



AFSC Midwest Digest – September 2026

Stories of work from around the region



A new home for formerly incarcerated women

For years, AFSC's Michigan Criminal Justice Program has supported incarcerated women. Now, we're launching a new housing project to support them after they return home from prison. Women serving long-time sentences developed and proposed the initiative that guides this project. The project will provide supportive housing and peer-led programming.

Read [more](#) from Natalie Holbrook-Combs, Program Director. Please join us for a Healing Homes Farm Open House on Saturday, September 19, from 12-4 pm in Petersburg, MI. Register [here](#).



From left: AFSC Chi Peace YAPers Luna, Naomi, Arturo and Alex (AFSC)

YAPers reflect on their experiences and what peacebuilding means to them

People and Planet against Militarism was the theme of the spring 2026 edition of the Youth Action Program (YAP) of the AFSC Chicago Peacebuilding Program. On Chi Peace's [Instagram page](#), four of the young people share what they learned about militarism and environmental racism – and how to organize in support of their communities.



St. Louis director moderates bird-dogging skill share

The [July edition](#) of AFSC's Resist, Protect and Build webinar series focused on tools for resisting authoritarianism and engaging lawmakers. Barbara Gunn-Lartey of AFSC St. Louis kicked off the webinar by asking participants to imagine what questions they might ask their elected officials. [Register now](#) for the next Protect, Resist and Build webinar set for Tuesday, Sept. 15 at 7 pm CT.

Alex Jones, St. Louis Program Coordinator, reports that AFSC recently helped organize the Embodied Liberation Black August Weekend. AFSC has wrapped up our summer program, so stay tuned for more!



From left, Jean and David Hansen of Ames Friends Meeting and Holly Neuendorf of Whittier Friends Meeting set up the Visualizing Palestine exhibit. (AFSC)

Friends in Iowa check out the Visualizing Palestine exhibit

The annual sessions of Iowa Yearly Meeting (Conservative) were held at Grinnell College this summer due to construction at Scattergood Friends School. Among the many highlights were the [Visualizing Palestine exhibit](#), a presentation by Grinnell's [Liberal Arts in Prison Program](#), and an interactive sharing by [Rabbi Sarah Brammer-Shlay](#). AFSC Midwest Region governance members and staff gave a lively update about AFSC's work across the region. Thanks to Bob Cadmus, a Friend and professor of physics, Friends even used the [college's telescope](#) to look up.



Iowans rally to end the US war against Iran. (AFSC)

25 years after 9/11, a new vision for peace

Tomorrow marks 25 years since Sept. 11. We remember those killed on that day—and in the U.S. global “war on terror” that followed. This ceaseless military campaign has resulted in lives lost, millions displaced, expanded surveillance, rising Islamophobia, and deepened conflict around the world. We can work towards a different future. Read [more](#).



Friends and allies at Millenium Park in Chicago. (AFSC)

More opportunities for action

- On Saturday, Sept. 12, join Friends in Chicago for [Love as Action](#) – and check out these other [Chicago events](#) as curated by Chi Peace
- On Wednesday, Sept. 16, join AFSC and partners in Lansing for the [Michigan Survivors Justice Initiative information session](#)
- Act now to [restore the right to vote for all](#)
- Join [AFSC's Action Hour for Palestine](#) every Friday at 11 am CT

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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.*