

The Friends Messenger

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

Volume LXVIII, Number 12

Twelfth Month, 2019

West Chester Monthly Meeting Calendar – December 2019

Sunday, 12/1: Care of Meeting Community meets at 9 am

Sunday, 12/8: Query Reading at 10:30am; Meeting for Worship with attention to business noon.

Sunday, 12/15: Worship & Ministry Committee meets at 9am; Christmas Program & Dinner at 4:30pm

Sunday, 12/22: Community Worship at 10:30am

Tuesday, 12/24: Christmas Eve Meeting for Worship at 7pm

Sunday, 12/29: Poetry Share 10:30am

Birmingham Monthly Meeting Calendar – December 2019

Our greeters are: 12/1: Tanya Pertzoff-Wells, 12/8: David Leonard, 12/15: Peg or Tod Baseden; 12/22: Serita Spadoni; 12/29: Ann Upton

Sunday 12/1: Meeting for Worship at 10am

Sunday, 12/8: Meeting for worship with Attention to Business at 8:30am; Youth Committee meets at 10am

Sunday, 12/15: Religious Education Committee; Peace & Social Concerns and Oversight & Pastoral Care Committees all meet at 8:30 am; Worship & Ministry is hosting a Fellowship Luncheon on the 15th (at rise of Worship)

Sunday, 12/22: Meeting for Worship at 10 am with Procession of the Friendly Beasts after Worship; Carol Sing at 7pm

Sunday, 12/29: Meeting for Worship at 10am

Looking for a unique gift? The Hickman's Annual Holiday Bazaar is here!

Tables will feature ornaments, jewelry, festive decorations and sweet gifts made by The Hickman residents as well as fresh holiday baked goods and white elephant items! The Holiday Bazaar will take place in the Jeanes Community Room on Wednesday, December 4 from 10am to 7pm, Thursday, December 5 from 1pm to 7pm, and Friday December 6 from 4pm-7pm.

West Chester Monthly Meeting

Minutes of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

November 10, 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 Tenth day of the Eleventh Month, 2019.

Meeting opened with a moment of silent worship.

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

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

Clerks' Report

Co-clerk, Deb Lyons, expressed delight that so many attended a wonderful Meeting for community worship. Deb reported that she attended the most recent Quarterly Meeting and Continuing Sessions and reminded Friends that West Chester Monthly Meeting is the host of the next Quarterly Meeting, scheduled for January 26, 2020, and we need to consider a program and lunch.

In addition to the Clerk's comments, Lynne Piersol reported that the Yearly Meeting staff contracted a consultant to conduct training of PYM staff to reinforce work to mitigate unconscious bias and racism.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Treasurer's Report

- The Treasurer, David Wickard, reviewed the balance sheet and quarterly income and expense reports. Friends expressed gratitude for David's diligence and ongoing work.

Nominating Committee

- Melinda Bradley, representing the Nominating Committee, reported that the committee met and would like to bring forth a request to approve the addition of Lisa Vosburgh to the committee. Friends approved adding Lisa to the nominating committee with thanks.

- Additionally, the Nominating Committee requested more time to do their work and, as a result, requested the Meeting approve an extension of current Committee assignments which otherwise were due to terminate at the end of 2019. The committee is preparing a questionnaire to better understand the leadings of the Meeting's members and attenders and they are developing a proposal for how committees may be structured going forward. Friends approved the extension.
 - Lauren Hastings recommended adding 'interests' to the survey and Melinda and Larry Wheeler agreed to bring the suggestion to the committee.

Peace and Social Concerns

- Erica Young reported that representatives from the Peace and Social Concerns Committee attended the Quarterly Meeting planning meeting and proposed a water program for the next Quarterly Meeting. *See section on supporting information for an overview of the Water Program.* Friends happily approved incorporating the proposed program into the Quarterly Meeting agenda.
- Friends also approved the expense to build 25 filters as part of the water program.
- Erica also proposed that youth could participate in a "water challenge" to promote the use of reusable bottles.
- Lynne Piersol will help promote the agenda in the December 15th Quarterly Newsletter.
- Friends agreed we needed volunteers to begin organizing and Erica Young, Scott Smith and Deb Lyons agreed to coordinate the schedule for the day (Friends agreed that we will follow Westtown agenda model for Quarterly meeting). Melinda agreed to take the Water Challenge to Youth Religious Education to see if someone was led to coordinate this aspect of

the program but also noted that Quaker Earth Care Witness has chapter on water that is included as part of the FDS lesson plans.

Youth Religious Education

- Melinda Bradley thanked all for support for the Community Worship Day and reported that the Christmas program is scheduled for December 15th beginning at 4:30 pm, before dinner.
- On December 22, WCMM will host a Community Worship that focuses on the Nativity Story. Friends are invited to bring a kid-friendly Nativity for the day.
- And, as a reminder, YRE is sponsoring reverse Advent again this year.
- Melinda also reported, with much joy, that the Unitarian Church was planning to bring its 5th – 7th graders to WCMM in January for an interfaith connection.

Charitable Giving Working Group

- Matt Bradley presented a proposal on behalf of the working group for acceptance (*See section on supporting information*). Friends accepted the working group's recommendation and approved that the Meeting's charitable contributions for 2019 and 2020 should be made per the plan. Friends also thanked the working group for their thorough, organized and well-done recommendations.
- Matt inquired as to the future of working group asking if they should continue or be laid down since they completed the task that was agreed upon. Friends requested that the committee explore in 2020 how to collect or organize how Friends give their time/money personally and collectively as a community.

Advancement Committee

- Todd Krasnai reinforced the message about the plans for the Christmas dinner on December 15th (youth program at 4:30, followed by dinner at 5:00) and asked that Friends consider donating their free turkeys to the meeting for the dinner. More information will be forthcoming about where and when to bring in the turkeys.
- And, as a reminder there will be a candle light Meeting at 7:00 pm on Christmas Eve.

NEW BUSINESS

Melony Fund

The following minutes represented the Recording Clerk's reflection of the discussion:

Matt Bradley brought forth a concern that impacts not only current recipients of the Melony Fund but future recipients as well. He requested the Meeting consider a change to the distribution process for the Fund (*See section on supporting information*). He shared with Friends that as a result of the process for distribution, awards are not fully benefiting the recipients. This is due to a Federally mandated process called 'displacement' that is regularly used by many colleges to adjust their calculations for student financial aid packages. This process specifies that any outside Scholarship will reduce the amount of need-based aid offered by the college, if it would otherwise exceed the student's demonstrated financial need (based on the Estimated Family Contribution determined by FAFSA), thereby freeing up the college's money to help the most people applying to the college. The Meeting discussed how this impacts loan, grant and scholarship awards. Displacement is directly related to awards characterized as a Scholarship—and the Melony Fund describes the tuition aid as a Scholarship.

There was much discussion about the intent of the Melony Will, which was written in 1977 before displacement existed. The will states that "the income from which is to be used to provide scholarships for the education of members of the Meeting and their families, above the level of High School...."

Friends also noted that Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and Quarterly Meeting are clear that their intent is that funds should help in 'addition to' any other funding sources a student may have.

While potential alternative distribution approaches were discussed, members of the Tuition Aid Committee reinforced that they follow the procedures set by meeting and the Will and the law. Friends seemed to be at ease with exploring Reformation of the Will, which is a legal process that helps clarify the intent of the will.

For the 2020-2021 school year, the Tuition Aid Committee will continue to follow the existing procedure until the Meeting receives the advice of Counsel.

Addendum to the Meloney Fund minutes:

Through the process of writing these minutes, the Recording Clerk was asked to include additional information about the current process and next steps.

As recorded, Friends noted that PYM and Quarterly Meeting are clear that their intent is that funds at their disposal should help in 'addition to' any other funding sources a student may have, but it is not clear if they distribute their higher education scholarships directly to the families or the institutions. K-12 grants are distributed directly to the schools. If higher education grants are distributed directly to families, families would be responsible for meeting their school's reporting requirements.

Members of the Tuition Aid Committee wish to reinforce that the manner in which they are executing their duties follows the procedures set by meeting, the Will, and that the committee is complying with their legal obligations.

While the Meeting was at ease while exploring Reformation of the Will, at discussion's end, Friends had not yet identified a representative(s) who could identify appropriate Counsel and better understand costs and the

process for legal review, upon which they would make a recommendation to the Meeting for next steps.

Attracting younger and more diverse meeting

Lauren Hastings raised a concern that according to PYM, the average age of members is 67, and those members are predominately Caucasian. She asked that the meeting continue to explore how we can attract younger and more diverse Attenders and Members. Friends reported that Worship and Ministry is considering outreach opportunities and that PYM is holding a threshing session at an upcoming meeting retreat on how to attract others. Friends thought that this might be a good topic for a future Quarterly Meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Unitarian Church of West Chester is holding a Thanksgiving Day Festival at the West Chester Senior Center from noon – 3:00 pm Thanksgiving Day. For more information or to volunteer: <https://thanksgivingfestival.org/>
- Rob Vosburgh and Mimi Blackwell are presenting a program on planned giving this Thursday.

CLOSING WORSHIP

Meeting closed with a moment of silent worship.

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

The following is information supporting the above minutes:

**West Chester Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Meloney Fund
Distribution Proposal**

November 10, 2019

Anna Meloney's will (1977) states that the residual of her estate "shall be paid to the trustees of the HIGH STREET FRIENDS MEETING, of West Chester, Pennsylvania, to be held in trust and to be known as the MELONEY FUND, the income of which is to be used to provide scholarships for the education of members of the Meeting and their families, above the level of high school."

The intent of the Meloney Fund is to assist members and their families with the cost of post-secondary education.

In those cases in which distributing a grant from the Meloney Fund directly to a post-secondary educational institution (e.g. college, university, trade school, etc.) does not reduce the Friend or their family's tuition obligation, the following distribution-method option can be utilized:

- The Meloney Fund grant will be deposited into the student's 529 account.

- The payment will be made in a timely manner such that the balance of the 529 account will be reported in the student's FAFSA and thus considered as an asset in the school's determination of any financial aid.
- Tuition payments will be made from the 529 account directly to the school for the upcoming school year.
- Statements from the 529 account and the school's bursar's office demonstrating that the full grant has been allocated properly will be provided to the meeting's Education Fund Committee by a date to be set by the Committee that is prior to the next year's application cycle.
- Any failure to comply with the requirements set by the educational institution and by the Meeting will rest with the student/family.
- If any funds are not properly allocated for any reason, the student/family will be required to reimburse the Meloney Fund.

**West Chester Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
Charitable Giving Working Group
November 10, 2019**

Report

The working group's charge came from the called meeting of March 24, 2019, in which Friends of West Chester Meeting identified the "values we hold dearest." Those values had been categorized into four themes (numbered for reference, not to indicate any priority ranking):

1. Environmental concerns - fresh air/water, earth care, climate care, reduction of resource use (stuff), affordable alternatives for stuff.
2. Basic human needs - food, water and shelter, education and healthcare – Poverty & Justice
3. Equality & Accessibility (equal access) - equality of opportunities, education, justice, racial, gaps
4. Peace, Safety and conflict - domestic violence and family security through war

The working group reviewed the meeting's current giving to identify organizations that align with the four themes and that should continue receiving (possibly increased) support as well as those that do not align with the four themes and that should no longer receive support.

- The meeting has most recently been supporting 15 organizations with grants totaling \$4,102 from a budget of \$6,000.
- Our recommendation removes two organizations and recategorizes three organizations to a proposed "membership" or "subscription" category of the budget.

We then considered other Friends organizations and non-Quaker organizations serving Chester County, with particular emphasis on those that address the themes that are currently underrepresented (2 & 4).

- Our recommendation includes four new Friends organizations and two Chester County organizations (indicated with an * in the chart below).
- We are also recommending that membership in the Quaker Religious Education Collaborative be supported from the proposed membership budget or the religious education budget (est. \$100).

Finally, we proposed increasing the total charitable giving budget to \$10,000 and establishing three tiers: A \$1,500; B \$750; C \$200

Proposal

A list of the proposed recommended contributions will be available at our next Meeting for Business, and can be requested from the meeting secretary. Below is a list of charities and their descriptions.

Act in Faith is an interfaith organization that seeks to build a community that empowers the un- and under- employed to stabilize their households and build toward self-sustainability. Created in 2010 in response to the growing needs of West Chester residents, ACT in Faith believes that we are all called to assist those whose needs lie beyond the scope of existing social services. By working together, we build a stronger community.

American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) was founded in 1917 to relieve suffering during and after the First World War and to provide conscientious objectors with alternative service opportunities. Friends in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting were among the founders of the organization. AFSC continues to develop and support programs in the United States and around the world. Among its goals are to increase understanding among national, racial and ethnic groups, to enable indigenous populations to improve their living conditions, and to relieve suffering caused by economic and social dislocation as well as by war. afsc.org

Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT), established in 2009, is a grassroots, nonviolent direct action group founded by Quakers to address climate change and the integrity of the earth. EQAT is governed by an independent board. eqat.org

Historic Fairhill is a neighborhood revitalization organization and peace-making green space in North Philadelphia. We have restored and reimagined this resting place of great human rights activists to carry forward their work for justice and peace through greening, school partnerships, and community events. historicfairhill.com.

Friends Association for the Care and Protection of Children strengthens our community by providing programs and services that prevent homelessness and promote the independence of families with children. friendsassoc.org

Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) was formed in 1943 by members of the Religious Society of Friends who gathered at Quaker Hill in Richmond, Indiana. FCNL is the oldest registered lobby representing a faith community in Washington, DC. It seeks a world free of war and the threat of war, a society with equity and justice for all, a community where every person's potential may be fulfilled, and an earth restored. Working in collaboration with other organizations, it coordinates and enhances the efforts of Friends across the country to convey their concerns to the executive and legislative branches of national government. fcnl.org

Friends Council on Education (FCE), founded in 1931, helps Friends schools maintain their Quaker identity and ethos, and their relationship with the Religious Society of Friends. FCE strengthens the network of support among Friends schools; promotes professional growth for trustees, administrators and faculty; promotes Friends education through consultations, programs and publications; and assists in the establishment of new Friends schools. friendscouncil.org

Friends Peace Teams (FPT), founded in the mid-1990s, works around the world to develop long term relationships with communities in conflict to create programs for peacebuilding, healing and reconciliation. Programs build on extensive Quaker experience, combining practical and spiritual aspects of conflict resolution and reconciliation. friend-speaceteams.org

Pendle Hill (PH) has been a center for spiritual retreat and engagement since 1930. Located in Wallingford, Pennsylvania, it offers hospitality, study, worship and other interaction. Not affiliated with any branch of Friends, it brings together the broad spectrum of Friends, as well as people of other religious affiliations. pendlehill.org

Quaker Bolivia Link (QBL) is an international development organization guided by Quaker principles and dedicated to reducing poverty among the indigenous peoples of Bolivia. QBL works with the indigenous people to fund, construct, and monitor community-based projects, in a non-sectarian manner, to provide clean water, improve food security, promote better health, and generate local income. qbl.org

Quaker House, in Fayetteville, NC, established in 1969, manifests the Friends peace testimony and provides counseling and support to members of the armed forces who question their role in the military. While its work provides the Fort Bragg community a place to address some of the challenges military families face, its service extends beyond the local area, partnering with other organizations that provide conscientious objection support to military personnel. quakerhouse.org

Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC) is a grassroots network, begun in 2012, of Friends holding a sense of stewardship for life-long Quaker faith formation through religious education. The network brings together Friends from all branches of Quakerism to think anew about how to sustain religious education among Friends. quakers4re.org

WCMM Water Program

Presented to Concord Quarterly Planning Meeting 11/3/2019

Overview of Water Program

WCMM P&SC would like to help address problems in communities resulting from a lack of clean, accessible water. We have researched many organizations and have identified two organizations:

- www.thewaterproject.org
- www.winetowater.org

We propose to develop an educational program for January 2020 WC Quarterly Meeting. The program would also have a hands-on Filter Build component. FDS and Meetings can participate now through the Quarterly Meeting in Fund Raising and in The Water Challenge

Schedule and Activities

- 11/3/19CQ Planning Committee
- 11/10/19WCMM for Business
- January 26, 2020 Quarterly Meeting at WC
- November through January
- FDS can incorporate the Water Challenge into curriculum
- Individual meetings can fundraise for our chosen Water Project –Facebook Page for CQ/WCMM
- Individual Meetings may commit to 25 filters to build at QM cost \$1250 plus shipping to/from
- Assistance from CQ Coordinator to assess FDS, disseminate information, assist in planning and coordinating program

January 26, 2020 Water Program for CQ at WCMM

- Education on the shortage and impacts of lack of access to water in communities –health, education, girl-child, opportunities, sanitation
- Videos on successful projects and community results
- Filter Build –Hands-on 10 steps to build the filters

West Chester Monthly Meeting Announcements – December 2019

Christmas at West Chester Meeting! Our Christmas Pageant and Dinner will be on Sunday, December 15 at 4:30. Please bring a side dish or dessert! We will, also, be doing "Reverse Advent" again this year- this activity is to help young people connect service with the Christmas story.

Friends of all ages will gather for a multigenerational **Community Worship on December 22** at 10:30. That morning, we'll hear the Godly Play story of the Nativity before we settle into waiting worship together. Children are invited to stay for the whole time, and child care will also be available. Join us for this family-friendly time of reflection and worship before Christmas celebrations!

The **Christmas Eve Meeting for Worship is at 7:00pm**, it is a candlelight worship that is multi-generational (no childcare) and is shortened to 30-45 minutes. There will be coffee/ hot cocoa and Christmas cookies afterwards.

Save the Date! West Chester Monthly Meeting will be hosting the **Concord Quarterly Meeting on Sunday, January 26**. We'll have a special Water Program by the Peace & Social Concerns Committee.

Help the West Chester Food Cupboard help our neighbors make ends meet! Please donate store gift cards (Shop Rite, Giant, Acme) as the Food Cupboard can stretch their value. Nonperishable/non-expired canned or boxed foods; and/or personal-hygiene items for adults and children are also most welcome. (Need ideas or more information? Check out the posters on the WCFC collection boxes in the Social Room or visit wcfood.org.)

WCMM Youth Religious Education: Reverse Advent

December 1: "Reverse Advent" begins! 4 weeks of collecting for to the West Chester Food Cupboard, following the path and people of the Nativity story. Please keep in mind that the Food Cupboard is also interested in food store gift cards. The "Reverse Advent" activity is to help young people connect service with the Christmas story.

December 8: Godly Play Nativity story and Pageant Preparations

December 15: Pageant Preparations in the morning; 4:30 Program followed by dinner

December 22: Community Worship with a focus on the Christmas story

*This is a collaboration between Youth Religious Education and the Peace & Social Concern's West Chester Food Cupboard food drive. Anyone is welcome to participate- please see flyer posted with additional details!

Birmingham Monthly Meeting Minutes of Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business November 3, 2019

Meeting opened with a period of silent worship.

The agenda was approved.

Friends approved the Minutes of October 2019 as presented with minor typographical changes.

Clerk's Report – Celia Lang

The Meeting received a letter from the Museum of the American Revolution thanking us for the opportunity to see the inside of the meetinghouse. Celia will post the letter on the bulletin board.

The Clerk read a minute approved by Bucks Quarterly Meeting and sent to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting requesting a Friends-led national protest against the private sale and possession of assault-style rifles and

large-capacity gun magazines in the United States.

No action is required at this time, but in the future the Meeting may be asked to endorse the minute.

The Clerk reminded Friends that the Meeting approved moving the December Meeting for Business to December 8th to avoid the Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

Treasurer's Report – Mark Mitchell

Mark presented Paul Kaniefski's Third Quarter Financial Report since Paul could not attend. Paul distributed copies via bfriends. Year-to-date contributions through the third quarter are up relative to last year but the contributions in the third quarter are similar to last year. We appear likely to meet our budgeted

contributions. The income from the Meeting's investments are in line with the budgeted amount. Miscellaneous receipts are higher than budgeted due to generous contributions received from those using the meetinghouse for memorials. Friends accepted the report with gratitude.

Finance Committee Report – Mark Mitchell

Mark led the second reading of the proposed changes to the Manual of Procedures to update sections of the manual to make it consistent with the changes already approved to the policies and procedures for the capital and preservation fund. The proposed changes were distributed both by paper and email. The proposal has not changed since last month. Friends approved changes to the Guidelines for the Manual of Procedures as proposed.

Youth Committee – Jackson Mortada

This year, the Youth Committee decided their project would be to work to address climate change. They will set up two posters in the East Room over a two-week period. The first will be a climate change cause and effect poster where Friends will be invited to write down what they think are the causes and effects of climate change. The second poster will be a request to Friends to suggest solutions to climate change so that the committee has a wide perspective on what might bring about positive change for our climate.

The Youth Committee will review the suggestions and see if any can be implemented. A Friend suggested that the Youth Committee consult with the Property Committee on their work in this regard. It was also noted that Philadelphia Yearly Meeting has a collaborative as well with useful information on their website. The committee can consider sharing their story and connect with a wider Quaker community.

Other Concerns

A Friend asked for more information on the Bucks Quarter Minute and how PYM processes such a request. Amy Brooks, who is the Clerk of Quaker Life Council noted that Bucks Quarter is asking the yearly meeting to help make connections to other organizations, including other Yearly Meetings in the U.S., so that PYM can participate at a national level. Amy related the process that PYM follows: once the minute is directed to the right council, that council determines if there are other meetings or collaboratives that are already working on this concern and make sure the energy of PYM is harnessed. Amy noted that Bucks Quarter's minute was a specific request and will be taken up at a meeting of her council in the near future. She noted that with the current structure and process, there has been a difficulty in discerning if a minute from one Quarter reflects the spirit of the entire yearly meeting. The council will communicate back on the minute and what their response to the minute is. A Friend had a concern that the process that Amy laid out does not include a timeline for a response. Amy noted that this was a concern at continuing sessions and that the concern will be addressed by the council for future minutes. Another Friend suggested that the council consider consulting with Friends Council on National Legislation.

Amy felt that it would be helpful if Peace and Social Concerns provided suggestions to the Meeting regarding this minute. Doing so will not hold up progress at the yearly meeting. Friends referred the minute to Peace and Social Concerns, and also requested that Concord Quarterly Meeting consider the minute from Bucks Quarter.

Meeting ended with a period of silent worship.

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

Birmingham Monthly Meeting Announcements – December 2019

Our **December Meeting for Business** was moved to the **December 8 at 8:30am** due to the 1st falling on Thanksgiving weekend.

The **Friendly Beasts Procession**, accompanied by the ensemble, will take place **after worship on 12/22**. All First-day school students are invited to participate in the procession. The Friendly Beasts Ensemble welcomes adults and children – the only requirements for participation are that you have an instrument and can read music. The ensemble will rehearse in the octagonal schoolhouse on 12/15 from 8:30 am to 10 am. The ensemble will practice with the FDS children on 12/22 from 10 to 11:15. Please let Susan Brodesser know if you would like to participate. Susan can be reached by email at be_still@verizon.net <mailto:be_still@verizon.net> or by phone at (610) 399-0823.

December 22, 7-8:30pm: It's Birmingham's annual Carol Sing! Bring a friend or neighbor! Bring a plate of cookies to share! Join us as we sing holiday favorites. After the singing, we will share fellowship, cookies and punch.

Saturday, December 7, 9am—noon: Come join the fall clean up here at the Meeting House and in the Graveyard.

First Day School Schedule of Topics: Dec. 1—Faith & Play: Advent, Dec. 8—Natural Materials Nativity, Dec. 15—Business Meeting, Dec. 22—Procession of the Friendly Beasts, Dec. 29—TBA.

Join the **Brandywine Sacred Harp Singers** on Mondays, *December 16 and 26* 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.

Interest to All – December 2019

Looking for a unique gift? The **Hickman's Annual Holiday Bazaar** is here! Tables will feature ornaments, jewelry, festive decorations and sweet gifts made by The Hickman residents as well as fresh holiday baked goods and white elephant items! The Holiday Bazaar will take place in the Jeanes Community Room on Wednesday, December 4 from 10am to 7pm, Thursday, December 5 from 1pm to 7pm, and Friday December 6 from 4pm-7pm.

Monday, **December 2, 7:30 to 9:00 pm in the Barn at Pendle Hill: Being & Belonging in Beloved Community**, an evening with inter-spiritual minister, global citizenship advocate, and author Joni Carley. Free and open to the public; livestreamed and recorded. For more info, go to: <https://pendlehill.org/events/being-belonging-in-beloved-community/>

Saturday, December 14, 3:30 to 5:30pm: PYM Family Meetup at Birmingham Friends! Quaker Family Meetups are an opportunity for PYM Families of infants to teens to join together for fellowship, play, snacks and spiritual refreshment. At the Winter event, they'll share experiences and support of the parenting journey during the holidays. Child care and program for young people will be provided — Attend with or without the kids. https://www.pym.org/event/quaker-family-meetup-winter-2019/?instance_id=2386

December 22, 7-8:30pm: It's Birmingham's annual Carol Sing! Bring a friend or neighbor! Bring a plate of cookies to share! Join us as we sing holiday favorites. After the singing, we will share fellowship, cookies and punch.

Join Quaker artist **Carol Sexton** for an artist talk and reception marking the opening of an exhibit of her paintings, "Botanical Explorations," on display in the **Barn Gallery at Pendle Hill from November 19, 2019, through March 3, 2020**. Carol's work explores the wide variety of forms, textures, and colors found in plants.

Concord Quarter Working Group on Aging Concerns will meet at Birmingham Meeting on December 4 at 10:30am. Join this active group which is planning workshops, and discussing end of life issues. All welcome. For more information contact concordquarter@pym.org

Tuesday, **December, 24, 6:30pm:** Join **Centre Meeting** for a candlelit musical journey and Meeting for Worship on Christmas Eve at Centre Friends Quaker Meeting. Chris and Jeanmaire Braddock will perform a contemplative program of secular and non-secular seasonal music for violin, accompanied by classical and 12-string guitars, dobro, mandolin and more. The candlelit room and wood burning stove provide the ideal backdrop for this special evening. The performance will be followed by silent worship. Child care provided and refreshments to follow Meeting for Worship. Centre Friends Quaker Meeting is located at Centre Meeting Road, Centreville, Delaware.

Friday, December 27, 4PM—Sunday, December 29, noon: Join Young Friends at Woodstown Meeting, 104 N. Main St., Woodstown, NJ, for the **PYM Young Friends Christmas Gathering 2019**. We'll be diving into our yearly theme of "Change," beginning with this gathering's theme, "Change Within Ourselves." Multiple Young Friends will be presenting workshops relating to identity and exploring the ways in which we are all superheroes. Go to: <https://www.pym.org/event/young-friends-christmas-2019/> for more info and to register.

**Upcoming Youth Programs for the PYM Community: more information at www.pym.org
Young Friends Christmas Gathering (high school) -- December 27-30 at Woodstown Meeting
Winter Family Overnight (K-5th) -- January 11-12, 2020 at Camp Onas
Middle School Friends Winter Gathering -- January 31-February 2, 2020 at Lancaster Meeting**

Information for the January Messenger is due Friday, January 24.

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

Address service requested

12. Witnessing in the World: Witness and Civic Responsibility

a. What is our meeting doing:

1. To become aware of systemic legal, economic and political injustices in our local community?
2. To build relationships with other faith communities around common concerns?
3. To reduce polarization within the larger community?
4. To work together with others to address injustice? b. How does our meeting assist in restoring public recognition that government fulfills legitimate functions?

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

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

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