



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

May 2024

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May 2024

Sun	May 19	9:00 am	Meeting for Business Cancelled for May
Sun	May 26	After Meeting	Friendly Fourth and Music Circle – all are welcome Carolee Duckworth will speak on “Fully Present Travel”
Fri	May 31	8:00am-12:00 pm	Help PMFS Kindergarten families prep for Strawberry Festival

June 2024

Sat	June 1	11:00am	Strawberry Festival
Sun	June 2	After meeting	Spiritual Nurture Discussion
Tues	June 4	7:00 pm	Care & Concern
Sat	June 8	9:00 am – 1:00 pm	AFSC Summer Sale at Gwynedd Meeting
Sun	June 9	6:00 pm	Worship and Ministry
Tues	June 11	4:30 pm	Land Acknowledgement Committee
Sun	June 18	9:00 am	Meeting for Business (blended)
Sun	June 23	After Meeting	Music Circle – all are welcome
Sun	June 30	After Meeting	Annual Picnic

- 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 May/June

Witnessing in the World: Witness & 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

Annual Picnic June 30 after Meeting for Worship

Join us for our annual picnic! The Meeting will provide hotdogs and burgers (both meat and vegan). We ask that folks bring their cheerful selves, as well as beverages (lemonade, iced tea, soda), appetizers (chips, pretzels, deviled eggs), salads and/or desserts (store bought or homemade).



Friendly Fourth/Music Circle in May

We have a great Friendly Fourth planned this month: Our usual food and fellowship + a talk by Carolee Duckworth + Music Circle.

Carolee's talk is entitled "Fully Present Travel: "NOT wants." Discoveries. Next 25 years. What I feel Led to pass On and How. With 3 Favorite Trip Stories"

She "thanks Friends and friends for this opportunity to share my experiences, queries, discoveries and transformations as an international traveler. I have been incredibly blessed to have immersed myself repeatedly, and for rich blocks of time, traveling in France, Italy, Scandinavia, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, England, Scotland, Greece...also India, Venezuela, Costa Rica, Belize, and Canada. And many, many places in the USA. These travels have enriched me, stretched me, and changed me...Now I write and write to pass this on to others. In this presentation, I will be offering a brief version of this life-long journey, what I have learned from it, and the work I am deeply engaged in now to open these opportunities for other to experience."

Plymouth Friends Join the 2024 Multi-Church Servants At Work (SAW) Home Building Project

David Miller reports:

We did it. With the leadership of Bethel Hill Methodist church and volunteers from the surrounding faith communities including Plymouth Friends Meeting, we completed the framing of a duplex house in just a few hours on a Friday evening and Saturday. Approximately 100 volunteers followed the cut by number and assemble by printed patterns on the lumber to build more than 150 walls for these two-family homes.



pictures from 2024 build

The framed walls from last year and this year's build went to a Habitat for Humanity project in Reading Pa. A dead-end street with 10 building lots on it has been transformed with the installation of 4 out of the 5 planned duplex homes. On Wednesday April 10th representatives of Plymouth Friends attended the Open House ceremonial passing of the keys to the new families for the duplex we built last year. Once the walls are assembled at Bethel Hill Church, they are loaded on trucks and taken to the building site. Habitat for Humanity then oversees the assembly of the buildings using a mixture of volunteers and contractors to complete the work. Each home in the duplex has 3 bedrooms, 1 ½ baths, laundry, kitchen with a breakfast nook (triple window wall). The buildings are constructed with low maintenance materials and have air conditioning and gas heat (both of which are donated by a local family company).

News from School



Mark Your Calendars – **Strawberry Festival** June 1

As summer approaches, it's time for strawberries! Don't miss the 86th Annual Strawberry Festival. Come out and support the school, enjoy some homemade strawberry shortcake, and have some fun

The families of kindergarteners will be **preparing the strawberries on the Friday before (May 31)** and members of Meeting are encouraged to join them on Friday, May 31 in the Annie H Wilson room between 8am and 12pm. If hullers can bring their own knives and a cutting board, that would be helpful (but not necessary).

Vendor booths are available. PMM members, PMFS alums and former PMFS staff are being offered a reduced vendor fee of \$15. Anyone who would like to know more about either renting a booth or helping with strawberries (or both) is encouraged to email Erin.schmitt.pca@gmail.com.

Also, the school will have a Bake Sale Table (donations welcome) and a Used Book Table with cds, dvds, and records (donations also welcome). If you have items to donate, contact Sally Bishop at sabissh822@gmail.com for more details on when and where to drop things off. There has been talk about having a rummage sale table from our Meeting. If you are interested in a shared table, let Sally know ASAP and we will request a table. We will need volunteers to mind it. Meeting folks will have a Quaker information table on the porch by the playground. We will also have a space for information on electric cars near our charging station for those interested in learning more about owning and charging electric cars.

PMFS Sixth Grade Presents *Hear Me Roar: A Show About Being Heard* *Show dates: May 17 at 7:00 pm and May 18 at 7:00 pm*

The show follows the true story of 6 characters, who identify as she/her (Beyonce, Madonna, Raquelle, Juliet, Ruth Wakefield and Frisk) are picked to live in a house and have their lives recorded to find out what happens when women get real, supporting each other along the way.

A 3% service fee is applied when you purchase tickets online. To avoid the fee, please drop off a check or cash to the Main Office during normal school hours. Tickets are will-call. We'll see you at the door!

A Letter From the PMFS School Committee

On Tuesday, May 7th the PMFS School Committee had the great pleasure of spending the day at PMFS; wandering the campus, visiting classrooms, and witnessing firsthand the exceptional teaching, the engaged learning, and the joyful relationships between students and teachers. For those of you unfamiliar with the School Committee, we are the school's Board of Trustees. Most of us have a direct relationship with PMFS, either as current parents, parents of alums, being an alum ourselves, or being a former faculty or staff member. Several of us are members of Plymouth Monthly Meeting or other area Quaker Meetings. A handful of us are or were educators at the elementary, high school or college level. Our love of PMFS is what brought us to School Committee and is what inspires us every day as we work to ensure both the short-term and long-term success of the school.

We are grateful to Brenda and to the faculty for extending the invitation for us to visit; 2019 was the last time School Committee had this opportunity as a whole body! Across the board, everything we saw on Tuesday reinforced for us what a special place Plymouth is. We wanted to share with you some of the experiences that trustees lifted up as highlights of their visit.

We saw **Pre-K** students working on organizing and communicating their thoughts during Drama class, figuring out how to aim and slide rocks down a sliding board so they fell into a waiting pot during recess, and excitedly giving visitors a tour of every inch of their classroom. We saw **Kindergarten** enthusiastically engaged in Spanish class, including some beautiful singing; and proudly showing off their skills on the playground, from swinging so high they touched the leaves of a tree, to hanging upside down and traversing the monkey bars.

We saw **1st graders** energetically cheering each other on as they practiced the various events that will be part of Friday's Field Day, and then bring equal enthusiasm to singing and counting in Spanish class. We also saw them thinking hard as they practiced 4-digit subtraction problems using unifix cubes and counting backwards. After their return from a trip to Woodmere Art Museum, we saw our book-loving **2nd graders** engaged in thoughtful teacher-guided conversation about their Listening book, the plot of which they recounted to one trustee with so much detail, she felt like she had read it herself! We saw our **3rd graders** spend their whole recess fervently working together on a student-initiated graphic novel featuring a character inspired by one of our Pre-K teachers. They also showed great concentration and balance as they practiced the egg relay race in P.E.

We saw our 4th **graders** in Science class, testing and refining their balloon car designs for an upcoming race; and we saw them in Art as they worked on original designs to submit for this year's Strawberry Festival T-shirt contest. We saw **5th and 6th graders** working together on a large prop for the upcoming 6th Grade Production, and engaging intently in their conversation skills activity and verbs/adjectives exercises with their enthusiastic Spanish teacher. We also saw our determined and focused **6th graders** growing in confidence as they practiced for their upcoming production.

What a gift it was to be on campus and to be reminded that everything we do, we do for the children of PMFS. As one of our trustees often says, "The world needs Plymouth." We and the faculty of PMFS are aligned in our mission to provide children in their most formative years with a joyful learning environment that inspires a lifetime of asking questions, seeking others' perspectives, and always leading with the heart. We are grateful to all of the parents of Plymouth for entrusting our school with your greatest treasures.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the Strawberry Festival!

With much warmth and appreciation,

PMFS School Committee

(Ali Conlon, Antonio Williams, Barbara Hoekje, Carol Coffin, Dan Heider, Erin Schmitt, Fran Johnston, Jeff Markovitz, Jessica Lember, Marialice Dancy, Nicole Armstrong, Ralph Henninger, Sally Bishop, Sara Schwatz, Toti Villanueva, Turea Hutson)

News from the Quarter



Please join the summer AFSC sale on June 8 from 9:00 am -1:00 pm. There will be small furniture, clothing (all sizes), dishes, shoes, toys, puzzles, and so much more.

News from PYM

Friends General Conference 2024 Gathering: “Rooted in Story”

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. 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/>

To scan the workshops being offered, use:

<https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcprograms/the-gathering/programs-and-events/workshops/>

Evening Programs

- Monday July 1st Ayesha Imani “I live by faith.” (Galatians 2:20): The search of a Black Christian Quaker toward freedom.
- Tuesday July 2nd: Jonathan Kuttub Seeking Peace and Justice After Gaza: Is a Two State Solution Still Possible?
- Wed July 3rd Bianca van Heydoorn The Value of Multiple Stories
- Thursday 4th: Tom Kunesh sounds of (friends) silence: quaker tales of the dakota intifada of 1862
- Friday July 5th: Emma’s Revolution Concert