

New Story Newsletter, November 2025

The next meeting of the FMC New Story Group is
Monday, November 24, 7:00-9:00pm ET.
Come at 6:30pm for fellowship. First timers are always welcome!

Program "How the Four Paths of Creation Spirituality Help Us Live into the New Story" with Rev. Gail Sofia Ransom. Follow Gail on the Substack "[Meditation for the Nation.](#)" Entry for October 14: "The Universe and the Frog: What if the frog decided to jump?"

For Zoom access [click this link](#) or call 1-646-558-8656 and provide the Meeting ID 875 6881 1869 and passcode 101225.

No Meeting in December. As we sink into these long nights, the earth is calling us to rest and dream. Reach out for the comfort of friends and family. May you find peace, joy, and renewal in the earth's embrace.

This past August, Mary Kay Klein outlined Thomas Berry's vision for a path to the New Story future based on "The Fourfold Wisdom:"

1. The wisdom of **Indigenous peoples**,
2. The wisdom of **women**,
3. The wisdom of **classical traditions**, and
4. The wisdom of **science**.

In **September**, John Grim shared his knowledge of the first source of wisdom, and in **October** Cornelia Parkes shared her observations of the second.

For **January 26**, 2026, is anyone willing to tackle **the third source of wisdom: classical traditions**? Does Berry mean the Greek philosophers? the stories of the Old Testament? or pre-Western civilizations? Are you curious? If so, please contact Cornelia Parkes at new-story@fmcquaker.org.

On **February 23rd**, we hope to focus on the fourth source of wisdom: science to round out conversation on the "The Fourfold Wisdom" that Mary Kay outlined last August.

Learn more about the New Story Group

- [The New Story Group website](#) - with information about past programs
- [1-page Summary of The New Story Group's Intent & Direction](#)
- For more information write to New-Story@fmcquaker.org.

New Story Related Events & News

[Creation Spirituality Communities](#)

Presents [Re-Imagine: Self & World\(view\)](#)

Thursdays, January 15th - February 12th, 7 PM ET

New Story Newsletter, November 2025

This series of courses seeks to first understand our world through the lens of cosmology; then looks at how our world is unraveling (the polycrisis); and, finally, works collaboratively to reimagine our work, and our world, by applying a new world-vision.

Explore other CSC events [here](#).

[Gaia Installations by Luke Jerram](#)

...who created large scale models of what astronauts see when gazing back at Earth from space. It has been installed in [many locations globally](#), generating awe and wonder among viewers (for example, [here](#))



[DeepTime Network](#)

Presents: [Activating COSMOGENETIC EXPERIENCE:](#)

An Autocosmological Pathway into the Current “**Great Leap in Being**” Eleven Week Course with BRIAN THOMAS SWIMME, PhD, Carolyn Cooke, Ezekiel Fugate, Jennifer Morgan, and a team of respondents.

Tuesdays: January 13 – March 24, 2026; 7:00 – 8:30 pm ET

COSMOGENETIC EXPERIENCE is the direct awareness that it is the Universe, as us, experiencing reality. — Brian Thomas Swimme

New Story Newsletter, November 2025

[Quaker Earthcare Witness](#)

EMERGE: Reimagining Our Values for a Restored Earth

Recent program by Lee Hall, from Radnor Meeting:

EMERGE: Seeking an Earth Restored

[Cooperative Metropolitan Ministries](#)

November 17, 2025, Newsletter: “Theology and Institutional Expression” by Rev. Rodney L. Petersen, Ph.D.

“... [O]ne of the most noteworthy historical features related to all churches throughout the modern period has been an alienation toward the church as an institution. In this very alienation one can note the remarkable way new religious forms and institutions, inspired by Jesus and engendered by the Spirit have continued to be birthed and evolve.”

Are the resources below seeds for a program on nonviolence?

Quakers and Nonviolence

[Methods of the Lamb's War](#) by Brian Drayton

It seems to me that noncooperation with evil or injustice is a basic requirement, if we are to “cease to do evil” and then “learn to do good.”

King's Principles of Nonviolence

Center for Action and Contemplation, [Tuesday, September 23, 2025](#)

Father Richard Rohr offers a summary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s principles of nonviolence.

“The opponent must be seen not so much as an evil person, but as a symbol of a much greater systemic evil—of which they also are a victim! We must aim our efforts at that greater evil, which is harming all of us, rather than at the opponent.

We also have in-house resources on Alternatives to Violence and Nonviolent Communication.

On Plagues and Axial Ages

The November 1st issue of the New *Scientist* has an article on “Ancient Plagues” [p. 36]. By using new methods for analyzing the DNA in tooth enamel disease historians have been able to trace the spread of plagues across Europe from east to west starting about 5000 years ago. Crucially, there is previously no evidence of plagues. This date contradicts the current understanding which places the origin of diseases transmitted from animals to around 12,000 years ago at the beginning of the agricultural period.

New Story Newsletter, November 2025

“You can see it clearly in the human DNA,” says bioarcheologist Thomas Booth at London’s Francis Crick Institute. “Suddenly after 3000 BC there are biological ties stretching right across Eurasia where previously they had been more confined to smaller regional clusters.”

The article continues to say, “The level of evolutionary pressure that would have exerted on ancient human populations is really quite substantial.”

I wonder if plagues also exerted substantial pressure on the world’s religions. Karl Jaspers identified a period roughly between 800 and 200 BCE when the world’s great religions began to form. He called this period which includes the Hebrew prophets the “Axial age.” Matthew Wright describes this as a time of planetary shift in spiritual understanding.

Axial spirituality began breaking ties in a profound way with both collective identity and with the Earth. At the same time, with the new emphasis on the individual and the transcendent, the models of salvation or enlightenment that emerged began to look a lot like escape. A profound sense that something was wrong with this world began to dominate the spiritual landscape—whether it was understood as fallenness and sin in the West or suffering and samsara in the East. Something was wrong, and the ultimate goal was to get out of here—to attain the heavenly prize or to escape the cycle of death and rebirth. This sense of exile has been a deep undercurrent in human spirituality.[1]

Some thinkers believe that the planet is entering a Second Axial Age. Wright calls the “Second Axial Age” the “marriage of heaven and earth, the immanent and the transcendent, spirit and body, time, and eternity. We call it the New Story. Both Thomas Berry and Matthew Wright wrote before the COVID pandemic. While we believe that a new spirituality is breaking forth, we need to remember that we are still living in a time of fear and plagues.

Cornelia Parkes,

November 20. 2025

[1] [The Second Axial Emergence](#). September 26, 2016/Matthew Wright