

YARDLEY FRIENDS MEETING

NEWSLETTER

April 2021

find us on
facebook



65 North Main Street, Yardley PA 19067

<http://yardleyfriendsmeeting.org/>

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

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

Peg Smedley and Linda Jacobs Snyder, Co-Clerks
Ed Snyder, Newsletter Editor

This month at YFM

Zoom Meetings for Worship continue at the normal 10 AM Sunday time. Onsite outdoor worship by the outside fireplace is held concurrently, with a Zoom feed – depending on the weather. ***Please check the google group emails Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning to confirm onsite worship.***

Women's group Wednesdays at 2:30 PM.

Committee Meetings on the first First Day, following Meeting for Worship (check with your clerk this month since it is Easter.

Business Meeting on the second First Day, following Meeting for Worship.

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.

Check out the (***new and improved***) quarter website: <https://www.quakersbucks.org/> for other news and events.

Our outdoor worship is featured under News/Stories of Vitality

Inspiration for the month

There is a hard truth to be had: before spring becomes beautiful, it is plug ugly, nothing but mud and muck...but in that muddy mess, the conditions for rebirth are being created.

Parker J. Palmer

Query 4. Nurturing Our Community: Care for the Meeting

Do we help each other to live with integrity and contribute that integrity to the life of our meeting?

How does our meeting learn of members' needs and offer its assistance?

How does our meeting nurture members in all stages of life?

How does our meeting welcome those new to Friends and integrate them into our community?

When a member's conduct or manner of living gives cause for concern, how does the meeting respond?

Am I ready both to offer and to accept meeting assistance when needed?

Do I treat adults and children alike with respect and without condescension?

What opportunities have I taken to know, work and worship with Friends in the larger spiritual communities we share?

Back to Better Days

This has been the first winter in a while we've had much snow. So much is different this year. By the time this is printed hopefully the snow will be gone. As I start writing, the snow is melting and washing away. It's sunny and bright. Sunlight reflecting on bare trees makes the world shine brightly. The limbs are swaying. It's the beginning of the month. Not spring yet.

I see bulbs of daffodils popping up. A lone periwinkle shows blue against the winter brown and green. This gives me confidence more signs will be coming each day.

Holidays of many religions are celebrated times of the year that correspond with occurrences in nature. It's time to look forward to the signs of spring. The natural world comes alive. Many celebrate Easter. Jesus coming back to life. Quakers traditionally believe more in teachings of Jesus than the miracles taught in Christianity. Rejoice in every day!

A change of season is welcome every year. This year it means more. With Covid we've truly had to hibernate. Our lives have been different and it may feel like the change is here to stay.

The snow has now melted. The days are getting warmer and longer. We will get outside to walk and to dine. More and more of us will get vaccinated. Schools will open in person. We'll meet friends indoors and plan our next vacation. Worship will be inside the Meetinghouse. I can't wait to bake a cake to share as we socialize.

How many times in life have things seemed the worse they could be? We feel they won't get better but gradually or suddenly they are. Flowers will bloom. Trees will be green. The world will be reborn. In many ways sadder. Some lessons might teach us better ways. Think spring. Think back to normal happy days. Have faith! Think hugs!

GROUP HUG FROM PASTORAL CARE

"I get by with a little help from my friends." The Beatles sang it, and we've probably all heard it in one context or another. I wouldn't be surprised if most of us feel it's been even truer over the past twelve months. Although "socially distanced," we've found common ground in our experience of the Year of the Plague. Whether through our pods, our Zoom get-togethers, our texts and emails and our virtual hugs, we find support, compassion and understanding –sometimes in unexpected places.

Quaker meetings have a formal structure that includes a committee appointed to provide this kind of support and care. At Yardley the committee is called Pastoral Care. For serious issues like discerning the call to membership, marriage or traveling ministry, or dealing with personal crises or financial need, this committee stands ready to help. But in many ways, we're all members of an informal pastoral care community. Your compassion, your encouragement and your listening skills can be a vital lifeline to someone. You are important, you are a contributing member of a community, and your contribution is unique. You may never know what effect you have on someone, but you matter to others in ways you may never guess.

As they say, we haven't eliminated the clergy; we've eliminated the laity. It's the Quaker way.

Any questions about access to the google group or anything else, please write to info@yardleyfriendsmeeting.org.