



Plymouth Monthly Meeting Newsletter

Meetings for Worship

First Day Plain Worship, no Zoom, 10-11
 First Day Meeting blended worship: 11:15 am
Midweek Meeting for Worship: 7:00 pm on Wednesdays (blended)

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December 2024

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December 2024

Sat	Dec 7	8:30 am - 1:00 pm	Leaf Raking, lunch provided, bring rakes
Sun	Dec 8	After Meeting	Olivia Myers will share her spiritual journey with Jesus
Sun	Dec 8	6:00 pm	Worship and Ministry
Fri/Sat	Dec 13/14	7:00 pm	PMFS Improv Production
Sun	Dec 15	9:00 am	Meeting for Business (blended)
Fri	Dec 20	10:30 am – noon	PMFS Wassail & Winter Sing
Sun	Dec 22	10:00 am	Christmas Reading
Sun	Dec 22	After Meeting	Friendly Fourth – all are welcome
Sun	Dec 22	2:00 pm	Music Circle
Sun	Dec 22	3:00 pm	Abington Quarterly Meeting called meeting via Zoom only
Tues	Dec 24	6:00 pm	Carol sing, Meeting for Worship, candlelight vigil, apple cinnamon wassail & cookies

January 2025

Tues	Jan 7	7:00 pm	Care & Concern online
Sun	Jan 12	6:00 pm	Worship & Ministry
Tues	Jan 14	4:30 pm	Land Acknowledgement Committee
Sun	Jan 19	9:00 am	Meeting for Business
Sun	Jan 26	After Meeting	Friendly Fourth – all are welcome
Sun	Jan 26	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 December

Grounding for Transformed Lives: Equality and Justice

- How does our meeting benefit from established patterns of prejudice, exploitation and economic convenience?
 - What are we doing to change this?
- How and how often does our meeting engage in a self-examination of its attitudes and actions regarding race, ability, gender, sexual orientation or class?
- What steps are we taking as a meeting to inform ourselves about social injustice and ecological violence embedded in our political and economic systems?
- What steps are we taking as a meeting to assure that our meeting and the committees and institutions under our care are respectful of the earth and its people?
- *Do I regularly examine myself for attitudes and behavior that indicate any hidden prejudice regarding race, gender, sexual orientation, disability or class?*
- *How do my lifestyle choices affect—positively or negatively—the causes of justice and peace in our nation, the community of nations and the whole of creation?*
- *How do I demonstrate in my way of living, and in what I teach my children, that love of God entails acknowledging “that of God in every person”?*

Leaf Raking Day and Warm Fellowship

December 7 - 8:30 am to 1:00 pm

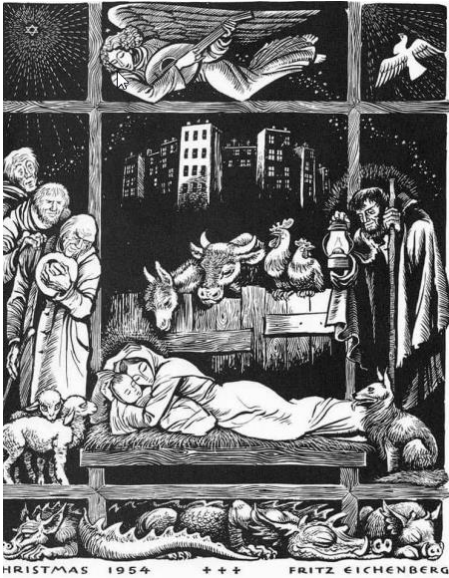


The seasons go round and round. Summer yields to Fall, and its beautiful colors, smells and warmth begrudgingly yield to winter. Yet this is how the blessed creation prepares for the new life of spring. The community here at Plymouth has for generations now celebrated the change of season with a day of fellowship together clearing leaves from those areas that need to be cleared for the children’s activities and for reducing building maintenance.

The work of clearing leaves is secondary to the opportunity to come together in common effort. A time for catching up with one another and meeting members of the community that one has not known before. Amidst the stories and the laughter, the moving of leaves becomes lighter. Any chill that the weather may bring is easily dispelled by the multitude of soups, chilies and desserts that await the hard workers of the day. Come for all or any portion of the day. We will begin around 8:30 am and break for lunch around 11:30. Bring a rake if you have one, if not there are always extra about. We clear the leaves without aid of blowers in keeping with the communities Green Minute to reduce the use of carbon in activities on the Meeting Grounds. We rake only the areas needed in respect to the role that leaves and dying plants play in the ecosystem.

Christmas opportunities at Plymouth

Dec 8th – After Meeting - Sharing a faithful journey with Jesus



After Meeting for Worship we will have the opportunity to listen to Olivia Myers share her thoughtful reflections on her life's journey with Jesus through the many venues of her life, from being a daughter of Kathy and Wally, as she grew up with and cared for the children of our Meeting, being a college student and then a teacher of science, falling in love and marrying her beloved, and now a mother of Dorothy.

Along the many steps of this journey, she has been accompanied by Jesus. What does this mean? Olivia would like to share what it means to her as she journeyed with Jesus, especially in this past year of the pregnancy and newborn phase of life and how that may relate to others. We will gather after the Meeting for Worship when people have had time to greet one another and especially little

Dorothy.

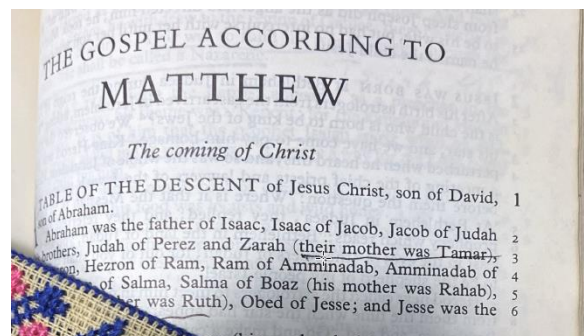
Dec 22nd - 10am – Christmas Reading

We will gather to read the Christmas story and then out of worship share about what Christmas has and does mean for those who are gathered. On this day the weekly 10am plain worship will be changed to a worship sharing that will be available to those at a distance via zoom conferencing using the regular Meeting for Worship login.

Three of the four Synoptic Gospels present portions of the story of the coming of Christ into this world in the birth of Jesus. We will weave then together into the story that has been part of the narrative many of us grew up with and share the reading of them around the circle and then in prayerful reflection share about them.

Christmas Scriptures

- Luke 1:5-25 Zachariah and the Angel
- Matt 1:18-25 Joseph and the angel
- Luke 1:26-38 Mary and the Angel
- Luke 1:39-56 Mary and Elizabeth
- Luke 1:57-80 Birth of John
- Luke 2:1-7 Going to Bethlehem
- Matt 2:1-12 Three Kings
- Luke 2:8-20 Shepherds watch
- Luke 2:21-38 Circumcision and Prophecy
- Matt 2:13-23 Herod's rage: Flight to Egypt



Christmas Eve Carol Sing, Worship and Candlelight Peace Vigil Dec 24th – 6:00 pm

As has been our tradition since 1968 we will gather for our Christmas Eve Carol Sing, Worship and Candlelight Peace Vigil once again this year. We may not be the Tabernacle Choir, but the spirit is the same as we join our voices, our prayers and our candles together on this evening of being together as a beloved community. A time of joy and reaffirming our commitment to live in the Peaceable Kingdom of God's inbreaking Divine Spirit that is the heart of the Nativity: Emmanūēl - God is with us.



Christmas Eve schedule:

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm: **Caroling** in the Annie H Wilson room.

7:00 pm – 7:30 pm: **Meeting for Worship**

7:30 pm: **Candlelight Vigil** at the wall, **Cookies and Apple Cinnamon Wassail**

Cookies requested – please talk to Bonnie or Fran.

A Christmas Story

The Manger Mouse - A Christmas Story- Jane Tyson Clement

A free story from Plough Press



HE HUDDLED IN THE COLD outside the kitchen door. The black night was pierced with stars but he couldn't see them. He could only feel the thin chill of the night wind, and loneliness, loneliness, and not knowing where to go, what to do, for he could hardly see. He was so small his eyes were scarcely open. His soft gray coat was ruffled and he trembled. He had no mother, no brothers and sisters Then he was quiet for a moment. Finally he said, "I am a small mouse, and very young. But what we have seen, we have seen. Does it not speak of a Day to come, when the Dawn breaks, and a new Time is born, and we need not fear? Is there not Eden waiting for us?"

To read all this story go to this link to:

<https://www.plough.com/-/media/files/plough/other/short-stories/mangermouseen.pdf?la=en>

Peace and Social Concerns

Teaching in a War Zone



NC Wyeth's painting "The Giant"

Our Quaker beliefs are not idealistic and discarded when the violence of this world comes crashing over us. War has been a constant since the time of early Friends, indeed since the time of Jesus and before Abraham. Through all these times people of faith listen keenly to what God was asking of them. Prayerful listening is particularly intense for teachers who have students living daily with war. What canst thou say is the question of the evening each day as teachers prepare for the next day's lessons knowing that tragedy will likely come to one of the students and hence to all.

Rania Maayeh, head of Ramallah Friends School writes at this holiday season about keeping the "Giant alive: Nurturing Hope and Imagination in Challenging Times. "Do children dare to dream of a life beyond the constraints imposed by separation walls, checkpoints, and daily violence? Or has the weight of war and hardship dimmed that vision?" Use this link to read how this Quaker School stives to meet the needs of its students. If you choose this Quaker school can use any amount of contribution you are able to make to continue to meet the needs of children trying to grow up to break the links of violence. The AFSC is also providing aid and care to children in the Gaza strip.

Ramallah Friends School – Olive Press Issue #51
<https://www.rfs.edu.ps/en/newsletter/1730886133>

News from the School

PMFS Happenings

"**A River's Year**," a collection of river themed songs which gave every class an opportunity to sing with their hearts, was a great success. It was the day before Thanksgiving break and this presentation was standing room only; our students did a great job!

If you missed "A River's Year", you can get another chance to see our students perform in the production of **IMPROV** on December 12 and 13, both shows at 7 PM.

We are looking forward to **leaf raking** on Saturday, December 7th 8:30-1:00 when our Meeting and School community work together to gather our leaves and enjoy lunch in the Annie H. Wilson room.

The annual **Wassail and Winter Sing** will be on December 20th from 10:30 am - Noon. This event will be held in the gymnasium. And a reminder school will dismiss at Noon that day and be closed for the winter break until January 3.

News from Abington Quarter

Called Meeting for the Quarter

There will be a called meeting for the Quarter on Sunday December 22 at 3pm via Zoom. All are encouraged to attend this meeting. Zoom link and agenda will be sent out via email.

Home and Care Committee



Members of Abington Quarterly Meeting in good standing have various sources of help available. Our Quarter is most fortunate to have funds to help members. The Home and Care Committee has been empowered to address the needs of members. We have funds to aid older Friends, and more limited funds to help other members of the Quarter. We also help older members plan and make needed changes in living arrangements and in provisions for health care. We encourage members to consider making plans for their later years while they are still in good health. It is far more difficult to make living adjustments when the situation is urgent. Members of the Abington Quarterly Meeting Home and Care Committee feel a great responsibility to address the needs of members of the Quarter. We ask Monthly Meetings to inform their members of the assistance available.

General Fund for Aging

The Home and Care Committee of Abington Quarterly Meeting is authorized to approve payments from income on the endowment of the General Fund for *Aging* “...for the assistance of elderly members of Abington Quarterly Meeting in need of a home... without regard to the location or sponsorship of the home in which the member is a resident.... This purpose [may also] be accomplished by assisting members in residing in their own homes or apartments....”

Payments may include assistance with entry and monthly fees to a continuing care community and Friends Life Care at Home. Older members requesting assistance are asked to sign Letters of Intent making any assistance provided, to the extent funds will be available, a priority claim on the estate of the recipient or, when applicable, the estate of the surviving spouse. An older member is age 65 and above.

Swing Loans

When funds are available, we are able to provide interest-free loans to members who are between selling a home and entering a care facility. These loans are to be repaid after the sale of the home.

Prescription Drugs

Funds are available for prescription assistance to all older Abington Quarter members. The Home and Care Committee will reimburse 50% of a member's prescription costs and costs for durable medical goods, which may include glasses, hearing aids or walkers. These funds are available without financial disclosure. A person's request is all that is necessary. A potential recipient is asked to sign a Letter of Intent providing for a return of the assistance received. The letter is similar to the letter described for assistance under the General Fund for Aging except that repayment is capped at 10% of a Friend's net taxable estate for Pennsylvania Inheritance Tax purposes.

If you need more information on any of these forms of assistance, please contact Rebecca Cratin or Bonnie Miller.