



NEWSLETTER

Reading Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

SUMMER 2025



RMM Calendar 2025

SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULE:

- **MEETING FOR WORSHIP with Attention to Business**
June 8, 11:30 am at 6th Street and on Zoom
- **MEETING FOR WORSHIP with Attention to Business**
Friday, August 1 at Maiden Creek MH, 6:00 pm brown bag lunches, followed by worship at around 6:30 pm.
- **Worship & Ministry - 1st Thursdays, 6:30 pm**
- **Zooming in the Spirit - 3rd Tuesdays, 6:30 pm**
All welcome, monthly topics vary.
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- **Sat. May 31, 2 pm - Memorial Service for Friend Bonnie Knutsen** at 6th Street Meeting house
- **Sun June 29, Noon - Circle Discussion** following Worship at Maiden Creek. Bring bagged lunch. Format will be similar to :”Everyone is Everywhere” workshop at Camp Swatara Caln Quarter retreat.
- **Sun. July 20 - Reading Pride Festival**, Jim Dietrich Park, 11 am-6 pm. Volunteers and donations welcome.
- **Sun August 3 - RMM SUMMER PICNIC** at Loomis-Hanf home, Save the Date, Details coming in the calendar.

Additional Summer Events found in RMM Monthly Calendars (June-July-August)

**Join us for Summer Worship
Every Sunday (First Day) 10 am
at Maiden Creek Meetinghouse**

Starting June 15 (Fathers Day) until **August 31** (the day before Labor Day), Reading Monthly Meeting will meet for worship at the historic **Maiden Creek Meetinghouse** 849 W. Shore Drive, Shoemakersville, PA 19555.

Reading Monthly Meeting

108 N. 6th St. Reading, PA 19601

readingfriendsmeeting.org

Clerk of Meeting: Janet Lamborn

Clerk of Trustees: Roger Lawn

Treasurer: Jim Lamborn

Newsletter: Jennifer Hanf, Heather Ehrlich

Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.

-- Barack Obama

Did you know?

During the summer months, Reading Monthly Meeting holds Meeting for Worship at Maiden Creek Meetinghouse near Lake Ontelaunee. The Maiden Creek meetinghouse is in a beautiful, inviting, tranquil, and peaceful setting. One can commune with nature and God and feel the spirit of those who came before us.

Maiden Creek historic Meetinghouse has been in its current location since 1926, when it was relocated from what is now the Ontelaunee Lake, the reservoir that serves the city of Reading. In addition to the stone meetinghouse, this four-plus-acre property includes a cottage and a cemetery that contains hundreds of historic bodies in addition to those more recently interred. Hopefully, everyone will enjoy meetings for worship in this special setting.

--Heather Ehrlich

(The expanded history of the Maiden Creek Meeting can be found in a separate article.)



Maiden Creek Meetinghouse



QUAKER ACTION

IMMIGRATION

On Jan. 27, five regional Meetings filed a federal lawsuit against the Department of Homeland Security. This suit is brought jointly by Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (PYM), New England Yearly Meeting (NEYM), and Baltimore Yearly Meeting (BYM), along with two monthly meetings within BYM. **We maintain that the current DHS policy threatens religious liberty for all worshippers and undocumented immigrants.** We are asking the court to declare unconstitutional any policy permitting government agents to carry out immigration enforcement activities at or near houses of worship. Friends could speak from their own conscience. Find additional information and resources on pym.org.

FRIENDS WALK from NYC to Washington D.C. from May 4-May 22, over 276 miles, to deliver a copy of the original Flushing Remonstrance – a document delivered in 1657 to members of US Congress Freeholders – to today’s U.S. Congress. Participants of the 2025 pilgrimage demand that members of Congress acknowledge and safeguard freedom of speech, due process, and the constitutional rights of everyone in the U.S.

Contact your elected Congressional officials and urge them to fight for humane and just treatment of all immigrants and asylum-seekers.

Find your legislator here:

<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/>

Community Impact

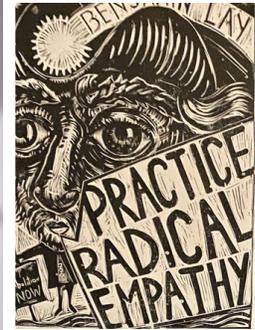
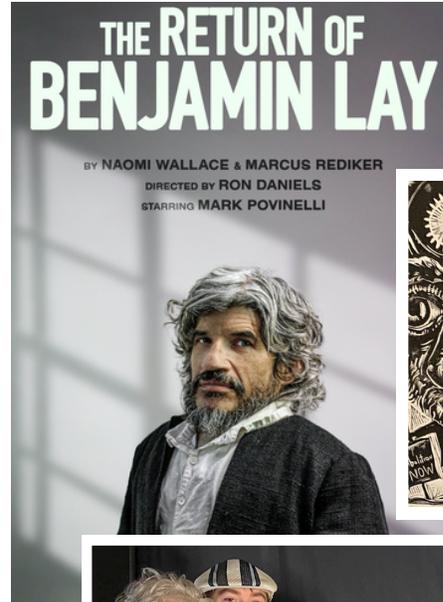
Responsible Stewardship of our Carbon Footprint and support of Social Justice: Look for information, most likely a hybrid forum on Zoom. Our Meeting is seeking counsel to guide us towards ethical financial investing of RMM funds. We are seeking presenters from **Friends Fiduciary Corporation** as well as other experts to guide this discernment process.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE: As a small Meeting, outreach is important to sustain and grow our community. If you are interested in learning more, sharing ideas, and participation in this committee, email Janet Lamborn, RMM Clerk, janetlamborn.mlt@gmx.com.

Action for Peace: Berks Peace Community continues to hold a vigil for peace every Friday Morning 8 - 9 am. All are welcome. Contact John Hoskyns-Abraham, john@bullfrogfilm.com for more information.

The Return of Benjamin Lay

On May 18, RMM attended the play *The Return of Benjamin Lay* at the Sedgewick/Quintessence Theatre, Philadelphia PA. In an outstanding performance by Mark Povinelli, Benjamin Lay, a revolutionary Quaker abolitionist, returns after 300 years to the present day.



Friends and friends at the Sedgewick:
L to R, Doris Fraser Nick Steiger, Chris Field, Jen Hanf, and John Loomis.

About this Newsletter

The RMM Newsletter is published quarterly (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter) and available in print where we worship, the website, and by email. It highlights our community, faith, concerns, and joys. The complete **RMM Calendar** is available monthly.

WE WELCOME CONTENT FOR THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER! If you will be hosting a RMM event or to report on committee activities, share your details:

1. Fill out the submission form found where we worship or request an emailed copy.
2. Speak directly to Janet Lamborn, Clerk, janetlamborn.mlt@gmx.com or Jennifer Hanf, Newsletter Coordinator, jenhanf@yahoo.com



Photos and Memories

Easter Morning
N. 6th Street
Meeting House



Reading Monthly Meeting
Earth Day
Saturday April 26
City Park, Reading, PA



Quaker News

CALN QUARTERLY MEETING NEWS

The Annual Caln Quarter was held at **Camp Swatara**, May 2-4 2025. The theme was "Building Inclusive Communities: How Can Quakers Do It?" **On page 3**, enjoy photos from the retreat. We are grateful for the fellowship of our Friends in the Quarter.

PENDLE HILL NEWS

Discover Pendle Hill Quaker Study, Retreat, and Conference Center. Go to pendlehill.org. Click on "Learn" and then on "Upcoming Events" to find lectures, worship; classes; retreats; and other options. Here are a few of the summer offerings:

- *Quaker Coalition for Uprooting Racism: Antiracism Sharing* - June 16, 8-9 p.m., free online
- *The Land Knows the Way: Eco-Social Insights for Liberation, a Book Talk by Ricardo Levins Morales* June 23, 7:30-9 p.m., free hybrid
- *Among the Trees: Discovering Our True Nature* June 28, 2-4 p.m., \$25 (subsidized), \$50 (standard), \$75 (subsidizing), on campus
- *Faith-Based Reparative Justice: A Tool for Racial Healing* - June 10-13, \$300-\$500 with financial aid available
- *Dreaming Sanctuary: an Intergenerational LGBTQ+ Gathering* - Aug 8-10, \$50/\$100/\$200 scholarships available

PHILADELPHIA YEARLY MEETING ANNUAL SESSIONS

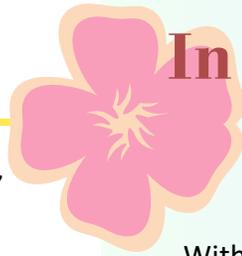
Annual Sessions will take place from **Wednesday, July 23 – Sunday, July 27 at Cheyney University's campus**, offering a space for Friends to worship in community and practice our faith. The theme of sessions, **Members One of Another**, reminds us that our faith is not just about the places we meet, but the relationships we build, nourish, and support. [Cheyney's long history](http://www.pym.org/sessions/), the first HBCU in the country gives us an opportunity to reflect on how we live our testimonies today. Registration is open at <https://www.pym.org/sessions/>

GATHER WITH FRIENDS ONLINE AT PYM CONNECT

PYM has launched a new space where members and attenders can gather to share, learn, and support one another in their spiritual journeys. To get started, go to <https://connect.pym.org/>

**Be an enabler – of community,
of connections, of relationship,
of mutual support.**

From "Quaker Leadership in Times of Crisis"
transitionquaker.blogspot.com



In Loving Memory

of our Friend Bonnie Kuutsen

With sadness and tenderness, we share news that Bonnie Kuutsen passed away on Monday, April 21, 2025. The memorial service to celebrate her life will be held on **Saturday, May 31st, 2:00 pm, at Reading Meeting's 6th Street Meetinghouse.**

Please hold Carl and their family in the Light during this time of deep loss. Bonnie's gentle spirit and steadfast presence in our faith community touched many lives and she will be greatly missed.

Respectfully,
Janet Lamborn, Clerk



OUR VISION

Reading Monthly Meeting is an inclusive fellowship of families and individuals who nurture and support one another for spiritual growth and individual and community well-being. We take guidance from Quaker writings, Christian scripture, and the wisdom of other religious and thoughtful texts.

We are committed to religious education for adults and children. While we worship mostly in silence, words and music contribute to our gatherings in the meeting house.

