

The newsletter of the Bucks Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

APRIL 2023

Dear Friends,

As the weather warms and the flowers begin to bloom and the leaves return to the trees, it is time for us to emerge from our winter cocoons and be more outward thinking.

Over the next couple of months, Bucks Quarter Friends will be gathering new and very gently used clothing to be used by the three Community Schools serviced by Mercer Street Friends.

Meetings are just discerning if and how they would like to participate. If you think your meeting would be interested, please contact your clerk and let them know.

We are all so blessed, I hope you find it in your heart to give back a little.



Your Coordinator, *Wendy*

"Treat the earth well: it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children." ~ Native American Proverb



Monthly Meeting News

Bristol

Join Friends for their monthly worship on the 4th Sunday of the month at 11:00 am. Say hello to the folks from Redemption Church when you arrive!

Buckingham

Wishing their clerk, Bethann Morgan, healing Light as she recovers from her recent hospitalization.

Doylestown

The Meeting's Peace and Social Concerns committee held their first meeting of the year and determined that their areas of focus would be directed toward promoting peaceful conflict resolution and advocating against Book Bans in local public schools.

Fallsington

Friends continue to meet monthly to hold a Meeting for Worship for Healing. They gather to hold in the Light all those – present or not – who have presented a specific request for healing.

Lehigh Valley

This spring the Meeting will support four girls going to school in Kenya, under the stewardship of the Social Concerns Committee. A total of \$1,600 will go to these girls out of the LVMM Kenyan School Fund.

Makefield

Friend Elsie Wright helped celebrate the 50th anniversary of Chandler Hall. She also has decided that at 90+ years young it's time to step down as the meeting's Treasurer.

Middletown

Middletown Friends report they now have more people in person at meeting for worship than on Zoom!

Newtown

Kids in First Day School completed their second service project of the year, making 50 hygiene bags for The Help Center in Bristol.

Plumstead

Friends have already started planning for when they will be hosting Quarterly Meeting in August. What a perfect time of year to visit one of our northernmost meetings!

Quakertown

Friends can't wait for warmer weather to try out their new air conditioning system!

Solebury

For the first time in three years, Friends held their traditional Pancake Breakfast on March 19th. The syrup tapped from their own trees was enjoyed by all.

Southampton

After mulling over their heating and cooling systems for years Friends are now coming to a sense of the meeting on how to proceed. Stay tuned!

Wrightstown

This March, Friends re-started their Spiritual Exploration Group, a small group that meets with the intention of developing a further understanding of a wide range of spiritual issues and to learn more about how others experience the spiritual life.

Yardley

Friends have been holding a game night on the second Saturday of the month. This will morph into outdoor movie nights during the summer.

CALENDAR				
Mar 28 - May 23	7:00–8:30 pm	<u>Virtual JEDI Book Club: Tomorrow Will Be</u> <u>Different</u>	Gwynedd Friends Meeting	
Apr 2	10:00 am-12:00 pm	From Prisoner of War to Pacifist	Cropwell Friends Meeting	
Apr 3	7:30–9:00 pm	The River of Life: We Are What We Have Been Becoming	Pendle Hill First Monday Lecture	
Apr 4-18	1:30–2:30 pm	bodyART by Alexa	Friends Village Styer Campus	
Apr 4 thru 24	2 pm or 8 pm	Lifecycle of Meeting Series	Presented by Emily Provance	
Apr 5	7:00–8:30 pm	Greening Sacred Spaces Series	Eco-Justice and Concord Quarter	
Apr 7	7:00–10:00 pm	Young Adult Friends Spring Potluck	In person – West Philadelphia	
Apr 12	7:00–8:30 pm	Online Reprise: Religious Education & Outreach Thread GatheringOnline reprise of Jan 7th even		
Apr 14-16		<u>Loving, Listening, Learning, Discerning: A</u> <u>Couple Enrichment Retreat</u>	An in person Pendle Hill event	
Apr 15	4:00-6:00 pm	Toward Right Relationship with Native People	Friends Peace Teams	
Apr 16	9:00–9:30 pm	Quaker Parent Postlude	Sponsored by PYM	
Apr 16	4:00-6:00 pm	The Quaker Indigenous Boarding Schools	Friends Peace Teams	
Apr 16-20		Café Darkness: An In-Person Writing Workshop for People of ColorAn in person Pendle Hill event		
Apr 19	10:00 am-12:00 pm	Friends Village Open House	Styer Campus	
Apr 22	11:00 am-12:00 pm	The Peace Corp: Early Days	A CPMM Library Committee event	
Apr 22-23		Middle School Friends Spring Gathering	West Chester Friends Meeting	
Apr 26	10:00–11:00 am	Focus on Retirement	Pennswood Village	
Apr 27	6:30–8:00 pm	One Book One Bucks - The Nickel Boys	The Peace Center	
Apr 28-May 1		Beloved Community as Prophetic Witness	Pendle Hill Quaker Institute	
Apr 29	11:00 am-3:00 pm	Picnic in the Garden	Friends Village Styer Campus	
Apr 29	10:00 am-3:00 pm	Addressing Racism Thread Gathering	Sponsored by PYM	
Apr 29-30		Spring Family Overnight	Camp Dark Waters	
Apr 30	12:00–1:30 pm	Presentation and Lunch with Bridget Moix	Sponsored by FCNL	
		ONGOING EVENTS		
Apr 1	9:30 am–3:00 pm	PYM Extended Worship Virtual Only		
Every Sunday	4:00-5:00 pm	Southampton Meeting Vigil for Justice	Southampton Friends Meeting	
		LOOKING AHEAD		
May 5-7		Caln Quarter Gathering at Camp Swatara	Sponsored by Caln Quarter	
May 21	9:30 am–3:00 pm	May Quarterly Meeting	Newtown Friends Meeting	
Jul 2-8		2023 FGC Gathering	Listen So That We May Live	
Jul 26–30		PYM Annual Sessions	Virtual and in person at TCNJ	

BUCKS QUARTER

Chandler Hall

Wrightstown Farmers Market

2nd & 4th Saturdays 10:00 am–12:00 pm: come to the winter home of the Wrightstown Farmers Market, a local,

producer-only market promoting sustainable farming practices that support healthy soil, produce, pastures, animals, people and local communities. From fresh organic produce to preserves and local honey to handmade soaps, local pottery and dog treats, you will surely find something to please.



CHANDLER

HALL

99 Barclay Street • Newtown PA 18940





bodyART by Alexa

April 4th-April 18th: bodyART by Alexa offers whole body, transformative workout that combines strength, flexibility, cardio and breath work. Based on the Eastern principles of Yin and Yang, bodyART creates a dynamic balance between activity and passivity, tension and release. The program is led by by Alexa Seiler, a National Academy of Sports Medicine certified trainer, this six-week program is offered to adults over age 50 and is appropriate for all stages of fitness and ability. Suggestion donation is \$10; <u>click here to register</u>.

Open House

April 19th: Friends Village is holding an open house on the Styer campus, 331 Lower Dolington Road in Newtown, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm. <u>Click here to RSVP</u>.

Picnic in the Garden

April 29th (rain date April 30th): Come for a fun-filled day of presenters, music, shopping, and more to benefit the residents and programs of Friends Village.

Snipes Farm will bring the spirit of the farm along with barn yard critters and bedding plants for sale.

Goose Creek Pioneers will provide the musical background.

Crafters will bring their wares for purchase, including including Heart of the Moon Herbs, Bright Candle Company and Soap A GoGo.

Presentations from local experts, including Native Plants for Birds, Attracting Pollinators and the History of Botanical Art.

Tickets are \$20 in advance (April 28), \$30 at the door. A complimentary lunch is included in the ticket price. <u>Click here to purchase tickets</u>.

331 Lower Dolington Road • Newtown, PA

Bucks Quarter Meeting for Worship Schedule

Bristol	4th Sunday 11:00 am	Indoor worship; Email for information: <u>pws@seas.upenn.edu</u>
Buckingham	Sunday 10:30 am	Indoor hybrid; email for zoom link: buckinghamfriends@gmail.com
Doylestown	Sunday 10:00 am	Indoor hybrid; for zoom link go to <u>doylestownquakers.org</u>
Fallsington	Sunday 11:00 am	Indoor hybrid; go to <u>fallsingtonmeeting.org</u>
Lehigh Valley	Sunday 9:30 am Wed 8:00 pm	Indoor hybrid; zoom link at lehighvalleyquakers.org
Makefield	Sunday 10:00 am	Indoor worship
Middletown	Sunday 11:00 am Wed 7:00 pm	Indoor hybrid; email for zoom link: <u>robin.hipple@gmail.com</u> Wednesday worship in person only
Newtown	Sunday 11:00 am	Indoor hybrid; for zoom link go to <u>newtownfriendsmeeting.org</u>
Plumstead	Sunday 9:30 am	Indoor worship
Quakertown	Sunday 10:30 am	Indoor worship
Solebury	Sunday 10:00 am	Indoor worship
Southampton	Sunday 10:00 am Tuesday 7:30 pm	Indoor hybrid; email for zoom link: jmm9724@gmail.com
Wrightstown	Sunday 10:00 am	Indoor hybrid; email for zoom link: wrightstown.mm.clerk@gmail.com
Yardley	Sunday 10:00 am	Indoor hybrid; email for zoom link: info@yardleyfriendsmeeting.org

More information can be found at <u>quakersbucks.org/local-meetings</u>



Pennswood Village

Independent Living Expansion

Pennswood Village proudly unveils <u>The Meadows</u>, 30 new spacious Independent Living apartment homes located within their 82 acre Newtown community.

The Meadows offers three new modern apartment floor plans to choose from: *the Newtown, Yardley, and Princeton*. Each are designed for comfort and convenience with open concept living arrangements, and complete with modern amenities.

Senior Living Program Series

April 26th: Moving and Downsizing. Come to Pennswood Village for informative and insightful conference sessions with Senior Living industry experts and residents. Featuring topics that are beneficial for anyone seeking a comfortable, worryfree retirement lifestyle. <u>Register here</u>.

Peace Center

One Book One Bucks - The Nickel Boys

April 27th: Join The Peace Center as they continue to build bridges to peace with their discussion of Colton Whitehead's *The Nickel Boys*. This Pulitzer Prize winning story is based on the historic Dozier School, a reform school in Florida that operated for 111 years and was revealed as highly abusive. Antoinette Peters, Germantown Academy English teacher, will be their special guest. <u>Click here to register</u>.

WHATSNEW

@ www.quakersbucks.org

Our website is a wealth of information! Click the links below to discover...

Stories of Vitality:

- Bristol Friends Partners with Redemption Church
- <u>Winter Worship with Plumstead Friends</u>
- Boone Farm: Its People and Place in Middletown
 <u>History</u>

Other Resources:

Visit a Quaker Meeting

Quarterly Meeting Documents & Archive

Updated 2023 Bucks Quarter Handbook

If you haven't visited in a while, please click the links above; let me know what you think. Drop me an email at <u>quakersbucks@gmail.com</u>.



In Memoriam

Wrightstown Meeting

Ann Brewer Alden



Contact Wendy Kane, BQ Coordinator at guakersbucks@gmail.com for pick up

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PYM Sponsored Events

Extended Worship

April 1st: This month the group will have a virtual meeting on Zoom. The day will follow the usual format of worship from roughly 9:30 to 12:30, and worship sharing from 1:00 until around 2:30 to 3:00, with a lunch break in between. The best way to stay informed is to be placed on an e-mail list to receive Zoom links for this and future Extended Worship meetings; contact Jim Strong at jmmstrong@gmail.com.

Young Adult Friends Spring Potluck

April 7th: Bust out the crockpots and dust off the salad bowl that's been hidden in the back of your cabinets all winter. Join other YAFs in West Philadelphia for fellowship, fun, and delicious food. You will receive a confirmation email with more information about the event location and host once you register; click here to register.

Online Reprise: Religious Education & Outreach Thread Gathering

April 12th: This virtual gathering brings together two areas of focus to explore the connection between religious education programs and how a meeting welcomes and includes newcomers. How can meetings prepare to receive newcomers and speak to them about Quakerism and their spiritual needs? Do we share about what is available? Are we



open to new ways to offer religious education that might speak to the needs of seekers? If RE and outreach work hand in hand, what might grow? Click here to register.

Addressing Racism Thread Gathering

April 29th: Learn ways to continue to address racism, hear from Eppchez Yes of Greene Street Monthly Meeting on Noticing, and learn how to make a meaningful difference in your meeting. Click here to register.

Employment Opportunities

Executive Administrator: is a partner with the General Secretary position to ensure the administrative, logistical, and communications functions of the office are effectively managed.

March Continuing Sessions Recap

Friends met on Saturday, March 11 for Spring Continuing Sessions, with gatherings at six meetings across three states. Worship and Meeting for Business were based at Arch Street Meeting House in Philadelphia in the morning with Friends joining on Zoom; the minutes can be accessed here.

The intergenerational afternoon program was an exploration of the current Sessions theme, "Living with our neighbors, growing into beloved community." Friends played "Silent Squares"; access the directions here. Friends also explored the parable of the Good Samaritan. In July, Annual Sessions will return to The College of New Jersey for what will be a blended program, online and onsite. More information will be available soon, with registration opening before June 1.

Youth and Family

Quaker Parent Postlude

April 16th: Quaker Parent Postlude is a space for people who are currently engaged in bringing up children, to come together for worship, reflection, and connection. The focus

of this 30-minute program is to have some quiet time together at the end of Sunday before a new week begins; it will be held in Quaker waiting worship. Register here.



Middle School Friends Spring Overnight

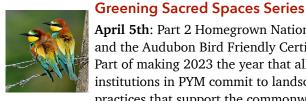
April 22-23rd: Plan ahead! Friends in grades 5 to 8 are invited to join us for a fun-filled overnight at West Chester Friends Meeting. The overnight will include a mix of indoor and outdoor activities, community-building, discussion, and worship-sharing. The cost of the trip is \$20/person. Register here.

Spring Family Overnight

April 29th: Enjoy multigenerational activities for the whole family, dinner together, free time to play, bedtime stories, multigenerational worship on Sunday morning, and a chance for adults to spend time with other parents. And everyone will be home on Sunday in time to prepare for the rest of the week! This year, the overnight is open to all families with children in 8th grade and younger. Registration opens soon; check back here to register.

Concord Quarter & PYM Eco-Justice





April 5th: Part 2 Homegrown National Parks and the Audubon Bird Friendly Certification. Part of making 2023 the year that all Friends' institutions in PYM commit to landscaping practices that support the commonwealth of

life. Members of property committees, cemetery committees, those who care for the landscaping at your site, those who love birds, butterfly and pollinator gardens should consider attending. Click here for the zoom link.



Cropwell Friends Meeting

From Prisoner of War to Pacifist

April 2nd: Quaker pacifist and World War II prisoner of war George Rubin will talk about creating a world without war. George is a member of Medford Meeting, a retired podiatrist, and has served as clerk for New York Yearly Meeting, Medford Meeting, and American Friends Service Committee's New York regional office. You can read his 2015 *Friends Journal* article <u>A Letter from a Warrior here</u>.

Gwynedd Friends Meeting





Virtual JEDI Book Club

March 28–May 23: Gwynedd Friends Meeting JEDI Working Group will be reading and discussing *Tomorrow Will be Different* by Sarah McBride, one of the most prominent transgender activists. Discussions are on alternate Tuesday evenings. Contact Deb Hejl at <u>deb.hejl@gmail.com</u> to register to receive Zoom information.

Central Philadelphia Friends Meeting

April 22nd: Join Friends on Zoom for a FREE presentation by Greg Barnes about his book *The Peace Corp: Early Days*. Greg was among the first Peace Corps Volunteers with Sierra Leone One in 1961 and his memoir is frank in its admission of his own and his country's early naivety about working in the Africa of the 1960s. He says his experience with the Peace Corps is the best teacher he ever had, and, unknowingly at that time, it led to his Quaker faith. <u>Click</u> <u>here for the zoom link</u>.



THE GREATER QUAKER WORLD

Pendle Hill

First Monday Lecture

April 3rd: Pendle Hill's Friend-in-Residence Nim Njuguna shares a framework of personal exploration that has opened his eyes to the broader issues of social justice from a spiritually transformed mindset in his lecture entitled *The River of Life: We Are What We Have Been Becoming.* Click here to register.

A Couple Enrichment Retreat

April 14-16th: This is an in-person weekend program with experienced Couple Enrichment leaders. It is a weekend to explore with other couples patterns of decision-making in a spirit of experiment and curiosity. We will explore how decision-making can affirm our strengths, how conflict is an opportunity to deepen intimacy, and how we can uphold integrity, equality, and peace-making when we consider the questions before us. Costs range from \$500 to \$750 and financial assistance is available. <u>Register here</u>.

Café Darkness: An In-Person Writing Workshop for People of Color

April 16-20th: During this week of dedicated writing, we set writing intentions and work within compassionate community to move toward them. We will share tips and troubleshoot challenges in order to maximize our writing experience. Each day, we set goals, strategize about how to accomplish them, and share the written fruits of our labor. Cost ranges from \$180 (subsidized commuter) to \$775 (standard private room); financial aid is also available. <u>Register here.</u>

Quaker Institute: Beloved Community as Prophetic Witness

April 28–May 1st: An on-campus conference for the gathering of Friends to learn about and practice the art of building beloved community as an act of prophetic witness. Experiential workshops will explore different ways that the Religious Society of Friends is creating cultures of beloved community. This long weekend is a collaboration with a broad range of Friends and Friends' organizations, including the AFSC, FCNL, FGC, PYM, the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative, and other Quaker institutions and retreat centers. Cost ranges from \$250 to \$450; <u>click here to register</u>.

Friends Committee on National Legislation

Presentation and Lunch with New FCNL Head

April 30th: Over its 80 years, FCNL has changed leadership only five times. In 2022, Dr. Bridget Moix became its newest General Secretary. Join Friends for a FREE lunchtime virtual presentation by Bridget, who spent 25 years working on international peace and conflict issues, with a focus on US foreign policy. RSVP to <u>helene.hilger@gmail.com</u> would be appreciated.

Take Action

The 2002 Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq (2002 Iraq AUMF) authorized war against Saddam

Hussein's Iraqi regime. It is unnecessary for ongoing military operations, but as long as it remains on the books, it is vulnerable to abuse by this or any future president. <u>Tell</u> Congress: Repeal the 2002 Iraq War Authorization!

Around the world, climate change is having an immediate and outsized impact on developing countries, many of which lack the financial means to respond effectively. <u>Tell Congress:</u> <u>Global Climate Assistance Helps Both the United States and</u> <u>the World.</u>

American Friends Service Committee



Please check out the links below to stay current with what is happening with AFSC:

20 Years After Iraq, the U.S. Must Change Course

Abolish the Death Penalty Once and for All!

More in U.S. agree: Invest in our communities, not weapons and war

Interested in learning more? Go to afsc.org.

The BlackQuaker Project



The Black Quaker Lives Matter Film

April 8th: *Paul Robeson: Tribute to an Artist* (1978) and *The Proud Valley* (1940) are films celebrating Paul Robeson's 125th Birthday. Registration can be found <u>on their website</u>.

Friends Peace Teams

Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples

April 15th: Learn the real history of our country through the voices of Native people, European colonists, and historians. <u>Register here</u>.

The Indigenous Boarding Schools & Multigenerational Trauma

April 16th: Native American organizations and the U.S. Department of the Interior are asking religious institutions to conduct research on their involvement in the forced assimilation of Native children by operating Indigenous boarding schools. During the 19th and 20th centuries, almost all Christian denominations operated schools whose goals were to "Christianize and civilize the Indians," in other words annihilate Indigenous cultures. Native Americans today continue to suffer harm emanating from these schools. Several denominations, including Quakers, are now conducting research and collaborating with the DoI's investigations. <u>Register here</u>.

Friends Historical Library

Moore Research Fellowship

Applications are now open for a Moore Research Fellowship, which provides a research stipend to promote research that uses the resources of the Friends Historical Library and/or the Swarthmore College Peace Collection. Strong preference will be given to projects that make significant use of resources available only on-site at Swarthmore College. A stipend in the amount of \$1,400 per week, for a minimum of one week and a maximum of four weeks, will be distributed to 2-6 researchers. Deadline for application is April 1, 2023. <u>Apply here</u>.

Friends General Conference

Employment Opportunity

Development Manager: The Development Manager works closely with the Associate Secretary for Development to plan and implement a comprehensive development program. There is strong collaboration with the communications department to ensure clear messaging is shared supporting FGC's mission and vision. There is a strong emphasis on writing and telling the stories of Friends and meetings to share the positive impact of FGC ministries. Interested? <u>Click here to apply</u>.

Emily Provance

The Life Cycle of Meetings

April 4-24th: Many Quaker meetings are changing. A lot of our numbers are smaller. What are some of the ways we might adjust? What does it look like to have faith and cherish our communities while also recognizing that our energy levels are getting low? An upcoming series of conversations explores the life cycles of meetings and offers support and resources for questions rising in meetings.

Watch a video introduction to this work.

Each 90-minute consultation will include a brief presentation, the opportunity to ask questions, and an open conversation with participants. Topics include the following:

- the life cycle of meetings
- simplifying committee structures
- combining/merging meetings
- sharing/repurposing/selling buildings
- restructuring local meetings
- and laying down meetings

More complete information, along with registration information is available <u>at this website</u>.



FRIENDLY SERVICES

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Deck rehab, basement finishing, painting, and door installation are just a few of the services we can provide.

Jonathan W. Frey, an attender at Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting, services the Lehigh Valley and Upper Bucks areas.

> Contact him at: **Phone:** 610-984-5356 **Email:** <u>J.W.Freyllc@hotmail.com</u> **Website:** <u>JWFREY-Remodeling.com</u>

Times Publishing Newspapers, Inc. "Simply Real" News

Times Publishing Newspapers, Inc. distributes to every household and business in Central & Lower Bucks County. We publish 10 different community newspapers the size of a magazine eleven times per year. We are directly-mailed to 129,693 households and businesses.

From the *Fairless Focus* to the *Warwick Journal*, our hyper-local news coverage of each community offers our 324,322 readers a unique blend of information pertaining to their own localities that can't be found anywhere else in print or on the web.

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Blake Parry is a member of Middletown Meeting and **Lisa Parry Becker** is a member of Solebury Meeting. Please contact us to arrange a meeting to review your insurance coverages and discuss how we could assist you to protect your assets.

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