



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)

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September 2024

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 thanks to Dave & Sally for
 their articles this month

September 2024

Thurs	Sept 12	All day	Agnes Blackstone's 103 rd birthday!!!!
Sun	Sept 15	9:00 am	Meeting for Business (blended)
Sun	Sept 15	6:00 – 7:30 pm	PYM Virtual Meeting for Worship for Healing
Sun	Sept 22	After Meeting	Friendly Fourth: Bonnie & Dave discuss visiting the Powwow
Sun	Sept 22	2:00 pm	Music Circle returns!
Sat	Sept 29	2:00 pm	Remembrance of Residential School Survivors at Gwynedd

October 2024

Tues	Oct 1	7:00 pm	Care and Concern
Sun	Oct 6	9:00 am	Abington Quarterly Meeting at Plymouth
Tues	Oct 8	4:30 pm	Land Acknowledgement Committee
Sun	Oct 13	6:00 pm	Worship and Ministry
Sat	Oct 19	8:30am – 1:30pm	Fall Spiritual Retreat
Sat	Oct 19	9:30 am – 4:00 pm	PYM Pastoral Care Thread Gathering on Grief, Loss & Bereavement at Chestnut Hill Meeting
Sun	Oct 20	9:00 am	Meeting for Business (blended)
Tues	Oct 24	6:30 pm	Lois Kuter speaks on Lenape history at Jeanes Library
Sun	Oct 27	After Meeting	Friendly Fourth – all are welcome
Sun	Oct 27	2:00 pm	Music Circle

- 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 September

Grounding for Transformed Lives : Peace and Alternatives to Violence

- How do we help each other face conflicts with patience, forbearance and openness to healing?
- To what extent does our meeting ignore differences in order to avoid possible conflicts?
- What are we doing as a Friends meeting within our communities:
 - 1) To recognize and correct the causes of violence?
 - 2) To understand the impact of the global military-industrial complex on all aspects of life?
 - 3) To increase the understanding and use of alternatives to violence?
 - 4) To work toward overcoming separations and restoring wholeness?
 - 5) To support the constructive use of authority?
 - 6) To promote the sustainability of the earth?
- *Do I “live in the virtue [power] of that Life and Spirit that took [takes] away the occasion of all wars”?*
- *How do I maintain Friends’ testimony that participation in war and its preparation is inconsistent with the teaching of Jesus?*
- *Do I treat personal conflict as an opportunity for growth?*
- *How do I face my differences with others and reaffirm in action and attitude my love for those with whom I am in conflict?*

News from the Meeting

First Day School

We will be offering First Day School for children five years of age and up during our 11:15 worship with an adult who has childcare clearances. Children may leave for First Day in the Annie H. Wilson room at 11:30 until rise of worship at noon. If families have younger children, we have a nursery available in the Annie H. Wilson room, with toys and books that parents are welcome to use. Sally Bishop would appreciate those members who have current child clearances and are interested in helping with First Day to let her know. If you need more information about childcare clearances, she can provide that.

Abington Quarter at Plymouth – October 6

Plymouth will be hosting Abington Quarterly Meeting on October 6, 2024. Meeting for Business will start at 9:00 a.m. in the Annie H. Room, followed by worship at 11:00. We will be providing a hot lunch after which there will be a short program celebrating World Quaker Day. We have offered to provide childcare and First Day School. Anyone with security clearances willing to help with this, please contact Sally Bishop or Rebecca Cratin. We will be providing a hot lunch using crock pots and our **new stove** (!!!). Please contact Rebecca if you can provide a dish to share or a dessert. There are some interesting items on the agenda that day. We encourage Plymouth Friends to attend and get to know Friends from our larger Quaker community as we celebrate World Quaker Day.

If you have any questions, please call Rebecca Cratin at 215-542-8734

Property Committee

The Property committee has completed two major projects this summer. We are very pleased with the repainting of the Meeting House and Annie H Wilson room. The painters did a very good job of prepping the building with sanding, caulking, reglazing windows, repair of rot (which committee members also helped with). In addition, to be of help to our school, the committee also had the Music Room (old Library) repaired and painted.

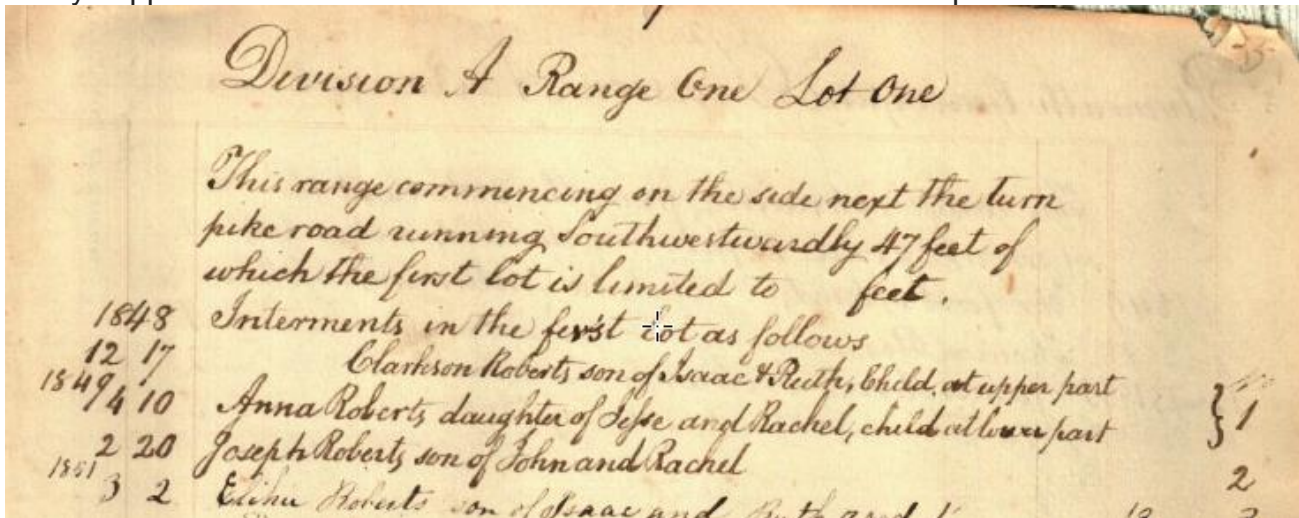
After a long winding path through the regulations, we now have a new electric stove in the kitchen. Its installation marks one more step in achieving completion of our Green Minute objectives. The township required evaluation of our electric service by an electrical engineer and special breaker to hook the stove to the fire suppression system. The decision was made that while we had electricians on site, to also update the safety of the electrical subpanel that was installed at the time of the Annie H Wilson wing addition, to bring it into code. With these two improvements to the kitchen, we are ready for a new year of fellowship and learning.

Burial Ground Committee

The beginning of the transition from grass to a more tree-dominated burial ground with flowering understory continues in section A where last fall multiple trees were planted. With the summer dry spells water was carried by bucket to those thirsty trees. All but one appear to be thriving. We will continue to nurse that one back to health.



The transfer of burial records from the original 1849 burial log to a digital format continues, person by person. It is a heart-rendering process to be recording the loss of brother and sister within days of one another or the interment of year after year of infants from the same family. Mysteries are there to be solved such as: where did all the people designated as "Public" in Division B come from? Were they from an outbreak of Yellow Fever? Any history sleuths out there to help? The transfer process is slow and will need checking against the stones and the documents once entered. Help is always appreciated. We have an offer from the Fourth Grade to help.



Right Relationship with Indigenous Peoples Working Group



With the approval of the Monthly Meeting Land Acknowledgement and associated queries in 6th month Business Meeting, the working group attention turned to the objective of the queries – relationship with Indigenous peoples. One member is attending classes to learn the Lenape language which provides insight and interaction with the Lenape people beyond words and sentences. Others have spent time studying colonization and ways to decolonize our thoughts and actions. There have been trips to visit with the Lenape people at their Pow Wows here in Lenapehocking and in Oklahoma, which provided a bounty of sights and sounds to enfold our evolving understanding of the Lenape people. A trip was made to the Carlisle Indian school cemetery as a day of learning and reflection on the impact of the Boarding School experience. A presentation about some of these interactions will occur after Friendly Fourth for September.

During the September Business Meeting, the Monthly Meeting will consider joining an amicus brief to the US Supreme Court for the protection of the Apache sacred land; Chí'chil Bıldagoteel (Oak Flat) in AZ. See Business Meeting agenda on the Website to view a summary of the reasons for this brief.

<https://plymouthmeetingquakers.org/>

Then Lois Kuter of our working group will make a presentation for us at **William Jeanes Memorial Library on Joshua Road in Whitemarsh on October 24 at 6:30pm**. She will provide an overview of Lenape history in our area using the format of John Ruth's book *This Very Ground*. In addition, Lois will intertwine Quaker past / present relationship as well as what Plymouth Meeting has done as we begin our focus on Lenape and other indigenous peoples close or farther away. Attendees will receive an information sheet with books and references to events and links to organizations for future reference. Look for future announcements about a group trip to the Indigenous Day celebration in October. If anyone would like to help with future projects, please feel free to join the working group. Contact Dave Miller

Worship and Ministry Fall Spiritual Retreat Saturday October 19th, 8:30 am to 1:30 pm

Plymouth will host an opportunity for friends to step out of the hustle and bustle of life to rest in the presence of our communal love for one another and God's love for us. It is hard to just stop activities. They are important for the good work that is achieved. There also is an importance of tending to the inward life, paying attention to where strength and discernment come from for us to live a faithful life full of activities. Consider laying down responsibilities for a few hours to rest contemplatively with fellow members of your faith community on Saturday morning (Oct 19th) to travel prayerfully in the garden of your spirit.



We envision the day to be:

8:30 - Arrival and coffee, tea, other goodies

9:00 to 9:30 - Centering worship together

9:30 to 11:30 - Contemplative activities entered into individually or with a friend(s) such as

- Reading: Lectio Divina – prayerful reading
- Writing: journaling, poetry, song writing,
- Hand work: drawing, painting, sewing, knitting, fixing items
- Contemplative walking, sitting in the beauty of our trees and campus
- Contemplative sharing of the heart one with another
- Other?

These activities can occupy the full time or flow one into another

11:30 - Worship Sharing

12:15 - Shared Breaking bread – Shared Lunch

News from the School

Fall Friendly Welcome to PMFS Families

On Sunday, September 8th PMFS welcomed back their new and returning families for the current school year. Families, staff, school committee and guests were invited to join Meeting for Worship followed with lunch outside on the upper campus playground between the school and meetinghouse. The day started with a joint effort of school and Meeting volunteers helping set up tables and chairs for lunch. At 11:15, all were invited to attend Meeting for Worship with a children's program at 11:30.



We were thrilled to have twenty children join us for First Day, making a paper mural about “Our Community”, a Quaker testimony. After worship, everyone joined for lunch provided by school PTO with pizza, salad, fruit and a wide array of desserts provided by Meeting. Also, food donations were collected for the Colonial Neighborhood Food Pantry which the Fourth Grade will be delivering throughout the school year. The weather was beautiful, the food delicious, new friends were made, we enjoyed many conversations, and the children happily played. Thank you to meeting members who helped prepare the meetinghouse, greet our guests, share worship, plan a children's program, provide tasty desserts and of course, help with set-up and clean-up. This was meeting's second year of sharing the fall welcome back with our school. We expect this will be an annual event which helps build community, share Quaker worship and an opportunity to be with each other.

News from the Quarter

Remembrance of Residential School Survivors

Gwynedd Meeting, Sept 29, 2:00 pm

Gwynedd Friends Meeting Invites you to honor (wear orange) Residential School Survivors, their families and those who did not make it home.

Representatives from the Coalition of Natives and Allies who will present a film “Native Women and Allies Speak: What we weren’t taught in School” and lead a discussion about our country’s accurate history, decolonization and understanding the harm of using Native people as Mascots. The film shares about

- Native children forced into boarding schools
- Adoption of native children by white families
- Ongoing struggles to eradicate racist Redskin mascots in Pennsylvania



News from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

Healing and Bereavement Meetings

Friends are invited to a virtual Meeting for Worship for Healing, as well as an in-person pastoral care thread gathering happening this fall. These are two different opportunities. Whether addressing grief or focusing on recovery, they provide a sacred space for Friends who feel called to healing. They allow participants to support each other in a community of care. While each journey through grief and healing is unique, we hope these events offer a chance to find mending. You are welcome to attend one or both events.

- **Meeting for Worship for Healing:** Lisa B. Collins of Fallsington Meeting leads Friends in a virtual space at 6:00 pm on **September 15th**, holding those in need in the Light through silent worship, prayer, and song, supporting each other in healing, with a focus on both individual and communal connection.
- **Grief, Loss & Bereavement: A pastoral care Thread Gathering:** Join Friends in addressing grief through pastoral care on **October 19th** at Chestnut Hill Friends Meeting. This event will include a panel on how various meetings support those grieving, followed by lunch and workshops that broaden the conversation around different forms of loss. This thread gathering welcomes everyone and is particularly relevant for those interested or engaged in pastoral care roles.

Both events, though distinct in focus, seek to nurture a sense of wholeness and community, offering opportunities for reflection, spiritual growth, and support on our Spirit-led journey. We look forward to sharing these meaningful experiences with you. For more information contact Tara Rubinstein at trubinstein@pym.org or at (215) 241-7228. To explore more of the events that are happening throughout Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, [please follow this link.](#)