

# The Friends Messenger

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

Volume LXIII, Number 10

Tenth Month, 2019

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

**Sunday, 10/6:** Pancake Breakfast & Worship at Hibernia Park 8:30am; Care of Meeting Community meets at 9 am

**Sunday, 10/13:** Query reading at 10:30 am; Meeting for Worship with attention to business noon.

**Sunday, 10/20:** Worship & Ministry Committee meets at 9am; Peace & Social Concerns presentation on Carbon Footprint during shared lunch

**Sunday, 10/27:** Peace & Social Concerns Committee meets at 9 am; Concord Quarterly Meeting at Westtown Monthly Meeting

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

*Our greeters are: 10/6: Ann Upton; 10/13: Peg or Tod Baseden; 10/20: Serita Spadoni; 10/27: David Leonard*

**Sunday, 10/6:** Meeting for worship with Attention to Business at 8:30am

**Sunday, 10/13:** Youth Committee meets at 10am; Fellowship Luncheon hosted by Fellowship Committee at 11:15am

**Sunday, 10/20:** Religious Education Committee; Peace & Social Concerns and Oversight & Pastoral Care Committees all meet at 8:30 am

**Sunday, 10/27:** Meeting for Worship at 10 am; Concord Quarterly Meeting at Westtown Monthly Meeting

## **World Quaker Day is Sunday, October 6**

Join **West Chester Monthly Meeting for a Pancake Breakfast and Meeting for Worship at Hibernia Park.** Breakfast at 9am with Meeting for Worship/Meditative Nature Walk at 10:30. We have reserved our usual pavilion, #1 in the wooded area off of Old Dam Rd at Hibernia Park. 1 Park Road, Coatesville.

Join **Concord and Western Quarters' 2019 Hayride and Campfire Potluck!** On Sunday, October 6 from 5pm to 8pm, join them at the Stratton's Wynnorr Farm for hayrides, campfire and potluck! Bring your instruments and songbooks! For more information, please see the flyer or go to <http://concordquarter.org/> RSVP is requested <http://concordquarter.org/hayride-2019>

**Set your DVR!** Philadelphia Yearly Meeting announces that two members of Princeton Monthly Meeting have completed seven years' work on their documentary film about Friends' history. Recently released, "**Quakers: the Quiet Revolutionaries**" is scheduled to air on our local public television station **WHYY at 6 pm on World Quaker Day.** Please see the bulletin board in the Social Room for more information or go to: <http://www.quakersthefilm.com/>

# West Chester Monthly Meeting

## Minutes of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

### September 8, 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 Eighth day of the Ninth 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

- Clerk, Deb Lyons, apologized for delay in the release of the agenda due to computer issues, and for those of you who attended breakfast this morning, she is grateful for side streets on way back from Acme to deliver cream cheese/butter.

##### Youth RE Committee

- Johanna Halsmith-Weisser announced that the theme of this year's FDS is Stewardship of the Earth and provided an update on the new space that has been set up for the FDS in the lunchroom of the school. On behalf of the committee, she presented young Friends with books and work books to help them on their journey.
- Last year friends who were teachers in our FDS received a minute of travel recognizing their service. Once again this year, each member will receive a minute of travel for their work.

##### Treasurers Report for 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter

- David Wickard reviewed the current quarterly balance sheets and reserves for the ramp project. Members expressed gratitude for his attention to these matters.

##### Care of Meeting Committee

- Matt Bradley provided an update on the work of the committee. He informed Friends that the committee is not yet ready to bring a proposal to the meeting, but instead they wanted to provide an update on their current thinking. The committee is giving thought to how the various spaces in the meeting house are being used and how they

might be used, this includes the social room, the basement and how the dividers could be used to make the meeting house space more intimate. The committee recognizes that some of these things could cost money. When they have compiled their thoughts, they will bring them to the meeting to prioritize. Once the meeting has identified priorities, the committee can begin thinking about raising money to address the priorities.

- Additionally, Matt noted that "Quaker Block" relationship-building is in the works.
- The meeting expressed appreciation for Chris Smith's work to secure and complete the professional meetinghouse carpet cleaning.

##### Property Committee

- Jon Burton provided an update about an anonymous gift offered by a West Chester Friends School family member to upgrade the stage in the meetinghouse. Meeting has not yet been informed of the donor's identity but looks forward to learning it and being able to express Friends' gratitude personally. The work includes refinishing the floor, adding an updated projector/screen, speakers, microphones, mixing board and replacing the stage lights with LCDs. The total investment is about \$14,000. Friends approved receipt of the gift and the work and record our appreciation to this donor family for the work they are planning to improve the school and Meeting.
- David Wickard reported on the work to secure a resource to provide a deep cleaning for the Meetinghouse. The work is to include cleaning of window wells, interior window panes, all interior doors, beadboard, baseboards and ledges, wood polish all benches, polish tables, flip cushions. The cost for the work is \$475. Friends approved the request.
- The Committee is working on a proposal to refinish the social room floor.
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### Nominating Committee

- Deb Lyons reported that Marina Pavluk has identified friends who would serve with her on the nominating committee—Melinda Wenner Bradley and Larry Wheeler. Friends approved their nomination to the committee.

### Old Business

- David Wickard and Rob Vosburgh shared information about an educational opportunity to learn more about planned giving and philanthropy, with a focus on specifically giving to Quaker organizations. Mimi Blackwell, from Friends Fiduciary, and Rob Vosburgh, WCMM member and WCFS parent '18 & '20, are giving a presentation on how people might go about their philanthropy on Thursday, November 14 at 6:00 pm in the social room. This event is jointly sponsored by the school and the Meeting.

### NEW BUSINESS

- Deb Lyons reported that Pam Leland's last day as Executive Director of the Hickman is Friday, Sep-

tember 13. The meeting wrote a Minute of Appreciation for Pam's work. The meeting signed a letter and a tree is being planted in her honor in a national park. Friends approved the minute

- Jennifer Karsten, who has been serving as Director of Pendle Hill, begins as the Hickman's new Executive Director on Friday, September 6. Deb is meeting with Jennifer on Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 9/21 Day of Peace celebration at "old" county courthouse
- 10/6 World Quaker Day: Meeting, pancakes, worship at Hibernia Park
- Wernersville Autumn Retreat is scheduled for October 4-6
- 10/18-20 middle school friends retreat at WCMM
- 11/3 meeting for worship at Oakland Burial Ground

### CLOSING WORSHIP

Meeting closed with a moment of silent worship.

Deb Lyons, Co-Clerk, Lisa Vosburgh, Recording Clerk

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

On **Saturday, October 26 from 9am-noon**, in the Social Room, best-selling author on Spirituality, **Marcelle Martin** will speak on **"Supporting One Another on the Spiritual Journey."** In 2003 she became an adjunct teacher at Pendle Hill and for four years living on campus as the resident Quaker Studies Teacher. Marcelle Martin is the author of two Pendle Hill pamphlets, Invitation to a Deeper Communion and Holding One Another in the Light. Her blog, "A Whole Heart" is at [www.awholeheart.com](http://www.awholeheart.com) Child care will be provided and a pizza lunch will follow the presentation. Please RSVP to the meeting secretary at [wcfmeeting@gmail.com](mailto:wcfmeeting@gmail.com) or 610-696-0491.

Mark your calendar! **November 10 is Community Sunday on Quaker Block!** We're inviting our friends at the Hickman, West Chester Friends School, and Goshen Friends school to join us for a morning of singing, story, and all ages worship.

We are looking for **volunteers to help with the Meeting's community outreach in 2020, monthly dinners at the Salvation Army.** West Chester Meeting's dinners are the first Monday of each month. We have been performing this service for several decades; if you would like to be a part of it or would like more information, please contact the Meeting secretary: [wcfmeeting@gmail.com](mailto:wcfmeeting@gmail.com) or 610-696-0491. Volunteers of any level are welcome: anything from one time per year up to three times in the calendar year. Thank you in advance for helping with this worthwhile program!

As you are unpacking your Fall and Winter clothes, if you have any men's winter coats to donate please bring them in for the VA hospital.

**Birmingham Monthly Meeting**  
**Minutes of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business**  
**September 8, 2019**

Meeting opened with a period of silent worship.

The agenda was approved.

Friends approved the Minutes of August 2019 as presented.

**Clerk's Report – Celia Lang**

The co-clerks of the Harvest Buffet: Connie Eash and Nancy Arnosti are looking for a Friend to become a third co-clerk to serve with them. Due to unexpected challenges for both of them, they feel that a third Friend is needed in order to move forward with holding the Harvest Buffet this year. Celia indicated that Connie and Nancy are not asking for that Friend to perform specific duties and are open to adjusting duties between the three co-clerks. Friends were encouraged to reach out to Nancy and Connie if they are willing to serve.

The Meeting will be hosting PYM's Middle East Collaborative (MEC) on Sunday, November 3rd. Peace and Social Concerns Committee agreed to host the event. Members of the MEC will join the Meeting for worship, and after social time will convene to conduct its business for approximately an hour and a half. Friends are welcome to participate in the MEC.

**Emergency Preparedness Working Group – Meredith Hung**

Meredith shared proposed changes to the Manual of Procedures to include a new section for Guidelines for Emergency Preparedness. The proposed changes were distributed both by paper and email. There will be duties that the Meeting must attend to after the working group has been laid down. They propose that a two-person "Safety Committee" be formed as a special assignment to be filled by the Nominating

Committee for a duration to be determined by them. Until the Nominating Committee creates its next slate of committee assignments in 2020, Connie Eash and Meredith Hung agreed to serve for the remainder of the 2019-2020 year.

Per the Meeting's guidelines, the review and approval of these proposed changes will be done over two business meetings. Friends should provide feedback and concerns to Meredith and Connie for incorporation into a final draft for approval in October.

Meredith noted that there is a one-page personal emergency awareness document that June Lunney will be distributing via email soon.

A Friend asked what the Meeting should do if someone with a gun comes into the meetinghouse. The person should be asked to leave the premises. If that person does not leave, the Meeting should call 911. If there is a person with a concealed weapon, there's nothing that can be done unless someone becomes aware of the gun. They can be asked to leave then even if the person has a concealed carry permit. When someone is aware of the gun it is no longer covered by the permit and our no weapons policy applies.

**Concord Quarterly Meeting – Charles Spadoni**

Charlie summarized Concord Quarterly Meeting held July 21st, 2019 at Willistown Monthly Meeting. More detailed information can be found on the Quarter's website under the heading: "QMINFO" by selecting "documents" and then "minutes."

The Quarter approved the appointment of David Wickard of West Chester Monthly Meeting and Tom Gilbert of Willistown Monthly Meeting to perform a

“Friendly Audit” of the Quarter’s financial books and records for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2018 and June 30, 2019. The Quarter requested a report on their review at Quarterly Meeting on October 27th. The Quarter minuted its appreciation for the service of Deb Wood and David Leonard as Assistant Clerk and Recording Clerk, respectively. Appreciation of the service that London Grove Meeting Member Pam Leland has provided as the director of The Hickman over the past six years was minuted as well.

Charlie announced that the students at the Delaware Valley Friends School with which the Quarter has established a care relationship are interested in performing service projects with the Quarter’s monthly meetings. Interested monthly meetings should contact the school about their opportunities for service.

At the October 27th Quarterly Meeting at Westtown Monthly Meeting, the Delaware Valley Friends School will conduct a program about how the school educates students with learning differences. Friends accepted the report with gratitude.

### **Date Change for Quarterly Meeting at Birmingham – Chris McKenney**

The Meeting traditionally hosts Concord Quarterly Meeting in April every other year. For Quarterly Meeting in July at Willistown, there was a heatwave and the conditions were very difficult. Birmingham is the only monthly meeting that has air conditioning in the Quarter. The Quarter has asked if the Meeting would agree to switch hosting duties from April to July.

Friends discussed the implications of the proposed change. Many Friends felt that moving to July would prevent the Meeting from having the substantial intergenerational activities that Birmingham has put on every other April. It was noted how extremely positive the feedback from the Quarter is in regards to our programs. Other Friends raised the concern that the Chicken Barbecue will typically be only six days after

Quarterly Meeting and even if Willistown used our meetinghouse to host the Quarter, it will still be difficult with supplies for the barbecue already being assembled at the meetinghouse. Another Friend noted that even if the Meeting hosted Quarterly Meeting every other year, it wouldn’t solve the Quarter’s problem fully.

Friends were in agreement that the Meeting should decline the request from Concord Quarterly Meeting to switch from April to July. Chris agreed to relay the decision and the rationale.

### **Newcomers Brochure – Sallie Jones**

Sallie announced that she and Leslie have formalized the information in their Exploring Quakerism class that they have developed over the past two years. They believe it’s now time to provide it on the Meeting’s information table for visitors that have come multiple times and are interested in having a closer relationship with the Meeting. The pamphlet is called: “Welcome to Our Meeting” and it is a two-sided, tri-fold and covers the practical matters that newcomers frequently wonder about. The information will be shared on the Meeting’s website, though it will likely need to be in a different format.

### **Worship and Ministry – Barbara Knickerbocker**

The Worship and Ministry Committee recognized the need to update the printed brochure that the Meeting has been using for outreach. Nancy Arnosti is clerking an ad hoc group that has begun work on updating both the content and photographs in the brochure. They will work on this over the next few months. While this brochure may cover some of the same subjects as the newcomers brochure, theirs is intended to serve as outreach rather than for attenders looking for in-depth information that the newcomers brochure will address.

## **Annual Sessions Report and Annual Giving Review**

### **– Serita Spadoni**

The 339th Annual Sessions of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting was held from Wednesday, July 24 to Sunday, July 28 at the College of New Jersey in Ewing, NJ, where Friends of all ages gathered to worship, conduct business, and share fellowship. A spiritual retreat facilitated by The Spiritual Formation Group preceded the Sessions on July 23. There were opportunities for intergenerational engagement during “All Together Times” such as Vespers facilitated by Middle School Friends as well as small group sharing on a number of topics to draw Friends closer together in answering “How do we Center ourselves in Trust and Love?”, the theme of this year’s sessions. A number of workshops on a variety of topics such as ending Nuclear Proliferation and exhibits of Quaker organizations provided valuable information and resources for Friends. Serita referred Friends to check the PYM website for the 2019 Minutes of proceedings plus the Closing Epistles from the children, Middle School, Young Friends, Young Adult Friends and adults to absorb the breadth and depth of the experience for those who attended. Lynne Piersol, Concord Quarter Coordinator, has written a thoughtful review of Annual Sessions which can be found on the Concord Quarterly Meeting website. Friends are encouraged to consider attending Sessions in the future if they have not as yet.

Serita reminded Friends that the PYM Annual Appeal ends September 30, the end of PYM’s fiscal year. Friends were encouraged to contribute to the effort to meet the goal of \$300,000.

A Friend noted that PYM has asked that every monthly meeting count the number of Friends in attendance every Sunday in November. Membership lists tell an incomplete story and PYM wants to see what level of interest and activity is present in monthly meetings.

Sallie Jones noted that there was an effort led by Melinda Wenner Bradley, PYM’s Youth Engagement Coordinator to eliminate exclusive terms used within the Religious Society of Friends. She is also working on ways to have more intergenerational activities as well as making sure the Yearly Meeting’s youth know what the adults are doing. The primary work she is leading now is an intergenerational meeting for worship for an hour. This meeting would include more programming, but would involve the children for the whole hour. Sallie will share the material that Melinda has prepared on her work with the Religious Education Committee.

### **Chicken Barbecue Report – Marcia Cole-Quigley**

On August 3, 2019, the Meeting held its annual Chicken Barbecue. Music from Doug Linton’s group: Pickin’ for Chicken entertained diners. Friends of all ages enjoyed each other’s company as they worked together to serve 202 dinners. The Meeting raised \$2688.40 to benefit our charitable giving. Feedback and suggestions for next year’s event should be sent to Marcia.

A Friend noted that the price of a dinner has not changed in some time and wondered if it is now time to raise the price? Marcia noted that she talks to Ted and Connie every year about this and has not felt that there is a need at this time. It was also noted that the Meeting serviced about the same number of dinners and had the same amount of proceeds as last year.

### **Other Business**

Tod Baseden reported that he was contacted by Eugene Hough who is president of a company called: Heritage Guild Works. Their business is repairing, replacing, and maintaining historical markers. Mr. Hough coordinates a Legacy Marker Program that seeks to engage schools and communities in learning more about their history. They would not be looking for money from the Meeting, but would request involvement via interviews by Meeting members that

could be shared with local schools and civic organizations. There is no funding for the project or specific proposal at this time nor is Tod asking for anything from the Meeting, but he wanted to share his conversation with the Meeting.

A Friend asked if there was any discernment on the suggestion regarding changing which Sunday of the month that Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business is held. The response was that there has been no formal discussion on the suggestion since it was raised at the last meeting for business. The Clerk noted that if the Sunday changed, that it shouldn't change until July 1st when all Meeting duties change

for the year to provide Friends the appropriate amount of time to make adjustments to their plans.

A Friend suggested that both of these be sent to a committee for discernment and a recommendation. Friends agreed that the recommendations should come up through a committee at the Clerk's discretion for proper seasoning.

Meeting ended with a period of silent worship.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Lavin, Recording Clerk  
Celia Lang, Clerk

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

**Property Committee** is meeting on Monday, **October 21 at 7:00 pm.**

**First Day School Schedule of Topics:** 10/6—Faith & Play: Prayer and Meeting for Worship; 10/13: 9:45am—Meet at the Kaniefski's house for Pennies for Pumpkins. Contact the meetinghouse if you need directions. 10/20: Butterflies and the Environment; 10/27: No First Day School due to CQM.

Join the **Brandywine Sacred Harp Singers** on Monday, October 14 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).

**Parking at the meetinghouse:** Please make every effort to park on the meeting property, rather than in the Birmingham-Lafayette Cemetery, and use the provided spaces efficiently by parking as closely to other parked cars as possible. Note: 2-3 additional parking spots have been made available on the lawn just beyond the schoolhouse where the brush and compost piles used to be. Park in the B-L cemetery (away from gravestones and plot markers) only when all other onsite options have been taken.

**Save the Date!** Birmingham Friends Annual Harvest Buffet will take place Saturday, November 9 from 4:30pm—7:00pm here at our meetinghouse. All are invited! This annual traditional meal will feature fresh & local food, pasture-raised turkey, organic vegetables, and vegetarian, vegan, & gluten free options. Volunteers are always greatly appreciated. Tickets will be on sale soon. Proceeds go to local and Quaker charities. Please contact Nancy Arnosti, Connie Eash, or John Lavin for more info.

## Interest to All – October 2019

### Concord Quarterly Meeting

Sunday, October 27, 8:30am – 1:00pm

Westtown Monthly Meeting, 215 Friends Meeting Ln, West Chester, PA 19382

Sign in at 8:30am Meeting for business at 8:45am, worship at 10:30, Program by Delaware Valley Friends School on learning differences at 11:15 followed by lunch at 12:15. Children's programming starting at 8:45am.

**Save the Date!** West Chester Friends Meeting is having a **silent retreat** at the Jesuit Center in Wernersville, PA from October 4 to 6. The Jesuit Center for Spiritual Growth, situated on 240 acres in Wernersville, PA, is a place of natural beauty, welcoming quiet and spiritual sustenance, about an hour away from West Chester. The facilities and grounds at the Jesuit Center are unbelievable. Learn more about the center by visiting the webpage [www.jesuitcenter.org](http://www.jesuitcenter.org) Feel free to invite family and friends. Please contact [scott@envirosureinc.com](mailto:scott@envirosureinc.com) if you plan to attend or for more information.

West Chester Friends School's **Fall Fair** is **Saturday, October 5 from 11am to 2pm**. This is their biggest fundraiser for the PTO! A wonderful event filled with games, prizes, food, fun. Come out and support the school!

West Chester University is having their 2<sup>nd</sup> **Spirituality and Sustainability Colloquium** on **Thursday, October 3 at 7pm** in the Sykes Theater, with the reception starting at 6:30pm. Titled *Down to Earth: Religion, Gender, and Politics in the Climate Crisis* with leading ecofeminist theologian and feminist philosopher of religion, Dr. Catherine Keller. For more information, please see the flyer and letter on the bulletin board in the Social Room. Dr. Keller will discuss the relevance of political theology for the present ecological emergency, the ongoing struggle for an ecopolitical common good, the complex relationship between theory and practice, and the importance of distinguishing hope from optimism.

On Monday, **October 7 from 7:30-9pm**, in the Barn at **Pendle Hill**, a panel of climate justice activists will discuss the Green New Deal, the Sunrise Movement, and public banking in [Hope at the Intersection of Climate, Race, Justice and Democracy](#). Free and open to the public. Registration requested and required for livestream viewing.

**Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns** will meet at **Birmingham Friends Meeting** on Tuesday, **October 8, 10:30am-noon**. All who are interested in aging concerns are welcome. For more info: [concordquarter@pym.org](mailto:concordquarter@pym.org)

**On Tuesday, October 8 from 7:30-9pm**, Swarthmore Meeting is hosting a presentation by Marcelle Martin in the Whittier Room: "Practices for Supporting Faithfulness." Marcelle Martin will talk about ways to support each other in noticing the movements of the Spirit, discerning our leadings, and taking faithful action. She will also introduce her newly published book, [A Guide to Faithfulness Groups](#).

**Downingtown Friends Fall Festival** is Saturday, **October 12** from 9am to 4pm. Join them for their 43<sup>rd</sup> annual festival! Family fun, quality shopping, live entertainment, various activities and homemade food! For more information, find them on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/DowningtownFriendsMeeting.com](https://www.facebook.com/DowningtownFriendsMeeting.com)

**Goshen Friends School Harvest Fair & Open House** is on October 12 from noon-3pm. Enjoy free activities geared towards ages 1 ½-5-year-old. Families can tour the grounds and meet the teachers. For more informations: [www.goshenfriends.org](http://www.goshenfriends.org)

The **Spiritual Deepening Retreat** sponsored by the PYM Spiritual Deepening Collaborative is being held **October 11-13** at the Kenbrook Retreat Center in Lebanon, PA. PYM's Spiritual Formation Collaborative is calling all who are interested in a deeper communion with Spirit, spiritual formation, and/or spiritual nurture for a weekend residential retreat. There are still openings and some scholarship money available. <http://cirrus.mail-list.com/bfriends/48905501.html> Please also call Diane Kessler, especially if interested in the financial aid at 302-368-4706.

**October 18-20**, West Chester Friends Meeting is hosting the **PYM Middle School Friends Retreat**. This is a great opportunity for Middle Schoolers to get together with others their ages. For info and to register: <https://www.pym.org/event/middle-school-friends-fall-gathering-2019/>

On **Sunday, October 20**, West Chester Monthly Meeting's Peace and Social Concerns Committee will present **actions to reduce personal carbon footprint during shared lunch**. The presentation will be given by Scott Smith and will include an introduction to an EPA carbon footprint calculator and ways to reduce the carbon footprint of a household. Please feel free to join us for Meeting for Worship at 10:30 with the presentation starting at noon. Shared lunch provided so please bring your favorite dish to share!

The next **Twilight Meditation** will be at Drexel Lodge (Newtown Township) on **Sunday, October 27, 5:30 pm**. Located off Route 3 in Delco, across the street from Mostardi's. 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.

**Save the Date!** Saturday, **November 9** is Birmingham's annual **Harvest Buffet**, 4:30pm – 7pm. All are invited! This annual traditional meal will feature fresh & local food, pasture-raised turkey, organic vegetables, and vegetarian, vegan, & gluten free options.

**Volunteer with the Friends Association!** Besides shelter, families need assistance in areas such as legal help, tutoring, clothing & furniture donations, and much more. Through donors and volunteers like you, Friends Association is able to provide families with the resources they need to thrive. If you have any skills that could help our clients, we would love to hear from you. Learn how to volunteer here: <https://friendsassoc.org/volunteers/>

**Philadelphia Yearly Meeting events for youth and families -- our wider Quaker Family!**

- **October 12 (Saturday)** [Community Playdate for Families](#) at Solebury Orchard in Bucks County
- **October 18-20** [Middle School Friends Retreat at West Chester Meeting](#) for 6th-8th Graders!
  - **November 2** [PYM Fall Continuing Sessions](#) at Arch Street Meeting
- **December 14** [Winter Quaker Family Meetup](#) at Birmingham Meeting -- an opportunity for PYM Families of infants to teens to join together for fellowship, play, snacks and spiritual refreshment. **At the Winter event, we'll share experiences and support of the parenting journey during the holidays.**

*Information for the **November Messenger** is due **Wednesday, October 23**.*

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

*Address service requested*

**10. Witnessing in the World: Ministry of Outreach**

- a. How does our meeting communicate Friends' presence and principles to the wider community?
- b. How does our meeting join with other faith communities in worship, in spiritual dialogue and in social action?
- c. 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?
- d. How do I share my spiritual life and experience with others?*
- e. Does my life as a Friend attract others to our religious society?*
- f. What opportunities have I taken to worship with people from other religious and cultural backgrounds and work with them on common concerns?*