



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

May 2025

Clerk

Position
Open

Care & Concern

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Treasurer

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Newsletter Editor

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May 2025

	May 1-18	Various times	The Return of Benjamin Lay at the Quintessence Theater
Sat	May 10	3:30 pm	Memorial Service for Deb Sotack
Sat	May 17	9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Meeting House clean-up event – all invited
Sat	May 17	1:00 pm – 3:00 pm	PMFS Arts Festival – in the gym
Sun	May 18	9:00 am	Meeting for Business (blended)
Sat	May 24	Leaving at ≈10:00 am	Visit to cemetery at the former Carlisle Indian School
Sun	May 25	After Meeting	Friendly Fourth – all are welcome
Sun	May 25	2:00 pm	Music Circle

June 2025

Tues	June 3	7:00 pm	Care & Concern
Fri	June 6	9:00 – 11:00 am	Help prep strawberries for the Festival – Annie H Wilson room
Sat	June 7	11:00 am – 2:00 pm	PMFS Annual Strawberry Festival
Sun	June 8	6:00 pm	Worship and Ministry
Tues	June 10	4:30 pm	Land Acknowledgement Committee
Sun	June 15	9:00 am	Meeting for Business
Sun	June 15	After Meeting	Spiritual Conversation Group
Sat	June 21	2:00 pm	Agnes Blackstone Memorial Service
Sun	June 22	After Meeting	Friendly Fourth – all are welcome.
Sun	June 22	2:00 pm	Music Circle
Sun	June 29	After Meeting	Annual Picnic

- 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 May

Deepening Our Faith: Meeting for Business

- Is our meeting for business held in worship in which we seek divine guidance?
- How do we sustain prayerful consideration of all aspects of an issue and address difficult problems with a search for truth that is unhurried by the pressures of time?
- Do we recognize that we speak through our inaction as well as our action?
- *Do I regularly attend meeting for business? If unable to attend, how do I fulfill the responsibility to understand and embrace the decisions made?*
- *How do I affirm and support God's presence in the process of discernment and reaching a decision?*
- *Do I remain open to personal transformation as the community arrives at the sense of the meeting?*

News from the Meeting

New Clerk Still Needed for Plymouth

Our former Clerk of Meeting, Michael Mrozinski, has been approved by the Quarter and is now Clerk of Abington Quarterly Meeting. 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

Annual Picnic

June 29 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), potato, macaroni, coleslaw or green salads and/or desserts (store bought or homemade). Please let Fran or Bonnie know what you're bringing to avoid duplicate effort. The picnic will happen **rain or shine!**

Our Graduates

We have two graduates this year: **Chris Mrozinski** will be receiving his bachelors degree in social gerontology from Chestnut Hill College, and **Stella Barkat** who is graduating from Penn Charter and heading to The University of Virginia in the Fall. Congratulations, Christopher and Stella!!

Right Relationship Working Group

The remains of over 180 Indigenous children lie in the Carlisle cemetery, children who died of various diseases including tuberculosis, mumps and measles during the school's existence between 1879 and 1918. More children died while attending the boarding school than those buried in the cemetery; some died during "outings," periods when they worked for families across the mid-Atlantic region. Others became sick at Carlisle but were sent home to die, while still others died in route to their homes and are scattered in places as far-flung as New Orleans.



The U.S. Army plans to repatriate the remains of 19 children from the Carlisle Indian School cemetery this year. This is the largest repatriation since the disinterment program started eight years ago. The remains will be given back to their loved ones in September. Despite the return of some Indigenous children's remains to their homelands, the cemetery will always exist because some tribes, like the Apache and the Navajo, do not want to disturb the remains. As an alternative to repatriation, tribes can replace the old headstones with new ones which contain accurate information about the children.

According to a *Native News Online* article by Jenna Kunze, the term "historical trauma" was created by Maria Yellow Horse Brave Heart, a caseworker of Hunkpapa and Oglala Lakota origin, to denote how people interiorize trauma, which is then reproduced in subsequent generations with detrimental health effects. Survivors of boarding schools, families of relatives buried at institutions including Carlisle, and Indigenous communities as a whole experience historical trauma.

The children's names whose remains are to be repatriated

Seminole Nation of Oklahoma

Wallace Perryman

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma

Belle Cahoe, Wash E. He, Tabitha Carroll, Jane Lumpfoot, Leah Road Traveler, Percy Whitebear, George Harrison, Charles Whiteshield, Matavito Horse, Nannie Little Robe, Dora Morning, Louise Thunder, Giles Hands, Ruben Tanpeds. Henry Morning, William Sammers, Abe Lincoln, Elsie Davis

References: "The Lost Children of Carlisle." --- Carlisle News 8's Matt Barcaro

Sandi Cianciulli and her organization, Circle Legacy Center, based in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, visit the cemetery often to perform ceremonies and leave gifts by the graves. Every year on the Saturday before Memorial Day . . . the organization and its affiliate, the American Indian Society of Washington, D.C., honor the graves.

Contact Lois Kuter if you would like to join others from the Meeting in visiting the cemetery (leave Meeting at about 10am May 24)

Elizabeth Jane Foley

November 15, 1937 - April 28, 2025

Elizabeth J. Foley departed this life on April 28, 2025 at Foulkeways, a senior community in Gwynedd, where she had lived for seventeen years.

Elizabeth was born on November 15, 1937 in Newark, N.J. to John J. Oscar Foley and Catherine (Burke) Foley. She had an older brother Robert, who predeceased her. She graduated from Barringer High School in Newark, married John DiFabio and moved to southern New Jersey where they had two sons.

Elizabeth began her professional career teaching kindergarten at the Mullica Hill Friends School. She became a convinced Quaker and devoted the rest of her professional life to advancing the core Quaker principles of non-violence, consensus, kindness, caring and compassion. She ended her career as the Director of Development for the Philadelphia Annual Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, the umbrella organization for Quaker meetings and charities in the region. While working and in retirement Elizabeth was active in various committees for the local Quaker meetings she attended and for the annual meeting. She had a busy personal life, excelling at gourmet cooking, gardening, herbalism and exploring her family's genealogy.

Though her accomplishments were many, what truly stood out about Elizabeth was her extraordinary kindness, joy of life and laughter. She would help friends and friends of friends find the best doctors and get appointments; no request for this or any other help was ever refused. None of her friends will ever forget her sense of humor or contagious laugh. She will be sadly missed.

Elizabeth is survived by her sons. Nicholas, a retired Ironworker, Local 11 Newark, NJ; and David, USAF Vet retired, DoD Communications Trainer Inspector Afghanistan, Director of Communications, Iraqi Ministry of Defense. She is also survived by daughter-in-law Carla Butler DiFabio and grandson Nicholas DiFabio

Internment of Elizabeth's ashes and a memorial service will be scheduled at the Plymouth Quaker Meeting in the future. In lieu of flowers the family requests donations to the Abington Quarterly Meeting Home and Care Committee, which assists older Quakers, 123 Forsythe Drive, Fort Washington, PA. 19034. Arrangements are by the Huff and Lakjer Funeral Home, Lansdale, PA.

News from the School

88th Annual Strawberry Festival

Saturday, June 7, 2025 -- Plymouth Meeting Friends School Campus

It's almost time for one of the sweetest PMFS traditions — the 88th Annual Strawberry Festival. Start your day with joy as the PMFS students shine in their Class Performances from 10–11 AM: bring your cameras and your applause!

Then the fun kicks into full gear from 11–2 with something for everyone:



Bounce Houses



Farmers Market



Delicious Eats



Petting Zoo



Classic Games



And, of course... the legendary Strawberry Shortcake

Invite Your Friends & Family

This event is open to the whole community — grandparents, neighbors, cousins, and friends are *all* welcome. The more, the merrier!

Location & Parking Info: The Festival takes place on the PMFS campus at 2150 Butler Pike. Free parking is available on-site and nearby. The event is rain or shine; the fun does not stop for weather — this is an all-outdoor event, so plan for sun, sprinkles, or something in between. Bring sunscreen, rain boots, or whatever the forecast calls for.

Volunteer Opportunities Coming Soon!

It takes our whole village to make the magic happen:

Strawberry Shortcake: **The School would love help from the Meeting to prepare the strawberries the day before (9am June 6th). If you can help out, bring your own knife and cutting board. In the past, strawberry hulling has usually taken about 2 hours.**

Calling All Books (and CDs, DVDs, and Vinyl): Support the beloved Book Tent by donating your gently used items now. Drop-off boxes are located in the sand-floored open shed near the blacktop.

Looking for lawn games: 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!

<https://www.pmfs1780.org/strawberry-festival>

News from Abington Quarter

PMFS Seedlings Summer Camp Wishlist

Summer is Right Around the Corner

PMFS Seedlings Summer Camp for children ages three to seven is approaching quickly (June 23 – Aug 15). 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