



## 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,  
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## January 2024

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## January 2024

Tues	Jan 9	4:30 pm	Land Acknowledgement Committee
Sun	Jan 14	6:00 pm	Worship and Ministry
<b>Sun</b>	<b>Jan 21</b>	<b>After Meeting</b>	<b>Annual Meeting for Business &amp; potluck Luncheon (blended)</b>
Sat	Jan 27	10:00 am- 3:30pm	Property Committees Thread Gathering – Arch St Mtg House 320 Arch Street
Sun	Jan 28	Lunch After Meeting, presentation at 1:15	Land Acknowledgement Committee presentation: Lenape Nation Chief will discuss history, culture and presence of the Lenape People in Pennsylvania. All are welcome
Sun	Jan 28	3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	<b>Music Circle</b> at a special time

## February 2024

Sun	Feb 4	9:00 am	Abington Quarter – at Horsham
Tues	Feb 6	7:00 pm	Care & Concern
Sun	Feb 11	6:00 pm	Worship and Ministry
Tues	Feb 13	4:30 pm	Land Acknowledgement Committee
Sun	Feb 18	9:00 am	Meeting for Business (blended)
Sun	Feb 25	After Meeting	Friendly Fourth and <b>Music Circle</b> – all are welcome

- 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 also be held via Zoom as well as *in person in the Meetinghouse (blended)*.
- PMM Zoom information always available at [office@plymouthmeetingquakers.org](mailto:office@plymouthmeetingquakers.org)
- **We will not continue the vigil at the Meeting wall on Wednesday evening** as this is not a time when we can ensure consistent attendance by Plymouth members should friends from the community and other Meetings attend. We will continue to hold prayers for peace in our hearts during our regular periods of worship.

## **Queries for January**

### **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**

#### **We Denounce Anti-Semitism**

Members of the Plymouth Monthly Meeting Community denounce Anti-Semitism in all forms, and stand with our Jewish friends and neighbors as they experience backlash from the war in Israel and Gaza. Hatred and acts of violence are bringing fear and sad remembrances to members of the Jewish community. May we, as Friends, give witness to God's loving presence in these difficult times of division and anger.

#### **Annual Business Meeting**

**Sunday, January 21**

During Annual Business Meeting, rather than focus on reports from committees, we anticipate addressing issues about the state of our Meeting that were brought up from Worship and Ministry and build off of last year's concerns. Specifically:

- *How the changes to our Meetings for Worship are working for members and attender*
- *How are we as individuals of our faith community finding opportunities to grow and to care for one another; socially, physically, and spiritually.*

#### **MLK Day of Service**

**Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>**

Plymouth Meeting Friends School is organizing for MLK day of service for Monday, January 16th. They have several activities planned to involve all age groups. We can help by donating new or gently used backpacks or calculators, and new rulers, pencil bags/boxes and earbuds/headphones. Backpacks will be filled with school supplies and delivered to Valley Youth House. We can also donate items for the food pantry. The children will be participating in various activities and if you are interested in helping manage an activity/station, please get in contact with Tiffany Drees, 5/6 Lead Teacher at [tiffanyd@pmfs1780.org](mailto:tiffanyd@pmfs1780.org). Set-up in the Corson Lobby will begin 9-10, Stations: 10-12, Potluck Community Lunch 12-1 and Clean up 1-2.

## **Discussion with Lenape Nation Chief at Friendly Fourth**

**Sunday, January 28, 1:15 pm**

On Sunday, January 28, Adam Waterbear DePaul, Chief of Education and Tribal Storykeeper of the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania, will discuss history and present lives of the Lenape people. Topics may include pre-colonial life, relationships with William Penn, the Walking Purchase, the Lenape diaspora, and the Lenape today, including the revitalization of Lenape culture. Questions and discussion are invited. Adam teaches at Temple University and does research in the areas of Cultural and Mythological Studies.

Plymouth Friends are engaged in an ongoing process to pay respect to the Lenape people and their history on the land they called Umbilicamence, known to us by the name given to it by our European settler ancestors as Whitemarsh. With respectful learning of our shared history with original peoples here in Pennsylvania and through our nation and world we will learn how to live into a commitment of friendship and shared engagement to address issues of justice and the ecological needs of our world. All are welcome to participate in this day of reflection about our shared history with the Lenape people so that our future together will live up to the best aspirations of all of us. Our day will begin with worship and then a shared lunch before the presentation. You are welcome to attend all or some of the events on that day.

- 10:00 am Worship
- 11:15 am Blended Worship – includes those joining using a zoom link
- 12:15 pm Lunch (soups and desserts)
- 1:15 pm Lenape Presentation

## **Reminder: Plymouth Monthly Meeting Library Request**

The Library Committee has noticed quite a few books are not on our shelves and not signed out. We have been in the process of entering our books electronically into a system entitled Librarything. You can find our direct link from the website under "Meeting Information", then "Meeting Resources" and go to "Library." Books have been categorized by subject along with authors and titles if you are looking for something specific. **We ask everyone to look around your home and return all library books at this time.** We especially want to bring back our new books on Native Americans, but others are missing, as well. Once we check them back in, you can sign them out again if you have not finished with them. Please look around your homes and see if you might have PMM Library books. Thank you.

## **Help Needed – Cleaning our Meetinghouse**

We need help **cleaning the Meetinghouse.** Ralph Henninger has been doing this for years, but he will be stepping aside, allowing others the opportunity to take care of their Meetinghouse. Basic "light housekeeping" is required: dusting, mopping, vacuuming, checking the kitchen, etc. This would take 2 hours if one person does it, but with many hands, it can be completed well under an hour. Ralph or Bonnie can show you what's needed, if you're interested. Friday afternoons or Saturday during the day have proved to be the best time to accomplish this (any time after school is out, but before Meeting on Sunday). Contact Bonnie.

## **Mark Your Calendars**

We haven't gotten together as a Meeting for dinner for a while, so we're considering a revival of the Annual Spring Party, and are looking at having it on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. We are open to trying new ideas for entertainment (vs the White Elephant): ideas are welcome. We have also discussed going back to having hors d'oeuvres at people's homes before the dinner if folks are interested. Please let the Editor know your thoughts: [pattieod@gmail.com](mailto:pattieod@gmail.com)

## Alice Ambler Award

Plymouth Monthly Meeting established the Alice Ambler Award to honor those in our community and in the wider world who are doing the work of building community based on peace and social justice. Plymouth Monthly Meeting awarded the 2023 Alice Ambler award to Colonial Area Anti-Racism & Social Equity Alliance (CAARSEA). CAARSEA is an all-volunteer, all-donation based organization that relies on community engagement to fulfill their mission of instilling diversity and equity and fighting racism and injustice in the Plymouth, Whitemarsh, Conshohocken, and Norristown Area. They work together to create and support systemic change at a local level in areas such as the schools, police, and government structures. They have responded directly to issues of discrimination, racism, and social inequity in our community. They have raised awareness, model and facilitate courageous conversations with individuals and organizations such as our police departments and schools and provide resources for community learning and engagement.

Ongoing opportunities for our community to participate include:

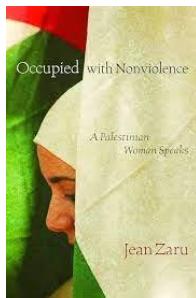
- Contributing to monthly homeless outreach events,
- Donations to the Community Cares program for families and students in the Colonial School District experiencing housing or financial insecurity.
- Helping with the seasonal Code Blue Shelter
- Participation on our board and/or committees

The website for CAARSEA is <https://www.caarsea.com/>

## 2023 Alice Ambler Award



## The Spiritual Basis of Our Peace Testimony



Many of us are convinced Friends who come from other religious traditions or from no religious tradition. We join the Society of Friends and embrace the various testimonies that have been distilled from living a faith that God's will requires a change in our life that, at times, will run not only current to the world's current way of living but will be deeply repugnant to many people. The Peace Testimony is one of those testimonies. In these times it is useful to listen to those who have gone before us or who are enduring the wrath of the world in current times. One place to listen is in the writing of Jean Zaru, a Palestinian Quaker and member and past Clerk of Ramallah Friends Meeting. Two copies of her book Occupied with Nonviolence are available in the Meeting Library. She writes of how her faith continues to return her to seeking justice and peace through nonviolence. There is inspiration that can be gained from knowing faithful people such as the Zaru family.

## Peace Vigils

Our Christmas Eve carol sing, worship and vigil was attended by Meeting members & attenders and the wider community.

**We will not continue the vigil at the Meeting wall on Wednesday evening** as this is not a time when we can ensure consistent attendance by Plymouth members should friends from the community and other Meetings attend. We will continue to hold prayers for peace in our hearts during our regular periods of worship.





## Upcoming Opportunities to Promote Peace

### Keeping Israelis/Palestinians/Ukrainians in the Light

- Gatherings for peace and healing
- Education and discussion panels on the Middle East
- Vigils large and small

**Sunday January 7<sup>th</sup> 9 -10:15 AM CHFM** Eileen Flanagan will present “Spiritual lessons from my Trip to Palestine and Israel”

Eileen Flanagan, member of CHFM, was 26 years old in 1988 when she joined a delegation to witness what was happening in Palestine during the first intifada. That trip profoundly influenced her spiritual journey, convincing her of the need to seek that of God in all people and work for change nonviolently. She started attending Quaker meeting a few years later. After sharing her experience, she will give space for Friends to reflect on how Quaker beliefs can ground us today.

**Sunday, January 14<sup>th</sup> 9 - 10:15 AM Chestnut Hill FM.** Ginny Christensen and Irene McHenry will present “Rays of Hope on the Ground in Israel/Palestine”

Ginny and Irene of CHFM participated in a dual narrative trip to Israel/Palestine in October of 2022 and have followed closely the work of the Israeli and Palestinian members of the Combatants for Peace that they met on that trip. They will also talk about the other organizations on the ground in Israel/Palestine that work together toward nonviolence and the end of the occupation. There will be open time for discussion and sharing of everyone’s rays of hope in the current context of the war.

**Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup> 1 PM, Central Philadelphia MM,** Steve Chase speaks on Seeking Justice in the Holy Land

He is Pendle Hill’s 2024 Henry Cadbury Scholar. Steve is a member of the Quaker Palestine Israel Network. This talk is free and open to the public. It is co-sponsored by the Middle East Collaborative and the Peace and Social Concerns Committee of CPMM. Questions? Contact Liz Robinson at lizhrob2@gmail.com. CPMM. Rufus Jones Room, Friends Center, 15th and Cherry Streets, Philadelphia

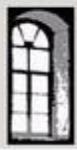
**Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>** (save the date – time TBA - afternoon) **Chestnut Hill FM**

Recognition of the Second Year Anniversary of invasion of Ukraine. VIGIL for Palestinian-Israel-Ukrainians. Opening Peace invocation by Katy Hawkins. Further details to follow. Please contact pia.st.onge@gmail.com

## Ongoing

**Every Friday:** 12:15 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. VIGIL FOR CEASEFIRE Outside Senator John Fetterman’s office, 200 Chestnut Street.

Weekly peaceful action in front of Senator John Fetterman’s office, calling on him to support an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. Learn more about Fetterman’s position and the vigil [HERE](#) from local Quaker organizer, Terry Rumsey. Friends will faithfully gather outside the Philadelphia office of Senator Fetterman every Friday afternoon until the senator publicly supports our demand for an immediate, permanent ceasefire in Gaza that is aligned with [U.S. House Resolution 786](#). The weekly peace vigil is rooted in radical nonviolence, and vigil participants are expected to refrain from violent actions, words, or messages on signs and banners. Posters are [available for download](#) on AFSC’s website. **For more information contact Terry Rumsey at [terry@greenseedsgrants.com](mailto:terry@greenseedsgrants.com).**



## Letter of Care and Support to Ramallah Meeting and Ramallah Friends School

During Eleventh Month Business Meeting our Monthly Meeting united in sending a letter conveying our love and concern for Ramallah Friends Meeting, Friends School and all people of Palestine during this time of violence against the people of Palestine and Israel that has escalated to war in Gaza and continual random violence in the rest of Palestine and Israel.

Letter to Ramallah Friends Meeting and School can be found on the website.

We received a reply back from the Ramallah Friends school. We will not post the letter here on the web because it is a personal letter to Plymouth Monthly Meeting. The topics lifted up in their letter:

- Our concern and support mean a lot to them during these challenging times.
- They appreciate the donations to relief groups to help address immediate needs
- Request to continue to pray for an end to the injustices and violence that plague our people and our country.
- Appreciate efforts to advocate for change and focus on the immediate needs of all the people in Gaza
- Doing their best to keep education going, even though it's challenging.
- Their school community is currently experiencing uncertainty, fear, and frustration, especially for those who have friends and families in Gaza. The economic situation is challenging, and people are trying their best to cope.
- Despite all these difficulties, their focused on caring for their students and ensuring they can keep learning. Their school has been through a lot, but it's still here because of friends who have supported it.

They shared Christmas prayer and a link to a YouTube recording of their school choir singing their Christmas song: I'm a child, born to live not to die. A simple plea for love , life and justice. <https://youtu.be/ZsEbIVJy0Gq?feature=shared>

To help care for the people suffering under the bombing a contribution was collected and sent to the United Palestinian Appeal, long standing independent Palestinian non-profit group dedicated to alleviate the suffering of the Palestinian people and contribute to the long-term socio-economic and cultural development of Palestinian communities in the West Bank, Gaza and the diaspora. It has been added to funds being used to supply and employ a Doctor, a female and male nurse and a mental health professional team clinics being set up in the streets of Guza. Mental health of children is a significant portion of their efforts. <https://upaconnect.org/> The AFSC is working in Gaza and collecting funds to support daily needs of the people there. <https://afsc.org/topics/gaza-israel>