



Plymouth Monthly Meeting Newsletter

Meetings for Worship

First Day Meeting: 11:15 am
 First Day School: 11:30 am
Fourth Day Meeting: 7:00 pm
 Fifth Day Meeting with PMFS:
 8:45 am

Address: 2150 Butler Pike,
 Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

Third Month, 2020

Clerk

Rebecca Cratin
 1223 Forsythe Drive
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 215-542-8738

rhcration@cratin.com

Asst. Clerk: Fran Blackstone
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Care & Concern

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 610-828-4970

Bondave.miller@verizon.net

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March 2020

Sun	Mar 1	After meeting	Care & Concern at the Meetinghouse
Fri	Mar 6	7:00 pm	Legislative letter-writing campaign at the Meetinghouse
Sun	Mar 8	9:30 am	Worship & Ministry
Sun	Mar 8	After Meeting	Quaker Speak (bring a bag lunch)
Fri	Mar 13	7:30 pm	Cornerstone Café - Ed McKendry, guitarist & singer
Sat	Mar 14	8:00 pm	Melissa Martin at Gwynedd Friends Mtg Coffeehouse
Sun	Mar 15	9:00 am	Meeting for Business
Sat	Mar 21	9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Workday at the Meetinghouse
Sun	Mar 22	After Meeting	Friendly 4 th potluck luncheon – all are welcome
Sun	Mar 22	2:00 – 4:00 pm	Music Circle 🎵🎵🎵🎵
Sat	Mar 28	5:30 pm	Annual Party/Fiesta

April 2020

Sun	April 5	After meeting	Care & Concern at the Meetinghouse
Sat	April 11	8:00 pm	Bill Stains at Gwynedd Coffee House
Sun	April 12	9:30 am	Worship & Ministry
Sun	April 19	9:00 am	Meeting for Business
Sun	April 19	After Meeting	Quaker Speak (see article)
Sun	Apr 26	After meeting	Friendly 4 th potluck luncheon – all are welcome
Sun	Apr 26	2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Music Circle 🎵🎵🎵🎵

Reminder: 4th Day Meeting for Worship, every week (Wed) at 7 pm

Queries

Grounding for Transformed Lives: Peace and Alternatives to Violence

- How do we help each other face conflicts with patience, forbearance and openness to healing?
- To what extent does our meeting ignore differences in order to avoid possible conflicts?
- What are we doing as a Friends meeting within our communities:
 - 1) To recognize and correct the causes of violence?
 - 2) To understand the impact of the global military-industrial complex on all aspects of life?
 - 3) To increase the understanding and use of alternatives to violence?
 - 4) To work toward overcoming separations and restoring wholeness?
 - 5) To support the constructive use of authority?
 - 6) To promote the sustainability of the earth?
- *Do I “live in the virtue [power] of that Life and Spirit that took [takes] away the occasion of all wars”?*
- *How do I maintain Friends’ testimony that participation in war and its preparation is inconsistent with the teaching of Jesus?*
- *Do I treat personal conflict as an opportunity for growth?*
- *How do I face my differences with others and reaffirm in action and attitude my love for those with whom I am in conflict?*

Quaker Speak Beginning March 8

Quaker Speak discussion on March 8th.

This spring QuakerSpeak discussions will occur on the second First day (Sunday) of each month, after Meeting for Worship. QuakerSpeak is a weekly video series on the YouTube channel. Friends of different backgrounds (and types of Quakerism) are interviewed and asked core questions of our faith. QuakerSpeak interviews are personal and intimate. QuakerSpeak seeks to give viewers worldwide an experience that is entertaining, informative, inspiring, challenging, inviting, unifying and collaborative. New videos come out every Thursday. <https://quakerspeak.com>

Check out the QuakerSpeak site and on March 8th bring a favorite nomination of the QuakerSpeak video you would like us to view. Like our music circles we will go around and view several videos on that day.

Annual Party March 28 5:30 pm Annie H. Wilson room



In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of PMFS Mexican Exchange program, we're making this year's annual party a *fiesta* featuring Mexican décor and food.

Watch your mail for an invitation. If you don't receive an invitation, you're still welcome! We will be enjoying fun, fellowship and tacos (vegetarian options will be available) \$15/person

Help with Meetinghouse Maintenance



House committee has scheduled a March 21st workday to clean the Meeting house and the Annie H Wilson room. Our Meeting needs a spring-cleaning top to bottom; floors, walls, windows, benches! We will be cleaning from 9 to 12 on Saturday March 21st. Come, lend a hand and meet someone new. Questions about what to bring – call Ralph Henninger 215-285-6479

Regular Property Committee Saturday morning workdays began with the restoration of the Meeting House from the termite infestation. The major restoration work is now done. We are now turning to the routine chores and projects required for maintaining our Meeting buildings and grounds. There are indoor chores and as the weather warms outdoor chores. No special experience or skills are needed. If you would like to help, please notify David Miller. He will put you on the weekly email which alerts participants of work being considered for the weekend. The email also will cancel a workday if the buildings or grounds are not available for the work to be done or other reasons such as deciding to have a weekend off. Periodically the buildings or grounds are being used for other activities on Saturday morning. Please feel welcome to participate occasionally or as much as you want. We have found the Saturday opportunities a great way to get to know one another. -David Miller 484 804 3668 d.j.miller@verizon.net

The Music of Spring



We encourage Friends to attend the music circles and the Cornerstone Café performances. The warmth of new friends and wonderful music has been bringing much joy to those of us who have been going to them during the last couple of years. Whether you listen and sing along or play an instrument, it is always a wonderful experience. Free will donations from these events have been going to help defray our termite reconstruction costs.

CORNERSTONE CAFÉ SCHEDULE:

Friday, March 13 we have Ed McKendry, a wonderful guitarist and singer.

Ed's performances feature tasteful acoustic guitar, strong vocals, and a song list of fresh original music as well as vintage cover songs. His musical journey began in Philadelphia, PA when he and his brother Mike formed The McKendry Brothers and has continued throughout the greater Philadelphia area for decades.



Ed has performed at the old Main Point in Bryn Mawr, PA, the Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, OH, the Musikfest Arts Festival in Bethlehem, PA, Godfrey Daniels, Mayfair, WDIY, and more, as well as playing pubs and private events in the greater Lehigh Valley and Philadelphia areas. With Ed's music, you're sure to hear something you know and like.

Friday, April 10 is Good Friday so NO CAFÉ.

Friday, May 8 is our final coffeehouse this season featuring Colton Wetherston.

Doors open at 7. Opening act at 7:30. Admission by free will donation

GWYNEDD FRIENDS COFFEEHOUSE:

Saturday March 14 Melissa Martin and the Mighty Rhythm Kings. One of today's leading blues and swing vocalists. Longtime leading lady of the blues

Saturday, April 11 Bill Staines. An evening of folklore with a legendary artist and songwriter

Doors open at 7:30, \$7 suggested to cover costs and support the Charity of the Evening

Update on progress of our Green Minute

Plymouth Monthly Meeting is in unity to, in a step by step process, stop its use of fossil fuels to generate the electricity it uses to heat its water, to prepare its food, to heat its building, and to invest its funds. This commitment was made today, Sixth Month, 16, 2019, with the expectation that with prayerful discernment and Divine assistance, it will be completed in the next ten years. The implementation of this minute will require the work of the Property, House/Kitchen, Finance, and Trustee committees. It is requested that each of these committees prepare a plan for implementation of this minute for the areas of their responsibility.



This past year the property committee has completed the installation of a new electrical sub panel which enabled the installation of a tankless electric water heater and two electric car charger stations. More will be published on how to use the car charging stations next month. These additions and their changes to the energy use at the Meeting House are part of the property committee's responsibility to our Green minute. Future changes are being investigated for the electric supplier to provide using alternative energy sources, the replacement of our gas stove, and eventually the gas furnace. Finance committee is actively reviewing our investments to determine a path to moving them to a green portfolio. This change is in the beginning stage of investigation.

The green minute has an outreach component to share the learnings of the Monthly Meeting with its members and the wider community. Look to future newsletter articles about car charging, heating the buildings, financial investment etc. As we learn about these topics the knowledge will be shared with Abington Quarter and the Monthly Meeting so that individuals can use the information in their personal decisions about energy use, transportation and investments.

Each of us need to make informed decisions about our energy use according to our unique individual circumstances. As the changes in climate accumulate and accelerate each change, we can make is additive As a community with support and sharing of our knowledge we can make a difference.

Cash Bail update

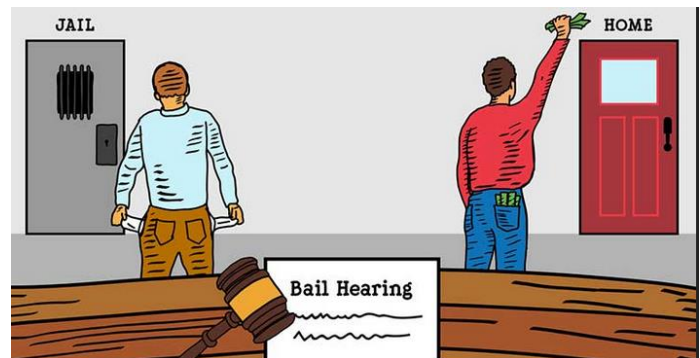
Over the past year our Monthly Meeting and our Quarterly Meeting have been educating our selves on how the cash bail system affects low income people who have been arrested in Montgomery county for non-violent crimes. Statistics provided by the Montgomery County Public defender's office show that in regions without cash bail those accused of minor offenses show up for their preliminary hearings about 90% of the time despite having posted no cash bail. Here in Montgomery County low-income citizens who are unable to post \$500 cash bail are placed in the county jail system. They may remain there for months while the trial date is set. The unnecessary incarceration has an impact on their spouse and children of the family, employment, and financial stability of the family (sometimes transitioning the family to homelessness because of lack of income to pay rent). As with surrounding communities there is a desire to move to a non-cash-bail system for nonviolent offenders. There has been an effort by the Montgomery county Public Defender to provide information to our County officials to educate them about how the cash bail system can be changed for non-violent offenders.

Changes that make our justice system more efficient and less costly by placing less people in jail. Simple changes such as upgrading the way people are contacted by the court system about their obligations to future court hearings. This last issue of not establishing reliable communication was identified as a major cause for people not showing up to required court hearings.

Representatives of the Montgomery County public defender's office has been speaking with Montgomery county Commissioners, Judiciary, citizen organizations, and religious institutions over the past several years about this issue. On March February 25th the Montgomery County's public defenders, chief Dean Beer and deputy chief Keisha Hudson, were fired after filing amicus brief about the cash bail system. The links below are news reports that have been publish about the firings and the cash bail issue.

<https://www.inquirer.com/news/montgomery-county-public-defender-dean-beer-independence-20200302.html>

<https://www.inquirer.com/news/montgomery-county-public-defenders-commissioners-protest-dean-beer-keisha-hudson-20200305.html>



Two questions from these events are:

- How much independence does the Montgomery County public defender's office have to advocate on behalf of their clients?
- What is Montgomery County's intention for continued reform of the cash bail system?

It is important that our elected official hear from us. Keep in mind that there is always more to an event than is made public. It is important for citizens to request clarity in a persistent and respectful way. The failings of the cash bond system have been clearly identified both by individual cases and larger statistical analysis. How will our County address the issues that were listed in the amicus brief?

News about Jay Williams

Jim (Jay) Williams has been in the hospital in January to address head injuries sustained in a car accident in November. He had surgery for a head injuries. He suffered some seizures that occurred post-surgery. At this time he has some significant challenges with motor skills and speech. He is now receiving care in the Boston area where he is close to his family. Cards can be sent to him in care of his daughter Kristin:

Kristin Mugford
67 Longfellow Road
Wellesley, MA 02481-5220

Gardeners Needed



It is officially still winter but sustained cold never came this year. The soil is warming and flowers that use to bring us color in April are blooming these first weeks of March. It is time to begin thinking about the gardens around the Meeting House and the Gathering Place patio.

Over the last two years the color of the flower garden along the Annie H Wilson room and the plantings in the new gardens brought joy to all who came to our Meeting House. Who is interested in helping to clean up our gardens, trim the shrubs that were planted 2 years ago, plant some flowers and spread some mulch so that the blessings of these gardens can be renewed? These chores require a little planning and then a Saturday or First day afternoon or two can be chosen. Who is interested in some outdoor fellowship and playing in the dirt? Let Dave Miller know. Is there one or two people willing to take on the organizing the care of our gardens?



Monthly meeting Web Site - <https://www.fgcquaker.org/cloud/plymouth-friends-meeting>

Our web site is growing but has limitations due to: its structure, the limited number of people who have volunteered to work on it and the name Plymouth Meeting which is used by countless active web sites.

Abington Quarterly Meeting has initiated a communications committee to investigate other options for Monthly Meeting websites. This committee has been sharing web site experiences for the past three months. They have investigated several possible ways to improve the web sites across the Quarter. Of interest is a web provider that is currently being used by Byberry Monthly Meeting. <https://byberryquakers.org/> This site is hosted by a company called Churchinsight that specializes in religious organization websites. This company has tools that make setting up a site easy, our sites can be linked across the Quarter and there are numerous applications that are designed for church functions – in reach and outreach, hospitality, financial, archive,

If you have an interest in helping with the discernment about changing web site providers let David Miller know!

Status of repayment of construction project loan

Remaining balance due as of March 6, 2020 = \$71,304.17

Please continue to make regular donations specifically designated for the construction project loan.

Make checks payable to **Plymouth Monthly Meeting**

To the attention of the **Construction Project Loan**

Send Donations to:

Linda White – Treasure PMM
519 Fort Washington Avenue
Fort Washington, PA 19034



Spring Bicycling Query

Are there any friends who would like to share a Saturday cleaning, adjusting and making their bike ready for the coming season of riding? Do you have tires to replace, chain to replace or grease, gears to adjust, BRAKES to REPLACE Perhaps we can get together and do some maintenance and then share a short ride and lunch together. Let David Miller know if you have an interest in this. He will gather those interested so they can pick a time and plan the day.

Mark Your Calendar: FGC Gathering Radford University June 28 – July 4

Workgrants and partial Scholarships are available for those registering for the full Gathering or half-Gathering from Quarterly or Yearly Meeting.

Food Cupboard

The Meeting will be maintaining a stock of dried or canned food that will be either:

1. Donated to the Colonial Neighborhood
2. Available for anyone in Meeting who may have financial setbacks

We encourage those who can contribute to the food cupboard to do so, and encourage those in need to take what they need.