



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
Meeting, PA 19462
office@plymouthmeetingquakers.org

October 2026

Clerk

Position
Still
Open

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

October 2026

Sun	Oct 18	9:00 am	Meeting for Business
Sat	Oct 24	9:00 am-3:30 pm	PMFS Fall Frolic event: tree planting, picnic & hoe-down
Sat	Oct 24	3:00pm	David Coffin's 80 th birthday celebration at the Coffin's house (park at the Glenside train station)
Sun	Oct 25	After Meeting	Friendly Fourth – all are welcome
Sun	Oct 25	2:00 pm	Music Circle

November 2026

Sun	Nov 1	8:30 am	Quarterly Meeting at Plymouth
Tues	Nov 10	7:00 pm	Care and Concern ← moved later due to Election Day (VOTE!)
Sat	Nov 7	9-3	Foulkeways Craft Fair
Sun	Nov 8	After Meeting	Spiritual Conversation Group
Sun	Nov 8	6:00 pm	Worship and Ministry
Sun	Nov 15	9:00 am	Meeting for Business
Sun	Nov 22	After Meeting	Friendly Fourth – all are welcome
Sun	Nov 22	2:00 pm	Music Circle
Thurs	Nov 26	10:00am	Meeting for Worship for Thanksgiving

- 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 October

Right Relationship with Indigenous peoples

Each October during Business Meeting we prayerfully consider our Monthly Meetings queries about our relationship with the native people of Lenapehocking and beyond. In preparation for this month's business meeting read the queries and some of the selected resources listed below:

1. How are we seeking to understand the role that prior generations of Quakers played in displacing Lenape peoples from Lenapehocking and in participating in programs of cultural erasure (such as Boarding Schools)? Resources:
 - a. Quaker Indian Boarding Schools <https://www.friendsjournal.org/quaker-indian-boarding-schools/>
 - b. Lasting Trauma of Quaker Indigenous Boarding Schools: Quaker Speak Video: <https://quakerspeak.com/video/the-lasting-trauma-of-quaker-indigenous-boarding-schools/>
 - c. Indian Boarding Schools; Native News Online – Book in PMM Library
2. How are we seeking to renounce those Christian Church ideologies that legitimized colonization, genocide, and cultural erasure of Indigenous peoples in Lenapehocking and elsewhere (such as the Doctrine of Discovery)? Resource
 - a. Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery – FGC <https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcresources/anti-racism/doctrine-of-discovery/>
 - b. PYM minute in support of UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples <https://friendsgc.wpenginepowered.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Philadelphia-Yearly-Meeting-2013.pdf>
3. In what ways do we seek opportunities to meet Lenape people and to learn directly from them about their history, culture, and current concerns?
 - a. Participate in a Meeting Field trip to Pow Wow or other events
 - b. Seeking Right Relationship with Native Americans: Quaker Speak video <https://quakerspeak.com/video/paula-palmer/>
4. In what practical ways (monetary or other) have we supported Lenape or other Indigenous peoples in their initiatives and challenges? Resource:
 - a. Last year a grant was provided to Who will we provide a grant to this year? Do we wish to support education scholarships, Language renewal, specific needs (health care, hunger or housing, ...), legal actions for justice and sovereignty or.....
 - b. When traveling seek out a Tribe's welcome and information center, stay at a tribal hotel or B&B
 - c. Purchase from Indigenous companies
5. In what ways have we embraced Lenape perspectives and knowledge of the land, water, and air in the stewardship of the land where our Meetinghouse is located? Projects
 - a. Learn what our Arboretum Committee is doing; John Cardina
 - b. Robin Wall Kimmerer: "We the People": Expanding the Circle of Citizenship: You Tube https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=%3DRobin+Wall+Kimmerer%3A+%22We+the+People%22%3A+Expanding+the+Circle+of+Citizenship



News from the Meeting

Worship and Ministry

“...where our words come from...”

What brings us to a place where we can speak with attention to where our “*words come from*”? What needs to occur in us to be able to listen to “*...where the words come from.*” in another person? Are we willing to receive Divine instruction as to what words we use or how we are to understand the words we hear?

This challenge is set before us in each of our Meetings for Worship and indeed, in each day as we interface with people in our daily lives. Are we willing to be changed by listening to where the words come from? Will new understanding come from this listening and/or will new words come for us to speak as we listen with this inward ear?

The first paragraph below is a quote from John Woolman's Journal where he writes about the leading that frames how he will speak as he travels to the upper Susquehanna Valley to a meeting Lenape peoples. It describes the emergence of the leading to travel among the Lenape to learn from them. This was a time of war when reports of atrocities were filtering back to Mount Holly Monthly Meeting.

“12th day, 6th month, and first of the week. It being a rainy day we continued in our tent, and here I was led to think on the nature of the exercise which hath attended me. Love was the first motion, and then a concern arose to spend some time with the Indians, that I might feel and understand their life and the spirit they live in, if haply I might receive some instruction from them, or they be in any degree helped forward by my following the leadings of Truth amongst them. And as it pleased the Lord to make way for my going at a time when the troubles of war were increasing, and when by reason of much wet weather travelling was more difficult than usual at that season, I looked upon it as a more favorable opportunity to season my mind and bring me into a nearer sympathy with them. And as mine eye was to the great Father of Mercies, humbly desiring to learn what his will was concerning me, I was made quiet and content. That I might feel and understand their life and the spirit they live in, if haply I might receive some instruction from them, or they be in any degree helped forward by my following the leadings of Truth amongst them.”



When he was a guest of the Lenape during this trip the following was recorded by those who traveled with John.

On that journey, when Woolman spoke without interpretation, Papunehang, a chief of a Lenape tribe said this to John; “I love to hear where the words come from.”

A Munsee Lenape prophet, Papunhank went on to say, "That it was not good to Speak upon of matters Relating to the Almighty only from the root of the tongue outward but that in order so that their words should be good they must Come from the good in the heart."

“Papunehang did not understand English and Woolman did not understand Papunehang's tongue. So Papunehang heard something deeper than words in what was said to him by Woolman. It is this deeper level of communication, through and yet beyond words...” *based in a motion of Divine love that reaches across traditions, faiths and cultures.*
ESR Professor of Peace and Justice Studies Lonnie Valentine

Property Committee

This month a car drove towards Philadelphia on Germantown Pike and swerved off the road, up the lily patch embankment and into the wall of the graveyard causing \$4,000 in damage to the wall.

Fortunately, at this time Meeting has engaged masons in the project of repairing and repointing as needed all of the walls on the property. They will repair this damage as well.



Two additional openings in the walls have been made as part of our Meeting's bus stop project. To accommodate access to a bus stop shelter (yet to be designed and built) near the Germantown Pike entrance an opening in the wall has been made to the left of the entrance. A second opening is behind the old Jeanes Library building to allow a walkway to be built along the Butler Pike wall between the bus stop and the lower entrance to the Meeting grounds. This will enable pedestrians to avoid wading in the street around the blind curve or through the Meeting property during school hours. The masons will "butter" (mortar the stones) point the ends of these openings as part of their work.

Building the bus stop will require pouring a concrete pad as well as the design and assembly of a timber frame shelter modeled on the horse sheds that once lined Germantown Pike (however much smaller). We hope that this project will unfold over the next 9 months.



Opening for path behind old Library Building

Opening in wall for Bus Stop

Quarterly Meeting at Plymouth November 1st - 8:30 am

Plymouth is responsible for lunch for Quarterly Meeting in November. Entrée and/or desserts are requested – please let Bonnie or Rebecca know what you will be bringing.



Mark Your Calendars!!
Leaf Raking – December 5

News From the School

Fall Fix-Up and Frolic

Anyone attending Fall Frolic: please park at lower campus or on the street because there is a memorial being held from 10am-1pm at the Meetinghouse; we are reserving parking on the upper campus for those attending the memorial.

Parents should park on the lower campus or on the street.

No prior knowledge or experience required. Come for any or all:

- 9am-12pm Fall Stewardship & Arboretum Tree Planting
- 12-2pm Lunch on your own (Bring a picnic)
- 2-3:30pm HOEDOWN with Maddy & Friends



The poster is decorated with a border of colorful autumn leaves. At the top center is the circular seal of Plymouth Meeting Friends School. The main title 'FALL FIX UP & FROLIC!' is written in large, bold, red and green letters. To the right, the schedule is listed: 9am-12pm Fall Stewardship & Arboretum Tree Planting, 12-2pm Lunch on your own or Bring a picnic, and 2-3:30pm HOEDOWN with Maddy & Friends!. Below the text are three small photographs: the first shows two people working in a garden bed, the second shows two children playing with a red wagon filled with leaves, and the third shows a group of people dancing in a large hall.

Saturday, October 24, 2026

9am-12pm
Fall Stewardship & Arboretum Tree Planting

12-2pm
Lunch on your own or Bring a picnic

2-3:30pm
HOEDOWN with Maddy & Friends!

FALL FIX UP PROJECTS

- Plant trees with our Arboretum Friends
- Clean and refill Little House sandbox
- Trim trees and shrubs
- Weed the playground, swale, Emerson gardens
- Mulch for the winter

SNACKS INCLUDED!

No experience necessary.
Bring your gloves, clippers, and enthusiasm!

Work together!

Help our school!

Have fun!

PMFS 4th Annual Friendly Fall Welcome – Sept 27, 2026

Rain or Shine....starting with Meeting for Worship families joined us and children participated in a community project during First Day. About twenty children with some parents and volunteers produced a "Community" banner posted in the Annie H. Wilson room. The weather did not cooperate, so lunch and desserts were moved indoors in the school gym. All had a good time and the turnout was good.



Reporting and photography by Sally Bishop

News from Abington Quarter

Intergenerational Art Project with Todd Drake, Artist At Gwynedd Monthly Meeting on Sunday, October 4

Members from Meetings throughout the Quarter participated in a printing project led by Todd Drake, also known as the "Quaker Pirate" artist. Each participant carved out a linoleum block with an image that had personal meaning to them with a theme relating to "Nurturing the Light within everyone, we let that experience guide our compassionate actions for peace and justice." Participants then printed their blocks on poster size sheets.

Everyone enjoyed Todd Drake sharing his Quaker Witness, with a slide show, as an artist and how his life was shaped by creative process, from making art with children in the West Bank to posting graffiti in NYC. To finalize the project, Todd silkscreen printed his own graphic image in the center of each of the twenty-four posters that the group had printed and the results were fabulous. What great fun doing a project together as a Quarter. Thank you to members of the Todd Drake Working Group - Carol Shearon, Stacy Kent Wykoff, Heather O'Malley and Tara Mohan for a masterpiece of planning a full day of activities and taking care of all our needs. Each Meeting will receive copies of the finished printed posters. We learned over a 100 people were present that day – some of those just making sure we ate well and stayed on track.



Reporting and photography by Sally Bishop