



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

February 2024

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February 2024

Sun	Feb 11	6:00 pm	Worship and Ministry
Tues	Feb 13	4:30 pm	Land Acknowledgement Committee
Sun	Feb 18	9:00 am	Meeting for Business (blended)
Sun	Feb 25	After Meeting	Friendly Fourth and Music Circle – all are welcome
Sun	Feb 25	2:00 pm	Combatants for Peace March, Chestnut Hill

March 2024

Tues	Mar 5	7:00 pm	Care & Concern
Fri -Sun	Mar 8-10	Various	Spring Continuing Sessions – <i>Called to Healing</i> (see article)
Sun	Mar 10	6:00 pm	Worship and Ministry
Tues	Mar 12	4:30 pm	Land Acknowledgement Committee
Fri-Sat	Mar 15-16	7:00 pm	Wonderland - 4th Grade Circus at the Steinbright Auditorium
Sun	Mar 17	9:00 am	Meeting for Business
Thurs	Mar 21	8:00 am – 12:45pm	Grandparents & Special Friends' Day – PMFS Early Dismissal
Sun	Mar 24	After meeting	Friendly Fourth and Music Circle – all are welcome

- 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
- **We will not continue the vigil at the Meeting wall on Wednesday evening** as this is not a time when we can ensure consistent attendance by Plymouth members should friends from the community and other Meetings attend. We will continue to hold prayers for peace in our hearts during our regular periods of worship.

Queries for February

Deepening Our Faith: Spiritual Nurture

- How does the meeting encourage the use of spiritual practices that deepen our faith, enhance the excitement of shared religious discovery and increase the possibility of spiritual transformation?
 - What is the nature of our shared experience of the Divine and how do we nurture our collective spiritual growth and transformation?
 - In what ways do we support each other in our spiritual journeys, in our search for God's will and in our efforts to increase understanding of humanity's relationship to life on earth?
 - How do we recognize, develop and nurture the spiritual gifts of all in our meeting?
- *How do I incorporate into my personal and family life those daily practices that focus on continued spiritual growth, including worship, reflection and engagement with writings that nurture the soul?*
- *How does my spiritual life integrate an understanding of a well-ordered relationship with the earth and deepen my reverence for the interconnectedness of all life?*

News from the Meeting

Help Needed – Cleaning our Meetinghouse

We are still looking for help **cleaning the Meetinghouse**. Ralph Henninger has been doing this for years, but he will be stepping aside, allowing others the opportunity to take care of their Meetinghouse. Basic “light housekeeping” is required: dusting, mopping, vacuuming, checking the kitchen, etc. This would take 2 hours if one person does it, but with many hands, it can be completed well under an hour. Ralph or Bonnie can show you what's needed, if you're interested. Friday afternoons or Saturday during the day have proved to be the best time to accomplish this (any time after school is out, but before Meeting on Sunday). Contact Bonnie.

Annual Party

We haven't gotten together as a Meeting for dinner for a while, so we're considering a revival of the Annual Spring Party, and are looking at having it on Saturday, April 27th. We are open to trying new ideas for entertainment (vs the White Elephant): ideas are welcome. We have also discussed going back to having hors d'oeuvres at people's homes before the dinner if folks are interested. Please let the Editor know your thoughts: pattieod@gmail.com

Stewardship of the Meeting Property

As part of an ongoing process of increasing carbon capture through increased tree and shrub cover and reducing the lawn area on the campus, Cedar Ridge Nursery donated eight 12' - trees and the labor to plant them to the Monthly Meeting this month. This is the second donation from this Nursery of which we are very appreciative. The trees were planted in Division A (along Germantown Pike) of the 1845 cemetery behind the Main School building. Tree species that were received: white oak, sycamore, sugar maple, hornbeam and ostrya hophornbeam (two types of birch). Stroll down to the graveyard and have a look this spring and the new trees that have been planted.



Opportunity to help the Code Blue Center

Over 100 community volunteers are making a Code Blue shelter available at The Church on the Mall every week. When the temperature falls below 32°, the shelter opens for folks to come and enjoy a hot meal and a warm bed. A blessing bag of nutritious snacks is provided as they leave in the morning. We are inviting you to help make those Blessing Bags available for the guests at the shelter.



The Code Blue Shelter needs about 80 bags per week. Below you will find a list of recommended items for each bag. We are striving to keep the bags as consistent as possible and provide well rounded, nutritious options. Using Costco and/or BJs, each bag costs about \$2.50 to assemble. We also welcome your financial contribution. Conshohocken United Methodist Church is the central location for Blessing Bag donations. We will collect the bags at the Meeting House and take them down to the church. Financial contributions can also be made directly to Conshohocken United Methodist Church, 20 W Sixth Ave, Conshohocken, PA 19428, care of Pastor Karen Bartkowski. Suggested items for the Blessing Bag include:

Item	Costco/BJs price	Approximate cost/bag
1 bottle of water (16.9oz)	40 bottles at \$4/case	\$0.10/bottle
1 Protein Granola Bar	30 bars for \$16	\$0.53/bar
1 small bag of nuts	30 bags for \$14	\$0.47/bag
1 fruit cup or applesauce or pouch (include a spoon)	36 cups for \$16	\$0.44/cup
1 package of crackers (i.e. peanut butter cracker or Goldfish)	40 packs for \$10.70	\$0.27/pack
1 individual pack of tissues (from Dollar Store or Walmart)	10 packs for \$1.00	\$0.10/pack
Note of encouragement (optional)		FREE!
Gallon Zip Lock or Paper Bag	varies	varies

News from School

Wonderland Circus

Every year since 2003, PMFS's Fourth Grade class, under the direction of Fourth Grade Teacher Will Starr, have practiced, written and performed their own unique circus. The students learn a variety of circus skills such as unicycling, juggling, wire walking and more! We hope you can attend either March 15th or 16th at 7:00 pm in the Steinbright Auditorium for *Wonderland*, their adaptation of the children's classic Alice in Wonderland. We strongly encourage everyone to get tickets at pmfs1780.org website ahead of time as the show will very likely sell out in advance.

Bienvenidos & Adios to Part I of the 53rd PMFS Mexican Exchange



On Thursday, January 18th, PMFS welcomed new and old friends from Colegio Williams School in Cuernavaca, Mexico to Plymouth. They arrived and were greeted with the most exciting thing the Exchange students want to see while in Pennsylvania: SNOW!

Montse and Ale, the new lead teachers from the Williams School, and their students toured the sights in the Philly region and returned home on February 1st. On February 22nd, PMFS 5th graders will travel to Mexico for the second part of the Exchange.

Spread the Word – PMFS Seedlings Camp

If you know any parents of any 3-7 year-old children who are looking for an summer day camp, please pass the word that registration for PMFS Seedlings Camp is now open. Camp runs weekdays from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm from June 13 – August 16. Info: seedlingscamp@pmfs1780.org

News from Abington Quarter & PYM

New Hire and Help Wanted

New Hire: Abington Quarter has a new communications Coordinator, Laura Lanza. Lanza is currently the administrative Secretary for the Monthly Meeting of Philadelphia (Arch Street Friends). From 2018 to 2022 she was the Coordinator for Philadelphia Quarter.

Prior to moving to Philadelphia, Lanza worked in multiple sectors In New York, focusing initially on client services, training, sales and marketing in the emerging new media industry and financial services. Later, as part of her Masters work at Hunter College she worked in a consultant capacity in a range of nonprofits, mostly doing development work (grant writing and programming) and needs assessment and strategic planning. Lanza is currently a member of Green Street Meeting.

Help Wanted:

Abington Quarter is seeking a Rising Clerk. The Quarter is also seeking members and leadership for Abington Quarter Fund. If interested, please Contact Rebecca Cratin

Opportunity to Sing

Pendle Hill's Spring Chorus

"The Time is Now: Music for the Current Era"

Pendle Hill's Spring Chorus is a non-audition ensemble welcoming all—from the beginner to the more experienced—to sing sacred and secular music from around the world.

This season, the music will pay homage to the beauty and promise of Spring, as well as open and lift our hearts and minds to the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who calls us to respond to the challenges of our time, "the fierce urgency of now."

Rehearsals on Pendle Hill Campus: February 28 - May 8. 7:00 - 8:30pm (First rehearsal 7:00 - 9:00)
Concert: May 8 at 8:00 pm. If interested, contact: Jackie Coren, director - jackie.coren@gmail.com

Peace and Social Concerns Opportunities

Education: Why Palestine Matters **Thursdays, February 1, 8, 15, 29, March 7, 21 @ 7:00 – 8:30 pm.** Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's Middle East Collaborative invites you to participate via zoom on the six-week course developed by the Israel Palestine Mission Network of Presbyterian Church. Click here to <https://lu.ma/qvsworshipwithattentiontogaza> and scroll down to the event. Questions? Contact Sandy Rea drsandyrea@hotmail.com (please write WPM on the subject line.)

A Silent Procession for Peace: We Grieve the Loss of Every Child.

Sunday, February 25, 2024, at 2pm – Rain or shine

American Friends of Combatants for Peace, Philadelphia Chapter <https://cfpeace.org>



Launched in 2006, Combatants for Peace (CfP) is a grassroots movement of Palestinians and Israelis, working together to end the occupation and bring sustainable peace, equality, and freedom to their homeland. Committed to joint nonviolence since their inception, these former fighters on both sides of the conflict have been using civil resistance, education, and other creative means of activism to transform systems of oppression and build a free and peaceful future from the ground up.

MESSAGING (Organizers will provide ALL SIGNS AND PROPS):

- We grieve the loss of every child.
- There must be another way.
- Statement from the Combatants for Peace (on handout).
- Visual images of Palestinian and Israeli children killed in the conflict.
- Effigies (cloth bundles representing babies wrapped in shrouds).
- Shalom, Salaam, Let there be Peace.

PARTICIPANTS' PROTOCOL:

Please wear dark colors. No flags, banners, message T Shirts or additional signs. Drums, but no chants or songs.

Location : Germantown Avenue in Chestnut Hill - Exact location TBD, 1-mile round trip

Contact: Rabbi Nancy Fuchs Kreimer, nancykreim@gmail.com or Wendy Weingarten, wend53@gmail.com

PYM Spring Continuing Sessions: March 8-10, 2024 *Called to Healing*

We are **Called to Healing** — healing ourselves, our local communities, and our world. At Spring Continuing Sessions, we will begin a year-long exploration of what healing means to us as Friends. March 8 – 10 we will attend to the continuing business of the yearly meeting and enjoy fellowship across generations.

Schedule:

- *Spring Continuing Sessions will be ONLINE Friday and Sunday.*
- *Saturday we will have hybrid, onsite, and online options*

Friday, March 8: Online

7:00pm – 8:30pm: Opening program “Called to Healing” with a panel of Friends sharing about their ministries of healing, including personal, community, global, and environmental pathways.

Saturday, March 9: Onsite, Online, and Hybrid

8:30am: Arrivals

9:00am – 9:30am: Meeting for Worship

9:30am – 12:30pm: Meeting for Business

Clerks will be at Arch Street Meeting House. Regional locations will welcome Friends in the morning to participate in a hybrid format with Friends gathered in local meetings joining the clerks at Arch Street.

12:30pm: Break

1:00pm: Potluck or Brownbag lunch

2:00pm – 4:00pm: Called to Healing interactive program (all ages)

The afternoon program will be onsite or online. This means you may join in person at a regional location, or with Friends online (not hybrid).

Saturday regional locations and on Zoom:

- Arch Street Meeting House
- Camden (DE) Meeting
- Lancaster Meeting
- Millville Meeting
- Princeton Meeting
- PYM Zoom for online participants

Sunday, March 10: Online

10:00 – 11:00am: Join online intergenerational [All Together Worship](#) from home or your local meeting.

1:00 – 2:30pm: Meeting for Business (online only)

What is Sessions?

Annual Sessions is one of the oldest Quaker traditions. Today, all over the world, yearly meetings gather once a year to bring together members and attenders from their local meetings. We call them “Sessions” because meeting for worship with attention to the business of the Yearly Meeting is central to these times together. **Continuing Sessions** are our one-day events on the second Saturday of November and March, where we attend to the continuing business of the Yearly Meeting and enjoy fellowship across generations. During all these times we ask: What is God’s big idea for PYM Friends?

Sessions in 2024! “Called to Healing”

[The Gathering](#), Friends General Conference’s annual program for Friends from across North America, is coming to the Philadelphia area this summer and will be held at Haverford College from June 30-July 6, 2024. [Read more about this summer’s Gathering here.](#)

This is cause for celebration and a rare opportunity for PYM Friends to worship, learn, and share fellowship with the broader community of FGC here in our Yearly Meeting footprint. Yet, it also raised for PYM’s Sessions Coordinating Committee the question of how our Annual Sessions might work in conjunction with The FGC Gathering? Both annual events happen in the month of July, and participation can mean a significant investment in time and financial contribution.