



Meetings for Worship

**Plymouth
Monthly
Meeting
Newsletter**

First Day Plain worship, no Zoom, 10-11
 First Day Meeting blended worship: 11:15 am
Fourth Day Meeting: 7:00 pm (blended)
 Address: 2150 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462
office@plymouthmeetingquakers.org

April 2024

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

April 2024

Sun	April 14	6:00 pm	Worship and Ministry
Tues	April 16	4:30 pm	Land Acknowledgement Committee
Sat	April 27	7:00 – 9:30 pm	Lighthouse Coffeehouse at Abington (see attachment)
Sun	April 21	9:00 am	Meeting for Business (blended)
Sun	April 28	After Meeting	Friendly Fourth and Music Circle – all are welcome
Sun	April 28	2:00 pm	Combatants for Peace March, Chestnut Hill

May 2024

Sun	May 5	9:00 am	Quarterly Meeting at Gwynedd
Sun	May 5	After Meeting	Spiritual Nurture Discussion
Tues	May 7	7:00 pm	Care & Concern
Sun	May 12	6:00 pm	Worship and Ministry
Tues	May 14	4:30 pm	Land Acknowledgement Committee
Sun	May 19	9:00 am	Meeting for Business
Sun	May 26	After Meeting	Friendly Fourth and Music Circle – all are welcome
Fri	May 31	8:00am-12:00 pm	Help PMFS Kindergarten families prep for Strawberry Festival

- All First Day Meetings for Worship will begin at 10:00 (Plain worship, no Zoom) and 11:15 am (blended worship). Masks are not required but we will continue to social distance. Wednesday evening Meeting for Worship begins at 7:00pm and will be held via Zoom as well as *in person in the Meetinghouse (blended)*.
- PMM Zoom information always available at office@plymouthmeetingquakers.org

Queries for April

Witnessing in the World: Education

- What does our meeting do to support and improve public education?
 - What help do we provide for the children and adults in our meeting to pursue their educational goals?
 - What is our meeting's role in support for Friends' education? If our meeting is connected to a Friends school or schools, does this relationship nurture spiritual life and the manifestation of Friends principles?
 - Do we enable children in our meeting to attend a Friends school? Does our meeting work with the family to consider all available means of support?
- *How do I show my concern for the improvement of public education in my community?*
- *Do I demonstrate my encouragement and support for Friends education through awareness and service?*

News from the Meeting

Get involved with the Quarter's Communication Committee

We are seeking people who are willing to represent Plymouth at the Communication's Committee's outreach meetings twice monthly (via Zoom). Participants brainstorm ideas, bring them back to their Meetings, present them and work with people who wish to guide the ideas that take hold into existence. For example, the group has been discussing specific ideas to bring more people to Meetings, but these ideas need to be communicated to various Plymouth committees and then put into action.

Spiritual Nurture Discussion

Quakers, or "Friends," hold before themselves three central challenges: to listen to the Spirit, to love God and neighbor, and to risk whatever is necessary so to do. -- Douglas Steere 1984 --



On the first Firstday (Sunday) of each month after worship, friends gather in the Annie H Wilson room to share in a discussion of the many aspects of experiencing God's spirit. It is challenging to notice the breath of the Spirit as it brushes your cheek and then put words to the experience. And yet, as we turn our attention to the spiritual dimension of our lives our inner ear sharpens. When we strive to put words to what is heard and felt and then share with friends, we grow in our understanding and deepen the love for one another in our faith community.

This is a time of personal reflection and learning from one another as we listen with an open and respectful heart. Come as you can and in doing so, we grow together as a Meeting of diverse and loving members who know and care for one another.

PMM Right Relationship with Indigenous Peoples Working Group

Our annual Palm Sunday and Easter donation this year was sent to CALIFORNIA HERITAGE: Indigenous Research Project to help reestablish a landbase for the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe.

Santa Cruz Friends Meeting put out the call for help to all Quaker Meetings in the U.S. to participate spiritually and financially in an historic Quaker moment: Homeland Return of the Sierra Friends Center (Woolman) to the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe. The land that Sierra Friends Center has operated from is the site of an ancestral Nisenan village called Yulića. These 232 acres, as well as the surrounding land known as “Nevada City, California”, were taken from Indigenous peoples during the Gold Rush and sold to settlers who were colonizing the area. In 1887, Tribal Chief Charley Cully obtained a land allotment of 75 acres, located on Cement Hill, about 1.5 miles from downtown Nevada City, to be put into trust of the Nisenan Tribe. In 1913, this tribal land was converted into the Nevada City Rancheria by Executive Order of President Woodrow Wilson. Through this order, the Tribe, though living in extreme poverty, was also granted federal recognition as a Native American reservation and the right to self-govern. Then, following the U.S. Congressional enactment of the Rancheria Act of 1958, which disbanded the Rancheria System in California, the United States illegally “terminated” the Nevada City Rancheria in 1964, revoking individual rights and status afforded to “Indians.” The U.S government sold the reservation land at auction and left the Nisenan homeless.

A group of Quakers purchased the land in the 1960s for the Woolman School educational programs. The Woolman school closed in 2016 after several attempts to continue without finding a financially viable program, then enduring both Covid and forest fire setbacks to reopening. The board of trustees has entered into a purchase agreement with the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe through the Tribally-led California nonprofit, [California Heritage: Indigenous Research Program \(CHIRP\)](https://chirpca.org). The Tribe has not had land since 1964 when the Federal Government illegally terminated the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe and sold their reservation at auction. **This is the Tribe’s best opportunity to re-establish a tribal homeland and may support their efforts toward Federal re-recognition.**

Our donations were matched 1 for 1 by a generous donor when they were received. The overall fundraising goal is \$2.4 million; includes the purchase price, government-mandated improvements, and an operating endowment. First phase of this effort is to raise \$1.5 million by April 4, 2024. As of April 2 \$1,389,700 has been raised.

If you wish to add a donation or learn more use the link below.

<https://chirpca.org/homelandreturn>



News from School

Mark Your Calendars – Strawberry Festival June 1

As summer approaches, it's time for Strawberry Festival, Plymouth Meeting Friends School's annual festival. Vendor booths are available. PMM members, PMFS alums and former PMFS staff are being offered a reduced vendor fee of \$15.



The families of kindergarteners will be **preparing the strawberries on the Friday before (May 31)** and members of Meeting are encouraged to join them on Friday, May 31 in the Annie H Wilson room between 8am and 12pm. If hullers can bring their own knives and a cutting board, that would be helpful (but not necessary). Anyone who would like to know more about either renting a booth or helping with strawberries (or both) is encouraged to email Erin.schmitt.pca@gmail.com.

PMFS Students put together Cold Blue Packages

When the wind chill or temperature goes below 32 degrees, a Code Blue is called. Church on the Mall offers dinner, breakfast and a safe place for the night to those who are unhoused, all coordinated by volunteers. Some of our adult members have frequently volunteered over this past winter. It's been a community effort with various groups volunteering

At the end of February, with some help from adult members of Meeting, our children packed thirty-six care bags for the unhoused who would spend the night at Church of the Mall. Each care bag contained water, tissues, apple sauce with a spoon, a granola bar, nuts, peanut butter crackers and an encouraging note written by our children. The children discussed the testimony of Equality and the meaning of equity before packing the bags. The needs of others offered an opportunity to put into practice the act of caring and sharing.



Spread the Word – PMFS Seedlings Camp

If you know any parents of any 3-7 year-old children who are looking for an summer day camp, please pass the word that registration for PMFS Seedlings Camp is now open. Camp runs weekdays from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm from June 13 – August 16. Info: seedlingscamp@pmfs1780.org

News from the Quarter

Lighthouse Coffeehouse at Abington Meetinghouse

April 27, 7:00 – 9:30pm (doors open at 6:00pm)

On Saturday, April 27, seven singer/songwriters will be appearing at a concert to benefit the Handicapped Accessibility project at Abington. (For more details, see the attached flyer)

“Sundays at Seven” Informal Discussion of Quakerism Abington Monthly Meeting

Do you know anyone who is interested in exploring Quakerism? If so, let them know that Abington MM will be presenting 7 formal evening discussions about topics such as *Introduction to Quaker Faith and Practice*, *Meeting for Worship*, *Meeting for Business*, *Faith Into Action*, *Peace Testimony*, *Simplicity* and other topics. (For more details, see the attached flyer)

Abington Quarterly Meeting May 5 at Gwynedd

On Sunday, May 5, 2024, Abington Quarterly Meeting convenes at Gwynedd Friends Meeting beginning at 8:15 AM with coffee and bagels. Business meeting begins at 8:30am. Meeting for Worship will run at 9:30am, with additional business meeting following as required. The Adult Education program will include a presentation from the Ujima Friends Peace Center. For those who are unaware, Ujima Friends Peace Center is an African centered worshipping Quaker community in North Philadelphia. The work of the Ujima Friends Peace Center is to reduce violence and provide a safe haven with educational, cultural and recreational opportunities for adults and young people. The Community identifies as a Quaker community of faith without borders. The presentation will be followed by a community pot-luck luncheon.

News from PYM

Home Repair Grants for Montgomery County Residents Application period closes April 12

Representative Greg Scott sent out the following information:

Last week, Montgomery County officially launched the Whole Home Repairs Program (WHRP). WHRP focuses on essential enhancements, aiming to provide significant, life-improving changes to residents' living spaces.

This program is administered by the Montgomery County Commissioners and their department of Health and Human Services. It opened on February 22, 2024, for individuals to submit applications. People may visit my website www.RepGregScott.com/Housing or the County's [the WHRP website](#) to learn more. The WHRP aims to provide eligible Homeowners in Montco with grants of up to \$50,000 per owner-occupied unit to address habitability and safety concerns. The [application](#) period will be open for an initial 50-day period; **closing April 12, 2024**. To be eligible, applicants must own and live in a home needing repairs in Montgomery County, and the **household income must not exceed 80% of the Area Median Income based on household size**.

Friends General Conference 2024 Gathering: “Rooted in Story”

Save the Date: June 30th – July 6th at Haverford College

The Gathering is a week of Quaker worship, workshops, and community for all ages. Friends come together from across the US and Canada (and sometimes further) to deepen our connection to one another and the Spirit. Gathering attenders range from newborns to elders in their 90s, and include both long-time Friends (mostly from the unprogrammed, liberal tradition), and those newer to Quakerism. In structure, it's part conference and part family camp. In content, it provides an abundance of opportunities to learn about Quakerism and to foster your spiritual life – and to have fun together. Find out more, including registration information at <https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcprograms/the-gathering/>

To scan the workshops being offered, use:
<https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcprograms/the-gathering/programs-and-events/workshops/>

Evening Programs

- Monday July 1st Ayesha Imani “I live by faith.” (Galatians 2:20): The search of a Black Christian Quaker toward freedom.
- Tuesday July 2nd: Jonathan Kuttab Seeking Peace and Justice After Gaza: Is a Two State Solution Still Possible?
- Wed July 3rd Bianca van Heydoorn The Value of Multiple Stories
- Thursday 4th: Tom Kunesh sounds of (friends) silence: quaker tales of the dakota intifada of 1862
- Friday July 5th: Emma’s Revolution Concert

2024 FGC Gathering Schedule

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	June 30	July 1	July 2	July 3	July 4	July 5	July 6
7 - 8:30am		BREAKFAST					
		Meetings for Worship / Movement Opportunities / Bible Half Hour					
8:30am - noon	High School Staff and Junior Gathering Staff Training	JUNIOR GATHERING 8:45 - 12:00					
		WEEK-LONG WORKSHOPS 9:00 - 11:45					Closing Worship 9am
11:30am - 1:30pm		LUNCH					
1:30 - 5:30pm	Pre-Gathering Retreats, cont.	AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES Center Activities / Singing / Meetings for Worship / Naps / Field Trip / Presentations / Spontaneous Events		Wednesday Rest and Refreshment	AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES Center Activities / Singing / Meetings for Worship / Naps / Field Trip / Presentations / Spontaneous Events		
5 - 7pm	CHECK IN Gathering Begins!	DINNER					
		JUNIOR GATHERING 6:45 - 9:00 (except Friday)					
7 - 9pm	All-Gathering Worship & Welcome	Evening Plenary	Evening Plenary	Evening Plenary	Evening Plenary	Evening Plenary	
9:15pm on		Dancing / Films / Late Night Activities					