

Reading Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

WINTER 2026

RMM Calendar 2026

WINTER MEETING SCHEDULE:

- **MEETING FOR WORSHIP each First Day (Sunday)** 10 AM. Location: 108 N. Sixth St., Reading, PA and online with Zoom.
- **POTLUCK 1st Sundays** following Worship.
- **MEETING FOR WORSHIP with Attention to Business - 2nd Sundays** following worship at 6th Street and online with Zoom.
- **Opening Exercises with Music, Piano and Hymns 3rd Sundays** preceding Worship.
- **WORSHIP & MINISTRY MEETS 1st Thursdays** at 6:30 PM online with Zoom.
- **ZOOMING IN THE SPIRIT 3rd Tuesdays, 6:30 PM** with Zoom. All welcome, the monthly topics vary.
- **February 22 (4th Sunday) Book Discussion** after Worship, lunch will be provided. Contribute for the cost of the meal as led.
- **Games and Fun 4th Sundays** after Worship, January and March. Bring snacks, games, and a bagged lunch.

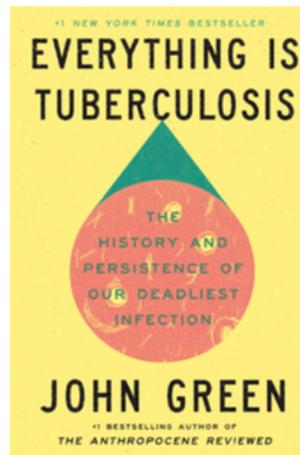
See Pages 2 & 4 for more Quaker News and Community Events.

Reading Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

108 N. 6th St. Reading, PA 19601
readingfriendsmeeting.org

Seasonal worship schedule: Fall, Winter and Spring Meeting for worship is held at 108 N. Sixth Street, Reading. Summer Meeting for Worship is held at the Historic Maiden Creek Meetinghouse located at 849 West Shore Drive, Shoemakersville, PA 19555 from Fathers Day to Labor Day.

Clerk of Meeting: Janet Lamborn
Clerk of Trustees: Roger Lawn
Treasurer: Jim Lamborn
Newsletter: Jennifer Hanf



Reading Friends Book Discussion Group

A new book has been selected. Our Book discussion date is Sunday, **February 22**, following Meeting for Worship. Lunch will be provided. Contribute to the meal cost as led.

Contact Chris Field or April Oberholtzer if you are interested.

We have chosen the book **Everything Is Tuberculosis** by **John Green**. The book is on the shorter side—about 200 pages in print and eBook formats, and approximately 5 ½ hours in audiobook format.

One generation ago, tuberculosis (also known as consumption) was one of the deadliest bacterial diseases worldwide. Its impact on history, literature, and culture continues to linger today. Although a cure has been discovered, author John Green reminds us that tuberculosis persists due to injustice, poverty, and neglect. This point is emphasized through the story of a young man named Henry, who is living with tuberculosis in Sierra Leone. Henry's personal story echoes the Quaker belief that "there is that of God in everyone," and affirms that every person matters. Regardless of where one lives or one's economic circumstances, all people deserve access to health care and to systems that allow them to thrive.



We are all the poorer for the crushing
of one man, since the dimming of the
Light anywhere darkens us all"
– Michael Sorensen, 1986



QUAKER ACTION

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COMMUNITY

- Support local immigration rights:
Make the Road PA Reading Organizing Center
<https://www.maketheroadpa.org/>
- Contact your elected Congressional officials and urge them to fight for humane and just treatment of all immigrants and asylum-seekers.
Find your legislator: <https://www.legis.state.pa.us/>

RMM Outreach Committee is now forming

RMM OUTREACH COMMITTEE: We are a small Monthly Meeting, and outreach is important to sustain and grow our community. If you are interested in learning, sharing ideas, and participating in this committee, please join us.

Our committee will hold its first meeting on Zoom in the coming weeks. Look for an email announcement. All members and attenders of RMM are welcome to join. Your ideas are welcome!

The purpose of Quaker outreach

This committee involves being visible in the community and inviting all to worship. It includes sharing the unique message of Friends through information and hosting educational events for friends and the larger community. Outreach also involves representing Friends by attending and participating in events held in the community and reaching out to meet the needs of our neighbors.

Jennifer Hanf and Pat Jackson will coordinate our committee. If you have an interest in serving as a member, please contact Pat Jackson, Clerk of Nominating Committee, pjackson118@aol.com or (610) 823-1914.

“Do unto those downstream as you would have those upstream do unto you.”

--Wendell Berry
American novelist, poet,
and environmental activist

Community Impact

New Journey Community Outreach

38 S. 6th St. Reading, began a Warming Center program January 5, open to anyone M-F, 6 - 11:30 AM. Lunch follows from 11:30-1 PM. Breakfast is also provided. Please share this information with anyone in need of a warm place to go.

New Journey Fundraiser, Jan 20-24:

10% of food sales at **Uncorkd** Restaurant, 624 Penn Avenue, West Reading, will be donated to **New Journey**, for helping meet the needs for food, clothing, and support in our community.

Direct monetary donations may be made at New Journey's Website: <https://njcoinc.org/>

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

Support and Attend th NAACP Reading Branch

Gospel Jubilee on Sunday February 22, 2026, 3-7 PM, at Alvernia University, 01 Zygmunta Lane, Reading, PA 19607. For more information, 1-877-262-5148 Ext. 1167 or email jenhanf@yahoo.com.



About this Newsletter

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

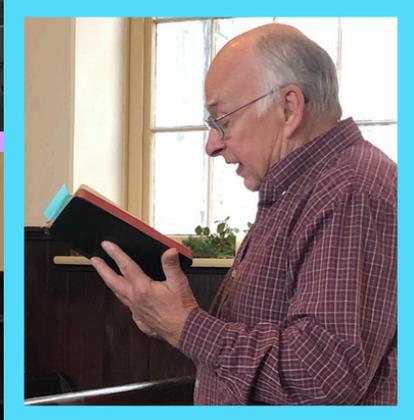
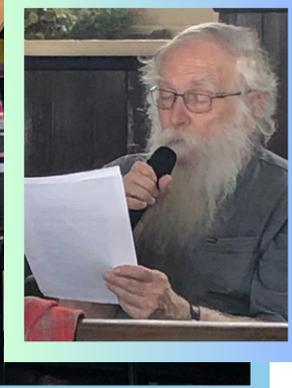
WE WELCOME CONTENT FOR THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER!

If you will be hosting an RMM event or wish 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

Reading
Monthly Meeting
Christmas Tea
First Day
December 21,
2025



*Special thanks
to all performers
and attenders of
the 2025 Meeting
Christmas Tea.*

Quaker News & Events

CALN QUARTERLY MEETING

• Caln Quarterly Meeting at Downingtown Friends Meeting

When: **Sunday, February 15**, 10 AM-2 PM
More details to be announced. Contact Janet Lamburn, Clerk, for more information,.

Where: **Downingtown Friends Meeting**
800 E. Lancaster Ave, Downingtown, PA 19335

PENDLE HILL NEWS

Discover Pendle Hill Quaker Study, Retreat, and Conference Center. Visit pendlehill.org to explore lectures, worship services, classes, and other growth opportunities.

• **Pendle Hill Worship: Join Online** for Worship in the Barn daily **8:30 to 9:10 AM**, extending a 90-year-long tradition of daily worship at Pendle Hill. Go to the website to register or join us in person at 338 Plush Mill Rd, Wallingford, PA 19086.

PHILADELPHIA YEARLY MEETING NEWS

• SPRING CONTINUING SESSIONS

Spring Continuing Sessions will take place on **March 14, 2026**, at regional locations soon to be announced.

PYM Annual Sessions 2026 will be returning to the tradition of community-led workshops. Facilitators are invited to address this year's theme, **Members One of Another**, or offer workshops that would support and strengthen our faith and commitment as a community of Friends. To learn more and apply, go to this link: <https://www.pym.org/sessions/wsessions-workshops-2026/>

• **Trenton Meeting of Friends (Quakers)** is holding **"Prayers and Meditation for Peace"** **monthly on second Saturdays**, 10:15-11:00 AM. **Join us in person** at Trenton Friends Meetinghouse, 142 East Hanover Street, Trenton, NJ 98698 Or online with Zoom.

Prayers and Meditation for Peace holds space for vocal ministry and silent worship. Vocal ministry about peace, prayer, and meditation is encouraged. Contact TrentonQuakers@gmail.com for more information.

Let us know peace.
For as long as the moon shall rise,
For as long as the rivers shall flow,
For as long as the sun will shine,
For as long as the grass shall grow,
Let us know peace.
--Indigenous American Prayer for the New Year

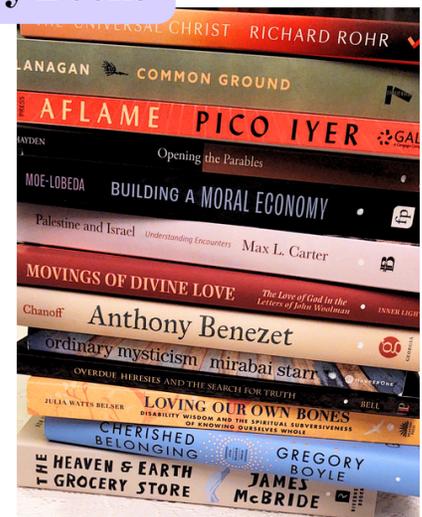
Many Thanks!

Notice and enjoy the newly arrived historic photographs, just arrived and hung in our Friends Community room. Many thanks and gratitude for the careful and thoughtful efforts of member Sis Sica to complete this display.

New Library Books

Are Here!

Available for loan at Reading Monthly Meeting. A complete listing of the new books is attached.



Check them out!

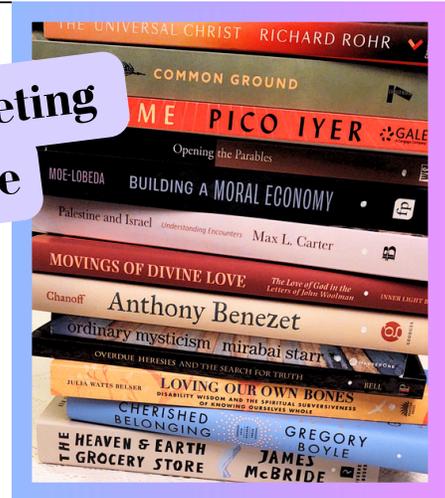
OUR VISION

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.

Check them out:

New Library Books

at Reading Monthly Meeting
Are Here



Aflame: Learning from Silence by Pico Iyer “...ageless counsel about the power of silence and what it can teach us about how to live, how to love, and, ultimately, how to die.”

Building a Moral Economy: Pathways for People of Courage by Cynthia D. Moe-Lobeda. “... Readers will re-see economies as webs of relationship and will root economic life in the great love story--the story of God's astounding love for all creation, and God's call to align our lives with that love.”

The Universal Christ: How a Forgotten Reality Can Change Everything We See, Hope For, and Believe by Richard Rohr. “...Drawing on scripture, history, and spiritual practice, Rohr articulates a transformative view of Jesus Christ as a portrait of God’s constant, unfolding work in the world.”

Ordinary Mysticism: Your Life as Sacred Ground by Mirabai Starr “...stunning exploration of finding the extraordinary in the everyday.”

Cherished Belonging: The Healing Power of Love in Divided Times by Gregory Boyle

“... Gregory Boyle has transformed tens of thousands of lives through his work as the founder of Homeboy Industries, the largest gang-intervention program in the world.

The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store, A Novel by James McBride “...captures a rapidly changing country, as seen through the eyes of the recently arrived and the formerly enslaved ... (and) offers us a thorough reminder: Against seemingly impossible odds, even in the midst of humanity’s most wicked designs, love, community and action can save us.” The New York Times Book Review.

Loving Our Own Bones: Disability Wisdom and the Spiritual Subversiveness of Knowing

Ourselves Whole by Julia Watts Belser “...a triumph of theological insight, disability activism, and honest, personal, hard-won wisdom ... An excellent, impressive addition to the conversation around theology and disability that shines on many levels.” Review from Library Journal.

Opening the Parables by M D Hayden “...based on the premise that Jesus taught a singular spiritual truth which--once the clutter of others' words and interpretations is cleared away--appears consistently in all his teachings, even in his parables.”

Overdue Heresies and the Search for Truth by Malcolm H Bell “What, if anything, do I believe...? This book stimulates readers to reach, reaffirm, or rethink conclusions...”

Palestine and Israel - Understanding Encounters by Max L. Carter “...this volume will bring you one step closer to humanizing the people behind the news headlines. ...and contributes significantly to the narration of the Ramallah Friends School history.”

Anthony Benezet: Quaker, Abolitionist, Anti-Racist by David Chanoff “...tells Benezet’s story—who he was, what he did, how he did it, and why it was that William Penn’s ‘Holy Experiment’ of Pennsylvania provided the matrix for the historic transformation the abolitionist educator brought about.”

Common Ground: How the Crisis of the Earth is Saving Us from Our Illusion of Separation by Eileen Flanagan “...a series of stories of hard-won successes in the climate change movement ... argues that more than technology or even elections, acting in solidarity with all life is humanity’s best hope for survival.”

Movings of Divine Love: The Love of God in the Letters of John Woolman by Drew Lawson “Woolman’s words describe the eternal in ordinary events and resonate across time.”

Everything Is Tuberculosis: The History and Persistence of Our Deadliest Infection by John Green “...tells a deeply human story illuminating the fight against the world’s deadliest infectious disease.” This book is the **Feb 2026 Friends Book Club Selection.**

Review sources include Bookshop, Amazon, and QuakerBooks unless otherwise noted.

Appendix A: Special Section of the Winter RMM Newsletter, 2026

Reading Monthly Meeting Gifts and Loans Committee Report for 2025

Disbursals by Gifts & Loans					
	2025	chk#	chk date	acknowledged	check cleared as of 12/31
AFSC	150	359	12/3/25		
Alternatives to Violence Project	100	360	12/3/25		
Berks Peace Community	150	361	12/3/25		x
Doctors w/o borders	50	362	12/3/25		x
EMIR Healing Center	150	363	12/3/25		x
Family Promise	150	364	12/3/25	x	x
Family Promise - U-Turn	200	365	12/3/25	x	x
FCNL Edu Fund	150	366	12/3/25		x
Freedom Gate Ministries	x				
Friends council edu	50	367	12/3/25	x	x
Friends journal	100	368	12/3/25		x
Habitat for humanity of Berks Co	75	369	12/3/25	x	x
Helping Harvest	550	370	12/3/25	x	x
Homeless coalition (Berks coalition..)	50	382	12/3/25		x
Literacy council	125	372	12/3/25	x	x
Opptny House	350	373	12/3/25		x
Pendle hill	125	374	12/3/25		x
Planned parenthood (Rdg)	350	375	12/3/25	returned undeliverable	
Quaker earthcare Witness	150	376	12/3/25		
Quaker UN office	100	377	12/3/25		x
Right Sharing of World Resources	200	378	12/3/25	x	x
Safe Berks (was Berks Women in Crisis)	200	379	12/3/25		x
Veterans making difference Graybill	400	380	12/3/25		x
Berks free medical clinic	150	381	12/3/25		x
Lighthouse -ext of Hope rescue -	25	371	12/3/25	x	x
Total disbursed	4100				