

Yardley Friends Meeting

65 North Main Street, Yardley, Pennsylvania 19067



An Invitation to Quaker Worship

Hour of Worship - Sunday 10:00 A.M.

First Day (Sunday) School-10:15 - 11:00 A.M.

Committee Meetings - First Sunday of Month

Business Meetings - Second Sunday of Month

Hearing Assistance is available

Meeting for Worship

Welcome to our Meeting for Worship. The Quaker form of worship recognizes that of God in everyone. We feel that worship, at its best, can bring direct communication with God, free of any prearranged form. We find that this individual experience of worship is deepened when it is shared with others.

Worship is based on expectant waiting for guidance from the divine source within. From this we may return to our daily lives reaffirmed in our sense of direction and strengthened by the love and power of God. Friends believe that inward, shared worship leads to deeper spiritual insight and makes conscience more sensitive to truth.

Moral truths and the power to act on those truths arise from the Inward Light which itself comes from God. It is a source of grace and illumination, leading our diversities toward harmony, not only within the worshipping group but also in our relations with everyone around us.

Quaker testimonies on peace, social and racial equality, and religious liberty express this fundamental belief in the power and authority of the Inward Light in human affairs.

During a Meeting for Worship, individuals at intervals may be moved to share their spiritual insights. This vocal ministry is welcome from anyone present, not just from members. Brief messages can carry deep meaning, reaching many others. Worship lasts for about an hour and is closed by turning to one's neighbor and shaking hands. It is a pleasant custom for all of us.

Immediately after Meeting for Worship, we introduce ourselves and relay any announcements to the larger group. When our pianist is present, we also sing a hymn or two. Afterwards, we gather in the social room for elevenses (snacks, juice, and coffee) for friendly socializing. This is an occasion for members, attenders and visitors to become better acquainted with each other.

Where is the Minister?

There is no minister in our Friends Meeting. Yardley Friends do not feel the necessity for intermediaries between God and ourselves. We all share responsibility for the vocal ministry, care for each other and participate in the life of the Meeting as we feel the call. Pastoral work is a Meeting-wide responsibility and privilege; in helping others and being helped, in needing and being needed, in healing and being healed.

Religious Education

During the school year we offer religious education program (First Day School) for children in various age groups including elementary, middle school and high school. Each class level features a curriculum that is designed to accommodate students who enter at any point in the academic year. All children are encouraged to participate in the first 15 minutes of Meeting for Worship.

Toddlers and infants enjoy a supervised playroom. Interesting forums for adults are held after elevenses in the social room as noted in the newsletter and announcements.

Committees

Committees conduct most of the work of the Meeting. Some of the committees are Pastoral Care, Worship and Ministry, Property, Children's Religious Education, Outreach, and Peace and Social Action.

How You Can Get to Know Us Better

Please join us for elevenses (refreshments) after worship as well as other social events such as our picnics and potluck suppers. Most of our members and attenders participate in our annual Autumn Market, which draws many visitors from the surrounding area.

Yardley Monthly Meeting is associated with a number of other Quaker meetings through Bucks Quarterly Meeting. Moreover Yardley meeting is part of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting which includes nearly 100 other Quaker Meetings.

Business Meeting

Once a month (on the 2nd Sunday, except for May and July) after Meeting for Worship, we hold a Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business to carry out our business affairs.

Quaker business meetings are conducted with the same sense of the working of Spirit as our worship. All are invited to attend and participate in the Business Meeting.

How Friends Make Decisions

We respect all views and try to afford them time to be aired during Meeting for Business. We do not vote but attempt to reach unity. If this is not possible, the matter is laid over for further consideration at a later time. It is the Clerk's responsibility to perceive "the Sense of the Meeting," and often he or she suggests the wording that finally expresses this sense and gets approval.

Questions?

If you want to acquaint yourself further with Quaker thought, belief and action you may take with you any of the informational pamphlets located in the library or front hallway. Also, any member of Yardley Friends Meeting will be glad to answer questions after Meeting about the Religious Society of Friends. We have a large selection of inspirational and informative books located in our library. Borrowing them is encouraged. We particularly recommend *Faith and Practice of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends* and *Friends for 300 Years* by Howard Brinton.

Visitors are asked to sign the guest book on the table by the front doors. The Meeting will gladly mail its usual notices and publications to anyone who leaves an address in the guest book. The Meeting phone number is (215) 493-5376.

How Can I Make a Contribution?

We do not use a collection plate but we appreciate your contribution as well as your participation. Checks made out to "Yardley Friends Meeting" will help pay some of our expenses and further our work. You can place contribution in the box in the front hallway or mail them to us. Credit card and ACH options are also available; see our website for details.

How to Stay in Touch With Us

Yardley Friends Meeting has various ways to stay informed of Quaker events here and in other meeting houses. We have a Google group which sends e-mails to those subscribing. Yardley Friends also has a web site -www.yardleyfriendsmeeting.org. The Bucks County area website is www.quarterbucks.org. A newsletter, published monthly, is e-mailed through the Google group and printed copies are available in the front hallway.

I have never lost the enjoyment of sitting in silence at the beginning of meeting, knowing that everything can happen, knowing the joy of utmost surprise; feeling that nothing is set, all is open. The light can come from all sides. The joy of experiencing the Light in a completely different way than one has thought it would come is one of the greatest gifts that Friends' meeting for worship has brought me.

Ursula Franklin, 1979