



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, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462
office@plymouthmeetingquakers.org

June/Summer 2024

Clerk

Michael Mrozinski
 1101 DeKalb Pike, The Cottage, Gwynedd, PA 19454
484-390-0924
mike.menski@gmail.com

Care & Concern

Bonnie Miller
 153 E. 9th Ave. Conshohocken, PA 19428
 610-828-4970
bondave.miller@verizon.net

Treasurer

Linda L. White
 519 Ft. Washington Ave. Ft. Washington, PA 19034
 215-641-4564
llfw2160@comcast.net

Newsletter Editor

Pattie O'Donnell
 1620 Aidenn Lair Road Dresher, PA 19025
 215-704-1666
pattieod@gmail.com

Thanks this month to Dave Miller for so much content this month and thru 2024

June 2024

Sat	June 8	10:30 am	George (Skip) Corson Memorial Service
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
Tues	June 11	6:00 pm	PMFS Graduation at the Meetinghouse
Sat	June 15	10:30 am	Installation of Memorial to the Lost to Gun Violence in Montgomery County (see flyer) at Norristown Meeting
Sun	June 16	9:00 am	Meeting for Business (blended)
Sun-Fri	June 16-21		Abington Quarter Junior Friends Conference (see newsletter)
Sat	June 22	10:30 am	Community event at Norristown Meeting to End Gun Violence
Sun	June 23		No music circle – Bill is traveling. July/Aug TBD
Sun	June 30	After Meeting	Annual Picnic – see newsletter for more information

Summer 2024

Sun	August 4	9:00	Abington Quarterly Meeting Summer Picnic at Horsham Meeting. Business Mtg followed by 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 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

June Business Meeting Important Items to be Considered

The June Business Meeting will be the last Meeting before the summer break. There are several important items on the agenda at this time. If you have other topics for our community to consider, please forward them to our Clerk Mike Mrozinski.

- Trustees review of the Monthly Meeting Funds and financial status
- School Committee request for the Monthly Meeting to financially support bringing a Pendel Hill workshop to our school for all to attend: Educators New to Quakerism workshop
- The Land Acknowledgment Working group will present a minute and set of queries to be considered for approval

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), rolls, cheese, condiments, and plates/napkins/cutlery. 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). Please let Bonnie know what you're bringing to avoid duplicate effort.

The picnic will happen **rain or shine!**



News from the School

We at Plymouth Friends Meeting congratulate the 2024 graduates of Plymouth Meeting Friends School sixth grade class! Sixth Grade Graduation will be held at the Meetinghouse on June 11 at 6pm.

Strawberry Festival was very well-attended, and everyone had a great time and enjoyed perfect weather.

Memorial Service for George (Skip) Corson Saturday, June 8 at 10:30 A.M.



Members and attenders of Plymouth Monthly Meeting send their sincere condolences to the family of Skip Corson.

Skip was a story teller who linked us to our past (both its history and wisdom), thereby helping us understand the challenges of today. His smile drew you into the story as he explained each of the protagonists in it. A bit of humor, a bit of the hard facts and always an optimism that one could apply the past to the current and future as we live into our stories.

Skip was a lifelong vocal supporter of Friends Education. It was important to him that Quaker schools continue to provide for the current generation what had been special to him. Never stuck in the past, he supported many of the current needs of today such as a fundraising drive to bring better technology to education but also supported the many unique ways our teachers find to be fully creative with their students.

His diversity of interests outside of his professional life can only be listed by his many friends that interfaced with him in all those venues of his life. One could find him late at night still sitting in a public meeting supporting citizens that sought and finally prevailed in changing the use of the Abolition Hall land from commercial development to open space, art studio classes and historical interpretation. Skip lent his discernment to the Philadelphia Travel and Witness granting group helping PYM Friends traveling in religious service. Between these two venues are so many others that his friends and colleagues are thankful to him for.

Skip gave a bit of himself to all of us. Each in our own way continue his tradition of linking past to present. Skip's spirit will continue to inform and provide guidance to us as we create our future one with another.

Obituary

George ("Skip") Corson, Jr., 88, of Blue Bell, PA died on May 21, 2024 at Meadowood's Holly House of complications from leukemia. Born in Plymouth Meeting, PA, he was the only son of the late Judge George C. Corson, Sr. and Jane Webb Corson. He graduated from William Penn Charter School in 1952, from Amherst College in 1956, with a major in German and a minor in drama, and from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 1959. He married Elizabeth ("Betsy") Strayer in 1962 (she passed away in 2006), and is survived by their four children, Tacy, Ben, Julia and Nick, and by his five grandchildren Mikko, Clare, Will, Lily and Calder and his later life partner, Penny Brodie and their dog, Bear.



Deborra Sines Pancoe will be retiring from the Friends Council on Education this month after 20 years of creative work to sustain and creatively grow Friends Education. Plymouth Monthly Meeting sends their appreciation for the many years of devotion to Friends Education community dating back long before the 20 years' service with the Council. Deborra's cheerfulness flows from her smile that draws people into conversations which lead to creativity and solutions that always has the student and teacher at its heart.

Executive Director Drew Smith began his part of the celebration by visualizing the “ripples” of her impact that “will continue for generations.” “There is not one part of our current work of Friends Council – deepening the Quaker nature and character of our schools – that was not initiated or influenced by Deborra’s service.” Some examples of areas of her work are found in Meeting-School Care Relationship publication; Educators New to Quakerism workshop; Peer networks; Community Conversations on Race; Membership Renewal Process, SPARC/Spirited Life and Renewed Courage leadership program. “The careful way in which Friends Council leads you to experience Quakerism firsthand grows out Deborra’s careful and creative planning.”

If you would like to send a blessing or comment to Deborra please use the following link.

<https://padlet.com/friendscouncil/honoring-deborra-sines-pancoe-vngfucj2dzqrcy98>

If you would like to make a gift to the Friends Council on Education in her honor, use the following link.

<https://www.friendscouncil.org/support/secure-giving-online/online-giving-form>

Land Acknowledgement Working Group

The Land Acknowledgement Working Group has been meeting since November 2022 at the direction of the Monthly Meeting to begin the process of developing a meaningful Land Acknowledgement. The working group followed the guidance of multiple indigenous groups to guide them into process that would not be a rote citation of a few sentence at the beginning of our Meetings:

- Education of Indigenous History prior to first contact and in relationship to European settlers and United States government
- Develop relationships
- Sharing knowledge
- Adopt a public statement that
 - acknowledges the people whose land we live on
 - that they continue to live here and, in the diaspora away from the Delaware valley
 - that we desire to have a relationship with them that acknowledges our settler roots, the miss-steps of prior relational events including Quaker Boarding Schools
 - that we seek ways to support current Lenape and Indigenous initiatives
 - learning Lenape perspective of stewardship of land, water and air.
- Develop a set of Queries and seek the discernment of the Monthly Meeting to include them in the Monthly Rotation of Queries considered at the beginning of our Meetings for Business

At the June Business meeting we will provide a short summary of the activities we have engaged in to address the multiple objectives above. At the business Meeting we will request approval of the proposed minute of Land Acknowledgement and set of Queries to be added to those considered during Business Meetings. These documents will be sent out to the Monthly Meeting prior to the Business Meeting to allow review by the Monthly Meeting.

News from the Quarter

Gun Violence Memorial and Community Events at Norristown Meeting 20 Jacoby Street, Norristown

Saturday June 15th at 10:30

Installation of Heeding God's Call Memorial to those lost to Gun Violence in Montgomery County this year

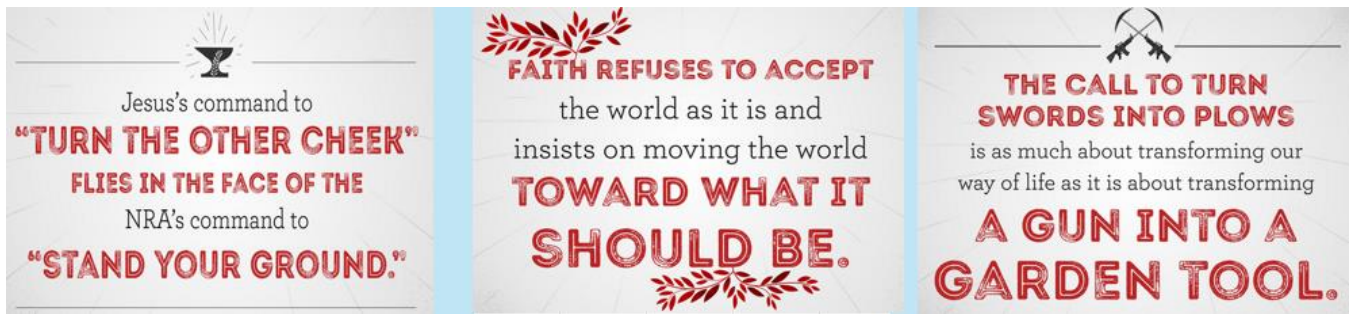
Saturday June 22 at 10:30 am

Community event to End Gun Violence with singing, gun violence speakers, education, letter signing to representative



Heeding God's Call Organization

Heeding God's Call to End Gun Violence™ seeks to energize the American faith community and actively seek an end to gun violence through public witness and policy advocacy. Heeding promotes public witness and call to action through Gun Violence Awareness Days, Murder Site Witness events, and Memorials to the Lost®. These engagements offer opportunities for education as well as for individual and community healing. *Heeding* works through faithful public policy advocacy. Each engagement mobilizes people toward policy that includes voter guides, letter writing campaigns, and direct, in-person lobbying. Once interfaith community members are educated, they are ready to participate in advocacy that involves visiting their legislators in Harrisburg. Public witness calls to action, and policy advocacy allow *Heeding* to build a campaign by involving the public, media, and legislators to enact common sense gun laws like One Handgun a Month.



A few facts about Guns in America

- We manufacture an average of 9,458,172 guns annually (average 2012 to 2015)
 - That's 25,912 per day or 1 gun every 3 seconds
- US has 5 % of the World's population but 42% of all privately owned guns
- Only 32% of the population own guns. Of that population 3% own an average of 17 guns or a total of 133 million guns
- In 2022, there were more than 48,000 firearm-related deaths in the United States. That's about 132 people dying from a firearm-related injury each day
- Average number of firearm suicides per month is 69 (slight variation by month of year)
- Men account for 86% of all victims of firearm death and 87% of firearm injuries.
- Firearm injuries (all types), were among the five leading causes of death for people ages 1-44 in the U.S.
- Firearm injuries were the leading cause of non-disease related death among children and teens ages 1-19.

References: CDC and Beating Guns: Shane Claiborne and Michel Martin

AFSC Summer Sale



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.

Abington Quarter Junior Friends Conference

Abington Quarter Junior Friends and Middle School Friends Conference will take place Sunday, June 16th through Friday, June 21st. This five-night residential conference for Quaker children in 1st through 8th grade provides an opportunity to learn more about living in the world as a Quaker while making new friends and having fun. Activities include worship, art, games, music and songs, swimming, campfires and lots of time in nature. Leadership opportunities also available.

For more information, please email: AQYouthPrograms@gmail.com

Ongoing suffering in Gaza

The war grinds on in Gaza with its associated violence in the West bank. We do what we can to alive the suffering and promote a path that brings peace, justice, dignity and respect. Our contributions feel small in the face of the destruction, grieving and anger yet to each and every one that is touched, hope for another day is given.

The small donations from countless numbers of people and organizations such as our Meeting have provided basic needs through the efforts of United Palestinian Appeal (UPA) and the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC).

Our AFSC has provided vital aid to more than 360,299 people. No longer having hospitals to minister to the people's needs health care is provided by UPA and AFSC in the streets and camp tents. AFSC Food parcels were provided to 200 families with children with cancer and autism, reaching more than 1,400 people. Each of those parcels contained one kilogram of meat, rice, and dates.

Our school in Ramallah has a new head, Rania Maayeh. In her welcome letter to the students on summer break she writes of the pride that people have for the history and values that the school has taught. Addressing the current challenges of the war and violence in the West bank she writes:

"In the past year, our nation and our world have experienced a series of crises among the most difficult and challenging in the school's 152-year-old history. COVID-19, another war on Gaza, an uprising throughout the country, and recent events of suppression of free speech in Palestine has affected the school's community in countless ways. However, we are resilient – enduring and growing through times of turmoil, threat, and challenge. And, we have an extraordinary capacity for renewal, reinventing ourselves and leaning into our inner Light to guide us and drive us to reach new heights. This is our commitment to our children, society, and country."

Consider making your voice known to our government about the suffering in Palestine and Israel. If you choose to help with monetary aid, consider a gift to the Ramallah Friends School, AFSC and or the UPA. Each of them is integral to the future peace of the region.

