



Plymouth Monthly Meeting Newsletter

Meetings for Worship

First Day Meeting: 11:15 am
 First Day School: 11:30 am
Fourth Day Meeting: 7:00 pm
 Fifth Day Meeting with PMFS:
 8:45 am

Address: 2150 Butler Pike,
 Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

Second Month, 2020

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Feb 2020

Sun	Feb 9	9:30 am	Worship & Ministry
Sun	Feb 9	After Meeting	Quaker Speak (see article)
Fri	Feb 14	7:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Cornerstone Café - Valentine's Night Out 🎵🎵🎵🎵
Sun	Feb 23	After meeting	Friendly 4 th potluck luncheon – all are welcome
Sun	Feb 23	2:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Music Circle 🎵🎵🎵🎵
Th	Feb 27		5 th graders heading to Mexico for exchange program

March 2020

Sun	Mar 1	After meeting	Care & Concern at the Meetinghouse
Sun	Mar 8	9:30 am	Worship & Ministry
Fri	Mar 13	7:30 pm	Cornerstone Café - Ed McKendry, guitarist & singer
Sun	Mar 15	9:00 am	Meeting for Business
Sat	Mar 21	9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Workday at the Meetinghouse
Sun	Mar 22	After Meeting	Friendly 4 th potluck luncheon – all are welcome
Sun	Mar 22	2:00 – 4:00 pm	Music Circle 🎵🎵🎵🎵
Sat	Mar 28	5:30 pm	Annual Party

Reminder: 4th Day Meeting for Worship, every week (Wed) at 7 pm

Queries

Nurturing Our Community: Stewardship of Resources

- How does our meeting accommodate ecological, economic and social justice in its uses of property and money?
- Does our meeting engage its members in supporting the meeting's work, its ministry and the upkeep of its property?
- Does our meeting encourage its members to support with their time, energy and finances the quarterly and yearly meetings and other Quaker organizations?
- To what extent does our meeting rely on current members and attenders for financial support and to what extent on other sources?
- *How do I demonstrate in my own decision making a concern for ecological, economic and social justice?*
- *How do I simplify my needs, making choices that balance self-sufficiency and fair sharing of resources?*
- *Do I balance my work-life and other activities with the time and energy needed for my spiritual growth and service?*
- *Do I contribute to the work of Friends in my meeting, in the quarterly and yearly meetings and in the wider world of Friends?*

Quaker Speak Beginning Feb 9th

Quaker Speak discussions – Beginning February 9th after Meeting for Worship

On the second Firstday (Sunday) of the months February, March, April and May a Quaker Speak video will be shown in the Annie H Wilson room after Meeting for Worship. A discussion of the video will follow its showing. Bring a simple lunch or sandwich. Desert, fruit, and drink will be provided.

QuakerSpeak is a weekly video series on the YouTube channel. Friends of all different backgrounds (and types of Quakerism) are interviewed and asked core questions of our faith. QuakerSpeak interviews are personal and intimate. QuakerSpeak seeks to give viewers worldwide an experience that is entertaining, informative, inspiring, challenging, inviting, unifying and collaborative. New videos come out every Thursday. <https://quakerspeak.com>

Our first discussion on **February 9th** will be in response to the QuakerSpeak video: What do Quakers do in Silent Worship? Come and listen to what those on the video have to say about worship and then share with us as we consider how we as individuals here at Plymouth enter into and open ourselves to worship together. Additional resource for this topic is the Pendle Hill

pamphlet – Four Doors to Meeting for Worship, Bill Tabor. Copies will be made available in the Meeting House.

You do not need to wait for our Firstday discussions to explore QuakerSpeak. Set aside some time during the week and explore topics of interest for you. Some examples of collections of videos are: Videos for Newcomers, Quaker Beliefs and Theology, Quaker Activism, Quaker History, Quaker Practice, Quaker Ministry. Each of these collections has many videos in them. New videos come out each week. If you find the videos of use to you consider making a donation on line to help the QuakerSpeak staff continue to travel and interview Friends. Homework for the Quaker Speak discussion on March 8th. Bring a favorite QuakerSpeak video you would like to share. Like our music circles we will go around and view several videos on that day.

Mark your Calendars



Annual Party March 28

In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of PMFS Mexican Exchange program, we're making this year's annual party a *fiesta* featuring Mexican décor and food.

Watch your mail for an invitation.

Workdays = Fundays

A Quaker Meeting is a place that exists only because people want it to. We choose to come together for our meetings of worship. The blessings of these gatherings are dependent on the people who attend. There are those who deepen the gathering by their silent prayer, those who offer vocal ministry and those who nurture our children into an understanding of this way of faith. There are those who this is the way they have worshiped all their life and those who are dipping their toe in for the first time. As we close meeting we know inwardly that everyone was an important part of our worship.

Like our meetings for worship, members and attenders of our Monthly Meeting offer their gifts in many ways to care for our Meeting Community and the building and grounds that are the vessel for our gatherings. Some of the work is done by committees and some occurs by simply gathering to address a concern or project. Without the generous work of members and attenders the care of our Meeting simply would not get done.

Two opportunities to help with the care of our building and grounds.

House committee has scheduled a March 21st workday to clean the Meeting house and the Annie H Wilson room. Our Meeting needs a spring-cleaning top to bottom; floors, walls, windows, benches..... We will be cleaning from **9 to 12 on Saturday March 21st**. Come, lend a hand and meet someone new. Questions about what to bring – call Ralph Henninger 215-285-6479

Regular Property Committee Saturday morning workdays began with the restoration of the Meeting House from the termite infestation. The major restoration work is now done. We are now turning to the routine chores and projects required for maintaining our Meeting buildings and grounds. There are indoor chores and as the weather warms outdoor chores. No special experience or skills are needed. If you would like to help, please notify David Miller. He will put you on the weekly email which alerts participants of work being considered for the weekend. The email also will cancel a workday if the buildings or grounds are not available for the work to be done or other reasons such as deciding to have a weekend off. Periodically the buildings or grounds are being used for other activities on Saturday morning. Please feel welcome to participate occasionally or as much as you want. We have found the Saturday opportunities a great way to get to know one another. -David Miller 484 804 3668 d.j.miller@verizon.net

Status of repayment of construction project loan

Remaining balance due as of the end of December 2019 = \$72,467.17

Please continue to make regular donations specifically designated for the construction project loan.

Make checks payable to **Plymouth Monthly Meeting**
To the attention of the **Construction Project Loan**

Send Donations to:

Linda White – Treasure PMM
519 Fort Washington Avenue
Fort Washington, PA 19034

MORE MUSIC!



We encourage Friends to attend the music circles and the Cornerstone Café performances. The warmth of new friends and wonderful music has been bringing much joy to those of us who have been going to them during the last couple of years. Whether you listen and sing along or play an instrument, it is always a wonderful experience. Free will donations from these events have been going to help defray our termite reconstruction costs.

CORNERSTONE CAFÉ SCHEDULE:

Friday, February 14 is our Valentine's Night Out featuring guitarist/pianist Albert Bien accompanied by his wife Clara.

Friday, March 22 we have Ed McKendry, a wonderful guitarist and singer.

Friday, April 10 is Good Friday so NO CAFÉ.

Friday, May 8 is our final coffeehouse this season featuring Colton Wetherston.

The Worm Project

Combating World Hunger through parasite removal

Over 800 million children are at risk of infection with parasitic worms. Children infected with parasitic worms are physically, nutritionally and cognitively impaired. The solution is simple: a single tablet costing just a few cents can treat a child infected with parasitic worms. The medication is called albendazol, a miracle drug that kills parasitic worms safely and effectively. The recommended treatment is one tablet every six months, and a low cost generic is available.

What is The Worm Project? The Worm Project purchases this de-worming medicine in large quantities (millions of tables) at heavily discounted prices to treat children infected with parasitic worms in many of the poorest countries around the world. Each dollar donated will treat rough 40 children for parasitic worms

- Each de-worming tablet costs a few pennies
- One of the most cost effective ways to impact the health of children
- Extremely cost efficient organization with expenses less than 5% of total donations

More information at wormproject.org

Save your used stamps and help families halfway around the world

Dave Miller writes:

It's a simple thing to do and fun for the children. When you open your mail and before you recycle the envelope cut out the stamp and save them. The used stamp will enable a micro loan halfway around the world. Really it can!

Right Sharing of World Resources (RSWR) is an independent Quaker not-for-profit organization sharing the abundance of God's love by working for equity through partnerships around the world. This is one of the organizations that our Monthly Meeting annual donations goes to. News letter is on the bulletin board in the Annie H Wilson room. Since 1996, the Quaker Missions Stamp Project has collected and sold used postage stamps and used the proceeds to fund Quaker organizations like RSWR. Over \$11,000 has been raised for Right Sharing through the Quaker Missions Stamp Project. <https://www.rswr.org/about-us>

An example of the projects that RSWR have initiated: Rural Initiative for Community Empowerment (RiCE) Southern Province of Sierra Leone. RiCE is a cooperative founded by members in Sierra Leone who wanted to improve their local communities. The region where this project is located was devastated by the Ebola epidemic, and the main goal of this project

was to assist women to start businesses in order to eradicate hunger and poverty. The group received a RSWR grant in 2018. In the one-year report in July 2019, the group detailed its successes. The 40 initial beneficiaries all received a loan from the RSWR grant of \$83 to grow rice, cassava, and ground nuts. Funds have since been revolved to 20 additional women for initial loans. Since starting their businesses, the women's average monthly income has risen from \$33 to \$85. In addition, each woman is saving around \$3 per month, and most have already saved almost \$40 to date.

Think what an investment of \$1,660 (20 x \$83) has done for the people of the Sierra Leone region. And the initial money continues to improve the lives of these families as it is revolved onto the next 20 women and then the next.....

Keep an eye out as you sort your mail. The majority of mail now has no stamp on it on a printed postage paid mark. But several times a week a stamp will be affixed to the envelope. Snip it out and place it in the Green Stamp Box in the Meeting House (by the Meeting House door to the Annie H Wilson room).

For USA and Canada stamps: Cut the stamp(s) off the envelope or postcard. Leave the perforations on the stamps. Leave 1/4 inch to 1/8 inch around the stamp so the whole stamp is preserved, including the perforations. When there is more than one stamp, treat the group as a unit.

Foreign stamps (excluding Canada): These may be left on the postcard or envelope, especially if the envelope has some special drawing or indication of the country. There are collectors who like to receive a whole envelope or postcard with a foreign stamp.

AQM Annual Report

Abington Quarterly Meeting – State of the Meeting Report- Calendar Year 2019

Friends in Abington Quarter have consistently affirmed their faith. They have carried an energy that moves as witness through the transforming power of community. Again in 2019, we have extended our reach, seeking ever-wider compassionate space. Our sensibilities are continually drawn to paying attention: to work through discernment, to rest in prayer and then to work again. With the intention of supporting diversity of spiritual growth in a unified community, worship and ministry opens ways for keeping a living faith among us: reconfiguring children's FDS at Abington and Gwynedd, introducing music as worship at Plymouth and Abington. Bible study, readings and spiritual nurture groups are cradling richness across all our Meetings. Space has opened for centering and worship in gratifying ways. Mid-week worship bridges time constraints. Focused worship has taken Friends to meetings for healing at Gwynedd and Plymouth. A Contemplative Saturday retreat at Plymouth added tangibility to spiritual practices. At Abington, a women's meeting for worship is attending to diverse needs. In Meetings with fewer participants, Friends continue to support each other in quieting prayer and generous fellowship. Our Meetings have opened worship space to Buddhist, Jewish and Baptist groups, with room to spare for Alcoholic and Narcotics Anonymous, Audubon Society, and a Homeopathic Study Group. Abington and Norristown each lease space to day-care

centers, one dedicated to autism. Norristown gathers with folks from Upper Providence Meeting in periodic worship and seasonal celebration. Our Pottstown WG and our aging Foulkeways WG continue to follow the call to their place in time. Honoring our Meetings, we face the challenge of revitalizing our meetinghouses while preserving their historic integrity. In addition to scheduled and surprise maintenance in all our Meetings, Horsham has worked double-time, securing their home Meeting as well as the now vacant Warminster meetinghouse. Gwynedd, Plymouth and Unami have added attractively workable enhancements to both inside and outside property. Abington and Byberry are envisioning broad-scale renovation that will carry into the coming year. The ability to fund these projects weighs heavily upon member donations, capital campaigns and zero interest loans, forcing clear plans for resource and asset allocation.

Commitment beyond our own buildings has brought several Meetings to set precedents in community outreach. Norristown Meeting has supported the leading of one member to build affordable housing units in the Norristown area. AQ Home & Care Committee has offered a Letter of Interest as endorsement, looking to the prospect of funding from an outside source.

Unami Meeting has created a program, “Courageous Conversations”, based on the NPR radio offering “Better Conversations – A Starter Guide”. Unami Friends, in association with their local ministerium, have facilitated sessions in their surrounding community for opening human understanding across socio-economic and cultural differences. This Spring, Abington Quarter offered a Saturday session to our membership which was well attended and well received at Horsham Meeting. Upper Dublin Meeting hosts a monthly sharing session and dinner at their meetinghouse for young girls in residence at Carson Valley. This facility in Fort Washington provides housing and nurture for teens at risk. At UDMM, the girls begin to learn good nutrition by helping with dinner and to recognize social values by sharing on topics of self-esteem, goal setting, and envisioning their future. Moving in equal force, we have conveyed statements supporting national and global, social and environmental justice. Our Quarter’s meetings for worship to attend to business have engaged timely leads. We learned about the values and needs for sustaining our planet through resource preservation and alternative practices. We endorsed, and forwarded to FCNL, a minute of concern to stop abuses in family detention at our southern border. We joined the call to end cash bail in Montgomery Co. We endorsed legislation on behalf of the Climate Change Lobby. A presentation by Laurel House made us more acutely aware of domestic violence and its prevention. By their discerning gifts, members among us shared their individual awakenings. We supported the Norristown initiative to build affordable housing. We marked our calendars for the Richard Moore dedication, recalling the abolitionist cause in Richland. We pre-sampled “Courageous Conversations”, listening to understand ourselves.

Late in the year our Quarter approved forming a new AQ Communications Committee. They are tasked with pursuing the possibility of a common web platform: one that would allow efficient access to our Quarter’s vision, practices and activities,

both for inquirers and for ourselves. In the past year many of our Meetings enhanced their on-line presence in various ways. This broader approach is viewed as a seminal step forward.

From within our Meetings, many gatherings added dimension to our broader community. “Sundays at Seven” at Abington, “Gathering Garden” at Gwynedd, “Light Group” at Richland and “Unplug & Recharge” at Upper Dublin are among our Quarter’s on-going sharing groups. Hospitality has translated into “Soup Sunday”, “Food for Friends”, “Friendly 4th” and “Friendly Eats”. Moving further into our neighborhoods, we interface with Better Angels, Face to Face, Open Link, Fortniters, Interfaith Housing Alliance, Horsham Interfaith Council, Mothers in Charge and our local ministeriums. Friends have participated in Interfaith Peace Walk, Women’s March, Peace Vigil, and, this year, Abington hosted the annual World Day of Prayer. Our Quarter’s committees have supported the good works of our membership. AQ Worship & Ministry committee continues to offer spiritual and convivial support; visiting monthly meetings and sharing conversation as may be led. Attending committee is a way to recognize and connect with the engagements and resources of our monthly meetings.

AQ Home & Care committee is easing life care concerns through financial support to members. Our administrator encourages conversation on available services, community facilities, and end-of-life care. AQ Trustees have maintained our allocation in FF Consolidated and Green Funds. Green Fund is held in the hope that it will, in time perform as well as the Consolidated Fund and in faith create a cleaner planet. Our Trustees Treasurer informed us that drawdowns from one of our funds for aging are exceeding income – a portent of times to come as we all live into older age.

AQ Youth Conferences allowed JFC and MSFC young people another season of sessions at George School under the banner “We Are Friends”. In June, participants played games, learned crafts and skills and grew together in life-long f/Friendships. In the Fall, our Quarter vigorously approved a minute of appreciation for our conference directors as they step down to make space for new leadership. In noticing the span of years that surrounds us, intergenerational ties become vital. This past summer, Abington and Gwynedd each hosted intergenerational game nights. Richland brought kids’ crafts to the Arts Alive Festival in Quakertown. MLK Jr Day is celebrated at Abington as voices of all ages join in poetry, reflection and song. Horsham opens the Spring season with an FDS picnic and in the Fall, Gwynedd carved pumpkins. We also remember that our Quarter’s annual picnic is a grand time for barbeque, nature walks, games and fellowship. Early in the year at AQ meeting for business, we were delighted to hear from Abington Meeting’s Youth Committee. Formed from middle and high school age, these young people seek to deepen their spiritual awareness while reaching for community connections. Our Quaker Schools - United Friends School, the Quaker School of Horsham, Abington Friends School, Gwynedd Friends School and Plymouth Friends School – continue to demonstrate the conviction we share in lifting our faith for future generations. Conversation has been carried through many venues including an open

house for the Quaker School at Horsham, hosted by Horsham MM and a discussion and worship with United Friends School, held at Unami MM.

As we are guided by the passage of time, we hold in our hearts beloved members of our community. Abington, Horsham, Norristown and Upper Dublin suffered deep losses. We raise our prayers in celebration of those Friends who enriched us so many years, in so many ways.

We have lived a full year. We stand in appreciation of the unerring commitment that has emanated from our entire community. As we have held up our work to the workings of the Divine, our gratitude for the compassion granted us is immeasurable. May we continue to reflect a vision that fosters growth, well-being and peace.

In faith,

Amelia Diamond, AQ Clerk