

Jesus Friends FAQs

1. How do I join?

Just send an email to jesusfriends@bym-rsf.org with the key phrase “I’m interested.” in the subject line. We will place you on our mailing list for notification of events and opportunities of interest to the JF community.

2. Suppose I want to opt out?

Again, email jesusfriends@bym-rsf.org with the key phrase, “Please Delete Me.” In the subject line.

3. If I join, what will I receive?

We will send out a schedule of upcoming events and opportunities that may be of interest to the JF community. This includes monthly worship sharing via Zoom. These should arrive at least once a month, and more often if needed. There may also be occasional “heads up” emails reminding JF members that an event is coming up soon.

4. How do I get Zoom credentials to join Zoom events?

It depends on the event. For the monthly JF worship sharing, we will send out Zoom credentials a day or so before the scheduled meeting. For other events, you may need to indicate interest by requesting to participate.

5. Do all JF events use Zoom?

No. Some in-person events are sponsored by individual monthly meetings. See the schedule of events for examples.

6. What is the monthly JF worship sharing?

This is a regularly scheduled Zoom gathering of the JF community. Currently, it is scheduled to occur at 3:00 in the afternoon on the third First Day of each month, and to last for about an hour. Zoom credentials will be mailed out a day or so ahead of time. The monthly JF schedule will include the worship sharing topic of the month. We encourage JF members to submit ideas for monthly worship sharing topics. Just email jesusfriends@bym-rsf.org with the key phrase “Worship Sharing Ideas” in the subject line.

We intend to save about 15 minutes at the end of worship sharing to allow Friends to express joys and concerns. If you are not familiar with the Friends’ practice of worship sharing, email jesusfriends@bym-rsf.org with the key phrase “Worship Sharing Info, Please.” in the subject line. We’ll email you a description of what to expect.

7. How are JF events and opportunities created and shared?

JF is only beginning, but our hope is that it will be very much “grass roots,” and that JF members will come up with ideas and leadership.

8. Can you give an example of how this works?

Yes, here is an example. Suppose you are a JF member who would like to form a weekly Bible Study. Begin by emailing jesusfriends@bym-rsf.org with the key phrase “Event Idea” in the subject line. Briefly describe what you have in mind. We will get back to you -- by email and/or phone -- to find out more and to have your idea appear as a listing in the monthly schedule asking for those who may be interested. If there is enough interest, your Bible Study can get started -- hopefully with you as convener. Interested people can either contact you directly (by phone or email), or you can ask JF for help to process email responses. JF can also help with Zoom support using the BYM Zoom capabilities.

9. Your example is for a Bible Study. What other kinds of activity might be appropriate?

Use your imagination! The possibilities are only restricted by interest and on-going commitment. Ideas that come to mind include: discussion groups, prayer circles, meetings for worship (with appropriate oversight from BYM or a monthly meeting), social events, speakers, etc. JF can provide logistical support and publicity via our monthly published schedule of events. You need to provide vision and leadership. Also, remember that JF is sponsored by the BYM Advancement and Outreach Committee. That means we have access to budget and administrative support. If your idea has enough interest and needs this kind of support, we can make that happen.

10. Can a Monthly Meeting use the JF schedule of events to publicize its own events and programs.

Yes, as long as it is “related” to the basic goals of *Jesus’ Friends*. The main criteria is that those who are used to expressing their faith and spiritual experience using Biblical and Christian language will feel welcome. Just let JF know, and we’ll work with you to include your opportunity in the regular published JF schedule of events.

11. What is the connection between JF, on the one hand, and Advancement and Outreach, on the other.

It is our hope that JF can provide a friendly and welcoming entrée into Quakerism for those who come from Christian backgrounds. There are those who feel alienated or unwelcome at Friends meetings due to the absence of Christian and Biblical language. This includes, in particular and especially, people of color -- African-American, Hispanic and East Asian. Ideally, JF can help to achieve Quaker diversity goals by being more inclusive and welcoming to this specifically targeted group. Quakers have deep historical roots in the Christian tradition. Current members may also find JF a way to tap into previously unexplored aspects of Quaker history and spiritual experience.

12. You keep talking about “key phrases in the subject line.” Is this an automated reply program?

No. All emails, regardless of what is in the subject line, are handled and responded to individually. The subject line simply helps to organize the work of managing the email traffic -- respond to routine requests quickly, and save time later for more leisurely and personalized response when needed. It is also a way to provide JF members assurance that we will focus on the specific issue that prompted your email submission.

13. Is the JF mailing list available?

We have not asked for permission to share names and email addresses. Until we receive that permission, we intend to manage the list as private. One way we do that is to use the bcc line on outgoing email group mailings. We also rely on the BYM admin servers to provide security for this data.