

New Story Newsletter July 2026

The [FMC New Story Group](#) will meet on Zoom from 7:00 to 9:00pm on July 27. Come at 6:30 for fellowship. First timers are always welcome!

To participate in this event [Click this Link](#) or call 1-646-558-8656 and provide the Meeting ID 875 6881 1869 and passcode 101225.

Continuing our summer series of video programs on interdependence, we will watch and discuss

- **Fantastic Fungi** - a widely acclaimed film “to discover the magic beneath us” (part 1), and
- ***Plants Have Personalities. We're Only Learning to See It*** - Conversation with Merlin Sheldrake & Zoë Schlanger (part 1) held at the 2025 Harvard Divinity School conference: *Thinking with Plants and Fungi: Celebrating the voices of the more-than-human world*

How is interdependence, as reflected in these videos, integral to the New Story?

Previous videos:

For those who couldn't join us Wednesday, July 15, you may find it inspiring and informative before next Monday to have a look at

- [Science of Fungi: How Fungi Make Our Worlds](#) with Merlin Sheldrake (24”), and
- [Entangled Life](#) - a conversation with Merlin Sheldrake, Michael Pollan and Louie Schwartzberg, about Sheldrake's book *Entangled Life* (1'17”)
- At any time, you can also read an [Interview with Merlin Sheldrake, Author of Entangled Life](#), by J.P. Harpignies, Bioneers, 2020

Coming up next:

On Thursday, August 13, 3:00 – 4:30pm we will watch and discuss two thought-provoking videos that will provide optional but stimulating background for our program on 31st.

- Dialogue with **Zoë Schlanger on *The Light Eaters*** (from positions 7” to 46”)
- ***Fantastic Fungi*** (Part 2)
- At any time, you can also read *The Light Eaters: An interview with author Zoë Schlanger*, by Jon Letman of the National Tropical Botanical Garden, 2025

On Monday, August 31, 7:00-9:00pm, at our New Story evening program, we will watch and discuss

- ***New Science of Plants*** - interview with Zoë Schlanger
- ***Plants Have Personalities. We're Only Learning to See It*** - Conversation with Merlin Sheldrake & Zoë Schlanger (part 2)

All meetings will be on the same Zoom link (above). We hope you can join us!

Cornelia Parkes and Dave Damm-Luhr
Conveners, FMC New Story Group, new-story@fmcquaker.org

More New Story News

Passing along here a comment on Merlin's talk that deeply resonates with Dave:

*"A mycelial network is a map of a fungus's recent history and is a helpful reminder that all life-forms are in fact processes not things. The "you" of five years ago was made from different stuff than the "you" of today. **Nature is an event that never stops.** As William Bateson, who coined the word genetics, observed, "We commonly think of animals and plants as matter, but they are really systems through which matter is continually passing."*

[@philippedefossez3421 2 years ago](#)

The Universe Pod

A small group has been meeting since this spring to discuss the science of the New Story. Our topics vary from month to month but have included quantum physics, consciousness, and emergence. Our discussions are lively and provoking. The scientists among us freely share their understandings. You are invited to join us.

Our next meeting is Thursday, August 20, 3:30-5:00 on Zoom. We will reconsider our meeting time for September, so if you would like to join let us know your availability.

Cornelia Parkes
New-story@fmcquaker.org

The Arts Pod

This small group is excited to share their adventures. You will hear from them next month.

Your Pod

Is there something you would like to share with like-minded New Story people? Let us know!