



AFSC Midwest Digest – July 2026

Stories of work from around the region



Love as Action: Declaration of Resistance events set for July 4

In communities across the Midwest and around the country, Friends and partners have been gathering through Love as Action: standing together in public spaces, holding quiet reflection, bearing witness, and reminding one another that even in difficult times, we are not alone.

As the US approaches its 250th anniversary, many will celebrate familiar stories of freedom. But many of us are also feeling the weight of a different reality - that freedom has always been incomplete, and that, in this moment, it is under growing strain. This July 4, we are responding to that moment together.

Across the region and the country, people will gather for Love as Action: A Declaration of Resistance, a nationwide day of public witness rooted in the same spirit that has brought us together over these past months. Declaration of Resistance sites for July 4 in the Midwest include [Chicago](#), [Des Moines](#), [St. Paul](#), [Madison](#), [Milwaukee](#), [Omaha](#), [Lincoln](#), and [Royal Oak, MI](#). Click above to register for any of these sites or [host your own](#). Click [here](#) to sign the online version of the Declaration of Resistance.



Barbara Gunn Lartey hosts Protect, Resist and Build.

St. Louis director moderates AFSC Protect, Resist and Build webinar.

Barbara Gunn Lartey hosted the [June 16, 2026 edition of AFSC's monthly Protect, Resist and Build webinar](#). She grounded the webinar in celebrations of Juneteenth, Pride Month, and Black Music Month by looking at how all of us can resist authoritarianism and build community and connection. Here are [highlights](#) of Barbara's remarks and a few resources shared by her colleagues at AFSC.



AFSC Michigan staff and partners at Healing Homes workday - Photo: Candice Tudor

Generosity builds towards liberation and healing in Michigan

In response to AFSC Michigan's request for support for the Healing Homes Farm Project -- a community-supported housing program for formerly incarcerated, long-serving women, located in rural Southeast Michigan -- 39 people recently donated over \$35,000. Their gifts match an initial \$25,000 donation and have us well on our way to making this dream a reality.

In June, we hosted two workdays at the farm. Over a dozen volunteers joined AFSC staff in clearing trees, burning brush, hanging drywall and laying flooring. Please join us for our next workday on Sunday, July 26. And mark your calendar for an Open House on Saturday, September 19. We'd love to see you in person. Contact us at Michigan@afsc.org for more information.



Summer Camp set for July 13-17 in Chicago

Building Student Power 101 is a weeklong summer camp run by AFSC Chicago Peacebuilding and Brighton Park Neighborhood Council. It's designed for rising high school students with priority given to Black and Brown youth. Students can join us for a *paid* opportunity to identify issues, build power, and use their creativity and voice with other students and teachers to enact positive change. Applications close July 3, so please encourage youth to [apply now](https://bit.ly/studentpower26).



Daniel Lakemacher and Asia Smith of AFSC Chicago at Illinois Yearly Meeting

Looking forward to seeing you at yearly meetings!

It's that time of year again when Friends host annual gatherings. AFSC staff and governance members enjoy the chance to visit with Friends and invite them into AFSC's work for peace and justice. Visit our [Friends Engage page](#) for more.

Kudos to AFSC alums in Iowa!

Congrats to AFSC alums with [Iowa Migrant Movement for Justice](#), which recently received awards from the Iowa Interfaith Alliance for the 2026 Partner Organization Award and from CLINIC for the Advocacy Leadership Award. Well done, MMJ! Check out their latest [resistance update](#).

Tell Congress: Act now to protect immigrants and asylum seekers

In response to recent anti-immigrant US Supreme Court decisions, AFSC is urging everyone to contact their members of Congress. The Supreme Court recently affirmed some of the administration's most harmful policies -- putting hundreds of thousands of people at risk of deportation. Congress must act now. [Tell your representatives](#) to protect immigrant rights and welcome people with dignity.

DONATE TO AFSC MIDWEST PROGRAMS

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.*