

Peace and Social Concerns Report - Peter Clay

Committee meeting 5 May 2026, 12:00 p.m.

Present: Dick Douglass, Billie Wade – Convener.

The meeting opened at the appointed time with a moment of silence.

1. Budget discussion
   - Expenditure so far this year is $2,450.00
   - We will request additional $2,500.00 from the Finance committee.
   - We have two outstanding considerations:
     - $250 to CCI (Citizens for Community Improvement). Billie is meeting with their director on Thursday and will find out how to designate our donation to the racial justice team.
     - $100 to help the Outreach and Communications committee with expenses for Pride Fest in June.
2. State of the Committee report for Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative)
   - Billie attached a copy of last year's report with the meeting agenda.
   - Committee members are asked to think of items to include for this year.
   - This year's report will include the Committee for Migrant and Refugee Concerns (CMARC).
3. Website
   - We discussed approaching with caution whether to name the recipient organizations of our sharing of resources.
     - Some groups may not want their names on a website as having received funding.
     - If we list the recipients, could we be seen as proselytizing?
     - What seemed more palatable to us is to list the types of organizations we support.

The meeting adjourned at 1 p.m. with a moment of silence.

-- Respectfully submitted.
Billie Wade, Convener

Discussion: How can committees work together and share resources? (See notes under New Business)

Outreach and Communications Report – May 2026

The committee did not meet in April but has been communicating via email. We have two major upcoming events.

First, the DMVF Iowa Public Radio underwriting campaign. We started discussing this project in November 2024 and are planning a launch date of May 18. After consulting with Jim Dietz-Kilen on spot placements we've decided on a six-week campaign with a spot running Monday – Friday during a.m. Peak Prime (7-8a) which is the Morning Edition news show and Saturday Prime (9–12), which includes "Wait, Wait... Don't Tell Me!" (yes, we *are* telling you!) along with "This American Life" and "Snap Judgment." The text of the 15-second spot is as follows: *Support for IPR comes from Des Moines Valley Friends, a Quaker Meeting of diverse spiritual seekers who gather in community to foster peace-making, stewardship, integrity and equality. Learn more,*

including worship schedule, at desmoinesvalleyfriends.org

Second, PrideFest is June 12-14. Please let us know if you would like to help staff the booth and/or march in the parade. The parade is about a mile long and goes from the Capitol down Locust to the East Village (a gradual downhill slope.) Staffing the booth consists of talking to folks who stop by, handing out information and generally enjoying the parade of people strolling by. The booth is shaded under a canopy with chairs and a table. If you have a mobility concern and need a close parking space, there is an ADA parking lot where there will be a golf cart for extra transportation for you from the lot to the festivities. Booth hours are Friday 5-9, Saturday 10-7, and Sunday 11-5. The parade is 12-2. A sign-up sheet is forthcoming.

Another planned event is the Ingersoll Live Street Festival which will be held on Saturday, August 29th.

We briefly touched on a possible role for the O&C committee regarding the silent vigils. We feel that the meeting-as-a-whole needs to discuss if we are going to continue these and on what timetable, and that most likely it isn't something we as a committee would want to take responsibility for.

Katie Jacoby, for the committee

Building & Grounds: No report.

Minute: Thank you to Charlie for the beautiful window for the childcare room.

Library Committee: No report.

Minute: Thank you to Katie and everyone on the committee for their on-going work.

Religious Education:

We have several children attending First Day School and Child Care. More volunteers are needed for the *best volunteer position at Meeting*. Please talk to Dorothy if you are interested.

Minutes: Appreciation for all those working with kids, and for the parents and grandparents who bring them. It enriches the meeting to have the children here and "they are our jewels" (per former DMV Friend George Welch).

Committee for Migrant and Refugee Concerns

Meeting May 9, 2026
Present: Dorothy Lifka, Jim Dietz-Kilen, Andrea Holveck, Patti McKee, Peter Clay

We began and ended with silence. The May donation of $10,000 from Brock has been received. We reviewed past donations and proposed ongoing monthly donations to Iowa Movement for Migrant Justice (IMMJ) and Associated Churches (ACIS) as well as financial support for the 8th & College fall English classes. We had previously approved by email reimbursing Muji's brother for a plane ticket to attend Muji's graduation.

Peter has contacted Liz Oppenheimer about how we might support mutual aid groups in the Twin Cities.

CMARC is interested in working more closely with the DMVF's peace and social concerns committee to lighten their load financially and time-wise in the area of migrant and refugee concerns.

The committee welcomes suggestions from Friends about other individuals or groups needing support.

Jim is convening the Mujtaba support committee. Those who would like to be involved with helping with his college expenses or with the committee should contact Jim. At our next CMARC meeting, we will discuss how committee funds can be used to further support Muji. Next meeting: Saturday, June 6th at 10:00 a.m. by Zoom.

Support Committee for Mujtaba's College Education

This committee has met a couple of times via zoom, with representatives from DMVFM, Penn Valley Friends Meeting and Scattergood. Mujtaba has been accepted by Luther College in Decorah. They have offered a significant financial aid package (that includes tuition, fees, lodging & board, health insurance, etc. The committee is currently working to secure the funds needed for his first year. At the time of this writing, we had $6,000 in commitments. For more information or to make a pledge, contact Jim, Ann, Susan or Carol.

Friends discussed ways to raise funds from groups, in addition to Friends, that may be supportive. The committee will put together information about how Friends can contribute to Mujtaba college fund.

Minute: Friends expressed appreciation for the work of the committee, especially to Jim for his work as liaison to Luther College regarding Mujtaba.

OLD BUSINESS:

Apartheid Free Communities: We are registered as a participating congregation with Apartheid-Free Committees.

Use of the Meeting House by Church of the Brethren. Tim Button-Harrison confirmed that the congregation is an LGBTQA+ affirming community.

Minute: We welcome the opportunity to open the Meeting House to members of another historical peace church.

NEW BUSINESS:

Love As Action: Friends discussed changing the date for the May event because of conflicts with other community events. Friends decided to hold the vigil during Sunday morning Meeting for Worship, May 10, rather than changing the date. An organizer is needed for June.

Yearly Meeting will be held at Grinnell College, July 22-July 26. Registration is due by June 1.

Cheryl and Stan will be attending N.C. Yearly Meeting at Guilford College, as IYMC Representatives.

Regarding Peace and Social Concerns Committee's question about how committees can do a better job working together: The concern arose out of the committee wanting to contribute to the effort of the Outreach Committee regarding Pridefest. Jim suggested that it is best practices for a committee to adjust its budget if more funds are needed for a specific project, rather than moving money between committees.

At the Clerk's request, Friends entered into a discussion about how to reduce the feeling of being overwhelmed regarding the work of the Meeting. Friends expressed frustration about:

- Lack of response to emails, especially about setting up meetings. It's the responsibility of committee members to check for meeting times.
- One Friend noted that three members of a clearness committee recently did not show up for the meeting.
- How do we set up limits? For example, if people don't respond, assume they have no opinion.
- Phone calls may work better than emails. People respond in different ways.
- Being engaged can help us feel less angst.
- Friends suggested a second hour discussion on the life of the Meeting, around the time the Nominating committee starts its work.

The Meeting ended with a moment of silence.



DMVF's Billie Wade in Quaker Action magazine.

Iowa Legal Aid presents to Meeting

Representatives of Iowa Legal Aid presented to Meeting at a second hour on May 31. The organization is a statewide nonprofit that has resources to help you serve others. Here is information they shared:

- Keep us in mind if you are aware of individuals with legal needs;
- Spread awareness by passing this email to others who serve congregations;
- Schedule a complimentary Iowa Legal Aid presentation for your community;

Please keep in mind if you ever run into someone with legal problems. Maybe their housing, income benefits or safety are challenged, or they're not understanding how aging is affecting their benefits/debts, or a disaster has wreaked havoc in their lives. Let them know about Iowa Legal Aid (ILA).

ILA provides free assistance to qualifying persons on many civil legal topics. We also can provide assessments if they aren't sure they qualify. Click on any above listed topic to find further information about that topic. One can apply by phone or apply online. ILA has several special projects targeting specific individuals, including the Legal Hotline for Older Iowans, Elder Justice Innovation Project, Eviction Help Desks, Community Schools Projects, Expungement and Collateral Consequences Project, and more. ILA also boasts the Justice Bus, a mobile legal clinic deployable across the state that meets

potential clients and communities where they are.

Get more information at iowalegalaid.org, or call 1-800-532-1503. If you're 60 & over: call 1-800-992-8161.

We provide presentations tailored to faith-based organizations, staff, volunteers, and community members, addressing legal challenges they may face and highlighting the support Iowa Legal Aid can offer. These presentations can be delivered in person, via Zoom, or over the phone, making them accessible and convenient for your needs.

Please don't hesitate to reach out for more information or to arrange a presentation. One of the greatest frustrations we experience is knowing we could have helped someone if only they had heard about our services sooner.

-- Contributed by Steve Dressel, Intake Paralegal for Faith-Based Organization Outreach

Sharing of Resources

(*continued from page 1***)**

Sharing of Resources. This is a very apt description. The three committees most likely to direct funds are Ministry & Counsel (M&;C), P&SC and the Committee for Migrant and Refugee Concerns (CMARC). As treasurer, I handle the requests they make and with each request I am reminded of how hard committee members work to discern how best to, well, share our resources. It also speaks to me because as an individual, I wouldn't be able to support all the various organizations and individuals that DMVF supports, much less discern where the funds are best directed. However, as a member of DMVF, my/our monetary and time contributions help our meeting contribute in a collective way.

As a community we are indeed "sharing resources," which include our time, our specific gifts of hospitality, carpentry, writing, sustaining the Earth, making music, sharing our faith, fostering community through our presence/love/care, and yes, our money. Every single person has a spirit-led gift for our beloved community.

That said, as treasurer I would be remiss to not share how you might easily contribute financially to the meeting. If you would like to share your financial resources, these are the most common methods, in no particular order.

1) In the entryway, there is a small locked wooden box on the wall with an envelope slot. Checks or cash may be deposited there. If you are depositing cash and would like to be credited, please put a note with it.

2) Hand a check (or cash) to the Assistant Treasurer (Dorothy) or the Treasurer (Katie). If you hand it to Katie, she will most likely hand it off to Dorothy or put it in the box for Dorothy to pick up later. (The Assistant Treasurer is responsible for recording and making deposits.)

3) Set up a recurring payment via BillPay or Auto Debit with your bank or credit union. If you are unclear on how to do this, customer service, CS will help you. (Note: Your bank/credit union's CS – DMVF does not have a CS as of yet, although we are ALWAYS willing to help as we are able.)

Designated Funds. If you want your funds to go to a designated fund for a specific purpose please, ahem, designate it as such. Note: you cannot designate a donation to a Designated Fund to benefit an individual. If you have questions regarding this, please contact Catherine, our Finance Committee convener.

Where does the money go? Below is a breakdown of the 2026 FY budget (rounded). Additionally, substantial funds are disbursed through the designated funds of P&SC, M&C and CMARC.

- Friends House – Shared expenses -23%
- Building & Grounds – 15%
- Religious Education- 1%
- Clerk/Treasurer's expenses- 1%
- Affiliated contributions- 2%
- IYMC/Scattergood School- 37%
- Library- 1%
- Outreach &Communications- 10%
- P&SC- 7%
- Property Management- 2%

News of Our Friends

Former DMVF regulars **Matthew and Sarah Hennes** send greetings in response to a note from Dorothy Lifka. "Sarah and I think about the Des Moines Friends often! We would be happy to be included in the directory. Harvey is 10, Emeline is 6 and Franklin is 4. We have a bit of a homestead going with 7 goats and 8 chickens, and we are attempting to restore about 2 acres of oak-hickory forest. Thank you for thinking of us!"

Goodbye to Dear Friends

Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) has recently lost two long-time faithful members, **A.M. Fink**, of Ames, and **John Andrews** of Iowa City. We will miss them greatly and hold their families in the light in a season of loss! Find their obituaries:

A.M. Fink: https://www.amestrib.com/obituaries/piow1455464

John Andrews: https://gayandciha.com/tribute/details/5461/John-Andrews/obituary.html#tribute-start

Scattergood reaches campaign goal!

A message from Sam Taylor, Scattergood Director of Advancement (edited)

Over three years ago, Scattergood began preparing for our Roots & Wings Campaign. Staff, school committee members, alumni volunteers, and others have put in countless hours on this project. We can now say that we have reached our goal of $3.5 million raised!!

We are proud to have made it, and we are also unbelievably grateful to all of you who have supported this effort, through your time and through your generous financial contributions.

We have reached our goal, but there are still projects that need our attention. With another $100,000 raised this month we can afford AC in the dining room and kitchen.

Our campaign ends June 30th. Please consider contributing if you haven't yet done so--this is your last chance to be a part of it! If you have already given and would like to contribute further we would be so grateful. If not, we are still incredibly grateful. Thank you. You can give online below, or by sending a check to 1951 Delta Ave, West Branch, IA 52358.

Hosting Schedule

June 14 – Ted & Carol
June 21 – Peter & Andrea
June 28 – Charlie & Dorothy
July 5- Deborah & Katie
July 12 – David & Claire
July 19 – Catherine & Jim

You can view 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.



DMV Friends recently helped celebrate the graduation of Scattergood student Mujtaba, above (center in black) with his brother Murtiza (third from right), and below (foreground). Thanks to Susan and Charlie for planning the party – and to all who helped and attended!



Des Moines Valley Friends

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

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:
June 21 – Soup Lunch
June 28 – Discussion re Billie Wade's Quaker Speak podcast, Are Blacks safe in 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.

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 June FL by Fri, June 26, to 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