



**Meetings for Worship**

**Plymouth  
Monthly  
Meeting  
Newsletter**

First Day Plain worship, no Zoom, 10-11  
 First Day Meeting blended worship: 11:15 am  
**Fourth Day Meeting: 7:00 pm (blended)**

Address: 2150 Butler Pike,  
 Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462  
[office@plymouthmeetingquakers.org](mailto:office@plymouthmeetingquakers.org)

**March 2023**

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**March 2023**

Sun	Mar 12	6:00 pm	Worship & Ministry via Zoom
Tues	Mar 14	4:30 pm	Land Acknowledgement Committee (blended)
Sat	Mar 18	9:00 am	Working around the Meetinghouse Grounds (see article)
Sun	Mar 19	9:00 am	Meeting for Business (blended)
Sun	Mar 26	After Meeting	Friendly Fourth – presentation on End of Life Issues

**April 2023**

Tues	April 4	7:00 pm	Care & Concern via Zoom
Fri	April 7	7:00 pm	Peace & Social Concerns (blended)
Fri	April 7	12:00 pm	Good Friday service Church on the Mall Conshohocken, Plymouth and Whitemarsh Interfaith Council
Sat	April 8	11:00 am	Marcie Moraux Memorial
Sat	April 8	6:30 pm	Reading of the Gospel of Mark for Easter
Sun	April 9	9:00 am	Pancake breakfast
Tues	April 11	4:30 pm	Land Acknowledgement Committee (blended)
Sun	TBD	6:00 pm	Worship & Ministry via Zoom
F,S,S	April 14,15,16		Building homes for tornado victims at Bethel UM Church
Sun	April 16	9:00 am	Meeting for Business (blended)
Sun	April 23	After Meeting	Friendly Fourth

- All First Day Meetings for Worship will begin at 10:00 (Plain worship, no Zoom) and 11:15 am (blended worship). Masks are not required but we will continue to social distance. **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 [office@plymouthmeetingquakers.org](mailto:office@plymouthmeetingquakers.org)

# Queries for March

## Grounding for Transformed Lives: Peace & 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?*

## News from the Meeting

### Plymouth Monthly Meeting’s Land Acknowledgement Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month at 4:30 pm

The native Duwamish people tell us that “For non-Indigenous communities, land acknowledgement is a powerful way of showing respect and honoring the Indigenous Peoples of the land on which we work and live. Acknowledgement is a simple way of resisting the erasure of Indigenous histories and working towards honoring and inviting the truth.

Our Monthly Meeting land acknowledgement is at the very beginning of the process. Anyone who would like to help with our acknowledgement, please contact David Miller. Much has been written to help us on our way. A collection of 6 books have been purchased to provide a foundation of knowledge. Pick one up from the Meeting Library or from your local library if they have been checked out. If you have one of the Meeting books, please make sure you have signed it out, so we know where it is. If you can bring it back in 2-3 weeks so others can read it. The recommended books to read are:

- Lenape Country: Delaware Valley Society Before William Penn by Jean R. Soderlund
- This Very Ground, This Crooked Affair Paperback by John L Ruth (Author), Raylene Hinz-Penner
- An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz

- As They Were Led: Quakerly Steps and Missteps Toward Native Justice: 1795-1940 by Martha Claire Catlin
- Our History Is the Future: Standing Rock Versus the Dakota Access Pipeline, and the Long Tradition of Indigenous Resistance Hardcover by Nick Estes
- Braiding Sweet Grass, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants by Robin Wall Kimmermer

This is a long process but when completed a meaningful acknowledgment can be made. Paula Palmer, Director of the Toward Right Relationship project from the Indigenous Peoples Concerns Committee of Boulder Friends Meeting writes: Native organizations are not asking us to judge our Quaker ancestors. They are asking, "Who are Friends today? Knowing what we know now, will Quakers join us in honest dialogue? Will they acknowledge the harm that was done? Will they seek ways to contribute toward healing processes that are desperately needed in Native communities?" Our beginning with learning the history of our land and the history of Quakers and the US government relationship to native peoples will provide us a starting point to answer these questions.

## **Worship & Ministry**

### **An Easter thought from Worship and Ministry**

Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love ... so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. (John 13 1-5)

After attending a Holy Thursday liturgy which included a meal and foot washing at the LArche community for people with and without intellectual disabilities in Paris, Henri Nouwen wrote in a mixture of scripture and his own words the mystical experience\* he had:

The word became flesh so as to wash my tired feet. He touches me precisely where I touch the soil, where earth connects with my body that reaches out to heaven. He kneels and takes my feet in his hands and washes them. Then he looks up at me and, as his eyes and mine meet, he says: "Do you understand what I have done for you? If I, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you must wash your brother's and sister's feet". As I walked the long, painful journey toward the cross, I must pause on the way to wash my neighbor's feet. As I kneel before my brothers and sisters, wash their feet, and look into their eyes, I discover that it is because of my brothers and sisters who walk with me that I can make the journey at all.

This Easter season let us rejoice in the opportunity to serve and to be granted the humility to recognize that we are cared for by those who we serve.

*\*Writing about the in breaking of God's Spirit (the Light) into a moment of time as Henri experienced is the reality that Friends have written of down through the centuries. The authenticity and purpose of a scriptural phrase is known in the real-life experience of God's inbreaking love.*

# Easter Weekend

## Join us for a Good Friday Ecumenical Service at the Church on the Mall

Friday April 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon

Our Monthly Meeting has been a part of the Conshohocken, Plymouth and Whitmarsh Faith Council (Formally the Colonial Ministerium) for many decades. Each year on Good Friday Friends from Plymouth gather with our neighboring Christian faith communities to reflect on the last 7 words of Jesus. In word and song, we explore the meaning of the passion of Christ and its relevance to the challenges of today's world.

## Reading of the Gospel of Mark – Saturday evening April 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30PM

Each Easter weekend the Monthly Meeting provides an opportunity to read the Gospel of Mark from beginning to end. Those who come, share the reading in a round, each reading one chapter aloud without commentary until the gospel is completed. The reading and listening takes about 1-1/2 hours and provides a time of reflection on the meaning of the life and death of Jesus and its relevance to our lives today. Out of the worshipful silence at the conclusion Friends often offer a reflection from their own life. What does it mean to live a faithful life in a challenging world? What is the cross in our lives that we are being asked to pick up and carry with love and strength? Consider stepping out of the many activities of the holiday weekend for a time of shared inward reflection.

## Pancake Breakfast Easter Morning – April 9<sup>th</sup> starting 9 am

With apologies to those mourning winter lost, we expect our gardens to have flowers blooming and warm sun upon our face as we enter the Annie H Wilson room to the sweet smell of hot pancakes and syrup. Once again, we will be enjoying good conversation over pancakes and surple (Yes this is spelled right for us North Woods boys). Come and enjoy Easter morning with our community.

## Collection for Relief Kits – Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)

From February 19<sup>th</sup> to March 26<sup>th</sup> we will be collecting items for the Mennonite Central Committee's relief kit program. (see the list below). MCC has a long history of disaster relief. The relief kits are one part of providing essential items for people who have suddenly lost all material support. With the war in Ukraine, the drought and floods in Africa and the Southeast Asia, and now the earthquake in Turkey and Syria the warehouse where the kits are assembled needs to be restocked.



BBoxes to

receive these items have been placed in the Annie H Wilson room, Main School building and Emerson. They will remain there until March 26th. It is hoped that our Meeting and our school community will contribute items. Please take the time to read the list of needed items and consider if you can contributing to this effort. We will take the items to the MCC collection center where they will be assembled into kits and placed in a pail with a lid that can be used for washing and doing laundry. Thank you for limiting your generosity to the items listed. Due to strict regulations some countries have on the expiration date of toothpaste the toothpaste will be purchased at time of shipment by MCC. 4 large bars bath soap (leave in wrapper)

- Shampoo (1 or 2 bottles, totaling more than 20 oz; place in resealable plastic bag)
- 4 large bars laundry soap (such as Fels Naptha®, Sunlight® or Zote® brands)
- 4 adult-size toothbrushes (in manufacturer's packaging)
- 4 new bath towels (medium weight, dark or bright colors; approx. 29 in x 60 in)
- 2 wide-toothed combs (6–8 in)
- 1 nail clipper (good quality)
- 1 box adhesive bandages (minimum 40, assorted)
- Sanitary pads (THIN; 1 or 2 packages, minimum 28 pads total)

If you are at a distance to the Meeting a donation by check can be sent to Linda White to be used for this relief effort. A relief kit cost approximately 25 dollars. Any and all, donations are greatly appreciated.

Linda White – Treasurer – MCC Relief Kit  
519 Fort Washington Avenue  
Fort Washington, Pa 19034

## Framing a Duplex House for a Kentucky family April 14th and 15th



Once again, this year Plymouth is invited to participate in a house raising at **Bethel Hill Methodist Church in Skippack**. Each year Bethel Hill has framed a house to be sent by truck to a community recovering from a natural disaster; flood, hurricane, tornado... They pair with the organization Help Build Hope who provide the architectural plans, supervision, and the tools to cut and frame a family

home.

This year, the project will be to frame a duplex home. The only skills needed is a willingness to work together in small groups cutting board or nailing walls together. The process is a real life barn raising where by community strength a home is raised for a family that has been living in hotels for years now. Consider setting aside some time on Friday afternoon (April 14<sup>th</sup>) and Saturday (April 15<sup>th</sup>) to enjoy good community service. **Contact Wally Kimber or David Miller for registration information that will become available the week of March 20<sup>th</sup>.**

## Land Stewardship Project - March 18th

Plymouth Monthly Meeting owns more than 7 acres of land entrusted to us from generations past. Mindful of our responsibility to manage Meeting property, the Monthly Meeting has begun the conversation about what responsible land stewardship can be. At 2nd month business meeting, Friends were united in beginning the experiment of fostering a more natural landscape on the land in front of the Meeting House. The intent of the experiment is to reduce the grass in this area and replace it with natural mulch and understory plants so that there will be an increase in the biodiversity of the soil, provide feed and habitat for birds and reduce the need for gasoline powered landscape tools.

On Saturday morning March 18th at 9am volunteers are needed to lay down mulch and cardboard around the new trees planted last Fall. This preparation of the ground by inhibiting grass to grow will be followed up by a future Saturday workday to plant understory plants. If you are interested in helping contact Paige Menton while at Meeting or at Journeywork: <https://journeywork.org/contact/>

## Please Update your Contact information

Have you changed your address, phone number or email address? Please do not lose touch with us. Send an email to Sally Bishop to request that your information be updated. The email can be sent directly to her or to [office@plymouthmeetingquakers.org](mailto:office@plymouthmeetingquakers.org). If you are a member of the website, you can make the changes yourself and save Sally some work. Go to the home page of the website and sign in. Then click on the "my account" tab at the top of the page. When the my account page opens click on Profile tab and make the changes you wish to make. Note there is also a tab for changing password if needed.

As always, if you are having trouble locating items on the website or logging in contact David Miller or send a note to [office@plymouthmeetingquakers.org](mailto:office@plymouthmeetingquakers.org)

## NEWS FROM PMFS

### Sally Bishop reports:

Late Thursday night at the Philadelphia airport, our PMFS fifth and sixth graders safely returned after two weeks with their Mexican families in Cuernavaca. They were welcomed into the waiting arms of their families and all is well. What an experience for both the students and their families. They'll have lots of stories and adventures to share.

March 16th is Grandparents and Special Friends day at PMFS and an early dismissal at Noon. There will be no morning worship on Thursday March 16th. Spring break begins March 17th thru the 28th.

Great news! The Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools (PAIS) approved Accreditation to Plymouth Meeting Friends School through 2033. Congratulations to the entire school community. Well done!