

# Reading Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends October 2023 Notes and Calendar

## RMM October Calendar

First Day, October 15 - First Day Meeting for Worship. Also, Caln Quarterly Meeting. Janet Lamborn, contact.

Tuesday, October 17 - Zooming in the Spirit (previously Exploring Our Beliefs). Roger Lawn contact.

Saturday, October 21 - Maiden Creek Meeting-house open for a historical tour, 1—4pm.

Thursday, November 2 - Worship and Ministry Committee meets at 6:30pm  
Chris Field, contact.

First Day, November 5 - Meeting for Worship followed by a Potluck meal.

Tuesday, November 7 - Election Day.

Saturday, November 11 - Fall Continuing Sessions 2023 at Arch Street Meeting House.

First Day, November 12 - Meeting for Worship followed by Meeting for Business (hybrid).



Cookie Bake Returns December 9

## Notes from October 8 Meeting for Business

RMM Friends considered a wide variety of issues in a hybrid meeting, beginning with the happy decision to renew the custom of giving new members a one-year subscription to Friends Journal. This policy will begin in the new budget year in January.

The Nominating Committee presented a draft report for 2024. Jeanne Elberfeld questioned why the same people are doing the same job for too many years. Do we need to change our structure for managing the meeting's business? Friends agreed and asked Jeanne to collect information on other ways to organize a meeting. She will report in November.

Vanguard

Janet Lamborn presented a proposed letter to send to The Vanguard Group (an investment company based in Malvern, PA). The letter thanks them for their good stewardship of our funds but expresses concern that Vanguard is the #1 investor in fossil fuel industries. It ends "Why do we have to select between excellent returns and a sustainable planet?"

After lengthy discussion, Friends realized that there are many questions to answer before going further. Do we as a meeting write a letter of concern to Vanguard, encouraging them to divest of their fossil fuel holdings or do we encourage Friends to write individual letters? Do we divest of our holdings in Vanguard or switch to a different portfolio within Vanguard that does not hold fossil fuel industry investments? Do we transfer our money to Friends Fiduciary where we already have funds? Friends decided to table the issue, ask the Trustees' Investment Sub-Committee to study this and advise as we seek the leadings of the Spirit.

Parking Lot Issues

Taylor Lamborn described the difficulties in managing our parking lot. The lot is a major source of revenue for the meeting.

- A city gang has labeled our property as part of their territory by painting their sign in large black letters on the wall of Santandar Theatre, facing our parking lot.

- Santandar trucks pull up to unload sets for shows in the back of the theater, blocking our clients' access to the lot.

- 15 lawyers rent space for parking, paying via check. Other clients, living in nearby apartments, may not have bank accounts. Rent collection is difficult.

- People use our lot illegally, especially on weekends, leaving a mess to clean up. Homeless people use our property for rest and to store their belongings under the handicap ramp.

(continued on page two)

## Meeting Notes (continued from page 1)

Becky Ross has offered to organize a group that will pick up trash in the parking lot and on the grounds. Please contact her if you are willing to help. Roger Lawn, clerk of Trustees, says Trustees will help with legal issues, particularly getting Santandar to remove the 3' high, gang graffiti.

Work on restoring the cottage will soon be completed. The exterior stonework has been repaired, new windows installed, new carpeting laid down, a new cabinet built in the kitchen, the electrical system upgraded and the interior painted.

We are looking to hire someone who will come on Sunday mornings for two hours for childcare. If you have any suggestions, please contact Chris Field.

John Loomis reported that over 100 people toured our meetinghouse as part of the Historic Church Tour in September. The Maiden Creek Meetinghouse will be part of a Road Ramble Tour on October 21, from 1-4pm, organized by the Historical Society. John plans to install fence posts beforehand to protect the burial ground.

Zooming in the Spirit (formerly Exploring Our Beliefs) will meet via Zoom on Tuesday, October 24 at 6:30 pm., one week later than usual. Roger Lawn, contact.

If you would like to join a Friendly Listening group on Sundays at 9am or a chat room for zoom attenders following worship, please let Michele Uhrich know.

Friends approved the use of the kitchen on Saturday, December 9 for cookie baking. Jean Pedersen and Sarah Besterman will bring the dough. All are welcome to take part in this happy, holiday project, a long time custom of the meeting.

Jeanne Elberfeld reported that there is concern among Friends that the "new" PYM organization structure adopted only a few years ago is not working well. Further discussion is planned. Jeanne is a member of the PYM Admin Council which meets once a month.

Caln Quarterly Meeting will be held at the Old Caln Meeting House on October 15. There will be coffee and donuts at 9:30am, followed by Meeting for Worship, Meeting for Business, Lunch and a program on strengthening our meetings. Bring your own brown bag lunch.

Michelle Uhrich encourages us to take advantage of the many offerings at Pendle Hill. See their website for details.

We will meet again on First Day, November 12, to address the business of the meeting.

- Bonnie Knutsen, notetaker

## October 1 Busy First Day



Jackie Stillwell, New England Meeting, spoke on the need to husband and share all resources.



A warm welcome and cake for the Little family.



Lunching with dungeons and dragons in the Penn Room