

# The Friends Messenger

*The Newsletter of West Chester and Birmingham Monthly Meetings of the  
Religious Society of Friends*

Volume LXVIII, Number 8

Eighth Month, 2019

## ***West Chester Monthly Meeting Calendar – August 2019***

**Sunday, 8/4:** Care of Meeting Community meets at 9 am; Youth Religious Education meets at 9am

**Sunday, 8/11:** Query reading at 10:30 am; Meeting for worship with attention to **business** at 12 noon

**Sunday, 8/18:** Worship & Ministry Committee meets at 9am

**Sunday, 8/25:** Peace & Social Concerns Committee meets at 9 am

## ***Birmingham Monthly Meeting Calendar – August 2019***

*Our greeters are: 8/4 John Braceland; 8/11 David Leonard; 8/18 Peg or Tod Baseden*

**Sunday, 8/4:** Meeting for worship at 10 am. Meeting for Business is postponed until August 11.

**Sunday, 8/11:** Meeting for Business 8:30am; Youth Committee meets at 10:00 am

**Sunday, 8/18:** Oversight & Pastoral Care Committee meets at 8:30 am.

**Sunday, 8/25:** Meeting for Worship at 10 am

### **Birmingham Friends Meeting's Annual Chicken Barbecue featuring Bluegrass Music**

**Saturday, August 3 from 4-7pm**

**1245 Birmingham Road, West Chester PA 19382**

The Menu: BBQ chicken or Vegetarian Entree, local corn on the cob, homemade cole slaw, local fresh sliced tomatoes, and cornbread. Also enjoy lemonade, tea, water and desserts including brownies, cookies and ice cream! \*Take-out is available!

Advance tickets are recommended: \$16 adults in advance, \$18 adults at the door, \$8 children 12 and under

For questions or to purchase tickets please contact: Marcia Cole-Quigley at

[marcia.cq@gmail.com](mailto:marcia.cq@gmail.com) or call 610-436-8121.

All proceeds benefit charitable organizations.

# West Chester Monthly Meeting

## Minutes of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

### July 14, 2019

West Chester Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends gathered in Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business at the appointed hour on the Fourteenth day of the Seventh Month, 2019.

Meeting opened with a moment of silent worship.

The Co-clerk requested approval of the June minutes and Friends approved the minutes.

The Co-clerk reviewed the proposed agenda. Friends approved the agenda.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### Clerk's report

- Robert Wafula, Principal of The Friends Theological College (FTC) Community and Sunday School teachers drawn from Friends Meetings in East Africa, sent a letter of gratitude to our meeting. He shared that FTC greatly enjoyed the presence, participation and leadership of Melinda [Bradley's] gifts and sent thanks for sending her to them and sharing her love for ministry.

##### Property Committee

- Randy Lyons reported that the property committee, with the support of Pan Sapko and Sue Kelly, continues to explore grant opportunities to fund the porch and ramp projects. The committee is also looking at funding opportunities for joint projects between WCFS and WCMM.
- The committee requested a minute from the meeting, expressing approval for the submission of PYM grant applications. Meeting has approved moving forward with the PYM grant application as well as other grant application opportunities as it pertains to the porch project.

##### WCFS Committee

- Randy Lyons announced that there have been three recent additions to the WCFS board—Lauren Hastings (WCMM), John Burton (WCMM), Phil Cook (Hamilton meeting)

##### Worship and Ministry

- Marina Pavluk shared that the committee is planning an outside Meeting for Worship at the burial grounds in early November. More information will be forthcoming.
- The committee requested support from Care of Meeting in the development of a minute to express gratitude for Pam Leland's service to the community and made a request that the meeting invite Pam to a shared lunch in September. Randy Lyons indicated that he would work with Marina on the minute.
- On the third Sunday in August, the Worship and Ministry Committee has invited the Care of Meeting Committee to join their committee meeting at 9:00 am to discuss opening exercises. They will report back to the meeting at the September Meeting for Business.

##### FDS/YRE Committee

- Melinda Bradley reported that the committee met and would like to express gratitude for the people who lead our youth religious education program. The committee discussed the year past and the year ahead and agreed that the program will focus on a faith-based approach to stewardship of the earth as a way to connect our meeting's religious education with the world. The committee acknowledges the intersection and opportunity between YRE and programs brought forth by Worship and Ministry and will plan the upcoming calendar accordingly.
- The committee continues its work with the school on creating a space for the younger children.
- Meanwhile our community is growing up, with a number of children moving up to the young people's group, and work has begun on developing more programming for this group.

##### Old Business

- There was no update on morphing the advancement committee into an outreach committee.
- The Ad-hoc team on charitable giving met and continues their work.
- Deb Lyons shared a list of Aging Resources, available on the Quaker Aging Resources website, per last month's update.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- Lynn Piersol reported that the next Quarterly meeting is scheduled for July 21 at Willistown Meeting. Melinda Bradley will conduct a multi-generational program focused on supporting young people and what they need to support their religious journey. Deb Lyons and Larry Wheeler will represent WCMM.
- Chris Smith reported that Sue Kelly has been helping her and Deb Lyons with the kitchen cleanout. Sue put together a preliminary list of things that need to be cleaned in the Meeting house.
  - T. Toni and her husband Wes indicated they are willing to clean the meeting

house. The meeting requested an estimate from T. Toni for the work prior to approving the work.

- The meeting recommended hiring a professional, once a year, to clean the blinds, chandeliers, and to conduct a professional carpet cleaning. Friends approved getting estimates for all the projects.

- PYM Annual Sessions is planned for July 24-28. Deb Lyons and James Bradley will represent WCMM.
- Melinda Bradley requested approval to host the PYM middle school overnight retreat October 18-20 at WCMM. The Meeting approved.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Wernersville Autumn Retreat is scheduled for October 4-6. Scott Smith is the contact.

#### **CLOSING WORSHIP**

Meeting closed with a moment of silent worship.

Gwenn Knapp, Co-Clerk, Lisa Vosburgh, Recording Clerk

### ***West Chester Monthly Meeting Announcements – June 2019***

**Youth Religious Education Programs resume on September 8!** Our theme this year for children and youth is: Stewardship of the Earth as Faith-based Witness. Looking forward to seeing everyone in September! Child care continues through September 1st.

**Save the Date!** The Fall Wernersville retreat is scheduled for October 4-6.

### ***Birmingham Monthly Meeting Announcements – August 2019***

The Meeting approved that the next **Meeting for Business** will be held on **August 11**. There was no Meeting for Business in July. Please put August 11 on your calendar and mention it to others you see in the meantime.

On **Sunday, August 4**, students will swim at the Kaniefski's house. For all swimming events, non-swimmers must be accompanied by a parent. Please RSVP if your children will be attending or send questions to Kathy Mork at morkjwo6@verizon.net or call (610) 793-2564.

There will be no FDS on August 11,18 or 25, however there will be children's programming at the meetinghouse.

Our **FDS and Childcare** organizers are looking for **volunteers** who may already have their **PA clearances** to work with children but who have not submitted them to Birmingham Friends Meeting for that purpose. If you have your clearances completed and would like to help, please let us know. Contact Kathy Mork or Gwynne Ormsby.

Join the **Brandywine Sacred Harp Singers** on Monday, August 5 from 7-9 pm at the meetinghouse. No experience needed! For more information, contact Laura Densmore at 610-793-5102 (home), 610-405-2485 (cell), or by email: [FaSoLaura4@gmail.com](mailto:FaSoLaura4@gmail.com).

**Birmingham Meeting Archive Discovery!** While investigating the holdings of our Meeting's records a poster was discovered with a remarkable history! In 1926 a member, Marian Passmore Cope, involved the Birmingham First Day School in sending a "Friendship Doll" to Japan to increase the spirit of peace and goodwill between our nations. Cope, after acquiring the doll, "Edith", delivered her to the Primary School of Kutsukake District carrying friendliness and good wishes to the children from those in America. This poster features a photograph of the school children, and "Edith," who thank Birmingham Meeting for their gift. The school principal, Mr. Kikuchi, was a Friend. The poster, with informative text is on temporary display in the glass cabinet adjacent to the refreshment table. Please take a look and appreciate our history! Want to know more about the Meeting Archives? Ask Ann Upton!

## Of Interest to All – August 2019

PYM is inviting families to it's first ever **Community Playdate** at the **Please Touch Museum** in Philadelphia on Saturday, **August 17 from 9:30am-12:30pm**. The Community Playdate is an opportunity for fellowship and learning with our PYM Family community. The Please Touch Museum has a new exhibit (until September 2), "*America to Zanzibar: Muslim Countries Near and Far*" that fits well with our Children and Families theme for 2019 — welcoming our neighbors. **So bring a neighbor or friend, and come play!** The cost is the \$19 admissions charge for the museum. Once you are registered, we will purchase tickets in advance and have them for you at the Museum. *Please don't let finances keep you away from the Community Playdate!* There is an option to request scholarship on the registration. *Also, see options for supporting other families to participate in the program on the registration form. Use this link to register:* <https://secure.acceptiva.com/?cst=VpkvHZ>

**PYM** is hosting a young friends late summer gathering from August 21- August 24 at Camp Onas. **The theme will focus on violence, non-violence, and protest.** Young Friends will also enjoy lots of time outside in the camp's woods, fields, and creeks. For more information or to register please use the link provided: <https://www.pym.org/event/young-friends-late-summer-gathering-2019>:

**Summer Music with Friends, featuring the Nearly Valentines!** Join Centre Friends Meeting on **Saturday, August 17** at 6pm for this free concert! Grab the kids and pack a picnic! You will hear everything from modern bluegrass and New Orleans-style jazz to Greek and Celtic folksongs! For more information, please see the flyer in the social room.

The next **Twilight Meditation** of the season will be **Sunday, August 25** at Newtown Meadow Preserve (Newtown Township) off Rt 252, next to Episcopal Academy. If you are new to Twilight Meditation, they grab their camp chairs and head out to local preserves and natural areas, where they meditate while watching the sun go down. A very powerful experience, which takes us far away from the pressures of modern-day life. For more information,

please reach out to [John2@custerandcuster.com](mailto:John2@custerandcuster.com) or to view the full schedule, please see the listing in the social room.

Learn about the **Underground Railroad** in Chester County on **August 11 from 2-3pm**. Located at the William Brinton 1704 House at 21 Oakland Road in West Chester, the presentation will be an introduction to the fascinating history of the Underground Railroad in Chester County that uses primary documents and artifacts to tell this important but often overlooked story! Led by a trained teacher, admission includes tour of the William Brinton 1704 House! For more information:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/667928813665395/>

**Saturday, September 21 is International Day of Peace.** Peace Day was established in 1981 by the United Nations as an annual observance of global non-violence and ceasefire. In 2002, the General Assembly of the UN declared September 21 as the permanent date for International Day of Peace. The 2019 Peace Day Theme is Sustainable Goal #13: Climate Action. United Nations Sustainable Goals include: poverty, hunger, health, education, climate change, gender equality, water, sanitation, energy, environment, and social justice. Environment directly affects health status and plays a major role in quality of life, especially for children in poverty. For more information, please see the below or the flyer hanging in the social room.

**International Day of Peace- 2 ways to participate!  
Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Noon-1pm: Sponsored by the Chester County Peace Movement: meet at the Historic Chester County Court House (High St)**

**2-4pm: Sponsored by The Green Team of West Chester: A celebration of the International Day of Peace with a focus on Climate Action and Youth Activism**

Where: Chester County Courthouse steps and Unitarian Congregation on High Street in West Chester

2:00-3:00pm -- Music and Speeches on Peace and Climate Activism shared by all ages

3:00 -- March down High Street to the Unitarian Congregation, co-led by Mayor Herrin

3:00-4:00pm -- Entertainment and fellowship at the Unitarian Congregation

*Information for the **September Messenger** is due Monday, 8/26*

**The Friends Messenger**  
**425 North High Street**  
**West Chester, PA 19380**

*Address service requested*

### **8. Grounding for Transformed Lives: Integrity and Simplicity**

- a. What is the interplay between simplicity and integrity in the life of our meeting?
- b. How does our meeting embody simplicity and integrity in its structures and practices?
- c. How has our meeting considered humanity's impact on the earth's ecological integrity and the ways in which violence and injustice exacerbate this impact?
- d. How do I strive to achieve harmony between my inner and outer commitments in my spiritual journey, my work, my family and my other responsibilities?*
- e. Am I temperate in all things?*
- f. Am I open to counsel regarding addictive behavior?*
- g. Am I involved only with those organizations and activities whose purposes and methods complement my integrity?*
- h. Am I careful to speak truth as I know it and am I open to truth spoken to me?*
- i. Am I mindful that judicial oaths imply a double standard of truth?*