

# YARDLEY FRIENDS MEETING

## NEWSLETTER

October 2020

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65 North Main Street, Yardley PA 19067

<http://yardleyfriendsmeeting.org/>

Meeting for Worship 10:00–11:00 (10:45 currently for Zoom/COVID)

First Day School 10:15–11:00 (currently suspended)

Peg Smedley and Ted Taylor, Co-Clerks

Ed Snyder, Newsletter Editor

### *This month at YFM*

Zoom Meetings for Worship continue at the normal 10 AM Sunday time. Sometimes outdoor worship is held concurrently, with a Zoom feed – depends on who is there and able to set things up, and the weather.

Also a women's group Wednesdays at 2:30 PM.

### *Around the Quarter/PYM*

Quakerphernalia, the Bucks Quarter newsletter, is being sent almost entirely electronically. If you are not on the list, or if you have articles or announcements for Quakerphernalia, please contact Wendy Kane, the coordinator, at [quakersbucks@gmail.com](mailto:quakersbucks@gmail.com).

### **Your Francis and Betty Irwin calendar inspiration for the month**

Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life.

It turns what we have into enough, and more.

It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity.

It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend.

Gratitude makes sense of our past,  
brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow.

Melody Beattie

### **Query 9. Witnessing in the World: Ministry of Outreach**

How does our meeting communicate Friends' presence and principles to the wider community?

How does our meeting join with other faith communities in worship, in spiritual dialogue and in social action?

What are we doing to invite persons to attend our meetings for worship, to welcome them when they come, to listen sensitively to their needs and hesitations and to encourage their continued attendance?

*How do I share my spiritual life and experience with others?*

*Does my life as a Friend attract others to our religious society?*

*What opportunities have I taken to worship with people from other religious and cultural backgrounds and work with them on common concerns?*

Any questions about access to the google group or anything else, please write to [info@yardleyfriendsmeeting.org](mailto:info@yardleyfriendsmeeting.org).

## WANTED: DEEPER CONNECTIONS

“So how have you been since I saw you last? How are the kids? Hey, try these cookies, they’re really good!” Sound familiar? Sounds like our cherished tradition of elevenses after meeting, when we could rub shoulders at the coffee urn and select something delicious to snack on as we greeted one another.

But typically, our conversations skim the surface of our lives. There are rarely opportunities to share more deeply with our friends and acquaintances. Our adult discussion groups have offered some thought-provoking topics, but between summertime activities and the coronavirus shutdown, it’s been hard to schedule regular after-meeting Zoom discussions. The men’s book discussion group came together several years ago to give the guys space to explore Quakerism and spiritual writings; and later, the women organized a similar group.

It soon became clear to the nine or ten women who began to meet regularly that we wanted to go beyond reading and discussing books. So we brainstormed topics that would move us beyond the superficial and the intellectual, and into an exploration of what we value, where our hearts are, how our spiritual journeys have unfolded over the course of our lives. I wanted to share some of the questions and topics we’ve been discussing, in the hope that you might find them interesting starting points for discussions in your own circles. Sometimes it’s hard to find the door that opens to a greater understanding of people around you.

For example: what has helped you get through this stressful time? What three people (living or dead) would you like to talk to around the dinner table? What geographical place holds deep meaning for you? What attracted you to Quakerism? What do you look for in a book? If you could travel anywhere, where would you most want to go? What did your mother or father often say to you when you were growing up that you still remember? What are you grateful for? What historical figure had the most impact on you? What have you learned from the past few months of covid restrictions? Did your family have jokes or family stories you still treasure? What has gotten easier for you as you grow older?

Sometimes we get way off topic, but that only adds to the richness of the discussion; for after all, these questions are only springboards for sharing our lives with our friends.

Our group meets on Zoom every Wednesday at 2:30 and usually wraps up around 3:30. Everyone is welcome! If it sounds interesting, please join us. Christine Breidenbach posts our topic and the Zoom invitation every Monday or Tuesday on the Google group. If you’re not on our Google group, contact Ed Snyder at [ed@mrplansinc.com](mailto:ed@mrplansinc.com). And—keep those conversations going!

*Betty Steckman*