

Monday, July 2, 2018



2018 FGC Gathering

A week of Quaker worship, workshops, and community for all ages.

July 1 to 7, 2018

University of Toledo, Toledo, Ohio



Blessed Community

FGC Gathering intends to be a blessed community where all feel welcomed and affirmed. Yet, we can easily hurt people in the first encounters of meeting them.

Based on input from Gathering attenders in years past, we offer these queries and advices so that we can all work toward building a community of justice and inclusivity.

Let our good intentions to speak and behave lovingly with one another be balanced with our willingness to hear if our words and actions have caused harm.

Let us be open to learning about our differences. Let us be slow to defend our good intentions and slow to impose our unspoken invisible norms on those around us, when we hear someone is hurt, angered, or upset by our words or deeds.

Be gently welcoming in your words and actions. Not everyone at Gathering welcomes physical contact – ask before hugging, touching hair, or giving backrubs.

Let us be more explicit about the breadth and depth of the Beloved Community that is brought together at Gathering, including experiences across race, class, ability, gender, sexual orientation, and other identities.

Let's honor each other by engaging fully, by listening openly, and approaching one another without preconceptions.

Questions about gender identity, unasked-for advice about parenting and other choices, questions

Today's Query:

How do I open myself to experiences of discernment? How do I manage when there is no simple answer? Am I willing to trust when truth is revealed partially?

about a disability, requesting forgiveness for your family's racial prejudice: these can create an unwelcoming environment.

Don't assume anything about a person's racial identity, country of origin, sexual orientation or gender, or how long they've been Quaker. Do ask, once you have gotten to know someone, if you are genuinely interested.

Let's celebrate what connects us as Quakers. Smile as you pass people along the walk ways.

As an initial conversation with strangers, here are some suggestions for getting-to-know-you questions:

- . Which workshop are you taking?
- . Tell me about where you live and your meeting.
- . When did you first know that the Quaker way was right for you?
- . What do you like to do for fun?

From the co-facilitators of the Gathering for Fellowship for European Americans Addressing Racism, a daily drop-in experience. 4:30 - 5:30 Memorial Field House 2040

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Today's Events

FGC Institutional Assessment on Racism Update

Student Union Theater on Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri at 1:30pm and 3:15pm: training, data analysis, and next steps.

Golf Cart Training

1:30-3pm, Student Union 2579, We need *lots* of drivers this year, so please consider becoming a driver if you have had a driver's license for 5 or more years.

Announcements

Parents and Golf Carts

Please let parents have priority for golf cart service to pick up children after workshops and plenaries.

Workshop Room Changes

Clerking with Joy and Confidence, Workshop #6 with Arthur Larrabee, will meet in 3420 Health & Human Services.

Playing and Praying with the Psalms, Workshop #43 with Gail Thomas, will meet in 3422 Health & Human Services.

From Suzanne Cole,

Food Coordinator:

The menus in Ottawa East and the Student Union dining halls are identical. Please enjoy a meal in either location.

Vegetarian Entrees

Please choose one entree per meal. Vegetarian entrees are only for folks eating plant-based meals that meal period, not as a side dish for everyone. Let's honor everyone's food needs by practicing radical hospitality.

Dining Hall Accessibility

People with accessibility needs, small children, and evening Junior Gathering work-grants are welcome to go to the front of lines in the dining areas. If this applies to you, please feel empowered to take care of your needs by doing this! If you observe someone doing this, please trust that they know their needs best and make room for them to go ahead.

Tray-Free Dining

University of Toledo is a tray-free campus. This helps us be mindful eaters by conserving water, reducing labor, and minimizing food waste. Tray carriers are available for folks who need assistance.

Service Dogs

This year we have two working dogs at Gathering. The dogs and the dogs' people depend on focus to be safe and effective. We ask that Gathering attendees help by avoiding speech or actions which might be distracting to the dogs. In other words, try not to speak to the dogs, ask to pet them, make faces at them, or attract their attention in any way. In order to avoid overwhelming these Friends, please direct any questions you might have about these dogs or about service dogs in general to Access Resources rather than to the individual Friends. Of course, Friends are encouraged to get to know the dogs' people. Peg Bernstein 206-734-1914, or Rebecca Sullivan 610-551-8439.

Institutional Racism Focus Group

Please participate in a Focus Group on Institutional Racism within FGC. We can accommodate 12 Friends per session. Sign up at the Information Desk!

Thursday Plenary

The Reverend William Barber Plenary will be open to non-Gathering attendees, but they must register on-line at <https://www.fgcquaker.org/events/william-barber> (bottom of the page).

Pool Hours: Monday: 6am - 4:30pm