



Plymouth Monthly Meeting Newsletter

Meetings for Worship

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

Address: 2150 Butler Pike, Plymouth
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September 2026

Clerk

Position
Still
Open

Care & Concern

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September 2026

Sun	Sept 20	9:00 am	Meeting for Business
Sat	Sept 26	10:00 am – 4:00 pm	Buckingham Peace Fair, Buckingham Friends, Lahaska
Sun	Sept 27	11:30 am – 1:30 pm	Friendly Fall Welcome
Sun	Sept 27	2:30 pm	Music Circle - note later time

October 2026

Sat	Oct 3	10:00 am – 1:00 pm	Memorial Service for Varley Sims Paul at PMM
Sun	Oct 4	9:00 am	Abington Quarterly Meeting at Gwynedd
Tues	Oct 6	7:00 pm	Care & Concern
Sun	Oct 11	After Meeting	Spiritual Conversation Group
Sun	Oct 11	6:00 pm	Worship and Ministry
Sun	Oct 18	9:00 am	Meeting for Business
Sun	Oct 25	After Meeting	Friendly Fourth – all are welcome
Sun	Oct 25	2:00 pm	Music Circle

- 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 September

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?*

News from the Meeting

Worship and Ministry

True godliness does not turn people out of the world, but enables them to live better in it, and excites their endeavors to mend it.... William Penn 1682

Swirling around us each day is news of injustice and pain. How shall we be in this cauldron of suffering? Friends have always entered into the world through immersion in the Divine Light within, Light that straightens the path of how to interact in the world. Howard Brinten (1948) speaks of the impact of when the World's chaos becomes our inward chaos... *As long as there is inward (worldly) chaos, all our outward actions will be contaminated by this chaos. In such a case all that we do will promote rather than allay confusion. We seek to bring peace in the world when there is no peace in our hearts, and as a result we infect the outer world with our inner conflict.*



In like manner, Stephen Cary (1979) reflects on a life of service with the AFSC with the prose;

*In all our fervor-
in all my fervor – to be doing,
have I paid too little attention
to the power that lies in being?
Do we remember that it is the spirit of our service,
the aura that surrounds it,
the gentleness and the patience
that makes it,
the love made visible
that compels it,
that is the truly distinctive quality ...?*

These two Friends knew the importance of communal worship and prayer in stilling the chaos that the world brings into our internal eye and then out into our interactions with the Holy creation that we live in.



Property Committee

This summer has been a busy one for the property committee. With the warm weather and a large property there is always much to do tending to the trees, weeding, mowing and weed whacking and moving chips here and there.

Special projects that were accomplished were renovation of the gathering space, preventative termite treatment of the Meeting House, and painting of the Meeting House porch roof.

The Gathering Space renovation was necessitated by the water seeping into the joint between the bluestone and the cement center. The water undermined the bluestone border and tilted the bluestones, making them a tripping hazard. The weep holes in the boarder wall were not receiving and removing the water, so the water was finding its own way out, causing sinking of the stone base and damaging the lower walkway. The water management of the Gathering Space was redesigned by moving the placement of the gutter and changing the gutter style, adding a second drain to the gutter, replacing soil with 18 inches of wrapped washed stone down to the weep holes and adding 20% sand soil mix above the stone for the planting so that the soil will drain. With these changes we believe we have improved water management so that this issue will not reoccur.



Our school has also been busy with the annual summertime chore list to address the needs of the school campus. Major projects that were enabled by the grant that Monthly Meeting made available were the reroofing of the lower gym roof, Journey's End roof and tin roof painting, reroofing the Main School Building, and patch and repair of the fourth and fifth grade porch roof.

Work continues this fall as the Property Committee turns its attention to the stone walls that need pointing and repair. Included in this project is completing the walkway along the wall which requires making a break in the wall behind the old library building. Another break in the wall will occur where the future bus stop will be installed.

The Plymouth Meeting arboretum committee has been working to formalize their application for our Meeting grounds to be formally certified as an arboretum. Look forward to an update on their work in the next newsletter.



Social Concerns

- Colonial Neighborhood Council: reminder that with the food prices increasing, the use of public food pantries also continues to increase. During the summer, donations to the pantry typically decrease, this year is no exception. Please consider placing one item in the basket each week this month to help with the restocking.
- Out Reach to the unhoused in Norristown: This summer has been brutally hot on the streets of Norristown. The TLC (Transforming Lives and Communities) has provided food on a monthly basis, clothing and portable shelter. Each month the needed supplies are listed on the wish list at the amazon link below. If you are able to make a purchase it is much appreciated. If you wish to volunteer prepare the food items or participate in the outreach the link is below.
 - Volunteer Here: <https://dash.pointapp.org/events/703082>
 - Donate via our Wishlist Here: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2O18IT0NSBFYL?ref=wl_share

- Letter from Ramallah: *Concluding this school year with a commencement for 116 graduates marks a meaningful milestone for the Class of 2026. Considering all our community has endured, it stands as a remarkable accomplishment. As the graduates entered, the school choir resonated with a song whose lyrics perfectly captured that moment: **nothing is impossible with hope.** - Rania Maayeh*

In the midst of the war Gaza and in violence across Palestine our Friends school continues to provide children with a path to a different way that calls for justice and peace and love for all.



Read the August 2026 Letter from Ramallah Friends School on our website -Peace and Social Concerns Tab at bottom of the home page.



Right Relationship with Indigenous peoples

Each October the queries for the month are drawn from Plymouth Meeting's Right Relationship with Indigenous People's queries. As a Monthly Meeting we united in the task of increasing our understanding of Indigenous history and seeking ways to be in relationship with indigenous peoples around us, near or far. Have you read the query since last October? If not take the time to do so this month and seek to reflect and act upon one aspect of the queries. Next month in the newsletter there will be suggestions of organizations to send our Right Relationship grant to. The Right Relationship Queries are posted on the Meeting website. Use the Social Concerns tab at the top and select the Right Relationship option.

Query #3. Asks "In what ways do we seek opportunities to meet Lenape people and to learn directly from them about their history, culture, and current concerns?" One way to enter into this query is to periodically read a Indigenous newspaper or

web news. Towards the bottom of the Right Relationship page is a list of two web news sites and the newsletter from the Delaware Tribe in OK.



From Current News: Did You Know???

- Indigenous people active in our current political system: 10 Indigenous congressional candidates move forward to general election.
- US Military resumes Repatriation after President's ordered pause: Carlisle begins its ninth repatriation of students who never made it home.
- Culture erasure continues with 3 National Archives locations set to close without tribal consultation.



Need for a Large Wheeled Suitcase

Vincent, Hayat and Osman are traveling to Sudan this fall to connect with Hayat and Osman's family after a long absence. To make travel easier, they are looking for a large wheeled suitcase they could borrow. If you have one and are not using it could you lend it to them for use during this trip of family reunion. Vincent's email is

vogrady@gmail.com

News From the School

Friendly Fall Welcome - PMFS & PMM

September 27

The 4th Annual 2026 Friendly Fall Welcome is here - Plymouth Monthly Meeting welcomes new and returning Plymouth Meeting Friends School families and school staff to a new and exciting school year. We will start the day by inviting families to join us for Meeting for Worship. Children may attend First Day school with a special "Community" activity followed by a communal lunch provided by the school PTO. All are invited to attend both Meeting for Worship and lunch.

Meeting members will be asked to contribute desserts for lunch and if possible, help with setup and cleanup. It's a great way to start the new school year and an opportunity to be with one another in fellowship. This is a rain or shine event – tents will be set up behind the meetinghouse for lunch. Music Circle will also take place on the 27th but will start at 2:30 and continue until 4:30.

Please let Sally Bishop know if you plan to come, will bring a dessert and if you are able to help with set up or clean up.

PMM First Day Inquiry

As we return from our brief summer break, we start a new cycle of First Day Planning. If you have childcare clearances or plan to get them soon and are interested in occasionally helping with First Day, please let Sally Bishop know. Sally will be our First Day teacher this year and will need some back-up from time to time and is open to ideas of projects someone might like to do together. If you are available and would like to know more, please get in touch with Sally.

News from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting



**PYM involvement
in DHS lawsuit**

 Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

The following press release shares on Philadelphia Yearly Meeting's lawsuit against the Trump administration to protect religious freedom and the right to worship without fear in spiritual communities.

In January 2025, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM), our neighbors in New York, New England and Baltimore Yearly Meetings, along with several other faith communities, filed a lawsuit against the Department of Homeland Security to challenge an executive order by the Trump administration. The

order allowed ICE agents to enter formerly protected spaces, including houses of worship like Quaker meetings. On August 18, the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of PYM and the coalition. A press release from [Democracy Forward](#) and statements from PYM leadership concerning the update are shared below.

On August 18, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit affirmed the U.S. District Court of Maryland order blocking a Trump-Vance administration policy that seeks to give immigration officers free rein to carry out enforcement actions at or near the houses of worship of the plaintiffs while this litigation proceeds.

As a result of the August 18 decision, the district court's injunction protecting the plaintiffs remains in place. The injunction protects the worship spaces of PYM's affiliated meetings from unrestrained immigration enforcement. (More information and resources are located on [this page](#).)

The district court previously concluded that the plaintiffs were likely to succeed on their claims challenging the administration's policy and entered a preliminary injunction imposing guardrails on immigration-enforcement actions at or near the plaintiffs' houses of worship to protect their rights while the case proceeds.

Chris Mohr, PYM's General Secretary, said:

"As lead plaintiff in PYM vs. DHS, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Friends (PYM) celebrates today's ruling by the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. We are relieved that our meetinghouses continue to be safe for all community members to gather for worship while the case moves through the legal process. Quakers strongly support religious freedom, following one's conscience, and acting on one's convictions. And PYM Quakers have welcomed other religions to our region since before the founding of our country. Thus we look forward to a day when all houses of worship, not just those of PYM, will once again be safe for all their congregants to worship freely together."

Selden Smith, PYM's Presiding Clerk, also commented:

"This is an important victory for religious liberty. Our Quaker form of worship, in which all ministry emerges from the congregation, is strengthened by the presence of immigrants and threatened by the prospect of ICE raids. We welcome this ruling, which upholds, for the moment, a longstanding government policy constraining such raids. It is good news not just for Quakers but for everyone who cares about religious freedom in America."

For more information on the case and PYM, go to <https://www.pym.org/dhs-lawsuit/> or contact our Director of Development and Communications, Joe Kirkenir, at jkirkenir@pym.org