



**American
Friends
Service
Committee**

AFSC Midwest Digest – April 2026

Stories of work from around the region



At a Love as Action event in downtown Chicago

Love as Action vigils spring up across the U.S.

AFSC's monthly Love as Action vigils are growing with more than 30 cities involved in March. The media is starting to pay attention, too.

The [Chicago Tribune](#) quoted Kyran Esler, 34, a Northside Friends Meeting member, about U.S. military engagement in Iran and civilian harm. "We don't really believe we should be there right now. There was no war in Iran a month ago...that's a ton of dead civilians and a ton of people being harmed."

The next Love as Action events are set for the weekend of April 25-26. Midwest sites include [Chicago](#), [Champaign](#), [Des Moines](#), and [Marietta, Ohio](#). More to come! Visit afsc.org/love-action to find a site near you or organize your own!

Also in Chicago, the AFSC Chi Peace is in the midst of our Spring youth organizing intensive, running through May 2. The focus is on environmental justice on the city's southwest side. Coming up on April 18 is our Peaceful Careers Day, connecting organizations with youth eager to build a better world. Follow on [Instagram](#).



Putting love into action in St. Louis

On March 22, AFSC St. Louis Peacebuilding, Friends, and partners came together to show Love as Action outside the Juvenile Justice Center.

Barbara Gunn Lartey of AFSC told Fox News why people should oppose bills that would give the courts the ability to certify young people as adults in the juvenile system. The community came out, demonstrating our collective spirit. St. Louis Peacebuilding would like to give a huge thank you to all who showed up and supported in person and in spirit.

AFSC is currently busy organizing an Inter-generational Freedom Futures Collective (IFFC), a circle of healers, movers, and shakers sharing stories, healing, and vision shared in sacred community. Follow [AFSC St. Louis on Instagram](#).

Caring for each other keeps us safe.

Policing and prisons don't.

Join us in creating a vision and pathway toward building
a transformative, loving culture in Michigan.

Reimagining Safety Michigan Kick-Off and Training

April 12, 2:00 – 5:30pm
LOVE Building
Detroit

Mass Convening: Dreaming Forward and Organizing Power

May 16, 9:30am – 4:30pm
Lansing Community College
Lansing

RSVP ReimaginingSafetyMi.org/events



reimagining safety
MICHIGAN

Organizing for real community care and accountability

The AFSC Michigan Criminal Justice Program (see [latest newsletter](#)) is a member of Reimagining Safety Michigan (RSM), which is set to launch soon with two events. For over a year and a half, the nine organizations that make up RSM have convened to build a bold and beautiful vision and pathway for a Michigan that does not rely on policing and prisons. Instead, it moves us toward a culture of care, collective governance, and community accountability. Check out our [new website](#).

Meanwhile, the call for freedom from people inside Women's Huron Valley prison in Michigan continues to reverberate. Natalie Holbrook-Combs, AFSC Program Director, is quoted extensively in this [article](#).



Quakers and allies gather at the Palm Sunday Public Witness in St. Paul. Iowans held a similar [event](#) at the Capitol in Des Moines.

End the war on Iran

Thanks to everyone who is taking action at this critical time. AFSC just released a message on all our social media channels regarding President Trump's genocidal statement on Iran. Please share:

X: https://x.com/afsc_org/status/2041608580642574521?s=20

Bluesky: <https://bsky.app/profile/afsc-org.bsky.social/post/3miwl6metuk2y>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/18aWbBzepG/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/p/DW18768Ad7p/>

TikTok: https://www.tiktok.com/@afsc_org/photo/7626109556547931406

Short takes

We hold in the Light the families of two Friends who've recently passed: Dorlan Bayles of Wichita and A.M. Fink of Ames, Iowa....Here's why the U.S. government should allow [organizations to engage with North Korea](#)....Kudos to the Madison Monthly Meeting for hosting [Why We Record](#), AFSC's exhibit of photos, visuals, and stories about Palestinian history of oppression and resistance.

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AFSC Mission Statement: *Guided by the Quaker belief in the divine light of each person, AFSC works with people of all faiths and backgrounds to challenge unjust systems and promote lasting peace.*