

YARDLEY FRIENDS MEETING NEWSLETTER

June 2017

find us on
facebook



65 North Main Street, Yardley PA 19067
<http://yardleyfriendsmeeting.org/>

Meeting for Worship 10:00–11:00
First Day School 10:15–11:00

Linda Jacobs, Clerk
Ed Snyder, Newsletter Editor

This month at YFM

June 4

First Day School Picnic...for everyone!
Following Meeting for Worship.

June 10

Potluck dinner/discussion - Honoring
our Differences with Compassion. Starts
6 PM.

Looking ahead

July 18 and Aug 15

Midweek/outdoor worship. If the world
is feeling a bit loud for you, come be
quiet with us from 7:00-7:30 pm for
Meeting for Worship and continuing
with worship sharing from 7:30-8:00 pm.
Worship will be held outdoors, in our
backyard. Let the sounds of the waterfall,
birds and crickets help to center you. In
case of rain, we will meet inside.

Sep 9

Autumn Market. Save the date!

Around the Quarter

July 20 7pm

Bucks Quarter Goes to the Ball Game - Trenton Thunder vs.
New Hampshire Fisher Cats. \$8 each if we get 20; reserve by
June 10 - contact Sarah Crofts at sarah.crofts@gmail.com.

Looking Ahead

July 29-Aug 2

PYM Annual Sessions - The College of New Jersey-
<http://www.pym.org/annual-sessions/>

Aug 20

Quarterly Meeting - Plumstead Meetinghouse

Sep 23

Bucks Quarter Peace Fair at Buckingham

See this month's Quakerphenalia for details and all events and activities!

MIDWEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Tuesdays at Southampton 7:30 PM
Wednesdays at Lehigh Valley 5:00 PM
Wednesdays at Makefield 7:00 AM
Thursdays at Middletown 7:00 PM

Your Francis and Betty Irwin calendar inspiration for the month

The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice

MLK

Listening with Compassion

Too often we feel that if someone thinks differently than us, why bother to engage in conversation. I'm guilty of this. I don't like to argue and bring bad feelings to the surface. If I can't change someone's mind why talk to them at all? I have a number of old friends I avoid because of their views in this divided world.

Them vs. us was a major part of the conversation at our first pot luck. It was stated that "them is us." The concept made some of us really think. It isn't a comfortable thought. These people can hurt us and change the world by thinking the way they do. Aren't they the enemy? How can we say we are the same? Why should we listen? Is our attitude of them versus us a step towards dividing us?

Even if we don't agree, isn't it helpful to know the reason why someone thinks the way they do? I heard stated recently that although we don't all have the same beliefs, most people have the same values. Dan Gottlieb said we all want well being, peace, community, security and love. If we listen without judgment maybe others may be willing to listen to us. Isn't it probable we can come up with at least three areas of common ground? Starting with common ground, we may be able to heal and build.

So how do we have a conversation without confrontation and bad feelings? Can we start by remembering that we are all human and all have feelings? Our Compassion Pot Lucks have brought up a lot of good conversations about our feelings and how we can invite communication and understanding. I'm encouraged to know we aren't alone in this quest. When I turn on the radio I am hearing many people bringing this to the forefront. Marty Moss-Coane had a show featuring experts on civil discourse. Many organizations in the Philadelphia region are coming together to communicate in a project called "On The Table". (<http://generocity.org/philly/2017/05/18/on-the-table-nonprofits-philadelphia>). Barak Obama's first overseas conference since his presidency is in Germany with Angela Merkel on a similar topic.

I'm constantly reminded that without listening and understanding we don't have any chance of peacefully bridging the divide. I don't mean changing minds, but coming to a place where we can work together. We all share this universe and are all connected.

On June 10 at 6:00 PM, we will have our 3rd Pot Luck. This will be about Honoring our Differences with Compassion. As individuals and a Meeting we benefit from working together. I've learned a lot from many of you that may not know how much you offer and how much you help us understand and grow. Challenging thoughts and opinions really help me grow. Invite friends. Like minded or not, please come!

Love this picture of Jenna and the FDS kids!



Sixth Query, Equality

How does our Meeting help to create and maintain a society whose institutions recognize and do away with the inequities rooted in patterns of prejudice and economic convenience?

Is our Meeting open to all regardless of race, ability, sexual orientation, or class?

What steps are we taking as a Meeting to assure that our Meeting and the committees and institutions under our care reflect our respect for all and are free from practices rooted in prejudice?

Do I examine myself for aspects of prejudice that may be buried, including beliefs that seem to justify biases based on race, gender, sexual orientation, disability, class, and feelings of inferiority or superiority?

What am I doing to help overcome the contemporary effects of past and present oppression?

Am I teaching my children, and do I show through my way of living, that love of God includes affirming the equality of people, treating others with dignity and respect, and seeking to recognize and address that of God within every person?

Spring Fling!

