



Plymouth Monthly Meeting Newsletter

Meetings for Worship

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,
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November 2023

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November 2023

Sat	Nov 18	9:00 am – 1:00 pm	AFSC Holiday Sale at Gwynedd
Sun	Nov 19	9:00 am	Meeting for Business (blended)
Sun	Nov 19	4:00 pm	CPW Interfaith Council Thanksgiving worship at the Meetinghouse
Thurs	Nov 23	10:00 am	Meeting for Worship for Thanksgiving
Sun	Nov 26	After Meeting	Friendly Fourth and Music Circle – all are welcome

December 2023

Sat	Dec 2	9:00 am – 1:00 pm	Leaf-raking followed by lunch
Tues	Dec 5	7:00 pm	Care & Concern at the Meetinghouse (Christmas Cards)
Sun	Dec 10	6:00 pm	Worship and Ministry
Tues	Dec 12	4:30 pm	Land Acknowledgement Committee
Sun	Dec 17	9:00 am	Meeting for Business (blended)
Sun	Dec 24	7:00 pm	Carol sing, Meeting for Worship and Peace Vigil at the wall

- 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. 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

Queries for November

Witnessing in the World: Witness and Civic Responsibility

- What is our Meeting doing:
 - To become aware of systemic legal, economic and political injustices in our local community?
 - To build relationships with other faith communities around common concerns?
 - To reduce polarization within the larger community?
 - To work together with others to address injustice?
- How does our meeting assist in restoring public recognition that government fulfills legitimate functions?
 - *Am I mindful of how my lifestyle, work-life and investments affect others?*
 - *Am I open to seeking clearness on matters of conscience? Am I open to assisting others in doing so?*
 - *Do I fulfill my civic responsibilities when they do not conflict with divine leading?*

News from the Meeting

Peace Vigil every Wednesday evening

Given the current conflicts in the world, we have instituted a continuing candlelight Peace Vigil at the wall after our usual 7:00 pm Wednesday Meeting for Worship.

Leaf Raking December 2



We will be gathering with folks from the School to rake leaves on the Meetinghouse property. The work will be followed by a hot soup and bread lunch. Raindate: December 3 after meeting.

Food Donations Requested

Colonial Neighborhood Council is requesting nonperishable food donations. Please leave them in the basket by the piano in the Women's side of the Meetinghouse.

PMM Website

Remember: more information on anything you read in the newsletter (and more) is available on our website <https://www.plymouthmeetingquakers.org>

Community Outreach at Church on the Mall



Our Meeting has joined with the Interfaith Council and the CAARSEA (Colonial Area Anti-Racism & Social Equity Alliance) to help open a **Code Blue Shelter**. The shelter is being hosted by the Church on the Mall. A code blue shelter officially provides a warm place for a meal and a bed for one night when the temperature is 32 degrees or lower during the night. It, however, is so much more than just opening the doors to a warm room. When people come together to provide genuine hospitality, relationships are built with one another, with those who are creating the space and with those who are in a place

in their life where they need a warm place to stay for the night. With good food and conversation, we share in many unexpected ways.

During this initial period, as the shelter gets off the ground, our Meeting has volunteered to provide the evening meal. At this time that means working with people from the Church in the Mall to set tables for an evening meal, thaw out soup and serve it with bread and dessert along with hot drinks. There are several weeks of frozen soup currently available, donated by the Lutheran Church of Conshohocken. When this soup is used up donations of homemade soup will be requested. Bonnie Miller will put out the call for soup when that time comes.

The shelter is open Monday through Thursdays when the Code Blue is called. **If you would like to help in the kitchen or in the future cooking soup, send a note to Bonnie Miller.**

The time commitment at the church is from about 6 pm to about 10 pm, depending on how many people come and when they come. Intake hours are 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm. As we gain more experience, we will have a better understanding of the number of people needed and there will be more volunteers from other churches and organizations. Currently two to three people are sufficient for the number of people who are coming. Our hope is that once the word gets out, all 30 beds will be filled. Our real hope is that in the longer term, more stable housing will be made available. Stay tuned for work that is beginning on that issue.



Plymouth volunteered to help make sure the evening meal preparation and serving is staffed. There is also a need for volunteers to setup the room, overnight staff (4-hour shift) and morning cleanup. Go to the Church on the Mall website to see the list of other opportunities to help and a electronic form to submit your preference.

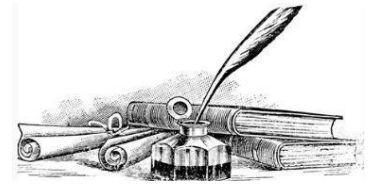
<https://www.churchonthemall.com/codeblueshelter>

11th Month Business Meeting

Our Monthly Business Meeting will be held on **November 19th**

Items received so far:

- The presentation of the draft 2024 budget
 - In addition to the normal operating expenses there will be the cost of a new stove and
 - preparations for transition to heat pump heat for the Annie H Wilson room
- Resetting time for a Monthly Meeting conversation about how our faith community is spiritually and communally since offering two times of worship on Firstday morning, one plain and one blended.



Additional items for business will be added to the agenda and available to be viewed on the Website.

Plymouth Monthly Meeting Library Request

The Library Committee has noticed quite a few books are not on our shelves and not signed out. We have been in the process of entering our books electronically into a system entitled Librarything. You can find our direct link from the website under "Meeting Information", then "Meeting Resources" and go to "Library." Books have been categorized by subject along with authors and titles if you are looking for something specific. **We ask everyone to look around your home and return all library books at this time.** We especially want to bring back our new books on Native Americans, but others are missing, as well. Once we check them back in, you can sign them out again if you have not finished with them. Please look around your homes and see if you might have PMM Library books.

News from the Quarter

Gwynedd Friends Coffeehouse

Saturday Nov 11 - All shows 8:00 pm

On November 11th, the **Cornflower Jam** will appear. They began at jams and festivals around Philadelphia where they started playing and singling folk and old-time music. They describe their sound as influenced by folk legends such as the Carter Family, Pete Seeger, Malvina



Reynolds, Rosalie Sorrels, Ola Belle Reed and Hazel Dickens as well as more modern American artists. Like the Pour Rabbits, Cornflower Jam plays traditional music, covers and music of their own that they have written and recorded (<https://cornflowerjam.com>)

The Coffeehouse is held at Gwynedd Friends Meeting, 1001 DeKalb Pike, Gwynedd, PA (corner of 202 and Sumneytown Pike. Show is at 8:00 pm, doors open at 7:30 pm. An \$8 cover is suggested to cover the costs and support the Charity of the Evening.

News from the Wider World

from Dave Miller

Israel, Palestine, and Ukraine - Prayer is the Foundation of Peace



*Pray not for Arab or Jew, for Palestinian or Israeli
but*

*Pray rather for ourselves that we might not divide them in our prayers,
but keep them both together in our hearts.*

prayer of Christian Aid Society

This year, new wars have come to many communities around the world. We hold the people who have been swept up in the violence, in our hearts and prayers. Indeed, our hearts break as yet more violence begets violence. Quakers continue to participate with other faith communities collecting needed food, hygiene items, and clothing to meet the immediate needs of those fleeing conflicts while grieving those lost or left behind. We support the members of our faith communities who travel to minister to their physical, mental, and spiritual needs in the refugee camps. Some members of Meetings and Churches in the areas of conflicts have chosen to stay and serve the needs of those trapped in their communities on the front lines.

It is from a foundation of prayer that the determination of how we are led to responses to the needs of this world. With hearts broken open by the suffering of our sisters and brothers we prayerfully ask for God's comfort and presence to be made known to them in the midst of their suffering. In prayer we earnestly listen inwardly for what is required of us. That we be given the strength to be faithful to a given calling. It is in the quiet of waiting prayer that God's will is made known. It is not easy to be patient in prayer. Our human nature is to reach for action – choices of political, forceful, and self-serving actions tug at us to act. Yet our faith community has a history of waiting upon the foundation of prayer to discern what God asks of us.

Therefore, in our daily personal prayer, and in Midweek and Firstday times of worship together we hold the suffering of this world in our hearts. We ask God's presence and healing for the injured and frightened. We ask that those in power turn their actions to a path of mercy and justice that leads to peace. We ask that it be made known to each of us what we are called to do - be that here in our community or out into the world.

**Salom - Salaam
Peace be with you**

Consider donating to groups helping the people of Palestine, Israel, and Ukraine:

In addition to the **American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)** and the **Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)**, here are a few other groups who have longstanding commitment to aiding the people of Israel, Palestine and Ukraine and a relationship with Quakers from around the world:

United Palestinian Appeal: (UPA) empowers Palestinians to improve their lives and communities through socially responsible and sustainable programs in health, education, and community- and economic-development. UPA works in four program areas: Health and Wellness, Community and Economic Development, Education and Outreach. This organization has its roots with Palestinian Friends from the Ramallah Monthly Meeting. <https://upaconnect.org/>

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee: has activated their emergency response team and protocols across Israel. In the south of the country, they have widespread, existing operations and programs providing support to those directly impacted by the conflict, including elderly, people with disabilities, children and families at risk. <https://www.jdc.org/>

United States Fund for UNICEF: has been operating in Gaza since the 1980's. They have provided water treatment reagent to sustain the UNICEF-supported desalination plant providing water for 75,000 people. Also, they have released medical supplies to hospitals in the Gaza Strip including medicines for at least 1,600 people amidst the escalating hostilities. <https://www.unicef.org/>

CARE: is raising money for its Ukraine Crisis Fund, which will provide immediate aid including food, water, hygiene kits, support services and direct cash assistance. It will prioritize women and girls, families, and the elderly. <https://www.care.org/>



Lenape/Indigenous News and Notes

Last November, our Monthly Meeting was in unity to begin the process of making a meaningful land acknowledgement. A group of our members and attenders have been meeting monthly now for a year to educate ourselves about what a meaningful acknowledgement means, the history of Indigenous peoples before and after Europeans came as settlers to this land and begin the process of opening relations with Lenape people and other indigenous peoples in our community and around the country. This is a large task and has only begun. It is time now for our entire Meeting to join us in the process. Over the coming year we will be bringing opportunities to you to learn more of the history of Indigenous peoples of the Delaware Valley and North America. There will be opportunities to come together with Lenape people of our communities and learn directly from them. Written resources will be made available in our Library. Our newsletter will note local Indigenous events, stories, and news. We ask that members and attenders take time monthly to learn a little more about Lenape culture and current affairs that are impacting them and other indigenous communities.

Items for this month's newsletter

Sources for current affairs from the native peoples press

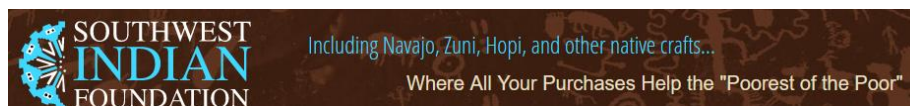
- Delaware Tribe of Indians (Bartlesville, Oklahoma) News
 - <https://delawaretribe.org/delaware-indian-news/>
- Native News Online
 - <https://nativenewsonline.net/>
- Indian Country Today
 - <https://ictnews.org/>

Ways to Support Indigenous Peoples with your Christmas Gifts

If you are purchasing gifts this December or making donations, consider indigenous vendors and or programs. Some examples are:



- **Teton Trade Cloth:** Teton Trade Cloth by Lenape is owned by the Delaware Tribe of Indians (OK). We are operated by a Lenape woman as our CEO. As a 100% Native owned and operated business, we take culture seriously. We are dedicated to providing trade goods of the highest quality, and in doing so, honor our heritage and traditions. We are proud to offer a unique platform for Native peoples to express themselves through Indigenous art and the celebration of our culture. From quality woolens, beautifully designed blankets, to our ample oversized cotton fabric, vintage and reproduction trade beads, accessories and more, we are always looking for classic and unique ways to bring Native fashion forward in wearable art forms. <https://www.tetontradecloth.com/>



- **Southwest Indian Foundation:** Our primary goal at the Southwest Indian Foundation is to lessen the poverty and unemployment among the Native Americans of the Southwest, specifically members of the Navajo, Zuni, Hopi, Laguna, Acoma, and Apache tribes. Through self-help initiatives and charitable donations, we hope to restore dignity and self-reliance to these native peoples. Donations and purchases from the Craft and gift catalogue provide funds for projects in employment, housing, farming, food assistance, heat, water, education, and job training. <https://www.southwestindian.com/>