

Reading Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

June 2017 Newsletter

“Christian community is ... a gift of God which we cannot claim. Only God knows the real state of our fellowship.... What may appear weak and trifling to us may be great and glorious to God... The more thankfully we daily receive what is given to us, the more surely and steadily will fellowship increase and grow from day to day as God pleases.” Life Together by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

June and July 2017 Calendar

First Day, June 18 10am Maiden Creek opens for worship. 6th Street Meetinghouse also open with hosts Judy Ballinger and Blair Seitz.

First Day, June 18 3:30pm Berks County Residential Center vigil. Jane Beck, contact

First Day, June 25 6th Street Meeting House hosts: Judy and Phil Bohne

First Day, July 2 10am 6th Street Meeting House hosts: Nan and Jim Morrissey

July 2-8 Friends General Conference, Niagara University, Niagara, New York

First Day, July 9 10am 6th Street Meeting House hosts: Cys Sica and Chris Field

Tuesday, July 11 6pm RMM and Exeter prepare supper for Opportunity House. Beth Finlay, contact

First Day, July 16 Hosts needed for 6th Street

First Day, July 23 10am 6th Street Meeting House Hosts: Chris Field and ?

First Day, July 30 10am 6th Street Meeting House Hosts: Cys Sica and Heather Ehrlich

Monday, July 31 6:30pm Friendly Readers meet at the home of Chris Field

July 26-30 PYM Annual Sessions at The College of New Jersey, Ewing, NJ. Theme: Faith Magnified

Looking Ahead:

- Summer Meeting for Business, Friday, August 4 at 6 pm at Maiden Creek. Bring a chair and a brown bag.
- Caln Quarterly Meeting, First Day, August 20, 2017 at the old Caln Meeting House

PYM Called Session—June 24

On June 24, a Called Session will be held in response to our conflicts surrounding racism and recent staffing changes. The plan for the day is in development, and our intention is to make space to listen for God in our midst and listen to one another fully as we labor together. Everyone is invited, and we hope that each meeting will send at least one person so that our whole community is included in this important work.

The Called Session will be at Arch Street Meeting House, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, June 24. Please bring a brown bag lunch. Snacks, drinks and childcare for children infant – middle school age will be provided.

Register now at <http://www.pym.org/event/called-session-6-24-2017/>

Contact: Tricia Coscia, 215-241-7238

Hold our yearly meeting in the light.

PYM Annual Sessions

July 26-30, 2017

The College of New Jersey

Ewing, NJ

Register now at [pym.org](http://www.pym.org)

Reading Monthly Meeting, 108 North Sixth Street, Reading, PA - www.readingfriendsmeeting.org



Notes of the Reading Monthly Meeting for Business First Day, June 11, 2017

Janet Lamborn, clerk Jim Lamborn, recording clerk

Present: Ann Bodnyk, Judy and Phil Bohne, Heather Ehrlich, Jeanne Elberfeld, Chris Field, Peter Frank, Debbie and Charlie Gilbert, Fran Hoopes, Bonnie Knutsen, Betty and Taylor Lamborn, Roger Lawn, Jennifer Hanf and John Loomis, Nan and Jim Morrissey, Cys Sica

Reports—The minutes of Meeting for Business, May 2017 were approved and the Treasurer’s report was accepted. Any contributions to defray the costs of the picnic Port-A-Potty or the new grill are welcome.

The Future of First Day School

Charlie Gilbert reviewed the challenges facing First Day School. Every week this year two teachers, one for the upper and one for the lower grades, came prepared to teach. Often, no children showed up.

We hope families with children or young visitors will join us. Attendance often spikes around the holidays. Still, it is a frustrating situation. So, next year First Day School will have one class for all ages. The lessons will be prepared and waiting in a box with all the materials needed for that lesson. The teacher and children will choose a lesson to follow that day. The six teaching volunteers who remain dedicated to First Day School are Judy Ballinger, Chris Field, Charlie and Debbie Gilbert, Roger Lawn and Joe Morrissey.

A Neighborly Request

Taylor Lamborn reported that a young woman from the church across the street asked if the summer Bible School children could play games on our front lawn. Taylor explained that he would take the matter before the Meeting but he would need a Certificate of Insurance. The young woman went back to tell this to the pastor, then returned to say they would wait until next year to consider this matter.

Friends were concerned that the young woman did not understand our request, or the pastor did not have time to work on it, or there was a linguistic or cultural miscommunication. Several pointed out that a Certificate of Insurance is standard business practice and that one can be obtained in a

day or two. Wanting to be a good neighbor, Friends decided to ask John Rivera, who knows the pastor and speaks Spanish fluently, to call on the pastor and see if this matter can be resolved before Bible School begins the end of June. We would love to have neighbor children enjoying our front yard.

Homeless in the City

Anticipating children playing in our garden brought up the issue of the homeless man who is keeping his worldly possessions behind the cellar door. Are there items among his things that could hurt children? Taylor says there are no hygiene problems, but Taylor says “This man keeps a very messy bedroom”. The police know this man and believe he has mental difficulties.

Charlie Gilbert and Jeanne Elberfeld volunteered to talk with this man and search for a kind and respectful way to remove him from our property.

Committee Reports

The Auditing Committee reports that they have reviewed the Buckman Trust records and all is well.

The Trustees hope to have a full report soon from John Hayden on long-range maintenance planning for our properties. His recommendations will be presented in a Forum this Fall.

Volunteers are needed to open the 6th Street Meeting-house over the Summer. The sign-up sheet is in the conference room.

- Bonnie Knutsen

Exeter Meeting News

The Teen and Tween group will plan to meet in July. Social responsibility and Community will be the topic. The August discussion group will be cancelled.

The Adult discussion will be laid down for the month of June & July.

The tentative date for the Meeting picnic will Sept 17, location to be determined.

Meeting members are invited to the Called session at Arch St. Meetinghouse on June 24.

- Shirley Smith

Congratulations Class of 2017



Nick Villareal celebrates graduation with his parents, Alex and Betsy Villareal, and brother Ben.

Nick Villareal, grandson of Debbie and Charlie Gilbert, graduated from Berks Catholic High School on June 7. Nick has participated in First Day School at our meeting for the last six years where he joined into all of the various activities, including Christmas Teas (the Grinch), preparing meals at Opportunity House, pancake breakfasts and other fund-raising events. Nick was our best origami crane maker and taught several other FDS friends this skill.

In high school Nick lettered in water polo and swimming for the combined Reading High and Berks Catholic Schools and was captain of the men's teams this year. During the last two years he qualified for District 3 swimming championships in the 50 and 100 freestyle. This year he was awarded the Elizabeth Horvath Swimming Scholarship with two other Berks County swimmers. He also lettered in Track for Berks Catholic High School, throwing the discus and was captain of the team as well.

In late August Nick will enter McDaniel College, in Westminster Maryland, where he was awarded the Educators Legacy Scholarship. He is considering a major in psychology or history and plans to continue his swimming and track at McDaniel.

Stephen Elberfeld, pictured here with his parents, Jeanne and Greg Elberfeld, graduated from Nativity BVM High School in Pottsville, PA on June 6. He was a member of the Nativity BVM football team.

He will attend Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona beginning in August 2017. He is enrolled in the W. P. Carey School of Business.



Eden Arelia Lange, granddaughter of Jean and Kai Pedersen, attended Governor Mifflin and was also home schooled.

She is taking a gap year and started working June 5 in a lab at the UC Davis Agricultural Department. She is staying with Jean's sister, Dr. Louise Ferguson.

Here she is pictured with her Dad, Ian Lange, near the Stone House in Wyomissing.



From FCNL: Medicaid is on the line for 2,747,700 people in Pennsylvania

Senate leadership may be extremely close to a deal on health care, and Medicaid is in grave danger. They're not deciding whether to cut Medicaid – they're deciding how much to cut Medicaid.

They are moving fast without much transparency. Their goal: to pass a bill that cuts Medicaid by billions of dollars before July 4. That timing could slip, but we can't take anything for granted.

These weeks are make or break for protecting Medicaid – which covers 2,747,700 people in Pennsylvania. And Sen. Toomey is one of the most important voices at the negotiating table. Here are the two big changes on the table that you need to know about:

"Per Capita Caps": Right now, the leading plan is to impose "per capita caps" on Medicaid – basically, the federal government will only pay up to a certain amount per person for Medicaid recipients, instead of paying a percentage of the actual cost. So when costs per person go up – as in the opioid epidemic – the federal government will leave states holding the bag for spiking costs. A per capita cap is specifically designed so the federal government spends less and less on Medicaid over time, forcing states to cut Medicaid benefits and leave people without coverage.

Pennsylvania facts: The federal government pays 60% of Medicaid costs for Pennsylvania.

Medicaid Expansion: Through the Affordable Care Act, 11 million people gained access to Medicaid for the first time. In 31 states plus the District of Columbia, individuals under 138 percent of the poverty line can now get coverage, with the federal government contributing at least 90 percent of the costs.

Pennsylvania facts: 664,100 people in Pennsylvania were able to enroll in Medicaid because of the expansion.

When Congress makes these types of cuts, the programs don't recover. And calling cuts "per capita caps" or "rolling back the Medicaid expansion" won't stop them from kicking millions of people off Medicaid, weakening coverage, rationing care, and more.

Over the past few months, we've seen over and over that constituent advocacy really works. Members of Congress are responding to your stories of what it would mean to cut the Medicaid program. Now we need to amplify that message.

If you've been thinking about getting more involved, now is the time. These are the moments when we really need you.

Contact Amelia Kegan, Legislative Director, Domestic Policy for more information.

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Exploring the Canopy The Friendly Readers have chosen The Wild Trees: A Story of Passion and Daring by Richard Preston as the book for our next gathering Monday, July 31 at 6:30pm at the home of Chris Field.

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Happy Birthday to Cynthia Felter, 6/16, Charmoine Jones 6/25, and Neve Dareneau, 7/24.

Support our Meeting Mail your contribution to: Reading Monthly Meeting, c/o Ann Bodnyk, PO Box 148 Kutztown, PA 19530-0148



Please join us for worship every Sunday this summer at 10am at Maiden Creek or 6th Street Meeting House. We are an unprogrammed meeting, and a member of Caln Quarter and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. For more information, call 610-372-5345, visit us on Face Book or our web site, www.readingfriendsmeeting.org.

The Reading Monthly Meeting Newsletter is published at our website and in print 10 times a year by the Communications Committee. Send news for the summer newsletter to Bonnie Knutsen, bknutsen@ptd.net by Friday, August 4. Submit address, telephone or Email changes to Carl Knutsen at webagent@readingfriendsmeeting.org.

Clerk of Reading Meeting: Janet Lamborn
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Mailing Address: PO Box 148, Kutztown, PA 19530-0148
Clerk of Religious Education: Joe Morrissey
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