



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

March 2024

<p>Clerk Michael Mrozinski 1101 DeKalb Pike, The Cottage, Gwynedd, PA 19454 484-390-0924 mike.menski@gmail.com</p>	<p>Care & Concern Bonnie Miller 153 E. 9th Ave. Conshohocken, PA 19428 610-828-4970 bondave.miller@verizon.net</p>	<p>Treasurer Linda L. White 519 Ft. Washington Ave. Ft. Washington, PA 19034 215-641-4564 llfw2160@comcast.net</p>	<p>Newsletter Editor Pattie O'Donnell 1620 Aidenn Lair Road Dresher, PA 19025 215-704-1666 pattieod@gmail.com</p>
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March 2024

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
Sat	Mar 16	9:00 am – 1:00 pm	AFSC Spring Sale at Gwynedd Meeting
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
Fri	Mar 29	5:00pm	Good Friday Peace Vigil, reading from the Gospel of Mark, and simple meal in the Annie H Wilson room
Sun	Mar 31	9:00 -10:30 am	Easter Sunday pancake breakfast

April 2024

Tues	April 2	7:00 pm	Care and Concern
Sun	April 7	After Meeting	Monthly Spiritual Gathering
Fri-Sun	Apr 5,6,7	Various times	Building for Habitat for Humanity (see article)
Sun	April 14	6:00 pm	Worship and Ministry
Tues	April 16	4:30 pm	Land Acknowledgement Committee
Sun	April 21	9:00 am	Meeting for Business (blended)
Sun	April 28	After Meeting	Friendly Fourth and Music Circle – all are welcome
Sun	April 28	2:00 pm	Combatants for Peace March, Chestnut Hill

- 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 be held via Zoom as well as *in person in the Meetinghouse (blended)*.
- PMM Zoom information always available at office@plymouthmeetingquakers.org

Queries for March

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?*

News from the Meeting

Good Friday Activities

- 5:00 pm Peace Vigil at the wall
- 5:45 pm light shared meal and fellowship
- 6:45 pm Reading of the Gospel of Mark

Good Friday – a day of discernment and decision. What is God's will and how do we live it? This was the question before Jesus and his disciples on that Friday years ago. It is the same question before us today. There will be several opportunities to participate in this discernment this year here at Plymouth.

Prayer Vigil for Peace: Those who can gather at the wall in front of the Meeting House there will be a prayer vigil for peace at **5pm**. We pray for peace in our families, our workplaces, our neighborhoods, our nation, and our world. We grieve for the violence that occurs in the name of religion and are mindful of the historic use of Good Friday as a day of violence against Jews. Current violence this year spreads across the world involving all faiths (Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist,) and also nonreligious, political and apolitical peoples. Jesus of Nazareth taught reconciliation, redemption, forgiveness. As we pray for guidance as to how to apply his teachings to the violence in our world we consider these questions:

- ❖ What does the continued development of ever more lethal weapons, say about our society?
- ❖ What does an ever-growing military budget and a diminishing one for diplomatic and services to the poor say about our values?
- ❖ Does threatening violence to others as the cornerstone of our national deterrent policy, contribute to peace?

We pray for guidance as to how to work for a day when the vast wealth of our nation will be used, not for weapons and war, but to enhance life on earth.

Light shared meal and fellowship: We will gather (~5:45pm) in the Annie H Wilson room and share a light meal, perhaps of Mediterranean foods. A time of being together and enjoying the shared love and friendship that we have.

Shared reading of the Gospel of Mark: (~6:45) As has been our custom, we share around the circle the reading of the Gospel of John. This becomes a time of letting go of dogma. The short life of Jesus is recorded in this short Gospel. What does it have to say about how the reader is to respond to God's

call? Each year it is heard differently. Each year there are new hard parts to hear and new insights that open one's heart to possibilities. We have found that this opportunity is a very different experience from reading a few lines of scripture. It takes time (~1.5 hrs). The reading has been found to be useful in illumination God's guidance for how we are to be ***"patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations wherever you come; that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone; whereby in them you may be a blessing, and make the witness of God in them to bless you."***

PMM Indigenous working group

After a year of study and discussion within our group and also with indigenous peoples here in the Delaware Valley and beyond, our group would like to begin to share some of what we have learned with our Meeting and wider community. We will strive to post an article in the newsletter each month. Also, as a resource, our Meeting website indigenous page will continue to be added to and kept up to date on news and issues of our indigenous neighbors.

This month we would like you to think of how differently indigenous peoples of Turtle Island (North America) divide periods of history from how those of us with European lineage divide it. Below are some examples from the web page: History Through a Native Lens

<https://nativephilanthropy.candid.org/timeline/era/tribal-independence-era/>

Go to the link for a very informative and detailed history of each of these eras from 1500 to present times. The table below is only a snapshot.

Year	Indigenous History Era	US European History Era
Prior to 1491	Tribal Independence: Trade Centers in North and South America with connecting roads, Communal farming and Urban dwelling, Artic and Pacific trade roots from Tahiti to Alaska	Crusades, Plague, 100 Year War, Renaissance, Exploration, Doctrine of Discovery, Reformation, Scientific Revolution (Galileo, Newton...) Vikings come to the New World
1492-1599	Epidemics, slavery, Massacres, and Indigenous Resistance	The riches of the new world drive Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, French, Swedish and then English explorers and traders across the seas. European Institution of Slavery begins to support the exploration and extraction of wealth from the new world
1600-1699	Invasion from all Directions – Stollen Lands, Stolen Peoples	Settlement of the east coast, Gulph coast and the southwest
1700-1799	Strategic Alliances and Trail of Broken Treaties	US Nation Building, wars with Indian nations, wars with Spain, France, England. Depending dependance on slavery for agricultural and industrial wealth
1800-1849	Sovereign Nation Era Ends	Wars internal (Civil) and external (England, Spain,) End of slavery, failure of the reconstruction. Rise of Jim Crow. Industrial revolution, scientific advancement, Medical advancement
1828- 1878	Indian Removal Era Begins	
1850-1878	Reservation Era Begins	
1879-1933	Boarding School and Land Allotment Eras	First World War, Depression, Women's voting rights
1934-1967	Indian New Deal, Tribal Termination and Urban Relocation	Second World War, African American Civil rights, Women's rights , environmental movement Assassinations
1968-Present	Indian Determination and Self-Governance Eera	Vietnam, Watergate, 911, Iraq, Afghanistan, loss of respect for central government, political divide grows, cultural divide grows, Climate Change

Podcast Recommendation from the Editor

If you enjoy podcasts, but have found yourself thinking “What I really need is a good podcast that focuses on Quakerism”, you might consider “Thee Quaker Podcast”, a free podcast from two young Friends (one a member of Central Philadelphia MM). As the co-hosts describe it: “*Thee Quaker Podcast brings stories of spiritual courage to your ears. Quakers have always wrestled with big questions in their search for spiritual truth. Thee Quaker Podcast is a continuation of that 400-year-old tradition — we’re digging deep to search for innovative stories that explore themes of faith, conviction, and doubt.*” Read more about it at quakerpodcast.com Search and subscribe on your favorite podcase app.

News from School

Grandparents & Special Friends Day

Thursday, March 21st is Grandparents and Special Friends Day at PMFS. It starts around 8:00am and ends with Meeting for Worship at 11:10 – 12:45. The day ends early for Spring break. If you are interested in being a Special Friend, please contact Natalie Coney at nataliec@pmfs1780.org. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend some special time with a student and their classmates.

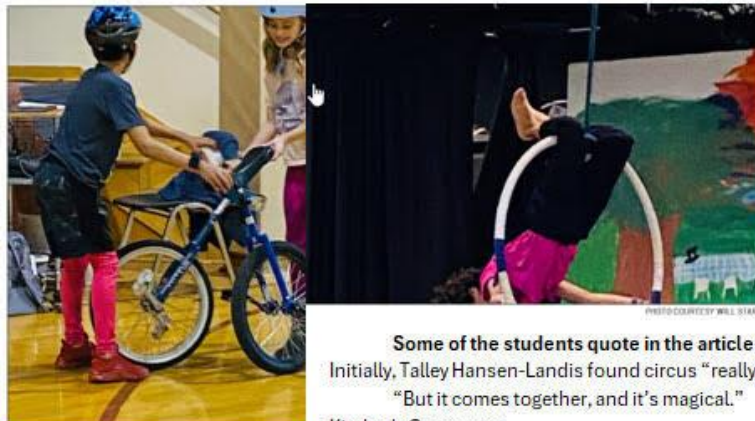
Spread the Word – PMFS Seedlings Camp

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

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. Will is quoted in the *Norristown Times Herald* as saying: “This class is amazingly, incredibly theatrical. ... the kids’ ability to tell the story is really special. The PMFS circus is more than what meets the eye, “... the kind of learning that, frankly, kids need. These are different skills. This is memorizing. Like math, but it’s not math, right? This is reading. This is practicing and practicing and practicing. And it’s such a rich experience. It takes time.”

We hope you can attend either March 15th or 16th at 7:00 pm in the Steinbright Auditorium for *Wonderland*, their adaptation of 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.



Some of the students quote in the article say:

Initially, Talley Hansen-Landis found circus “really daunting.”

“But it comes together, and it’s magical.”

Kimberly Gasga says,

“This circus has taught me to never give up.”

I taped that quote onto my unicycle”.

Opportunity to Serve Others

2024 Multi-Church “Servants At Work” Mission April 5/6/7, 2024

We can do it! Frame a duplex house in just 9 hours of work divided between Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. HELP BUILD HOPE is an organization that will coordinate along with our SAW team leaders to provide training, tools, and transportation of a basic frame structure that will be delivered to a location in Reading PA, where teams working through Habitat for Humanity Berks County will reassemble the house and complete the building project for needy, deserving families.

Come with us as members from Plymouth Monthly Meeting along with other Churches support Bethel Hill United Methodist Church yearly mission to help two families begin the coming year in a house of their own. All lumber and supplies will be provided by SAW team fund raisers, local donations and the generosity of members and friends of local congregations. Monetary donations may be made payable to Bethel Hill UMC with SAW in the memo line. 2000 Bethel Road Lansdale, PA 19446 Sign up to help using the QR code below or from their website www.bethelhill.org

Have questions? Contact the church office – 610-584-5936
or bethelhill@verizon.net https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hNY_nSVf0EY



News from PYM

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).

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)

Friends General Conference 2024 Gathering **Save the Date: June 30th – July 6th** **at Haverford College**

The Gathering is a week of Quaker worship, workshops, and community for all ages. Friends come together from across the US and Canada (and sometimes further) to deepen our connection to one another and the Spirit. The Gathering is typically held on a college campus in late June/early July, and location changes from year to year. In 2020, FGC began offering virtual Gathering programs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Beginning in 2024, in-person Gatherings will alternate years with online Gatherings and in-person Young Adult & Youth (YAY) gatherings.

Gathering attendees range from newborns to elders in their 90s, and include both long-time Friends (mostly from the unprogrammed, liberal tradition), and those newer to Quakerism. In structure, it's part conference and part family camp. In content, it provides an abundance of opportunities to learn about Quakerism and to foster your spiritual life – and to have fun together. Find out more including registration information at <https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcprograms/the-gathering/>