



Friedenshaus
Ludwigshafen
Since 2016

We celebrate
9 years

<https://www.friedenshaus.net>
26 FEBRUARY 2025

FRIEDENSHAUS NEWSLETTER

80 Participants 18 Volunteers

Every week, an average of 80 people come to the Mennonite Church in Ludwigshafen to take part in FH activities.

And we, the 18 volunteers, are happy to get to know you and learn together with you.

Participants join to sew quilts, children need support with their homework, and others require help understanding and responding to official letters and forms.

But most come here to learn and practice German.

Bi-Monthly Session 1/2025 Completed

The first bi-monthly session of 2025 has come to an end.

On Wednesday, February 26, we concluded it with a celebration where participants from different groups gave small presentations.

Pastor Birgit Foth from the Mennonite Church in Ludwigshafen also attended and shared about the quilting group.



• New Programs at Friedenshaus

- **Reading Assistance for Adults**
 - A pilot project to improve reading skills.
- **Birthday Celebrations for Participants**
 - On the last Thursday of the month, we celebrate the birthdays of participants and volunteers.
- **Iftar on March 20, 2025**
 - Everyone is invited—Muslims and non-Muslims. Come and learn more about this special tradition in Muslim families.
- **Visit to "Die Villa" in Mannheim**
 - Due to public transport strikes, not everything went as planned, but some of us were still able to travel to Mannheim. There, we received a warm welcome from Andrea, Rebekka, David, and their friends.
- **Lecture on Working in Germany**
 - Marit Unger-Fellmann visited us and provided valuable insights into work and employment in Germany—what to know and what to keep in mind.



Introducing Our Longest-Serving Volunteer: Heidi

Q: You have been involved since the founding of Friedenshaus in 2016—nine years! You are a wife, mother, grandmother, sister, friend, and neighbor—that's a lot of roles!

On top of that, you are active in your church. Why do you also volunteer at Friedenshaus?

A: Besides my family, I worked full-time for 47 years.

What do you do after retirement with "40 extra hours per week"? You look for an activity that brings joy, is good for the soul, and has meaning.

So, in addition to my church involvement, I wanted something fulfilling. Friedenshaus, founded by and with the Mennonite Church, offered language classes for refugees.

The invitation to "just drop by and see if you like it" was the foundation for my commitment to Friedenshaus.

Not only for the participants but also because my family arrived in Ludwigshafen as refugees in 1955. Back then, shortly after World War II and the refugee crisis of the time, there was very, very little support.

I have never forgotten that difficult time and want to make things a little easier for others.

Q: You help participants with forms. Were there any that stood out to you?

A: Forms were a significant part of my daily tasks during my career. So, hardly anything was unfamiliar to me, and it was a seamless transition from my job.

However, bureaucracy has exploded over the years. Official language is not always understandable, and the structure of the questions is not always logical. How is a refugee supposed to navigate that?

Q: What have you learned from the participants at Friedenshaus?

A: "*Language is the key to people's hearts.*"

And the more we understood each other, the more wonderful connections developed. Together, we can make a difference for the better.

And with our coordinators, we have found people who serve as role models for all of us in making the world a little more humane.

Q: As the longest-serving volunteer, how would you invite others to join the FH team?

A: Just like I was invited back then! "Come by and see if you like it." At Friedenshaus, you'll find a world full of diversity. And over time, maybe even friends and people with big hearts.

Volunteering at Friedenshaus – Will You Join?

Did you enjoy Heidi's interview? Then consider joining FH as a volunteer!
Remember: 2x6

- ➔ 2 hours per week, for 6 weeks.
- ➔ We will guide you with the topics.

Come by, meet new people, and help our participants find their place. If you want to learn more, talk to Eva or Oscar or email koordination@friedenshaus.net.



Iftar on March 20, 2025

**Berliner Str. 43
67059 Ludwigshafen**

**Please RSVP!
koordination@friedenshaus.net**

**Muslims and non-Muslims are
welcome!**

Ramadan 2025

Between February 28 and March 30, 2025, about 22% of the world's population will fast from dawn until sunset. This is how Muslims observe the Islamic lunar month of Ramadan.

At the Friedenshaus, people from various countries participate, many from predominantly Muslim countries: Syria, Afghanistan, Morocco, Libya, Somalia, Egypt, and Iraq. Different cultures, various ethnic groups – but united in the faith of Islam.

Some of us at the Friedenshaus will accompany our Muslim friends during this time – perhaps not always by fasting, but certainly through prayer for them.

We also pray that followers of Jesus in Germany will share His love at all times and that by honoring Christ and following Him, we can build personal relationships of friendship and mutual understanding with them.



Who Supports This Project

The following Mennonite organizations financially support the Friedenshaus Ludwigshafen:

- Mennonite Congregation Ludwigshafen
- ASM South-West German Mennonite Congregations Association
- MH Mennonite Relief Organization
- DMMK German Mennonite Mission Committee
- DMFK German Mennonite Peace Committee
- MCC Mennonite Central Committee
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If you would like to donate, we would be grateful for your support.

You can find all the information here:

<https://www.friedenshaus.net/spenden/>

Thanks for IT Support

Our special thanks go to:

- Marco Sawatzki
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Impressum

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Friedenshaus is a project of ASM

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