



# 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](mailto:office@plymouthmeetingquakers.org)

## April 2025

### Clerk

Position  
Open

### Care & Concern

Bonnie Miller  
 153 E. 9<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
 Conshohocken, PA 19428  
 610-828-4970  
[bondave.miller@verizon.net](mailto:bondave.miller@verizon.net)

### Treasurer

Linda L. White  
 519 Ft. Washington Ave.  
 Ft. Washington, PA 19034  
 215-641-4564  
[llfw2160@comcast.net](mailto:llfw2160@comcast.net)

### Newsletter Editor

Pattie O'Donnell  
 1620 Aidenn Lair Road  
 Dresher, PA 19025  
 215-704-1666  
[pattieod@gmail.com](mailto:pattieod@gmail.com)

Content: S. Bishop & D. Miller

## April 2025

Tues	April 8	4:30 pm	Land Acknowledgement Committee
Thurs	April 10	All day	PMFS PTO Fundraiser at California Pizza Kitchen, PM Mall
Sat	April 12	9:00 am– 1:00 pm	Spiritual Retreat at the Meetinghouse
Sat	April 12	5:30 pm	Annual Party/Fiesta Celebration
Sun	April 13	9:00 am	Meeting for Business <– note date change for Easter
Sun	April 13	After Meeting	Spiritual Conversation Group
Sun	April 13	6:00 pm	Worship and Ministry
Fri	April 18	5:45 pm	Good Friday – reading of the Gospel, followed by simple meal
Sat	April 19	9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Spring Greening – school grounds beautification event
Sun	April 20	9:00 am	Easter Sunday pancake breakfast
Sun	April 27	After Meeting	Friendly Fourth – all are welcome. Palestinian Olive Oil for sale
Sun	April 27	2:00 pm	Music Circle

## May 2025

Sun	May 4	9:00 am	Quarterly Meeting at Abington
Tues	May 6	7:00 pm	Care & Concern
Sun	May 11	After Meeting	Spiritual Conversation Group
Sun	May 18	9:00 am	Meeting for Business (blended)
Sun	May 25	After Meeting	Friendly Fourth – all are welcome
Sun	May 25	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](mailto:office@plymouthmeetingquakers.org)

# Queries for April

## Deepening Our Faith: Meeting for Worship

- Are our meetings for worship held in stilled, expectant waiting upon God?
- As we worship in the living silence, are we drawn together by the power of God in our midst? Do we experience a deep reverence for the integrity of creation?
- How does our worship nurture all worshipers, creating a deeper sense of community?
- How does our meeting encourage vocal ministry that spiritually nurtures the worshipping community?
- *Do I contribute to the work of Friends in my meeting, in the quarterly and yearly meetings and in the wider world of Friends?*
- *Do I faithfully attend meeting with heart and mind prepared for worship, clear of any predetermination to speak or not to speak, expecting that worship will be a source of strength and guidance?*
- *Does worship deepen my relationship with God, increase my faithfulness and refresh and renew my daily life, both inwardly and in my relationships with other persons and with all of creation?*
- *Does worship enhance my capacity for attentive, non-judgmental listening to others?*
- *How does participation in meeting for worship contribute to my life-long spiritual journey?*

## News from the Meeting



### Annual Party: A Mexican Fiesta

**All Are Welcome: April 12, 5:30 pm in the Annie H Wilson room**

In celebration of Spring and of 50+ years of our PMFS's annual exchange program with a Mexican school, the Care & Concern Committee is hosting a Mexican Fiesta taco night on Saturday April 12 (we had discussed another date, but the 12<sup>th</sup> worked for more people). Tacos, chips and sides will be provided by Cantina Feliz in Amber – taco options are chicken and/or vegetarian, and the corn tacos are gluten free. We're asking \$25 to cover the catering plus appetizers, desserts and beverages.

We look forward to renewing what used to be our Annual Party every Spring, which got thrown off track when we planned the last Fiesta...in late March, 2020.

**It would be great to see everyone! Please RSVP to Pattie ([pattieod@gmail.com](mailto:pattieod@gmail.com)) or Sally ([sabish822@gmail.com](mailto:sabish822@gmail.com)) as soon as possible (or let us know if you missed the email invitation and we'll get another one out to you).**

## Worship and Ministry

### Early Friends Understanding of Easter



Easter is a morning of celebration, and a time of acknowledging the rising of Spirit within us. “For early Quakers, Christ was not tied (manifested) just in Jesus, but, as with the Word in the Gospel of John, was present from the beginning and is manifest in the prophets of Judaism and other religious traditions”.

“Friends were not bound by dogmatic arguments of if the resurrection of Jesus was physical or spiritual, for, from the beginning, Quakers have insisted that Christ’s spirit can be experienced by any of us anywhere. Hence Mary Fisher, one of Quakerism’s founding Valiant Sixty, felt confident she could minister to the Sultan of Turkey, because he would know the same universal spirit of God or Christ that she did.” John Woolman ministered to native peoples in Pennsylvania with the same understanding and respect for that universality of spirit.

For Christian Quakers, Easter is a day of remembrance of the rising of Jesus not “found in the “schemes of doctrines and verbal creeds, nor new forms of worship...” as Penn wrote, but in the transforming experience of Emmanuel – God intimately ministering to us from within. The traditional Quaker view is the acknowledgement of the active presence of God, of the universal Christ that dwelled wholly in Jesus, is received into our lives (resurrection) and thus gives us the self-understanding, commitment, and divine support—the Inward Light—to improve the ethical content of our lives. Yielding self to this living Spirit that early friends call the Living Christ and now many use the term Inner Light, resurrects disciplined lives of courage to speak loving truth to power, to illuminate the path of peace and love in the valley darkness, to heal a broken world with compassion and justice.

-Ref: David Miller’s reflections on David Leonard’s Easter and Early Quakers in Friends Journal

## Good Friday Readings

### April 18

Light shared meal and fellowship: We will gather (~5:45pm) in the Annie H Wilson room and share a light meal, perhaps of Mediterranean foods. A time of being together and enjoying the shared love and friendship that we have.

Shared reading of the Gospel of Mark: (~6:45pm) As has been our custom, we share around the circle the reading of the Gospel of John. This becomes a time of letting go of dogma. The short life of Jesus is recorded in this earliest of the Gospels. What does it have to say about how the reader is to respond to God’s call? Each year it is heard differently. Each year there are new hard parts to hear and new insights that open one’s heart to possibilities. We have found that this opportunity is a very different experience from reading a few lines of scripture. It takes time (~1.5 hrs). The reading has been found to be useful in illumination God’s guidance for how we are to be “patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations wherever you come; that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone; whereby in them you may be a blessing, and make the witness of God in them to bless you.”



## Easter Morning Pancake breakfast

We are called to celebrate on Easter morning. Celebration of having a community of faith to walk the path of this world. A community to share the weights of this journey. A celebration of the rising of God's Spirit in us. On this day we are not called to walk on stones with bare feet. Oh no, we stride into the day with the strength of our community by sharing together a meal. Be it sunny or rainy the smell of fresh chocolate chip pancakes wafting out the door sets the world's troubles aside (but not forgotten) for the moment. The delights of good food draw us into the renewal of life manifested in the sharing of a meal to break the fast of the night, of the Lenten session, to bless the work of the prior week and guide us into the week to come. Join us on Easter morning as we renew our spirits together.



## Worship and Ministry Spring Spiritual Retreat Saturday April 12th, 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



## New Clerk Needed for Plymouth

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 still looking for one or more people willing to serve in this capacity. Please see Rebecca Cratin or Bonnie Miller if interested

# Agnes Blackstone

Sept 12, 1921-March 30 2025

Our long-time member and dear friend, Agnes Blackstone, left us on Saturday, March 30, 2025. She lived independently in her home in Plymouth Meeting until about two years ago when she moved to the local Brandywine Care Center. She is survived by her two daughters, Fran and Amy, granddaughters; Rebecca, Kate and Molly, and great grandchildren; Hannah, Stella, and Alex. Her family is planning a memorial for Agnes at the Meeting and will share details with us when they are available. In her memory, we are publishing excerpts from an interview Sally did with Agnes on the occasion of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, which included her life story, plus some answers to specific questions Sally asked.

Agnes was born in New Brunswick to English immigrant parents who had come to Canada from Yorkshire. From there, they moved to Florida for warmer weather, and then to Newtown, PA, for better jobs. In Newtown, the family joined Newtown Meeting, and Agnes attended The George School. After graduation, she enrolled in business school at Rider College in Trenton, NJ, and was hired at the radiology department at Jeanes Hospital in Philadelphia, which was her first and favorite job. From there she moved on to work at Temple University Hospital's radiology department, where she met her husband. She was married in 1943 and had two children, Frances and Amy, who she raised in Plymouth Meeting, where the family attended Plymouth Meeting Friends, and Agnes enjoyed her girls, her good friends and neighbors. At our Meeting, Agnes was a dedicated and beloved volunteer, serving on many committees and in recent years hosting Care & Concern committee meetings at her home with lovely desserts and coffee.

## **What are your secrets for a long, healthy life?**

I don't have any secrets. In general, don't overdo...including eating and working

## **Did you ever smoke?**

Oh, I smoked for 60 years and quit when I was 80

## **What would be the most important invention in your lifetime**

Every now and then I think of an ordinary thing we have that we didn't have. Off the top of my head, I think the automobile.

## **What is your favorite, treasured memory?**

When my husband proposed to me and when my children were born

## **What do you do to stay young?**

Keep active, read a lot, and keep up with the times, whether physically or mentally.

## **When did you first learn about the Quaker faith?**

When I was a young girl in Florida, we lived in a rural area and there was just one church nearby. My mother, born in England, was a Quaker, and heard of a woman who was holding Meeting in her large living room. On Sunday mornings, we got dressed and my father drove us twenty-five miles south of Tampa to Mrs. McGill's home. She was from Connecticut and came to Florida for the winters.

## **If you could live anywhere in the world, where would you like to live?**

I used to adore Germantown very much. I like to go to the shore, but not live there year around. Where I live is where I made friends that I enjoy.

## **What gift do you want for your 100<sup>th</sup> birthday?**

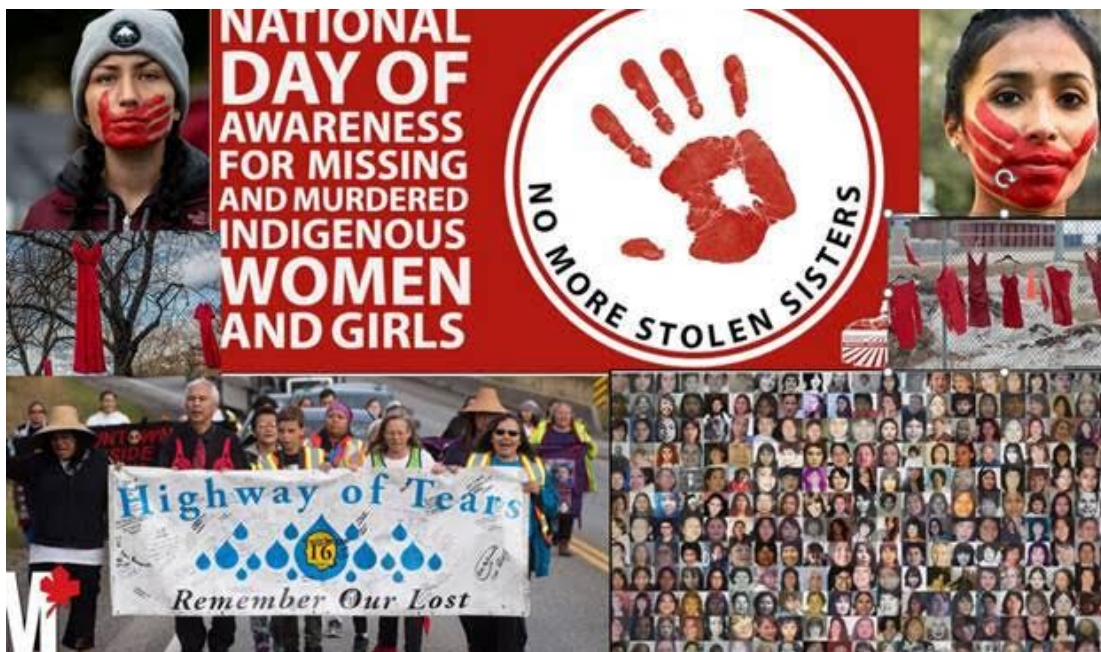
Oh, I don't want any gifts. A main gift is I can still walk around – physical activity.



# Right Relationship with Indigenous Peoples

## National Day of Awareness for MMIWR

(Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives)



The week of April 29th to May 5th National Week of action for **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives**. April 5th is recognized as the **National Day of Awareness for MMIWR**. This date was chosen in honor of 21-year-old Hanna Harris (*Northern Cheyenne*), who went missing and was found murdered on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in 2013. May 5th was her birthday—a day that should have been a celebration of her life, but instead became a rallying call for justice for all of the indigenous woman who have gone missing. Some have been found, some murdered many remain missing. More disappear each year. The custom of wearing red, hanging a red dress on a door or fence to raise public awareness during this time has been steadily growing.

The National Crime Information Center reports that, in 2016, there were 5,712 reports of missing American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls. At the same time the US Department of Justice's federal missing persons database, (NamUs), only logged 116 cases. No research has been done on rates of such violence among American Indian and Alaska Native women living in urban areas despite the fact that approximately 71% of American Indian and Alaska Natives live in urban areas. The scope of this epidemic of abduction and murder is only slowly coming to light.

National Day of Awareness for MMIWR started in 2013. It is a movement to bring awareness to this ongoing assault on our sisters. This month take some time to learn more about the efforts of our indigenous neighbors, our politicians and other organizations to stop this abuse. Some links are:

Urban Indian Health Institute

<https://www.uihi.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Missing-and-Murdered-Indigenous-Women-and-Girls-Report.pdf>

National Indigenous Women's Resource Center, Inc. (NIWRC)

<https://www.niwrc.org/mmiwr-awareness>

Wikipedia - Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Missing\\_and\\_Murdered\\_Indigenous\\_Women](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Missing_and_Murdered_Indigenous_Women)


# News from the School

## Plymouth Meeting Friends School News

The PTO has a **fundraiser** scheduled on **April 10th at California Pizza Kitchen** at the Plymouth Meeting Mall. The restaurant will give PMFS 20% of PMFS sales to those for all day and evening, dining in or take-out. A coupon is attached to the email that contained this newsletter – please use the coupon to ensure that PMFS gets credited for your purchase.

**Spring Greening** is scheduled for Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. Come when you can and help with your choice of a variety of projects to clean up and beautify the campus and Meeting areas - planting, mulching, pruning, adding sand in the sandbox and more. Meeting will provide some coffee, tea and baked treats in the morning. It would be helpful to bring rakes, shovels, gloves and pruning shears if possible.

And on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> 2-4 in the Gym area will be the **Annual Arts Festival**. It's the same day as Friendly Fourth so we can stop down after lunch and join in.

Do you own any fun lawn games like Giant Connect 4, Cornhole, or Ladder Ball?  If so, the **Strawberry Festival** committee would love to borrow them as part of this year's game offerings. If you're able to lend a game (or two!), please reach out to Ben Shaw (who has graciously taken on the Strawberry Festival Games Committee this year). He'll make sure everything is well cared for and returned after the event. Thank you for helping make the festival a success!

The Fourth Grade would like to thank the entire PMFS community for coming out and supporting us last weekend in our circus show **Return to the Rainbow**. We hope that everyone enjoyed the performance and went home with a smile on your face. We officially wrapped up our circus study this morning by reflecting on the whole process and then enjoying a wonderfully fun game of unicycle tag!

## News from Abington Quarter

### Poor Man's Gambit at Gwynedd Friends Coffee House Saturday, April 12

Poor Man's Gambit was formed in 2015 and hails from the Philadelphia area. The trio has released 3 albums, completed two international tours, and has been noted as an increasingly popular Irish-American group. Featuring fiddle, button accordion, aitar, bodhran, whistle, cittern, flute, vocals, and dance, this trio brings together diverse musical backgrounds which complement the other's musical styles both on stage and in the studio <https://poormansgambit.com/>

Gwynedd Friends Coffeehouse is located at Gwynedd Friends Meeting, 1101 DeKalb Pike, Gwynedd, PA. Doors open at 7:30 PM/Show at 8:00 PM. **\$10 CASH donation is requested at the door/night of the show.** After costs, proceeds are given to the Charity of the Evening Light refreshments are available. Wheelchair accessible. Masking is optional/the coffeehouse does not provide masks. Charity of the Evening: Kelly Anne Dolan Memorial Fund offering help and hope for families with sick and disabled children.<https://dolanfund.org>

Gwynedd Friends Coffeehouse is a not for profit outreach of Gwynedd Friends Meeting with an all volunteer staff. <http://www.gwyneddmeeting.org/Coffeehouse.html>

# PMFS Seedlings Summer Camp Wishlist

## Summer is Right Around the Corner

PMFS Seedlings Summer Camp for children ages three to seven is approaching quickly. Counselors want to be ready and you can help! Below are the names of the weekly themes and a list of items on the wish list. Look at the themes and use your imagination as you clear off basement and garage shelves; clean out drawers and closets; drive through neighborhoods; sift through recyclables; and look through bargain bins.

Below are some items on the Seedlings' wish list. Smaller items can be placed in a box at the Meetinghouse and larger items can be dropped off at the school. Please call the school (215 – 828 -2288) before dropping off any larger items to make sure they will be useful and appropriate. Cash and check donations to the program are also welcomed.

### Themes

Week 1: Pirates and Mermaids Week  
Week 2: Stars and Stripes Week  
Week 3: Under the Sea Week  
Week 4: Camping/Bug Week

5: Olympics  
6: Outer Space  
7: Artists and Engineers  
8: Make Believe Week

### Wish List

#### Bigger Ticket Items

- Tent (large enough for three or four kiddoes and a teacher)
- Outdoor rug or blanket (large enough for a group of kiddoes and a teacher)
- Small kiddie pools (plastic or inflatable)
- Bubble machine
- Hammock
- "Pool Noodles"
- Spin Art Machine
- Paper making supplies



#### Small Ticket Items

- Cotton Balls
- Seeds (native wild flowers, perennials, herbs, veggies, etc.)
- Spray Bottles
- Old paper: newspaper, wrapping paper, scrap paper, tissue paper (for collages)
- Styrofoam Beads (packing material, etc.)
- Egg Cartons
- Cardboard (all shapes, sizes, textures, and colors)
- Duct Tape
- Masking Tape
- Glow-in-the-dark Supplies (pens, rings, bracelets, hair bands, sticks, etc.)
- Loose Parts: buttons, corks, old CD's, beads, yarn, ribbon, etc.
- Kitchen
- Funnels
- Sifters
- Salad Spinner