



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)

Address: 2150 Butler Pike,
 Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462
office@plymouthmeetingquakers.org

February 2025

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
 Content by: Sally Bishop &
 Dave Miller

February 2025

Sat	Feb 8	1:00 – 3:00 pm	Protest to support immigrant rights: Marshall & George Streets, Norristown. Shop the area 10am-8pm to support local business
Sun	Feb 9	6:00 pm	Worship and Ministry
Sun	Feb 9	After Meeting	Spiritual Conversation Group
Sun	Feb 16	9:00 am	Meeting for Business (blended)
Sun	Feb 23	After Meeting	Friendly Fourth – all are welcome. Palestinian Olive Oil for sale
Sun	Feb 23	2:00 pm	Music Circle

March 2025

Sat	Mar 1	9:00 – 11:00	AFSC Spring Sale at Gwynedd Meeting
Tues	Mar 4	7:00 pm	Care & Concern online
Sun	Mar 9	6:00 pm	Worship & Ministry
Sun	Mar 9	After Meeting	Spiritual Conversation Group
Tues	Mar 11	4:30 pm	Land Acknowledgement Committee
Fri/Sat	Mar 14/15	7:00pm – 8:00 pm	PMFS 2025 4th Grade Circus - Steinbright Bldg on campus
Sun	Mar 16	9:00 am	Meeting for Business (blended)
Sun	Mar 23	After Meeting	Friendly Fourth – all are welcome
Sun	Mar 23	2:00 pm	Music Circle

- All **First Day Meetings for Worship** will begin at 10:00 (Plain worship, no Zoom, no childcare) and 11:15 am (blended worship, childcare/First Day School available).
- **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 Meeting for Worship via Zoom info always available at office@plymouthmeetingquakers.org

Queries for February

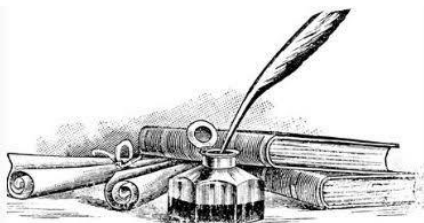
Nurturing Our Community: Religious Education in the Home & Meeting

- How does our meeting prepare its members, attenders and children for worship, for the conduct of its business and for a way of life consistent with the principles of the Religious Society of Friends?
- What opportunities do we provide for all in the meeting to learn about Friends' history, practices and testimonies, the Judeo-Christian tradition, the life and teachings of Jesus, and other religious traditions?
- How does our meeting's religious education program provide experiential learning that enhances the sense of belonging to our worshipping community?
 - *How do I help create a home where all members of the family receive affection and understanding and where visitors are welcome?*
 - *How does my manner of living enrich body, mind and spirit; enable all to learn what it means to live a life of Spirit-led commitment; and demonstrate a high regard for family, community and the integrity of creation?*
 - *How do I engage with my family and others who are dear to me regarding such sensitive topics as death, faith, money, sex and drugs?*

"The silence of worship is not just an absence of noise, or even an outward stilling of the physical, it is a journey within, a 'going inside' to a deeply felt but easily reached place of holy relationship. Together, we meet each other in the silence, come together, 'all focusing on something we share', 'picking up the same questions in the silence', gathered, before God. We come expectantly and in surrender. We come in hope of we know not what, the hope of faith. We come in the humility of those seeking, those grateful for what we are given, those hungry to hear the call, those eager to work with God to further God's loving purposes. We come as those who know the world is not as loving as it might be, that humanity hurts itself as well as the planet, that we need to at least try doing our bit to help, and that our faith both requires this of us, and helps us to achieve what we discern is best." Ben Pink Dandelion 2009 - Faith and Practice page 122

News from the Meeting

Worship & Ministry



Friends use the word worship regularly; we attend meetings for worship on First Day, during midweek or with our school. We pause for worship and then center our business in worship. We end our committee meetings with a period of worshipful gratitude. The recent lawsuit that PYM entered into on our behalf is based on the fact that our worship is disrupted and prevented when interrupted by ICE or people are prevented from participating in worship by ICE.

What do we mean when we say the word worship? As consistent to the way our faith comes to a communal understanding, each of us will come to an understanding of this word in our own way and reflect it in the life of our community. Friends have never been a people of doing and saying things by rote. It is important that what we say comes from that centered foundational experience of the Divine, inner light, living Christ With all that is happening in the world a strong gathered time of worship provides those who are attending and those who we hold in our prayerful hearts comfort and centering, guidance into a path forward that is grounded in love and active peace, and the strength to do so.

Support The Local Latino Community

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) Change Maker Event

“Presidential actions and congressional legislation have undermined a just and humane migration system. They violate the rights of immigrants residing in the U.S. or attempting to find safety here.

As Friends, we are actively working on migration issues. Some are challenging these threats in the courts while we at FCNL continue to tell Congress that mass deportation is not the answer.” FCNL

FCNL’s [Quaker Changemaker Event on February 19 at 6:30 p.m. ET](#) will focus on urgent advocacy for migration rights. Participating at this event will be FCNL’s Anika Forrest, Linnea Halsten, and Alicia McBride. Join us as we make our voices heard Register:

<https://www.fcnl.org/events/urgent-action-migration->

[rights?akid=86565.152473.NLkvB5&rd=1&t=18&utm_campaign=event&utm_medium=email&utm_source=ak&utm_term=86565.152473.NLkvB5](https://www.fcnl.org/events/urgent-action-migration-rights?akid=86565.152473.NLkvB5&rd=1&t=18&utm_campaign=event&utm_medium=email&utm_source=ak&utm_term=86565.152473.NLkvB5)

SUPPORT THE LOCAL LATINO COMMUNITY!

SAT 2/8

MARSHALL STREET SHOPPING DISTRICT NORRISTOWN, PA

BUY IN 10AM- 8PM

Local businesses have taken a hit, with much of the immigrant community in hiding. This is your chance to show your support by spending your dollars at the businesses along Marshall Street!

PROTEST 1PM- 3PM

MARSHALL & GEORGE STREETS

Bring your signs and your voices! Stand up for immigrant rights and show your neighbors they are welcome here!

Every purchase and every voice makes an impact!

Let's unite to support our neighbors and send a powerful message: Montgomery County welcomes all!

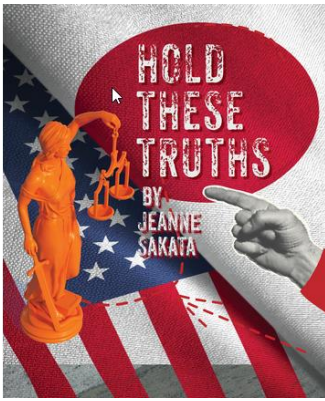
COMMUNITY FOR CHANGE, CAARSEA, MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Right Relationship Working Group

As part of our Meeting’s commitment for our continuing Indigenous education, two videos have been posted on the website under the Social Concerns tab. They are short video talks by Paula Palmer, the director of [Toward Right Relationship](#), a project of the Indigenous Peoples Concerns committee of the Boulder Friends Meeting. Paula is a recipient of the Elise Boulding Peacemaker of the Year Award (given by the Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center) and the Jack Gore Memorial Peace Award (given by the American Friends Service Committee). The two videos are Right Relationship with Native Americans and Forced Assimilation. They can be accessed from the link below or from the Social Concerns tab. https://plymouthmeetingquakers.org/Articles/709492/Right_relationship_with.aspx

Indigenous News in these turbulent times

- Trump administrations arguments defending his order to suspend birthright citizenship, the Justice Department called into question the citizenship of Native Americans born in the United States under the 14th Amendment, citing 19th-century law that excluded Native Americans from birthright citizenship – Online Indigenous News
- Signed an executive order eliminating the White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Native Americans and Strengthening Tribal Colleges and Universities, established by Biden in October 2021. – Online Indigenous News
- Screening of Anangong Miigaading: A New Hope, the Anishinaabemowin (Ojibwe) dub of Star Wars: Episode IV - The adaptation of Star Wars into Anishinaabemowin is part of a growing movement to preserve and celebrate Indigenous languages by incorporating them into popular media.



Hold These Truths- a Quaker play by Jeanne Sakata

Montgomery Theater February 6 - March 2, 2025

This show by Jeanne Sakata showcases the inspiring true story of civil rights hero, Gordon Hirabayashi. Gordon, who was a Quaker, courageously refused to comply with the U.S. government's relocation camps that forcibly interned thousands of Japanese families. This heartwarming play explores Hirabayashi's journey to the Supreme Court as he struggles to reconcile his country's betrayal with his deep belief in the U.S. Constitution.

Click link below for ticket information. Are there people who would like to go together to see this play? <https://www.montgomerytheater.org/index.php/shows/hold-these-truths>? If so, contact David or Bonnie Miller.

Ways to Directly Help Palestinian people

1. Help through donations

In these times of war how can we directly help civilians caught up in the violence and destruction of the war by donations to relief organizations. Two ways our Meeting has donated to Quaker and Quaker inspired organizations are:

The AFSC has been engaged in helping refugees in Gaza since the displacement of Palestinians in 1948 from the new Nation State borders of Israel. The UN requested the AFSC to guide the refugee relief in Gaza. Our service committee has been there ever since. Use this link to go to the AFSC website. <https://afsc.org/crisis-gaza?ms=WEB25HG>



In 1978 a group of Palestinian-American professionals witnessed the deep predicament Palestinian communities continued to face thirty years after Nakba. Among these people were Quakers from Ramallah Palestine. They recognized the need to establish an independent platform to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people and contribute to the long-term socio-economic and cultural development of Palestinian communities in the West Bank, Gaza and the diaspora. The **UPA** has programs for emergency response, Health and wellness including mental and trauma, economic development, education and outreach. Their programs have earned many awards, and their fiscal responsibility is highly regarded: programs 98%, funds raised. Use this this link to go to their website; <https://upaconnect.org/>

2. Help through good eating and planting trees

“Even if I knew the world would come to an end tomorrow, I would go into the garden and plant an olive tree. Unless we plant now, there will be no shade for our children, no oil to heal the wounds, no olive branches to wave for peace when it comes.” Father Mitri Raheb, Lutheran pastor in Bethlehem

Use this link to learn more about their tree planting to replace those that have been destroyed during the violence of these times and to challenge the surging settlement movement. There is a link to donation to pay for tree planting, as well as a video that shows the area and people planting the trees. <https://zatoun.com/trees-for-life/>

At the next Friendly Fourth shared meal, bottles of Zatoun Olive Oil will be available for sale. This is oil produced in Palestine. It is a premium olive oil. The region is considered the native home of the olive tree and ancient trees deliver olive oil of great taste and of the highest quality. Cost per 750 ml bottle is \$25. Competitive with premium oils from other countries even though it is being grown under conditions of war and occupation.



Michael Mrozinski New Clerk of Abington Quarterly Meeting

Our former Clerk of Meeting, Michael Mrozinski, has been approved by the Quarter and is now Clerk of Abington Quarterly Meeting. Congratulations, Mike, and good luck! This leaves an opening in our own Meeting for a Clerk. Nominating Committee is looking for one or more people willing to serve in this capacity. Please see Rebecca Cratin or Bonnie Miller if interested.

News from the School PMFS Happenings

PMFS Colegio Williams Exchange program - Twelve students and three teachers from Colegio Williams school in Mexico arrived at PMFS two weeks ago. They attended a Welcome Breakfast including their host parents, teachers and students and then headed off to investigate Philadelphia sites in center city. It's been a busy two weeks for the Colegio Williams students; some of their activities included visiting the Camden Aquarium, Philadelphia Art Museum, Franklin Institute, Lancaster and other fun times with their host families. They attended Thursday Meeting for Worship and were introduced by their PMFS buddy-students in Spanish. A farewell ceremony was held with parents, students and teachers before the students departed on Thursday morning (2/6) for the Philadelphia airport to return home.

Children's First Day Code Blue Care Bags

Last month our Children's First Day (with a little help from adults) filled thirty-six care bags with requested treats, pocket tissues, hand warmers and bottled water. Each bag also included a handwritten note of good wishes and were delivered to the Hospitality Center in Norristown for Code Blue nights. With donations from Meeting members, they were also able to deliver socks, hats, hand warmers, snacks, and toiletries to the Norristown Salvation Army's shelters for families and women.

LA Wildfires Donations:

PMFS Drama Teacher, Kristy Devlin has a contact in the LA area who is helping coordinate aid in the area and recommends the follow organizations for donations:

- Los Angeles County Relief - <https://lacounty.gov/relief/>
- Los Angeles Regional Food Bank - <https://www.lafoodbank.org/fire/>
- LAFD Foundation (LA Fire Dept) - <https://www.supportlafd.org/>
- American Red Cross of Southern California - <https://www.redcross.org/local/california/southern-california.html>
- American Legion Palisades Post 283, 15247 La Cruz Drive, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

News from Abington Quarter

Camp Director Wanted

The Peace Camp Committee is looking for a new Director of Peace Camp at Gwynedd Friends, a summer day camp during the first two weeks of August. This is a paid 10-month position with the responsibility of hiring and training staff, overseeing camp registration and family communication, and running camp on a daily basis during the two weeks in August. For more information, please see the job description. If you are interested, or know someone who may be interested, please contact the Clerk of the committee, Rachel Slamon, at rachel.slamon@gmail.com, Gwynedd Friends Meeting, 1101 Dekalb Pike, Gwynedd, PA 19454



AFSC Sale March 1

Saturday March 1st is the Spring AFSC Sale at Gwynedd Meeting, 9am – 1pm.

Come purchase clothing, housewares, jewelry, shoes, and more. This 60+ year sale supports the international and national work of American Friend Service Committee

Key Points on the Quaker Suit Against the Department of Homeland Security

Written on: January 30, 2025



PYM has recently joined our neighbors in New England and Baltimore Yearly Meetings as plaintiffs in a lawsuit filed against the Department of Homeland Security. Friends are encouraged to learn more information about the lawsuit in the [press release from Democracy Forward](#) which filed the suit, as well as [this article at NBC News](#). You can read complaint, [by following this link](#).

The suit challenges an immigration enforcement decision that interferes with and could significantly impact freedom of religion.

Below is essential information about the lawsuit. This may be helpful to Friends in PYM for their own understanding and for discussing the case with others, including local media.

Please note that in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, meetings and individuals speak for themselves. However, we have delegated the responsibility to speak on behalf of the whole Yearly Meeting to the Presiding Clerk, Nikki Mosgrove, and the General Secretary, Christie Duncan-Tessmer. Media and other requests can be forwarded to Christie Duncan-Tessmer, General Secretary, at cduncan-tessmer@pym.org or 215-241-7210.

Plaintiffs and Representation in the Suit

This suit is brought jointly by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM), New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM), and Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM), along with two monthly meetings within BYM. We are represented by Democracy Forward, a nonprofit organization that uses the law to build collective power and advance a bold, vibrant democracy for all people. While they are not Quaker, they have taken the time to learn about our worship, decision-making, and community practices. They have represented our faith well in the suit and are providing their services pro bono.

Purpose of the Suit

We are asking the court to declare unconstitutional any policy permitting government agents to carry out immigration enforcement activities at or near houses of worship.

Background on the Issue

The Trump-Vance administration rescinded a 31-year old policy that prevented immigration enforcement—including arrests, investigations, or surveillance—at “protected areas,” also called “sensitive locations,” such as schools, hospitals, houses of worship, and public religious ceremonies like weddings and funerals.

The new policy allows government agents to conduct enforcement operations in these locations, requiring only that they use “common sense.” As a result, people of various faiths may avoid attending their houses of worship out of fear of government enforcement. This harms immigrants who feel compelled to stay home and also damages houses of worship and their members, who lose the ability to gather in worship as a community.

Why Quakers and PYM Are Bringing This Suit Forward

Our lawyers have succinctly summed it up:

“...the right to associate for religious exercise, including communal religious worship, is well established. DHS’s new policy violates that right by deterring worshippers from attending services or otherwise joining their religious communities. That harms not only those who are too fearful to attend services, but also their fellow congregants and houses of worship themselves. This is especially true for Quakers, who deeply believe that every person, no matter their background, can receive and deliver messages from God. Put simply, deterring attendance at Quaker worship impedes our clients’ ability to experience the divine.”

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Has Two Primary Reasons for Participating In the Suit:

1. The new policy interferes with our ability to practice our faith.

Our faith teaches that anyone and everyone with a leading toward the Quaker path is welcome—and indeed necessary—to participate in worship. We draw closer to the kingdom of God when we experience Truth as it is revealed through others. A diversity of voices is essential to our spiritual experience.

When the government makes decisions that reduce access to worship and other religious practices, it interferes with our right to assemble and participate in our faith.

Additionally, for hundreds of years, Quakers have been committed to peace. Knowingly, putting a person in harm’s way or subjecting them to the possibility of a violent encounter with an armed law enforcement officer would violate our deeply held beliefs in peace and nonviolence.

2. The new policy interferes with other faiths' ability to practice.

Freedom of religion in this region was championed by Quakers, and we continue to uphold its importance. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting was established in 1682—the same year William Penn arrived on this continent. Penn explicitly modeled governance here on Quaker principles, calling it the Holy Experiment.

The Charter of Privileges, which established the framework for Pennsylvania's government, provided for religious freedom so that Quakers and others would be protected from persecution for their faith. The freedom of religion enshrined in the United States Constitution traces its origins back to this Charter of Privileges.

More Information

For more information or additional questions, please contact Nikki Mosgrove, Presiding Clerk of PYM, at nmosgrove@pym.org, or Christie Duncan-Tessmer, General Secretary of PYM, at cduncan-tessmer@pym.org.

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