



Plymouth Monthly Meeting Newsletter

Meetings for Worship

First Day Plain Worship, no Zoom, 10-11
 First Day Meeting blended worship: 11:15 am
 Midweek Meeting for Worship: 7:00 pm on Wednesdays (blended)

Address: 2150 Butler Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462
office@plymouthmeetingquakers.org

February 2026

<p>Clerk</p> <p>Position Still Open</p>	<p>Care & Concern Bonnie Miller 153 E. 9th Ave. Conshohocken, PA 19428 610-828-4970 bondave.miller@verizon.net</p>	<p>Treasurer Linda L. White 519 Ft. Washington Ave. Ft. Washington, PA 19034 215-641-4564 llfw2160@comcast.net</p>	<p>Newsletter Editor Pattie O'Donnell 1620 Aidenn Lair Road Dresher, PA 19025 215-704-1666 pattieod@gmail.com Feb Newsletter content: David Miller</p>
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February 2026

Sun	Feb 8	After Meeting	Business Meeting, Part 2 – reading and discussion of consensus from Business Meeting, Part 1.
Sun	Feb 8	After Meeting	Spiritual Conversation Group
Sun	Feb 8	6:00 pm	Worship and Ministry
Sun	Feb 15	9:00 am	Meeting for Business
Tues	Feb 17	11:00 am	Land Acknowledgement Committee
Sun	Feb 22	After Meeting	Friendly Fourth – all are welcome
Sun	Feb 22	2:00 pm	Music Circle

March 2026

Tues	Mar 3	7:00 pm	Care & Concern
Sun	Mar 8	After Meeting	Spiritual Conversation Group
Sun	Mar 8	6:00 pm	Worship and Ministry
Fri/Sat	Mar 13/14	7:00 pm	4th Grade Circus – at the gym
Sun	Mar 15	9:00 am	Meeting for Business
Tues	Mar 17	11:00 am	Land Acknowledgement Committee
Sun	Mar 22	After Meeting	Friendly Fourth – all are welcome
Sun	Mar 22	2:00 pm	Music Circle
Sat	Mar 28	6:00pm	Annual Party

- All **First Day Meetings for Worship** will begin at 10:00 (Plain worship, no Zoom, no childcare) and 11:15 am (blended worship, childcare/First Day School available).
- **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 Meeting for Worship via Zoom info always available at office@plymouthmeetingquakers.org

Queries for February

Grounding for Transformed Lives: Peace and Alternative to Violence

- How do we help each other face conflicts with patience, forbearance and openness to healing?
- To what extent does our meeting ignore differences in order to avoid possible conflicts?
- What are we doing as a Friends meeting within our communities:
 - 1) *To recognize and correct the causes of violence?*
 - 2) *To understand the impact of the global military-industrial complex on all aspects of life?*
 - 3) *To increase the understanding and use of alternatives to violence?*
 - 4) *To work toward overcoming separations and restoring wholeness?*
 - 5) *To support the constructive use of authority?*
 - 6) *To promote the sustainability of the earth?*
- *Do I “live in the virtue [power] of that Life and Spirit that took [takes] away the occasion of all wars”?*
- *How do I maintain Friends’ testimony that participation in war and its preparation is inconsistent with the teaching of Jesus?*
- *Do I treat personal conflict as an opportunity for growth?*
- *How do I face my differences with others and reaffirm in action and attitude my love for those with whom I am in conflict?*

News from the Meeting

Loss of Dear Friends

Sadly, we have a number of obituaries this month, some from our Meeting/Meeting family and some from the Quarter at large.



Nancy H. Hough

Nancy Hough, a former attender of our Monthly Meeting and wife of Charlie Hough, died on January 17th. Nancy was a mentor to us for how to provide hospitality to old and new friends. A gifted and beloved friend to all who knew her and a reader of stories to children. She was a passionate librarian who supported the Jeanes Library mission to bring its resources to all the citizens of Whitmarsh Township. A more complete obituary can be found at the following link: <https://lownes.com/tribute/details/3142>

Edward M. "Eddie" Leibowitz

It is from the tender heart of Plymouth Monthly Meeting that this message goes out to our Meeting community. Linda White’s beloved husband Eddie Liebowitz died after a long struggle with pulmonary disease and a lung transplant. Eddie and Linda shared this journey together hand in hand with heart holding heart. Eddie died peacefully early in the morning of Jan 12th, 2026 while in Temple Hospital with Linda at his bedside. Eddie’s obituary describes the loving and joyful person that captured Linda’s heart.



<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/edward-leibowitz-obituary?id=60660565>



Ruth Peterson, a beloved member of Abington Meeting and all the Monthly Meetings of AQM died peacefully during the morning of January 31st 2026 at 101 yrs of age in her home at Pennswood Village, Newtown, PA. Ruth and her husband Charley Peterson were mentors to many members and attenders of Abington Quarter. Excerpts from Abington Monthly Meetings announcement of her death: “Ruth and Charley had an abundance of love and care to offer to young families and their children. They touched many hearts and lives, people consider themselves part of Ruth and Charley’s “family”. Some may remember Ruth for her many accomplishments, but most will remember her by how good she made “us” feel: her warm hugs, her love of serendipity, her inspiring question, “What’s important to you?” Ruth’s presence will be deeply missed. Her love of people and the lessons she taught us will not be forgotten but rather passed on to the next generation through us.

Worship and Ministry

Each day the news brings new images of violence and hatred from around our country. In these times, as in generations before, we are challenged to find how to respond. In the dark times of the 1960’s Martin Luther King was moved to offer this speech and then prayed with those gathered in 1967:

Through violence you may murder the liar, but you cannot murder the lie, nor establish the truth. Through violence you may murder the hater, but you can not murder the hate. In fact, violence merely increases hate. On it goes. Returning violence for violence multiplies the violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.



Dr. Martin Luther King – Where we go from here speech 1967, a year of riots and protest

Daily we are challenged to understand what motion of love we are called to offer in the events of the day to come. What light within us that has been burned pure of hatred and prejudice can we offer the world within our reach? May our daily retirement in seeking to be guided by God’s Spirit free our actions of the day to be one of pure transforming love.

FRIENDS JOURNAL

Friends are reminded that the monthly publication of the Friends Journal is available in hard copy in the Meeting House and also online to anyone, both paid subscriber or general public. This journal provides a variety of Quaker writings from across the diverse spectrum of Friends. Consider making a donation towards keeping our Journal publishing. The following link will take you to current and past editions of the Journal. <https://www.friendsjournal.org/>

PMM Right Relationship to Indigenous Peoples Working Group

The January 2026 issue of Friends Journal contained articles on the theme of: Quakers' relations with the local Indigenous Peoples. Link: https://www.friendsjournal.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/FJ_2026_01.pdf



Our Meeting's Right Relationship with Indigenous peoples recommends reading the articles in this issue as part of our Monthly Meeting's commitment to improve our community's knowledge of Indigenous history and desire to enter into right relationship with indigenous peoples of our community and our nation. This issue will help with a better understanding of Boarding School history (including Quaker Boarding Schools) and how it continues to shape native people's lives. Some of the articles in this issue are:

- Unintentional Consequences, Intentional Repair - Martin Kelley
- Speaking with Friends About Indian Boarding Schools - Rachel Overstreet
- Friends Stand with the Brothertown - Kat Griffith
- A Homecoming for the Arapaho and Cheyenne - Paula Palmer and Paula Keeth
- Never Too Late to Begin Repair, Acknowledging the Dark Legacy of Quaker-Run Indian Boarding Schools - Mary Zwirner, Gordon Bugbe.

Black History Month

During this month of attention to Black History, we trust friends will take advantage of the many educational opportunities around the Lenapehoking (Delaware Valley) and online to become more aware of the History and the contributions of our neighbors of African descent as well as all peoples of color. Many people in our community know of Joan Countryman who is a local Quaker but if you do not below is a very brief and incomplete summary of a remarkable person.



Joan Countryman is a member of Germantown Monthly Meeting. She was the first African American student to graduate from Germantown Friends School (GFS), 1958. She participated in voting rights activities in southern states in the early 1960's and the 1963 Washington march for Jobs and Freedom. A longtime teacher of mathematics and administrator at GFS, a lecturer at the Graduate School of Education, University of Pennsylvania, head of several schools here in the US and head of and co-founder of the Oprah Winfrey Leadership School for Girls in South Africa. She has chaired the Kendal Corporation, Friends Center City, and served on the board of directors of Friends Fiduciary Corporation.

Peace and Social Concerns

FCNL and AFSC along with other Quaker organizations wrote a public statement about how they discern that the war in Gaza has become genocide of the Palestinian people and steps that can be taken to address the suffering. The following link will take you to the text of this statement.

https://www.fcnl.org/sites/default/files/2025-07/Quakers%20Discern%20Genocide%20is%20Occurring%20in%20Gaza%20and%20Urge%20Courageous%20Action%202025-07-25_0.pdf

Having read that statement, it is helpful to also read the opinion piece on page 5 of the Journal's January issue. Don Badgley who wrote this opinion, raises 3 important concerns about documents that these Quaker organizations have published: These organizations do not speak for all Quakers and their

Monthly Meetings, Quaker minutes are not in practice cosigned by other Meetings or organizations. Minutes are discerned leadings by those present and the Meetings of those attending represent at the time the minute is written. Don is asking, How does the minute act as a motion of love that transforms those involved in Gaza?

To read this opinion in the January edition go to the following link and then to page 5.
https://www.friendsjournal.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/FJ_2026_01.pdf

How to address the pain and suffering in Palestine and Isreal is an ongoing discussion within our Meetings, and personally for those who have been to this region, for our school located in Ramallah, our Jewish Friends and for all Friends who strive to make our Peace Testimony relevant in a violent world. Don's third concern questions how we are called to act forthrightly with transforming love without political posturing. The most powerful reminder of this for Bonnie and I while in the region was written on a bullet pitted wall of a church outside of Bethlehem:

Pray not for Arab or Jew, for Palestinian or Israeli but Pray rather for ourselves that we might not divide them in our prayers but keep them both together in our hearts. - Christian Aid Society

News from the Quarter

Workshop on Navigating the Healthcare System

How can a Monthly meeting community assist members and attenders s they navigate the changing health care environment?

The Home and Care Committee is offering a workshop to the monthly meetings of Abington Quarter this year. Bonnie Miller, Clerk, and Rebecca Cratin, Administrator, will be providing resources and open discussion to address the complicated issues that arise when dealing with chronic and serious medical conditions today. We will focus on how our Quaker process of Clearness and Support committees can provide the basis of this assistance.

Bonnie and Rebecca did their first presentation at Unami MM on Jan 18 (on Zoom due to snow). Everything went very well. The next presentations are scheduled for February 22nd at Abington MM and March 8th at Richland MM. They are planning to add a date at Plymouth in early Summer or in the Fall. For more information contact Bonnie Miller or Rebecca Cratin.

Abington Quarterly Meeting at Unami

Quarterly Meeting was very well attended in person, despite the snow and icy conditions, and a large number attended via Zoom. Friends engaged in a powerful discussion about creating a standing committee of the Quarter to address social concern and actions. Friends expressed the need to create ways to communicate quickly and efficiently among the meetings of the Quarter, as well as providing a safe, supportive venue in which Friends can share their concerns. More information will be coming as plans develop. If you wish to know more about this, contact Mike Mrozinski, AQM Clerk, or Rebecca Cratin, Plymouth's Representative