



# 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

## November 2021

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## November 2021

Fri	Nov 19	7:00 pm	Paige Menton presentation on her land stewardship trip via Zoom. Contact Paige at <a href="mailto:paigementon@gmail.com">paigementon @ gmail. com</a> for link
Sun	Nov 21	9:00 am	Blended Meeting for Business: <a href="#">Communications Committee</a> will report on discussions about blended worship. Friends are encouraged to attend & help continue our discernment
Thur	Nov 25	10:00am	Meeting for Worship for Thanksgiving via Zoom

## December 2021

Tues	Dec 7	7:00 pm	Care and Concern via Zoom
Sun	Dec 12	9:30 am	Worship & Ministry via Zoom
Sun	Dec 12	11:00 am	Not blended Meeting for Worship
Sun	Dec 19	9:00 am	Blended Meeting for Business
Sun	Dec 19	11:00 am	Not blended Meeting for Worship
Fri	Dec 24	5:00 pm/ 6:00 pm	5:00 pm Peace Vigil followed by 6:00pm Zoom Carol Sing (organized by Bill Alberts) and Meeting for Worship
Sun	Dec 26	11:00 am	Blended Meeting for Worship

- 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 November

## Witnessing in the World: Education

What does our meeting do to support and improve public education?

What help do we provide for the children and adults in our meeting to pursue their educational goals?

What is our meeting's role in support for Friends' education? If our meeting is connected to a Friends school or schools, does this relationship nurture spiritual life and the manifestation of Friends principles?

Do we enable children in our meeting to attend a Friends school? Does our meeting work with the family to consider all available means of support?

*How do I show my concern for the improvement of public education in my community?*

*Do I demonstrate my encouragement and support for Friends education through awareness and service?*

## News from the School Journey's End Pre-K "Pulling Down the Silence"

After a year of zoom Meeting for Worship during the 2020-21, teachers have been



working this year with their classes to introduce or re-introduce students to Meeting for Worship, where people of any age practice settling and listening for the light within us.

To help young friends settle in, they practice the art of "pulling down the silence" together. The action of physically pulling down the silence helps young friends calm and slow down their bodies, and leave the busy world outside for a few moments and think about the light within. Each Thursday, during Meeting for Worship, teachers present a Query special to the three to five year old age group, guided by the PMFS monthly Quaker themes. Such wonderful connections and discussions come during this time

# News from the Meeting

## Monthly Meeting Website update

A new feature of our Meeting website is the section for Business Meeting Agenda located in the Events and News tab. The information presented here that is proprietary to the Monthly Meeting (minutes and Treasurer's report) can only be seen by people who have been granted login accounts. If you are a member or long term attender who has not requested registration please do. Open the website . At the top right there will be a register tab.

The Business Meeting agenda section will have the table shown below that will have links to the Query, Prior minutes and Treasurer's report which will be posted some time the week before the meeting and a list of agenda items to be considered. If you have a agenda item for the meeting please call our Clerk – Mike and discuss it with him. He will post items for the meeting. The table for last month (Oct) is shown below.

Date of Meeting	Eleventh Month 2021 at 9am
Location	Meeting House, blended with online conference meeting
Agenda	
1. Query	<a href="#">Click Here</a>
2. Minutes of prior Meeting	<a href="#">Click Here</a>
3. Treasurer's report	<a href="#">Click here</a>
4. Nomination for Quarter Trustee	
5. Consideration of Blending of Worship	
6. PMFS	

## Update from Dave Miller on the resettlement of Bashir

Bashir continues to be residing in Canada. He has been moved from Windsor Ontario to Vancouver , BC. Bashir requested the move because he recognized that the stress of worry about the safety of his family in Afghanistan was affecting his mental health. He has some relatives who have also been relocated to Vancouver. The Canadian government has provided him a temporary room in a welcome house there. At this time I do not have his address. It is likely that he will remain there because his Visa paperwork continue to be in limbo. When we have a permanent address we will send him a gift card to help with winter clothes or other needs.



There is a steady stream of people becoming refugees from war or climate or immigrants because of personal needs to be able to care for family. In our region HIAS and Bethany Immigration Services are two agencies that have been helping people with all of the logistics of starting over in a new country. Please consider a donation or volunteering with them or with other local groups doing the good work to help the strangers in our region become our neighbors and friends. The Peace and Social Concerns section of the Web site has some contact information.

## Thanks giving message from the Colonial Ministerium

Our Meeting has been a long standing member of the Colonial Ministerium. Usually each year we join with the other faith communities in a worship service of Thanksgiving. This year because of Covid we continue to not be able to gather all of our communities together indoors out of prudent caution. Below is a Thanksgiving greeting for the members of all of faith communities in our area.

### Thanksgiving greetings to the Colonial Ministerium faith communities

***The clergy members of the Colonial Ministerium send our love in this season of thanksgiving. We will not hold an interfaith service of worship this year, but send this greeting and reflection.***

In past generations, in Conshohocken, Plymouth and Whitmarsh, there was a moment at the end of the day when the last bale of hay or basket of apples was hoisted to the wagon and a tired, but satisfied body looked out over the fields and smiled gratefully for the bounty the land had produced. This blessed moment recurs as we look back over the accomplishments of the year



The harvest does not come easily. We share with past generations difficulties that are beyond our control: summer heat, flood, wind, and illness. And, like those who have gone before us, there have been difficulties of our own making – usually when our actions outran attention to God’s spirit within: a word spoken in anger; an action causing separation to our beloved, our family, or community.

While painfully aware of where we have fallen short, we are also rightly proud of the places we have been faithful and loving this year: the loving care extended to newborns and the mentoring of children; the tenderness of accompanying our elderly as their abilities changed; sweet moments intentionally created with our beloveds; opportunities when we helped the stranger in our midst; and the accompanying of those who were sick or afraid. Together, we found ways to lift a voice for justice, to hold our communities firmly but lovingly accountable to one another.

It is easy and right that we raise a prayer of thanksgiving for the bounty that we have received. Indeed, as we pass our minds over the year’s harvest, our hearts naturally rise in a crescendo of hallelujahs and an appreciation that, through it all, God has been present with us. Even in our darkest times, we were not alone. We are forgiven of what we have not done and affirmed in the good we have done.

May we all rest this harvest season in the lived experience of God’s presence among us. May that holy presence be the seed placed in the soil of our communities' future for the next harvest.

Grace, Mercy and Peace be with you always,

The Clergy of the Colonial Ministerium

## Blended Worship – Discussion and Discernment during Meeting for Business Nov 20 9:00 am

During Business Meeting this First Day at 9:00 a.m., the Communications Committee will be reporting about their discussions concerning blended worship. Friends are encouraged to attend and help us continue our discernment about this issue.

## Christmas Eve Gathering 2021

This year we will again be adjusting our Christmas celebration to keep everyone's health in mind. This year will include

1. A vigil at the wall at 5:00 pm
2. Zoom Carol sing at 6:00 pm organized by Bill Alberts as he did last year.
3. Worship will follow the caroling.

For those who attend the vigil at 5:00 and don't want to hurry home to get on Zoom, there will be an opportunity to go into the Annie H. room to do the Zoom and worship there. It will not be announced to the larger community or include non-PMM friends and family who often join Meeting folks on Christmas Eve, and no refreshments. It will just be to let folks who were at the wall stay as long as they wish and still get on the Zoom for the caroling.



## **News from Worship & Ministry**

### **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



**Indigenous Peoples and Quakers: The Untold Story**

November 21, 10 am–1 pm, Cropwell Meeting, NJ

Fireside chat and potluck. Details: [Untold Story](#)

**“How to Be an Antiracist” Book discussion: Ibram X. Kendi**

November 21, 2–3:15 pm, Burlington Quarter Friends. Details: [Book Discussion](#)

**Journey to Christmas: An Adult Religious Education Series for Advent** (in person & Zoom)

Sunday evenings: November 28, December 5, 12, 19

November 28: Prophets Watch and Wait

Facilitated by Melinda Wenner Bradley, this four-week series will explore the time of expectant waiting before Christmas with scripture, discussion, guided activities, prayers, and readings.  
Registration: [Journey to Christmas](#)

## **December 2021 Events**

**PYM Religious Ed Community Conversations: Exploring prayer with children**  
Thursday, December 2, 7 pm (Zoom). Registration: [Conversation](#)

**Abington Quarter (and beyond) Together we are stronger.**  
December 2, 7–7:45 pm. Recurring event. Details: [Abington Quarter](#)

**Candlelight Holiday Celebration, Arch Street Meeting House!**  
December 3, 5–8 pm. Celebrate the holiday season with live student musical performances from local Quaker schools, a live historical impersonator, kid-friendly crafts, and refreshments spread out across the museum and grounds. Registration: [www.historicasmh.org/events](http://www.historicasmh.org/events)

**Fireside Chat: Simple Holidays, Cropwell Friends**  
December 5, 10 am –1 pm. Details: [Cropwell Friends](#)

**Vigil for Racial Justice, 4-5 pm every Sunday**, Recurring event  
December 5, Details: [Vigil](#)

**Journey to Christmas: An Adult Religious Education Series for Advent**  
Sunday evenings: December 5, 12, 19 (in person & Zoom)  
December 5: Mothering a New World Into Being  
Facilitated by Melinda Wenner Bradley, this four-week series will explore the time of expectant waiting before Christmas with scripture, discussion, guided activities, prayers, and readings.  
Registration: [Christmas Dec 5](#)

**Into the Night: Holiness of Darkness with Rev. Rhetta Morgan**  
December 6, 7:30–9 pm, Free. Info: [Into the Night](#)

**Preparation, Formation and Belonging: New growth from RE Roots**  
December 7, 7:30–9 pm, Free  
Hosted by the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative, this is a reprise of the QREC conference keynote delivered in August by Melinda Wenner Bradley from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.  
Details: [www.quakerrecolaborative.org](http://www.quakerrecolaborative.org)

**Electrify Your Life — Eco Justice Webinar**  
December 8, 7:30–9 pm  
How to electrify your home and yard and your transportation, while improving energy efficiency and sourcing your electricity from renewable energy. Details: [Electrify](#)

**Abington Quarter (and beyond) Together we are stronger.**  
December 9, 7–7:45 pm. Recurring event. Details: [Abington Quarter](#)

**Middle School Friends Hangouts**  
More info about the December 12 cooking project coming soon... Details: [Hangouts](#)

## Meet the School Committee

### Dan Heider

Dan Heider has been a part of the PMFS community for over 12 years. He and his family joined PMFS when his oldest child Bennett started Pre-K. Dan has served PMFS in multiple roles over the years, including PTO and the Strategic Planning Committee, and he is now Clerk of School Committee. Dan believes strongly in the vision of PMFS and its ability to foster independence, growth, community, and academic success among its students.

Dan grew up in St. Paul, Minnesota and made his way east to Swarthmore College, where he started attending the local Quaker Meeting. He is now a member of Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting and has served the meeting as treasurer and on many committees.

Dan works at Bristol Myers Squibb in Worldwide Pricing. He and his wife Rebecca live in Chestnut Hill with their children Bennett ( grade 10),

Graham (grade 7) and Alice (grade 5). In his rare spare time he enjoys seeing friends and running.



### Jeff Markovitz



Jeff Markovitz is delighted to be part of the PMFS community for over 10 years! He and his wife, Holly discovered PMFS when their daughter attended public kindergarten and needed a change. They toured the school, and then wasted no time in enrolling Jane (PMFS Class of 2015) in Kindergarten—she was there in time for the Halloween parade! Luke (PMFS Class of 2019) was enrolled in the next year, followed by Nate (PMFS Class of 2020). PMFS has been a consequential source of joy and growth for Jeff's whole family.



Jeff's connection to Quaker Education began when he entered GFS for high school.

After GFS, Jeff went to Grinnell College with a brief detour to the University of Melbourne. After college Jeff lived in Japan for the better part of the 90's teaching English to young children. He returned to the U.S., earned an MBA from Temple and worked in International Banking. Between international travel and a wife pregnant with their first child, Jeff decided a change was needed and made a move to a local business.

In addition to running a local print shop and raising a family, Jeff loves anything with a racket. In his free time, he enjoys playing tennis or squash. Volunteering is also a big part of his life and he has served in many different roles over his years at PMFS. A member of Plymouth Monthly Meeting, Jeff is currently Treasurer of School Committee and Co-Clerk of the Friends Collaborative. The Friends Collaborative is a shared effort by 22 Friends Schools to provide scholarships enabling more children access to a Quaker Education.

## Marialice Dancy

Marialice Dancy is a PMFS alumni parent, the mother of Amanda Price (class of 2008) and Maria Price (Class of 2012). She has been a part of the PMFS community for over 20 years and has enjoyed serving as Strawberry Festival Co-Chair, Admission & Development Intern, and frequent parent volunteer on class trips. She joined the School Committee in 2015 and currently serves as Recording Clerk.

Marialice works as a Tech Consultant for Target. Previously, she has held various positions in marketing, training, and management with The Vanguard Group and Global Novations, a talent management firm.

While Marialice's studies at UPenn in both Economics as an undergraduate student and as a graduate student in Intercultural Communications helped to qualify her for professional positions, they also inspired her volunteer work. She has served as Director of the Outreach House at St. James' Episcopal Church, a program that provides food, clothing, and other social services to families in need.

In her spare time, Marialice enjoys listening to jazz music, taking long walks, and cooking special meals for family and friends.





## Fran Johnston

Frances Johnston, PhD is a PMFS parent of Lucas Johnston-Peck ('15) and Miguel Johnston-Peck ('17). She has been involved in the PMFS community for the past eleven years. In 2014, Fran co-led the PMFS strategic planning process before joining the School and Executive committees. Fran currently serves as Assistant Clerk of School Committee. Fran is the co-founder of the Teleos Leadership Institute, a professional consulting firm for both private and public sectors that encourages and develops values-based resonant leadership. Over the course of her 25+ year career, she has become a trusted

mentor and advisor to C-level executives and top teams—including many of the world's biggest and most well-known companies: Viacom, Unilever, Merrill Lynch, etc. and purpose driven one like the UNDP (Cambodia, South Africa) and the Weavers' Way coop. She is the co-author of *Becoming a Resonant Leader* (2008) and has designed and facilitated learning and development programs on leadership and transformation, emotional intelligence, improving group dynamics, and organizational renewal. She is a passionate teacher of adults of all ages and sectors. Locally, she has taught at Wharton, Penn's Graduate School of Education, and Community College of Philadelphia. Nationally, she is a long-standing teacher for the Brookings Institute of Executive Education.

Fran is committed to PMFS because she believes in play, experiential and progressive education and feels PMFS is a sacred incubator within which children grow and flourish. She is committed to helping PMFS and other learning communities create and maintain diverse, equitable, and loving spaces. Fran believes PMFS helps children and their parents grow together through this special time in a family's life.

## Jessica Lember

Jessica Lember, parent of Aydin L. (Class of 2020) and Annika B. (Class of 2024), has been a PMFS parent for nine years. Jessica grew up in Elkins Park, PA and is a graduate of Cheltenham High School. She attended Earlham College and received her B.A. in Psychology. During a post-college position as a research assistant on a national study of child care and child development, Jessica found she was inspired to become an elementary school teacher. She received her Masters in Elementary Education from Temple University in 2002. Jessica began her elementary teaching career at Friends Select in 2001. She has taught for over ten years, working with Kindergarten through 2nd grade at Friends Select, Friends School Haverford, and Greene Street Friends School. Currently she is in her fifth year at Germantown Friends School, where she is an assistant kindergarten teacher.



During her time as a parent at PMFS, Jessica has supported the school in a myriad of ways. She has served as a Class Parent, was a member of the Capital Campaign for the Emerson Building, served as PTO Co-Clerk from 2014-2016, co-chaired the annual Family Fun Night, has lead tours during Open Houses, staffs the PMFS Admissions Outreach table at area events, and has been the Parking Chair for Strawberry Festival for several years. She was honored to join PMFS's School Committee in 2019 because she is a strong believer in the education, experiences, values, and community that children are steeped in at PMFS. As a School Committee Member, Jessica serves on both the Marketing subcommittee and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion subcommittee.

Jessica and her husband, John Bies, reside in Mt. Airy with their children. They appreciate being surrounded by trees and old homes and funky people. Jessica is a lifelong avid reader, with a special place in her heart for great Intermediate and Young Adult literature. She is also known as a prolific pocketeer of "cool rocks."