

# YARDLEY FRIENDS MEETING

## NEWSLETTER

December 2021

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65 North Main Street, Yardley PA 19067

<http://yardleyfriendsmeeting.org/>

Meeting for Worship 10:00–11:00

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

Linda Jacobs Snyder, Clerk

Ed Snyder, Newsletter Editor

### *This month at YFM*

Catered lunch and decorating party – Sunday December 5, after Meeting for Worship. Join us while we decorate the tree and meetinghouse and enjoy lunch. Lots of fun!

Yardley Parade Float decorating - December 3rd – Gather together to help decorate a float for the Yardley Christmas parade. More info under Space For Young Friends.

Candlelight Meeting for Worship - Wednesday evening, December 22nd from 7:00- 8:00 pm. All are welcome! Bring a candle (but there will be extras).

Red Cross Blood Drive – Tuesday December 28, 2-7 PM

#### Regular activities

**First Day Worship** - We are meeting **inside**, with masks, windows open and social distancing (and a zoom link). *Please check the google group emails Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning for the zoom link.* Worship is back to one full hour, 10 -11.

**Women's group** - Wednesdays at 2:30 PM (zoom)

**Committee Meetings** - on the first First Day, following Meeting for Worship (in-person and/or zoom at clerk's discretion)

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

Most activities are announced on the google group. If you are getting this newsletter by hard copy or otherwise are not on the google group, please email [ed@mrpplansinc.com](mailto:ed@mrpplansinc.com) and ask to be added.

### *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).

Check out the quarter website: <https://www.quakersbucks.org/> for other news and events.

### A Welcome to new Clerks

A couple of years ago I thought I wrote my last Clerk's Corner. Things change. Covid made many lives more complicated. My extra year as clerk is coming to an end. To complicate matters I'm recuperating from an operation. Life has its challenges.

I totally enjoy being clerk. There is so much to learn. I get to know all of you better. I work on coordinating things so they run smoothly for the Meeting. I'm constantly reminded that my work is not about the will of the clerk. It's about finding unity of the Meeting. I think that's an important lesson for anyone in any role. Recognizing unity and seeing it through no matter what my thoughts keeps one on their toes.

The worst of years also have a lot of joy. It isn't always easy to find. We've gotten some new people. A core group worships together and works together. Because these times have our attendance down it may feel like our Meeting is depleted. This isn't much different than everything in the world. We need to be patient and have faith. It's sad that we don't have many children around. It's hard to figure how much outreach to do and how much we need to wait. Our Meeting has had highs and lows over the years. I believe it's up to us to do our best and a way will open. The Meeting has the same warmth and love over the years but many faces change. There is a balance to find in all we do. The labyrinth is just one example of something wonderful we will be able to share with the community. We've made property improvements that make the Meetinghouse more inviting.

The Meeting clerk's role is to find a way to help others do the best work they can wherever their leading is. A new clerk doesn't totally change the Meeting. However every new clerk brings talents which add to our Meeting. I look forward to Marna Matthews starting in January with Tyler Hoff as assistant clerk. They both have great visions and talents to help the meeting move forward. Hopefully the new year will show the world opening up more each day. As mentoring clerk, I'm here for you wherever I can be of help. My mentoring clerks were a great help to me and a joy to work with. Here's to a great 2022!

#### Inspirations for the month

Whatever you do, or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it, begin it now.

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

*(From the January 2022 Motto Calendar; copies available in the Meetinghouse)*

Early Quakers did not observe Christmas nor mark other 'times and seasons'. They believed that no day was more holy than any other, and believed that each day, and all of life, was sacred (Quaker faith & practice 27.39 and 27.42). Today, as with so many things in the Quaker community, there is a full spectrum of practices and responses.

There are those who do the full Christian event to mark the birth of Jesus with candles, carols, presents and Christmas pudding, and others who will observe simply and quietly. There are also those who will choose not to mark this Christmas season in any way, but who nonetheless give daily witness to their faith.

Whilst I experience this sense of the 'sacred always' I do, like many Quakers, find times and seasons helpful markers from which to reflect and rejoice. I delight in the new spring buds, the crisp autumn leaves, the wisps of breath on a cold winter morning. I celebrate Easter as a time of new beginnings and advent as a time of deepening darkness with the promise of new light to follow.

Quakers mark Christmas in different ways but I will spend Christmas Eve looking up at the stars and hoping fervently that the seven billion people on this planet will indeed show good will to one another.

*Excerpted from a blogpost by Gill Sewell on the Quakers in Britain webpage*

## Query 11. Witnessing in the World: Witness and Civic Responsibility

What is our meeting doing:

To become aware of systemic legal, economic and political injustices in our local community?

To build relationships with other faith communities around common concerns?

To reduce polarization within the larger community?

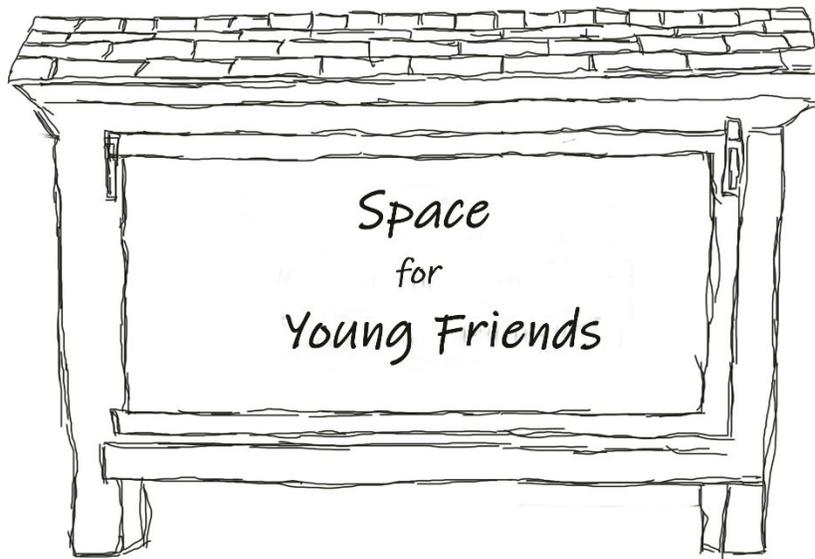
To work together with others to address injustice?

How does our meeting assist in restoring public recognition that government fulfills legitimate functions?

*Am I mindful of how my lifestyle, work-life and investments affect others?*

*Am I open to seeking clearness on matters of conscience? Am I open to assisting others in doing so?*

*Do I fulfill my civic responsibilities when they do not conflict with divine leading?*



Attention young friends!

We are have some events coming up at the meeting where you can finally get together in person and have some fun. I hope you all will join us.

December 3rd – Gather together to help decorate a float for the Yardley Christmas parade. Pizza will be provided. RSVP to [MiRosa@myself.com](mailto:MiRosa@myself.com) so we know how many will be there.

December 5th – The meeting wide decorating party with a catered lunch.

December 10th – Game night! Bring your favorite game or just bring yourself, there will be lots of options. If anyone wants a role playing game let me know so I can prep one. We will have sandwiches, chips, and cookies. RSVP to Rosa at [MiRosa@myself.com](mailto:MiRosa@myself.com) so I know how much food to order.