



Quakerphernalia

The Newsletter of Bucks Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

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Deadline for Quakerphernalia by the 10th day of the preceding month's publication

Visit us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BucksQuarterlyMeeting/>

APRIL 2020

Mar 28	8:30 am to 4 pm	<u>PYM Spring Continuing Sessions</u>	Remote Alternative TBD
LOOKING AHEAD to MAY and beyond			
May 17	9 am to 3 pm	Quarterly Meeting	Plumstead Friends Meeting
Jun 28-Jul 4		<u>FGC Gathering - Way Will Open</u>	Radford University, Radford, VA
Jul 29-Aug 2		PYM Annual Sessions	The College of New Jersey

Hi Friends!

This is where the calendar usually is – except everything is on HOLD while we responsibly practice social distancing to try to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Within a very short period of time our normal daily routines have pivoted into something quite different. And speaking of pivoting:



Today's word of the day is **PIVOT**.

How can you **pivot** from where you were headed to where you need to go now?

Quickly. Responsibly.

I've heard/seen some great examples in the past couple days:

Pivot to online meetings from in-person

Pivot to home delivered meals from business catering

Pivot to creating online games for your bored friends to play together

Pivot from the gym to the park

Pivot from sit-down meal for food insecure people to take-out

Pivot from having dinner out with friends to surprising them with a home-delivered meal.

Then eat together over video.

Figure out what you need and what those around you need.

Then figure out a creative way to get it done.

If we can do this, we can make a difference.

Help a neighbor, feel good that you could do something, reduce community spread.

Some of the best inventions have come from the most unexpected places.

Maybe we'll even come up with ideas we want to keep

when the pandemic is over.

–Susan Woodman Hoskins, Newtown Meeting, via facebook

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

VIRTUAL Spring Continuing Sessions March 28

A remote alternative to Continuing Sessions is being explored; please keep this date open in your calendars.

More information is forthcoming.

Helping our Youth in the Time of Coronavirus

Melinda Wenner Bradley, Youth Religious Life

Coordinator, has posted an informative article on the PYM

website: [Gathering Together: Support for Families and](#)

[First Day Programs](#). There are links to free resources

available for First Day School, as well as a Resource

Sharing Conversation which is scheduled for March 24 at

1:00 pm via Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/644918895>.

Other Resources:

[Safety Resources from Meetings Related to COVID-19](#)

From George Schaefer, Care & Aging Coordinator:

[Pastoral Care of Our Community during the COVID-19](#)

[Outbreak](#)

Bucks Food For Friends

A group of dedicated volunteers assembled at Fallsington Meeting on Monday, March 16 to prepare over 60 meals for those suffering from food insecurity in Bucks County. Even though many other organizations suspended their meal programs, BFFF rose to the occasion and provided take-out dinners instead of the usual sit-down meal for their guests. A dozen volunteers safely prepared, cooked, packaged and distributed the meals. Many thanks to all who helped!

Pendle Hill

The campus is closed to visitors until at least March 30. A handful of Pendle Hill residents continue to gather daily in the Barn, from 8:30 to 9:30 am. Beginning this week they started an experiment of opening the circle of worship to Friends outside the facility. You can join them via Zoom by clicking [here](#).

Monthly Meetings in Bucks Quarter

This information is current as of March 20

Bristol Friends are cancelling their scheduled monthly meeting for worship on 3/22.

Buckingham Friends will not be having meeting for worship at the meetinghouse on 3/22.

Doylestown Friends meetinghouse is closed 3/22 and they will meet virtually at 10 am www.DoylestownQuakers.org/Online.

Fallsington Friends have closed the meetinghouse for two weeks and will revisit the situation at that time.

Lehigh Valley Friends are not meeting in person on 3/22 but are trying to set up a virtual meeting for worship at their regular worship time of 9:30 am.

Makefield Friends will not be having meeting for worship at the meetinghouse on 3/22.

Middletown Friends have called off First Day Meetings for at least March 22 and March 29 and will have virtual meeting for worship via Zoom. They still will have a in person mid-week meeting as attendance is fewer than five.

Newtown Friends are having virtual Meeting for Worship via Zoom for the next six weeks. Join in at [Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting now](#).

Plumstead Friends meetinghouse is closed; no meeting for worship 3/22.

Quakertown Friends meetinghouse is closed for the foreseeable future.

Solebury Friends Meeting for Worship and First Day School classes are suspended until further notice to practice physical distancing, but they are working on ways to support each other so they don't get socially distant.

Southampton Friends will be meeting for worship at the meetinghouse followed by meeting for business on 3/22.

Mid-week meeting for worship on Tuesday evenings will be held virtually via Zoom. Contact John Magee at jmm9724@gmail.com for information.

Wrightstown Friends are having virtual meeting for worship via Zoom 3/22 and 3/29.

Yardley Friends meetinghouse is closed 3/22, but they will have a virtual meeting for worship via Zoom. They are also making great use of their Google group. A Friend needed distilled water and within a very short period of time her need was met. Friends helping Friends!



Friends Schools

United Friends School is currently CLOSED per Governor Wolf's order. They are closed for spring break 3/23 - 3/27, and will consider distance learning if they need to remain closed beyond March 30th.

Newtown Friends School is currently closed for spring break and will operate by remote learning when the students return the week of 3/23. Further updates will follow as needed.

Buckingham Friends School is also currently on spring break. Upon the students return on 3/23, the school will provide families with details to move to a distance-learning plan. There are tentative plans to reopen on March 30, but that is subject to change depending on developing circumstances.

George School campus is now closed. Students are currently on spring break, and will move to online learning for the rest of the semester. They will assess graduation as that date nears.

Friends Retirement Communities

Friends Home & Village - From Chiyo Moriuchi, Executive Director, "We are working on contingency planning. Right now all our staff, residents and employees are healthy, but we need to think about what happens if lots of our staff get sick or need to care for their own family members. I'd like to ask young, healthy members of the Quarter who would be willing to volunteer if we become short-staffed to send me their name and contact information. We would like to run background clearance checks and do a little orientation now **before** we actually need help. We would only be asking for help with non-direct care needs, such as housekeeping, kitchen, and security. Email Chiyo at cmoriuchi@fhvpa.org.

An inside look at Friends Village by Yardley Meeting member Mercy Ingraham: "Because we live in a community of seniors, who are more vulnerable to this virus, we are sheltering in place. No one leaves the campus except for emergency medical care, and visitors are not allowed. We are fortunate in that all of our other needs are taken care of. Meals, which used to be communal, are now taken in our apartments or rooms. Our shopping will be done for us by staff. Many seniors who live alone are far more isolated that we are, because he have each other. We can socialize if we keep 6 feet apart. Several of the apartment complexes have tables and chairs on the lawns in front of the buildings, so we have taken to getting together--again with a 6 foot distance, and chatting in the afternoon sun. And we are most fortunate to have a Quaker meeting for worship on Sundays, keeping our personal distance during meeting and doing virtual handshakes at the rise of meeting. We are all so lucky to be here, and are thankful for the privilege."

Chandler Hall - There are no active or presumptive positive cases of the coronavirus with staff or residents. Visitations to personal care, skilled care and rehab are suspended, and visiting by family members at the Hospice Pavilion is limited to two people at a time. Skype or FaceTime with a residents can be arranged by contacting Activities Director Jennifer Welsh at 267-291-2255 or via email jwelsh@ch.kendal.org

Mercer Street Friends

The services that MSF provides are of critical importance now more than ever. The food bank has lost many volunteer groups, and the agency's costs will be going up as the result of the impact that COVID-19 will have on our overall economy. MSF is the primary source of government and privately donated food targeted for hunger relief programs in all of Mercer County, NJ. Their food distribution and hunger prevention programs reach over 30,000 people who face the pain and indignity of hunger.

Now more than ever, **they need your help!!** Please [click here](#) to read and share the message from CEO Bernie Flynn. ***If you can donate money, that is the best way to help the most vulnerable families in our region.*** No amount is too small, and every little bit counts. If you can volunteer your time at the food bank, please contact the agency directly: Sherries Anderson at 609-278-5546, or sanderson@mercerstretfriends.org.

Precautionary measures are being taken to ensure the safety and well-being of all; no more than 10 people will be allowed in the warehouse at one time. Screening protocols are in place before anyone is allowed on the floor, and there is more than enough room to make sure that people can work at the recommended distance of 6 feet apart from one another. Thank you for your support!!

Reflections from Ted Taylor, Yardley Meeting

This is the first chance I have had to reflect in writing about my experience on the front lines of the engagement with the novel coronavirus. I am a clinical healthcare chaplain, working at a New Jersey community hospital for the last 13 years. And with the pandemic that is sweeping over the planet, healthcare providers and institutions seem to be a critical part of this engagement. What am I noticing from this unique aspect during these strange times?

Identity & Role - I have found myself using language that references war and battle in ways I was at first uncomfortable with but am learning to integrate into my own Quaker pacifism. The battle our healthcare team is facing is structured like a military engagement (as much as I know of warfare and military strategy). We are in a defensive position, shuttering borders (no visitors, no volunteers, no outsiders on our campus save those with a useful reason to be there). We are stockpiling limited reserves: hand sanitizer, N-95 face masks, nurses (and other key clinicians), environmental service professionals, and key pharmaceuticals (where there always seem to be shortages). We are implementing triage protocols throughout the operation, focusing on immediate needs with our limited assets, and trying to forecast where the next wave of unmet needs may surface.

All of this feels like war, and I am now in service as a chaplain to the troops.

Indeed, in a few short weeks I have moved from focusing on the tasks of a clinical supervisor and trainer in a clinical pastoral education program, and the duties of a department director, to a front-line clinician and organization leader. I have taken over some of the responsibilities of a colleague who is out sick (not COVID-19), and without interns, volunteers, or trained adjunct chaplains am on duty 24/7 to meet emergent needs. Some days recently have felt non-stop, counseling stressed-out nurses, assisting families with virtual visits to hospitalized loved ones (I am so grateful for FaceTime), and accompanying grieving family members with limited ability to be at the bedside of dead or dying patients due to strict visitor policies.

Time - Only three weeks ago I was coordinating our pastoral care department's annual Ash Wednesday observance. A team of area clergy staffed our chapel early morning to evening, meeting the many visitors and staff who began their Lenten journey with the imposition of ashes on their foreheads. I and a half-dozen interns and adjunct chaplains combed through the campus, offering ashes to patients in their rooms and busy staff at their daily duties. The imposition of ashes is an intimate ritual, face to face, finger to forehead, with words of respect for our mortality and a call to focus on one's relationship to God.

How different now, just 3 weeks later: no meetings in the chapel (private prayer keeps the sacred space busy though), no outside clergy allowed, no visitors roaming halls, no face to face encounters (I try to keep myself at least 3 feet away from those I meet), no other chaplains save myself and the Catholic priest assigned by the diocese.

Time feels fluid. Experiencing the recent shift to daylight savings time makes me feel even more at sea. Each day new policies and guidelines are pushed out - keeping track of email is overwhelming. What was standard practice one day is totally revised the next, and then revised yet again a day later. I feel untethered.

Anxiety - The experience of being commissioned so quickly into battle, and the unmoored sense of time, along with the sense of danger in our work, has washed over the hospital like a wave of overwhelming anxiety. And though I am grounded in my faith, and held in the Light by so many, I can feel myself being tossed in the waves as well. The mood outside the hospital walls seems to be amplified within, and though I have witnessed amazing courage, skill, leadership, and love I have also seen tense encounters between colleagues, and occasional emotional meltdowns. I too feel on the edge at times.

Opportunity - I am hopeful, in the midst of this storm, this battle. I can see and feel how applying the brakes to our frantic pace has provided needed sabbath rest for our communities. And I am encouraged by the commitment of the healers that I work with - to sacrifice and serve - as a testament to the best of our humanity. Yes, I know this is just the start of a long engagement. Perhaps I will reflect differently 3 weeks from now. But as stressed-out, tired, and frustrated as I have been, today I remain hopeful and grounded, connected to Light and Grace.

Friends Doing Great Work - Bethann Morgan, Buckingham Meeting

Bethann Morgan, Clerk and member of Buckingham Meeting, spend two weeks in India as part of a team from Puresa Humanitarian, a non profit dedicated to providing rescue, hope and a way out of slavery for children and women, victims and survivors of human trafficking and sexual slavery. For added support and safety, the group also partnered with Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charities. The purpose of this visit was to give gynecological care to women who work in prostitution in the red light district of Calcutta.

As a nurse practitioner working at Planned Parenthood, Bethann was a valued member of the medical team. Her day began with yoga, followed by a typical Indian breakfast. After gathering supplies for the day, the team made their way to the site of the clinic, which in many cases was a church, as they were partnered with the Missionaries of Charity. Along the way, their combination driver and interpreter would give insights into the culture as well as translating for them. They saw as many as 70 women a day - evaluating, treating, then sending them on their way to either home or work. Then it was time to clean up, drive back to the hotel, eat dinner, and collapse, exhausted, only to do it all over again the next day.

Speaking of the woman they were treating, Bethann shared, "They gave us so much - their kindness, their trust - it was really amazing. I am still in awe of the universal kindness and plight of women." She also reported that the Missionaries of Charity were very grateful for their group's involvement. "They appreciated how we were kind and respectful of women who don't usually get respect. These were their people and they wanted us to be caring - and we were - and that was a place that felt powerful on both sides," said Bethann.

Towards the end of the trip the group spent time together processing their experience in the city of Jaipur. Bethann reported that she was keenly aware of the juxtaposition of glamour and wealth right next to immense poverty. "It was like kindness and sadness smushed together," she mused.

Buckingham Meeting had given her a traveling minute, and she felt that having the blessing of her meeting made all the difference; it made her a part of a spiritual group, connecting with others that were also a part of a spiritual group. "We were kind and respectful of women who don't usually get respect. They were just walking God's path in the way that they could," stated Bethann.

When asked what she has taken away from the experience, Bethann replied that she has come away with a deep appreciation for her life and spiritual community that holds her up. "And running water that you can drink," she added wryly.

Friendly Services Offered and Friendly Services Needed

"Simply Real" News is Growing!

Published monthly with Quaker Values

Times Publishing Newspapers, Inc. has rolled out with our ninth newspaper in Bucks County - the Fairless FOCUS. Covering the Fairless Hills area our new total mailed (via US Postal Service) circulation is 115,716 households and businesses. We cover "all the 'good news' that's fit to print." Over the past 18 years we've started and continue to publish these additional 8 monthly publications: Yardley VOICE, Morrisville TIMES, Newtown GAZETTE, Northampton HERALD, Lower Southampton SPIRIT, Langhorne LEDGER, New Hope NEWS, and the Doylestown OBSERVER.

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Do you Have Questions about Hospice?

Lisa Wildman, a member of Doylestown Meeting, is a licensed Social Worker with **Brookdale Hospice**. The Gift of Hospice benefits the patient, and loved ones by providing symptom management, emotional support, and spiritual support. The Brookdale Hospice team includes the loving service of Nurses, Social Workers, Chaplain, Aides, Music Therapist, Massage Therapist and Volunteers. If you or a friend wants to learn more about hospice care, call **Brookdale Hospice at 610-337-1101**.

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