

MARCH 2023
Westfield Monthly Meeting
of the
Religious Society of Friends
Meeting for Worship
First Day (Sunday) 10:00 AM on Zoom
Children are Welcome
Religious Education and Child Care
will resume in near future.



The Third Query
Deepening our Faith: Spiritual Nurture

- a. How does the meeting encourage the use of spiritual practices that deepen our faith, enhance the excitement of shared religious discovery, and increase the possibility of spiritual transformation?
- b. What is the nature of our shared experience of the Divine and how do we nurture our collective spiritual growth and transformation?
- c. In what ways do we support each other in our spiritual journeys, in our search for God's will and in our efforts to increase understanding of humanity's relationship to life on earth?
- d. How do we recognize, develop and nurture the spiritual gifts of all in our meeting?

- e. *How do I incorporate into my personal and family life those daily practices that focus on continued spiritual growth, including worship, reflection and engagement with writings that nurture the soul?*
- f. *How does my spiritual life integrate an understanding of a well-ordered relationship with the earth and deepen my reverence for the interconnectedness of all life?*

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Westfield Meeting News and Notes

Committee Meetings

Spiritual Oasis will meet on Thursday, March 9 at 1:00 pm on Zoom. Anyone interested can email Mose at mosleyduffy@gmail.com.

Care Committee will meet on Thursday, March 16 at 4:00 pm on Zoom.

Peace & Social Concerns will meet on Tuesday, March 23 at 7:00 pm on Zoom.

"State of our Meeting" State of our Meeting is an annual report to be developed March-April

Our book of *Faith and Practice* pp 213-219 has queries for examining many meeting functions. Yearly Meeting asks that we reflect on our "Spiritual State" in a report to be submitted in April. Examining what we do and expressing what we'd benefit from trying encourages more meaningful and inspiring engagement. Worship and Religious Education will ask queries at Meeting for Business.

First example: "What practices and strategies are employed by our meeting to help members and attenders of all ages prepare for worship - whether in meeting for worship or in meeting for business?"

Building Sanctuary Within to Build Sanctuary for Others

March 6 @ 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm on Zoom

Pendle Hill Free Lecture

When immigrants arrive in the United States they face racism, poverty, brokenness and disconnection from their cultures. The New Sanctuary Movement (<https://www.sanctuaryphiladelphia.org/>) of Philadelphia holds space for the community to move from this trauma to collective action and healing. Along this journey, immigrants have learned to claim their wisdom and unique perspective, developed new and alternative models for ways to fight for social justice, and connected their personal healing and liberation work to our community organizing.

In this lecture, Blanca Pacheco, co-director of the New Sanctuary Movement, will reflect on her journey as a community organizer and share the current work of NSM.

She will offer tools for reflection on our connections to immigrant experiences and our own tools of resistance to fight for justice, and will offer ways to pay attention and learn from organizing models outside the U.S. For more information email info@pendlehill.org.

Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change

March 12 @ 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm Mountain Time on Zoom

*“Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: *“Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples”**

In this two-hour participatory program, we experience the history of the colonization of Turtle Island, the land that is now known as the United States. The story is told through the words of Indigenous leaders, European/American leaders, and Western historians. We engage with this history through experiential exercises and small group discussions. And we are invited to consider how we can build relationships with Indigenous peoples based on truth, justice and respect. For more info, go to (<https://friendspeaceteams.org>).

Continuing Sessions - Philadelphia Yearly Meeting

March 11 & 12, 2023

“Living with our Neighbors, Growing into Beloved Community.”

Rather than convening at just one Spring Continuing Sessions location, this year we will have 6 regional gatherings for you to gather with Friends and neighbors. Each is a local meeting that will serve as a host to bring together Friends from at least two Quarterly meetings.

Saturday, March 11, 2023

Hybrid Meeting for Business either at Arch Street Meeting House In-Person, or on Zoom

9:00 am--12:30 pm—Meeting for Worship & Meeting for Business

1:00 pm—5:00 pm—Lunch & Afternoon Gatherings

Sunday, March 12, 2023

10:00 am – 11:00 am—**All Together Worship**

A new tradition on the Sunday of our Sessions Gatherings! Friends come together from across the geography of our Yearly Meeting on Zoom for an Intergenerational, cross-state meeting for worship from their meetinghouses and homes.

What Workers Say: Decades of Struggle and How to Make Real Opportunity Now

March 12 @ 10:00 am – 12:00 pm at Cropwell Quaker Meeting

Join the conversation with UPenn Associate Professor Roberta Iverson following Meeting for Worship. Learn about the challenges of today’s labor market. What have working people in many different fields been saying about their work? What does their job mean to them?

How have jobs changed since major industry shifts in the 1980s? What work do workers wish they could be doing? And how might more workers today achieve “real opportunity”? Dr. Iverson brings 40 years of stories, research, and analysis, as well as an innovative proposal for its future. Author of the new book, *What Workers Say: Decades of Struggle and How to Make Real Opportunity Now*. Through these stories, Iverson puts a human face to the labor market and tracks its evolution. Email cropwellquakermeeting@gmail.com or telephone (856)- 446-4432 for more information.

ASMH Annual Spring Kickoff: Penmen of the Revolution

March 23 @ 5:00 pm – 700 pm

Cost \$25

The Annual William Penn Lecture is back and better than ever!

Join us at Arch Street Meeting House on Thursday, March 23rd for the newly reimagined “Annual Spring Kickoff” to celebrate our reopening for the spring session. The evening includes a cocktail hour and presentation by John Dickenson, portrayed by friend of Arch Street Meeting House Preservation Trust, Doug Thomas.

REGISTER {<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/annual-spring-kickoff-penman-of-the-revolution-tickets-519795431127>}

RSVP is required by March 13, 2023.

Join the “Penman of the Revolution” as he discusses his role in the journey that took us from colonies to country. John Dickenson used his wit, intellect, and faith to guide his actions as one of our lesser-known Founding Fathers. Although he refused to vote for the Declaration of Independence, he was instrumental in the creation of our national government and drafted many of our founding documents, including the First Amendment.

This public devotion caused Thomas Jefferson to eulogize him, saying: “A more estimable man, or truer patriot, could not have left us. Among the first of the advocates for the rights of his country, when assailed by Great Britain, he continued to the last the orthodox advocate of the true principles of our new government and his name will be consecrated in history as one of the great worthies of the revolution.”

Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business
March 12, 2023
Deepening our Faith: Spiritual Nature

Agenda

- Silent Worship
- Reading of Query/ Worship Sharing
- Approval of February Minutes
- Peace and Social Concerns Report
- Worship and Religious Education - Report/Spiritual State of the Meeting
- Nominating Committee - School Board new member
- Naming Committee Report
- Announcements
- Meeting for Business- Move to April 16 ----- April 9 Easter
- Silent Worship



The image is a promotional graphic for the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Continuing Sessions. It features two stylized trees with green trunks and branches. The leaves are colorful, including red, orange, yellow, and purple. Small icons of houses and hearts are scattered among the leaves. To the right of the trees, the text reads: "Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Continuing Sessions March 11 & 12, 2023". Below this, it says "ALL together Worship Sunday, March 12". At the bottom of the graphic, it says "One month until Spring Continuing Sessions!" and "YOU CAN REGISTER AT: <https://www.pym.org/sessions/>".

WESTFIELD MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS
January 8, 2023, at the Meeting House and via Zoom

Present: Bill Beetle, Connie Beetle, Joan Biddle, Chris Pensiero, Gail Fountaine, Joan Spagnoletti, Michael Robinson, Nancy Robinson, Peggy Johns, Rose Ketterer, and Suzanne Day

Meeting (on Zoom and in-person) – The clerk settled the meeting at the appointed time and read aloud

Query 1: Deepening our Faith: Meeting for Worship. Friends who share aloud observed –

- Meeting for worship has often served as an odometer; am I in a good place during the week? Is there equal distribution? If there is, I need to move forward more productively.
- The light reveals that contrary to itself when I come to meeting, the light discovers things I must deal with that I hadn't thought of.

Minutes: Minutes of Monthly Meeting for Business held November 13, 2022 (Revised) and December 11, 2022, accepted as circulated.

Recorder's Report: The Annual Recorder's Report for 2022 was presented by Nancy Robinson, Meeting Recorder.

Westfield Monthly Meeting 2022
Annual Recorder's Report

As of December 31, 2022, Westfield Monthly Meeting had 149 members: 144 adults and 5 minors. Catherine Tatum became an adult member on her 21st birthday.

Deborah Mosley-Duffy joined by transfer from Newton Meeting. Peggy Johns joined by application. Cornelia "Nina" Ward Gamache became a child member by application.

December 31, 2021, Westfield had 146 members. The addition of 3 members brings our total to 149.

There are 9 couples where both spouses are members of Westfield Monthly Meeting and 2 couples whose spouses belong to another monthly meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy S Robinson, Recorder for Westfield Monthly Meeting

Cemetery Report: The Cemetery Report for 2021-2022 was presented on behalf of Joan and Miller Biddle by Joan.

Burials in the Westfield Cemetery have always been occasions for families and friends to gather to celebrate the life of the deceased. But for the families of those who died in 2020, there was an understandable reluctance to travel and gather, and because of that, there were no burials in 2020. The total number of burials in 2021-22 was eleven, including several who passed away in 2020. Family members traveling to Westfield for burials have come from throughout the country in gatherings as large as 30. Visiting Westfield for the burials was important to all of them.

While the requirement for the purchase of burial rights at Westfield has always been that of Membership in the Religious Society of Friends by the purchaser, Membership is not required for those who are subsequently buried in those graves. The Cemetery was organized in the early 1800s, and several of the recent burials were descendants of early families, including Parry, Roberts, Coale, Steel, Collins, Jamison, Biddle, and Lippincott. Most were descendants of old Westfield families with strong ties to the Meeting and the Westfield Friends School. While most families were originally members of Westfield, other early families included those from Friends Meetings from throughout the area.

Of significant note is that for almost all burials, family members have initiated discussions about their desires to also be buried in their family gravesites at Westfield. They are impressed by the property's beauty and have a wonderful respect for the Religious Society of Friends, which is such an important part of their family histories.

Announcements: Mike Lane is at home resting. All communication about the care of the building will go through Bill Beetle while Mike is out. Bill will speak with Margaret about cleaning the Meeting House after Meeting for Worship with Westfield School. A letter was received from Roger Buehl, and his request was forwarded to the Care Committee. A second letter was sent to Meeting from Roger Buehl, and Connie Beetle read the letter to Meeting as a whole. Our agenda completed, we closed in worship.

Peggy Johns, recording clerk,
Joan Spagnoletti, clerk

MARCH 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 Spiritual Oasis 1 pm on Zoom	10	11 Continuing Sessions 9 am
12 Continuing Sessions 10 am MFB at 11 am	13	14	15	16 Care Committee 4 pm on Zoom	17	18
19	20	21 Peace & Social Concerns 7 pm	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Dates to Remember

March 12 Meeting for Business at 11:00 am

March 11 & 12 Continuing Sessions – Check Newsletter for Details

March 9 Spiritual Oasis at 1:00 pm on Zoom

March 16 Care Committee at 4 pm on Zoom

March 21 Peace & Social Concerns at 7 pm on Zoom

Westfield Monthly Meeting

2201 Riverton Road

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