



# Plymouth Monthly Meeting Newsletter

## Meetings for Worship

First Day Meeting: 11:15 am  
Fourth Day Meeting: 7:00 pm  
still happening (blended)

Address: 2150 Butler Pike,  
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

## October 2021

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## October 2021

|      |        |          |                                 |
|------|--------|----------|---------------------------------|
| Tues | Oct 5  | 7:00 pm  | Care and Concern via Zoom       |
| Sun  | Oct 10 | 9:30 am  | Worship & Ministry via Zoom     |
| Sun  | Oct 10 | 11:00 am | Not blended Meeting for Worship |
| Sun  | Oct 17 | 9:00 am  | Blended Meeting for Business    |
| Sun  | Oct 17 | 11:00 am | Not blended Meeting for Worship |
| Sun  | Oct 24 | 11:00 am | Blended Meeting for Worship     |

## November 2021

|       |        |         |  |
|-------|--------|---------|--|
| Thurs | Nov 4  | 7:00 pm | Care and Concern via Zoom                    |
| Sat   | Nov 6  | 9:00 am | Yearly Meeting Continuing Session via Zoom   |
| Sun   | Nov 14 | 9:30 pm | Blended Worship & Ministry                   |
| Sun   | Nov 21 | 9:00 am | Blended Meeting for Business                 |
| Thur  | Nov 25 | 10:00am | Blended Meeting for Worship for Thanksgiving |

- All First Day Meetings for Worship will begin at 11:15 am. You may join us on Zoom or *in Meetinghouse* any time after 11am and settle in. If joining in person, wear a mask. Masks must be worn on campus for in-person Meeting for worship. **Check the website for updates**
- Wednesday evening Meeting for Worship begins at 7:00pm and will also be held via Zoom as well as *in person in the Meetinghouse (blended)*.

PMM Zoom information always available at [plymouthmonthlymeeting@gmail.com](mailto:plymouthmonthlymeeting@gmail.com) or contact Dave Miller (*blended*)

# Queries for October

## Witnessing in the World: Ministry of Outreach

How does our meeting communicate Friends' presence and principles to the wider community?

How does our meeting join with other faith communities in worship, in spiritual dialogue and in social action?

What are we doing to invite persons to attend our meetings for worship, to welcome them when they come, to listen sensitively to their needs and hesitations and to encourage their continued attendance?

*How do I share my spiritual life and experience with others?*

*Does my life as a Friend attract others to our religious society?*

*What opportunities have I taken to worship with people from other religious and cultural backgrounds and work with them on common concerns?*

## Leadership Changes at AQC

### NEW CLERK FOR ABINGTON QUARTERLY MEETING

Kelly Green, an active member of Norristown Monthly Meeting, has been approved to become the Clerk of Abington Quarterly Meeting. For the last few years, Kelly has been serving as Clerk of Norristown Monthly Meeting. We are grateful to him for stepping up to fill this position in the Quarter. He has already met the technical glitches and challenges posed by the technology that is now necessary to keep us all together. We are grateful for his willingness to meet them with patience and enthusiasm as we move forward.

### APPRECIATION FOR AMELIA DIAMOND

After 9 years of serving as Clerk of Abington Quarter, Amelia Diamond has stepped down. Her time as Clerk was filled with growth and activity within the Quarter. During this time, Amelia was available to each Monthly Meeting to give support and guidance when requested. Her organized way of conducting the business of the Quarter provided a basis upon which the Meetings were able to work together on projects and concerns that arose from the Monthly Meetings. Her gentle, caring manner was welcomed as Meeting Communities reached out to her for counsel and leadership at stressful times. The Quarter is grateful to her for her generosity of sharing and spirit.

### TOM ARMSTRONG STEPPING OFF OF AQM TRUSTEES

Tom Armstrong's term on Abington Quarter Trustees will expire on January 1, 2022. PMM Nominating Committee is actively seeking someone to replace him and will bring a name to Business Meeting for consideration on October 17. We are grateful to Tom for the years he has served on the Trustees, as a member, as President, and as Treasurer of the Quarter. His replacement from Plymouth will not have to hold those offices, but will join as an Active Trustee.

## Recovering from the Storm



Audrey Henninger and Linda White are recovering from the flooding (Audrey) and tornados (Linda) resulting from Hurricane Ida. Plymouth Monthly Meeting is grateful for the help offered by PYM to these members during this rough time.

## News from Worship & Ministry

### Update for Bashir – he has been flown to Canada

Bashir was in Germany at the Ramstad base, where evacuees had been quarantined due to a measles outbreak (all Afghans have now received vaccines for the common diseases and Covid). Tim from Madeleine Dean's office and David DeFavio continue to work on getting the SIV paperwork approved. Bashir reports he is "doing alright". The days are long with little to do but he is out of the Qatar sun and heat. **On October 7th he received temporary residence permit in Canada, and he is in Windsor across the river from Detroit.**

Bashir reports he has had some news from his family: There is no work. They are constantly on the move because of the Taliban, and his father is now ill. They are doing the best they can to stay safe. As the news of Afghanistan fades from the front page, we continue to hold Bashir's family and all of the people of Afghanistan in our prayers.

To help Afghans here in the Delaware valley please consider a donation, perhaps regular small donations to; Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) or Nationalities Services Center. Links to how to donate can be found in the Peace - Social Concerns section of the Meeting Website (<https://plymouthmeetingquakers.org>). Go to the table on the P&SC home page, click on the option: of Immigration/Refugees/ Evacuees. At the bottom of the page there is a Click here option to go to ways to make contributions.

### **A Poem for the Times**

We look around and wonder how did some much go wrong in the way we are with one another and the earth that maintains us? The American poet Jane Kenyan found these words come to her when considering Serbia during the winter of 1993.

### **God thinks**

On the domed ceiling God is thinking:

I made them my joy, and everything else I created  
I made to bless them.

But see what they do! I know their hearts and arguments:

### **Men and Women say what the heck**

"We're descended from Cain. Evil is nothing new,  
so what does it matter now if we shell the infirmary,  
and the well where the fearful and rash alike must  
come for water?"

### **God responds**

God thinks Mary into being. Suspended at the apogee  
of the golden dome, she curls in a brown pod,  
and inside her the mind of Christ, cloaked in blood,  
lodges and begins to grow.

**The question before us is, how do we respond to the birth within us of Divine light?**

## **Opportunities to contribute as part of Plymouth Monthly Meeting**

Last month's newsletter listed a number of opportunities to help out (see below). The gardens and outside the walls of the property have been brought back into good form. The other opportunities continue to be open for help. In addition, several committees have openings. Please see Dave Miller about the opportunities below. See Bonnie Miller or Rebecca Cratin about opportunities on the Monthly Meeting Committees.

**Our Monthly Meeting has no paid staff. All the functions of the Meeting are attended to by its members and attenders. What part of the care of the community are you called to this year?**

Web Site – Call Dave Miller or Carolee Duckworth

Learn how to post articles to provide our community with up-to-date news and notice of events. Build a library of pictures for the Webs use. Scan and log Meeting Files. Create new

sections of the website for children, library, Peace and Social Concerns, School and the Burial Ground.

The website tools for creating are easy to use. Very similar to word processing.

Housekeeping – Call Ralph Henninger

People are needed for the regular cleaning of the Meeting house and kitchen. Takes 2 -3 hours for one person, less for two or more. The house committee is looking for members

Gardening – Call Dave Miller

The gardens on both sides of the Annie H Wilson room provide beauty and a setting of peace for our community. They are however a fertile place for weeds to grow and the small shrubs to outgrow their portion of the gardens. Help is needed two or three times a year to weed and prune our gardens

Annie H Wilson room users committee – Calendar committee – Call Bonnie , Dave Miller , Fran Blackstone

Help needed to be

- a primary contact with a user group
- to learn how to input user information into the Website Event Calendar
- to update user files

Meeting Mail – Call Dave Miller

- Collect Meeting mail from mailbox once or twice a week
- Sort mail for what is junk mail and what needs to be passed on to appropriate person(s) in the Meeting
- Scan appropriate mail for the website mailbox
- Post mail to bulletin boards in the Meeting house / take down out of date mail

Graveyard – Call Tom Armstrong or Dave Miller

- Person to help digitalize the handwritten records

## NEW STAFF AT PMFS

### Jayne Krauss – 2nd Grade Assistant Teacher



Jayne Krauss is the new Assistant Teacher in Second Grade at PMFS. She graduated from Syracuse University with a BS in Elementary and Special Education. Over the past 18 years, Jayme has taught Kindergarten and Preschool, and worked as K- 4th grade Learning Support. Jayme lives in the Colonial School District– right near PMFS– with her husband of almost 16 years and her two daughters, ages 10 and 6. She is excited to be back in the classroom and is looking forward to a fantastic year!

### Kirk Kubicek – Music Teacher

Welcome to our new Music teacher Kirk Kubicek. A Maryland native, Kirk has called Philadelphia home since 2011. Over the past decade, he has worked as a Music Teaching Artist, drumming, playing, and singing with hundreds of students of all ages in a range of settings from classroom percussion, to classical and New Orleans style brass bands, to private drum set lessons, and community drum circles. Kirk continues to play drums professionally for many projects and bands, including his most recent project, *The North Country*. An avid trail runner, mountain biker, and backpacker, Kirk spends as much time outside in nature as he can with his wife Jamie and his husky-hound Pemi.



### Trish McBride – Pre-K Lead Teacher in Little House House



PMFS welcomes Trish McBride as a new Pre-Kindergarten Lead Teacher. Trish has been teaching young children for over twenty years, including in Quaker and Montessori schools and feels grateful to be doing what she loves. She holds a degree in Women's Studies from Temple University, and she serves on the Philly ALC School Board of Directors and on the Greater Philadelphia Diversity Collaborative Advisory Council. Trish loves hanging out with her 19-year-old

daughter Georgi and family and friends. She also enjoys reading just about everything, as well as planning fun and interesting road trips.

## Betsy Norton – new Pre-K Teacher in Journey’s End



Betsy Norton brings over 17 years of experience in a variety of educational settings to her position as a Lead Pre-Kindergarten Teacher at PMFS. Betsy has been a Lead Teacher in Kindergarten, Transitional Kindergarten and PreK classrooms, as well as a daycare Center Director. Betsy’s philosophy on teaching in the early childhood setting is to develop an engaging environment where children have opportunities to learn through spontaneous play, as well as intentional, guided learning. Outside of school, Betsy is busy with her family – husband Ben, two sons, Liam and Lucas, and cockapoo, Maggie. She appreciates a great cup of coffee, dark chocolate and is at her happiest when music is playing nearby.

## Nicola Robinson – new Pre-K Teacher in Journey’s End

Nicola Robinson has been an Early Childhood educator for over 20 years. She joins the PMFS community as a Pre-Kindergarten Assistant Teacher. Nicola has been a Lead Teacher in Pre-K, Kindergarten, 2nd and 3rd grades in public, private and charter school settings. She was born on the island of Jamaica, and came to America as a teen. She considers herself to be a lifelong wanderer and a wonderer– traits that come naturally to children. She says, “This is one of the things I love most about working with children. They keep me youthful and looking at the world in new and exciting ways.” Outside of school, Nicola enjoys traveling, nature, cooking, family and friends.

