



QUAKERPHERNALIA

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

MARCH 2023

Monthly Meeting News

Dear Friends,

Thank you to everyone who came out to our February Quarterly Meeting, held at Middletown Friends in Langhorne.

And thank you to all the Friends who attended on Zoom and were patient with us as we made our first attempt at a hybrid Quarterly Meeting.

Despite our best efforts (hours of preparation and testing, and more testing) no matter what we tried, the sound quality was not what we had hoped for.

Luckily, many of you have provided us with useful feedback and I will pass this information along to our Friends at Newtown Meeting, who will be hosting our next Quarterly Meeting in May.

I hope to see you there - in person or on Zoom!



Your Coordinator,
Wendy

*"The proof that one truly believes is action."
~ Bayard Rustin*



Bristol

Join Friends for their monthly worship on the 4th Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m.

Buckingham

Friends want to remind you that it's not too soon to mark your calendars for the Peace Fair, scheduled for Saturday, Sept 30.

Doylestown

Doylestown's Fourth Sunday Forum on February 26 will focus on the one year anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Queries include "What are we called to do?" and "How are we living the Peace Testimony in this situation?"

Fallsington

Friends held a potato feast fundraiser for Bolivian Friend, Emma Condori Mamani, to support her work with the Friends Center in La Paz around climate change, education, and providing relief for potato farmers who have been impacted by a lasting drought.

Lehigh Valley

On months with a fifth Sunday, the meeting hold a Faux Frugal Feast Day where they ask Friends to fix themselves a simple meal and then write a check to LVMM that will be donated to the Interfaith Food Pantry on Pennsylvania Avenue in Bethlehem.

Makefield

Friends are in the process of sprucing up their caretaker's cottage located right next to the meetinghouse. They will be advertising for a new caretaker soon!

Middletown

Despite some technical difficulties, Friends were gracious hosts of our February Quarterly Meeting - look at the pictures of the lunch spread they put out!

Newtown

Young Friends have been participating in monthly service projects. Beneficiaries include Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK) and the SPCA.

Plumstead

Friends are waiting for the warm spring weather so that they can start on their meetinghouse repairs.

Quakertown

The meetinghouse is now totally electrified and are being both heated AND cooled! They are also exploring solar panels for their First Day School building.

Solebury

Friends are looking to do some outreach with plans to upgrade their meetinghouse sign and adding content to their website.

Southampton

The meeting had Kevin E. Levin speak after Meeting for Worship on February 5. Kevin is the leader of the Bucks County Anti-Racism Coalition. He spoke about the coalition and its work.

Wrightstown

The meeting has a new outreach sign on their property which reads *Wrightstown Friends Meeting - Join Us for Worship*, with their website listed as well.

Yardley

Friends tried to make the winter fun by celebrating the heart of the season by spending time together and having a good time with a Winter Fest. Friends gathered by the fire inside and out, eating homemade soup and s'mores and other comfort foods. Despite the bitter cold a good time was had by all!

CALENDAR

Feb 28 & Mar 7	5:30 pm	Conscientious Objection: Is It For You	<i>Sponsored by QREC</i>
Mar 1, 6, 8	11:00 am–12:15 pm	Friends Village Senior Planet Workshops	<i>Friends Village Styer Campus</i>
Mar 1	7:00–8:30 pm	Greening Sacred Spaces Series: Part 1	<i>Co-sponsored by EJC & Concord Quarter</i>
Mar 2		Raising Anti-Racist White Children	<i>Sponsored by NY Yearly Meeting</i>
Mar 2	7:30–8:30 pm	Let's Talk with Local Activist Shevone Torres	<i>Sponsored by Moorestown Friends</i>
Mar 5	1:00–5:00 pm	Practicing Discernment	<i>Pendle Hill</i>
Mar 6	7:30–9:00 pm	Building Sanctuary Within to Build Sanctuary for Others	<i>A Pendle Hill First Monday Lecture</i>
Mar 9-30	3:00–4:00 pm	Writing it Out	<i>Friends Village Styer Campus</i>
Mar 11	9:00 am–5:00 pm	PYM Continuing Sessions	<i>In person and on zoom</i>
Mar 12	10:00–11:00 am	Altogether Worship	<i>On Zoom</i>
Mar 12	10:00 am–12:00 pm	What Workers Say	<i>Sponsored by Cropwell Meeting</i>
Mar 12	4:00–6:00 pm	Toward Right Relationship with Native People	<i>Friends Peace Teams</i>
Mar 14	8:00–9:30 pm	The Indigenous Boarding Schools & Multigenerational Trauma	<i>Friends Peace Teams</i>
Mar 14-Apr 18	1:30–2:30 pm	bodyART by Alexa	<i>Friends Village Styer Campus</i>
Mar 15	2:00–4:00 pm	Friends Village Open House	<i>Paxson Campus</i>
Mar 15	7:00–8:30 pm	March Reading Group	<i>PHP #296</i>
Mar 12-19		The Sacred and Eternal Present Moment	<i>A Pendle Hill In-Person Event</i>
Mar 18 & 25	10:00–11:30 am	Hope Leans Forward	<i>A Pendle Hill On-Line Series</i>
Mar 19	9:00–9:30 pm	Quaker Parent Postlude	<i>Sponsored by PYM</i>
Mar 23	5:00–7:00 pm	Spring Kickoff: Penman of the Revolution	<i>Arch Street Meetinghouse</i>
Mar 23-26		FWCC Americas 2023 Section Meeting	Register for in person by Feb 26
Mar 25-28		FCNL Spring Lobby Weekend	<i>Washington D.C. or on-line</i>
ONGOING EVENTS			
Mar 4	9:30 am–3:00 pm	PYM Extended Worship	<i>Virtual Only</i>
Mar 23	4:00–5:00 pm	FCNL Advocacy Teams	Email emcrofts@gmail.com for link
Every Sunday	3:00–4:00 pm	Southampton Meeting Vigil for Justice	<i>Southampton Friends Meeting</i>
LOOKING AHEAD			
Apr 22-23		Middle School Friends Spring Gathering	<i>West Chester Friends Meeting</i>
Apr 29	11:00 am–3:00 pm	Picnic in the Garden	<i>Friends Village Styer Campus</i>
April 29	10:00 am–3:00 pm	Anti-Racism Thread Gathering	<i>Registration is open!</i>
May 5-7		Caln Quarter Gathering at Camp Swatara	<i>Sponsored by Caln Quarter</i>
May 21	9:30 am–3:00 pm	May Quarterly Meeting	<i>Newtown Friends Meeting</i>
Jul 2-8		2023 FGC Gathering	<i>Listen So That We May Live</i>

February Quarter Meeting

Mercer Street Friends

Bucks Quarter Quakers have been supporting Mercer Street Friends, a social service organization in Mercer County that focuses on food, family and education for those in need, since its founding in 1958. Many Meetings collect food for their food bank, and even more collect hats and mittens during the holidays for their preschool.



Since 2015, Mercer Street Friends has been the lead agency for the Community Schools initiative in the Trenton School District. What is a Community School? It's a public elementary or secondary school that uses established partnerships between schools and community organizations to provide well-rounded educational opportunities to meet the social, emotional, physical and mental health, and academic needs of students.

Community Schools are viewed as a strategy for organizing the resources of the community around student success.

The MSF Community School program has three partner schools:

- Luis Munoz Rivera Community Elementary School
- B.C. Gregory Elementary School
- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School

The Director of Community Schools, Bernadette Trapp, explained that the overall goal of the community school model is to eliminate all economic barriers to learning so the school can concentrate on teaching and the students can concentrate on learning.

To that end, Bernadette is initiating a clothing drive for the students in all three schools. Why clothing? Because reducing absenteeism is a priority, and they have discerned that having appropriate clothing to wear can help reduce this rate.

This project was presented to Quarterly Meeting and Friends enthusiastically approved moving forward. The details are being worked out, and your Meeting's Clerk will provide them to you in the very near future.

Mercer Street Friends has been going strong for 64 years. Their mission of nourishing minds and bodies; empowering families and communities resonates throughout our Quaker community. Let's continue to show our support.

The following Letter of Support was presented by Middletown Meeting:

Within the context of recent public comments regarding the Rainbow Room and the more general struggle of gay and gender rights in our community, we feel compelled to stand and speak out.

As Quakers we believe that regardless of race, faith, gender, economic status, sexual orientation or political affiliation, all of us are entitled to be treated with basic human dignity. We believe that this respect for the individual is an integral part of how we should treat one another as a society. We are not unique in this belief. Nearly all religious groups share this basic understanding. But beliefs are the easy part. For individuals, regardless of faith identity, the struggle with how to incorporate social change into our lives is part of a greater collective effort toward the ongoing process of making our country a more perfect union.

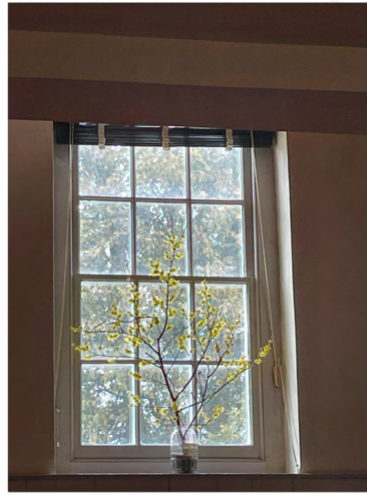
We sometimes need reminding that our nation is a work in progress, a kind of work that will never be done. This requires that each of us look inside to what Quakers refer to as the light within; that of God in every person. Martin Luther King wrote in his book, *The Strength To Love*, that, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."

The inconvenient truth about humans is that even the very best of us are imperfect and ill-informed about so many things. Implementing an effective response to change in ourselves and in society at large requires that we take responsibility for our learning in the search for understanding. We must give both time and consideration to all those impacted. It also requires that we not be led down a path of indifference, intolerance, anger, or fear. Such emotions which visit us all, must be set aside. We must be patient with ourselves and respect the process of learning. In the end, foundational change requires the desire of individuals, and the collective willpower of organizations.

Organizations and institutions may be imperfect vehicles used by society to power collective change, but they are the only effective tools a civilized society has when confronted by intolerance, darkness and hate. In its ongoing support of such organizations, the members of Middletown Friends Meeting in Langhorne stand with the Rainbow Room, a center for LGBTQ+ youth and its director, Marlene Pray. For over 20 years, this group has provided a safe place where young people ages 14-21 can gather and find support. The Rainbow Room, its staff and the many others who hold up this organization, deserve the basic respect that other individuals and groups in our county and state receive.



A Joyful Celebration of Friends • Quarterly Meeting • February 19, 2023



Fun



Flowers



Fellowship



Friends



Food

Writing it Out

March 9th–30th: This four-week workshop will explore various modes of writing—including, but not limited to, journaling, fiction, non-fiction, and poetry—as diverse approaches to the mining of our personal experience. The workshop will be facilitated by author and teacher, Terry Culleton. Suggested donation is \$25; [click here to register](#).

bodyART by Alexa

March 14-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; [click here to register](#).

Open House

March 15th: Friends Village is holding an open house on the Paxson campus, 50 South Congress Street in Newtown, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. [Click here to RSVP](#).

Senior Planet

March 1st: Google Photos: This hands-on workshop explores some of the basic features of the Google Photos app and will walk you through the steps of backing up your photos on your smartphone or mobile device to Google Photos. You'll also learn how to create an album and share it.

March 6th: eBay and PayPal: At this lecture you'll learn the basics of buying and selling on eBay, as well as some important concepts, like seller feedback scores. We'll also present a basic overview of some of PayPal's most popular features.

March 8th: P2P Payments: In this lecture, you'll learn about some of today's most popular person-to-person payment services, including PayPal, Venmo, and CashApp. We'll cover some of the basic functions of these services, how they compare, and tips for using them safely.

[Register here for any Senior Planet Workshop](#)

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.



99 Barclay Street • Newtown PA 18940

In Memoriam



Yardley Meting
Graham Leonard
Lehigh Valley Meeting
Sally Alley

AROUND PYM

PYM Sponsored Events



Extended Worship

March 4th: 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.

Youth and Family

Quaker Parent Postlude

March 19th: 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 22-23: 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](#).

Employment Opportunities

Director of Individual Giving: will build a sustainable culture of philanthropy at PYM as well as conceptualize, organize, and implement a comprehensive and strategic fundraising program that is metrics driven

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

Concord Quarter & PYM Eco-Justice

Greening Sacred Spaces - Part 1

March 1: Get an orientation to which of three certifications to protect and preserve the living things in your local habitat is right for your property. Learn about eco-friendly landscaping policies & why they matter and The National Wildlife Federation Certification. [Click here for the registration link.](#)

Moorestown Friends

Let's Talk with Local Activist Shevone Torres

March 2nd: Shevone Torres, an anti-racist and community-builder based in Maple Shade, is the founder of [Imperfect Village](#), and a prominent voice in BLM NJ. Shevone will speak specifically to work she's doing – and we can join – to ensure New Jersey continually improves the safety, equity and effectiveness of its policing, justice and carceral systems. [Access the zoom link here.](#)

Cropwell Friends Meeting

What Workers Say

March 12th: Join the conversation with University of Pennsylvania Associate Professor Roberta Iversen and learn about the challenges of today's labor market. Dr. Iversen is the author of the new book *What Workers Say: Decades of Struggle and How to Make Real Opportunity Now*. This is an in-person only event.

810 S Cropwell Rd • Marlton, NJ 08053

Arch Street Meeting House



Annual Spring Kickoff: Penman of the Revolution

March 23rd: The annual William Penn Lecture is back and better than ever! The evening includes a cocktail hour and presentation by John Dickinson, portrayed by friend of Arch Street Meeting House Preservation Trust, Doug Thomas. Cost is \$25 and RSVP is required by March 13th; [register here.](#)

PYM Spring Continuing Sessions: Living with our Neighbors, Growing into Beloved Community

In the past, local meetings hosting the day created an opportunity for intervisitation and bringing Friends together in parts of our community that they may not have experienced before. This year, we are thrilled to return to this tradition...but with a twist! This year we will have 6 regional gatherings for you to gather with Friends and neighbors.

[Click here to register](#)

Saturday, March 11 Morning: Hybrid Meeting for Business

8:30-9:00 am Refreshments and registration for those at Arch Street
8:30-9:00 am Online coffee/tea and fellowship for those attending the morning on Zoom
9:00-12:30 pm Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Saturday, March 11 Afternoon: Intergenerational, in-person, gatherings for fellowship and worship!

You may choose to attend at any of the regional locations. This is a program for ALL ages together.

Lehigh Valley • Harrisburg • Mickleton • Third Haven • Kennett • Arch Street Meeting House

1:00-2:00 Potluck Potato Bar Lunch. PYM will provide the potatoes and salad
Friends are encouraged to bring a topping to share
2:15-3:00 "Can I be a Friend who walks alongside you?" Story and Discussion
3:00-4:00 Activity and Fellowship
4:00-4:30 Worship Sharing
4:30-5:00 Reflection and Farewell — until Annual Sessions!

Sunday, March 12 Morning: All Together Worship

10:00-11:00 A new tradition on the Sunday of our Sessions gatherings!
Friends come together from across the geography of our Yearly Meeting on Zoom for an intergenerational, cross-state meeting for worship from their meetinghouses and homes.





Practicing Discernment

March 5th: An afternoon on-campus workshop with Marcelle Martin. This workshop is an opportunity to explore and practice skills that are useful for personal discernment, spiritual friendships, clearness committees, and faithfulness groups. Cost ranges from \$80 to \$120; [register here](#).

First Monday Lecture

March 6th: This month's topic is Building Sanctuary Within to Build Sanctuary for Others. Presented by Blanca Pacheco, a passionate community organizer, single mother, and community leader with over 15 years of experience organizing with immigrant communities in Philadelphia, who will reflect on her journey as a community organizer and share the current work of the New Sanctuary Movement. [Register here](#).

The Sacred and Eternal Present Moment

March 12-19th: A Seven-Day Mindfulness meditation retreat on campus. This silent retreat will have periods of sitting and walking meditation, yoga practice, opportunities to talk with a teacher, and formal presentations. It is suitable for both beginners and experienced students and for people of all faith traditions. Cost ranges from \$600 to \$1260 and financial aid is available. [Register here](#).

March Reading Group

March 15th: In concert with Pendle Hill podcast "The Seed"'s focus on integrity, they will be reading the classic pamphlet [The Testimony of Integrity in the Religious Society of Friends](#) (PHP #296) by Wilmer Cooper. The discussion will be facilitated by Janaki Spickard Keeler who serves the yearly meeting as Coordinator of the Friends Counseling Service. [Register here](#).

Hope Leans Forward

March 18th & 25th: Based on Valerie Brown's latest book, [Hope Leans Forward: Braving Your Way toward Simplicity, Awakening, and Peace](#), this course will cover skill-building, evidence-based mindfulness practice, and soul-amplifying questions grounded in Quaker faith and practice that go to the heart of discerning your life purpose, meaning, and direction and supporting you to live your best self now. Cost is \$45; [register here](#).



Spring Lobby Weekend

March 25-28th: In March 2023, hundreds of young adults will gather again for Spring Lobby Weekend – our young adult advocacy conference and day of action. This year, we'll be lobbying Congress for justice reform. We know that our strength comes from the stories we tell and the community we build, so we hope that you will join us in Washington, D.C. or online—to advocate for change! [Register here](#).



Emergency Response for Turkey and Syria

On February 6, an earthquake struck, leaving millions in Turkey and Syria facing severe weather conditions without adequate shelter, food, or water. Plans are underway to deliver emergency kits with essentials such as tents, blankets, electric heaters, hygiene items, and more. [Click here to donate](#).

Strategic Goals

AFSC focuses on three strategic program goals and uses four core methodologies; the goals are Just and Sustainable Peace, Just Economics, and Just Response to Forced Displacement and Migration. [Click here to read their 2020-2030 Strategic Plan](#).

The BlackQuaker Project

The Black Quaker Lives Matter Film Festival & Forum

March 4–April 8th: a groundbreaking exploration of Black Friends who made a difference throughout both USA and world history. From February 4th to April 8th we will hold free screenings, dedicated to Quakers of Color, every other Saturday at 1:00 pm Eastern Time over Zoom Webinar. The schedule and registration can be found [on their website](#).

Quaker Religious Education Collaborative

Conscientious Objection: Is It For You?

February 28th & March 7th: A two-part online workshop for young Friends ages 15-25. Offered by Baltimore Yearly Meeting, we will invite realistic consideration of a) what the U.S. military's ultimate function and command systems are, b) how the U.S. Selective Service System seeks to quickly transform ordinary young people into lethal fighters, and c) how one can seek conscientious objector (CO) status and alternate service. The March workshop will invite participants: a) to write down (in advance) and share your thoughts about the three requirements for CO status. [Register here](#).

New York Yearly Meeting

Raising Anti-Racist White Children

March 2nd-26th: a 4-week online, live interactive workshop for parents, educators and community members on Thursdays. We offer information and guidance on how to prepare white children in our increasingly multiracial society. The workshop encourages the development of an anti-racist outlook in *all* children, and focuses on the particular experience of raising white children. This is a popular workshop and there is a waitlist - [click here to be put on the waitlist](#).

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