



ABINGTON QUARTER NEWSLETTER

Summer 2026



www.abingtonquarterlymeeting.org

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Monthly Meetings in Abington Quarter

Abington - Byberry - Gwynedd - Horsham - Norristown - Plymouth -
Richland - Unami - Upper Dublin

Quick note from the Editor

Happy Summer!

The deadline for the next newsletter is Saturday September 19, 2026. Please note that events going on in Monthly Meetings can be shared with Friends in the Quarter before the next newsletter comes out. So please feel free to email them to me.

Summer Gathering & Picnic



August 2 is the Annual Abington Quarter Summer Gathering & Potluck Picnic.

Hosted by Norristown Friends Meeting (20 Jacoby Street, Norristown PA.)

Join Friends from across Abington Quarter for our summer gathering! Whether you attend in person or by Zoom, we hope you'll be part of the day.

If you attend in person, you'll also have the opportunity to learn more about the inspiring community witness, public education, and activism of Norristown Friends.

Families are warmly welcome! Free Quaker Youth Programming and childcare for ages 5–18 will be provided throughout the day so everyone can participate.

Potluck Picnic Reminders

Our Hosts and Abington Quarter will provide:

Grilled burgers, hot dogs, veggie patties, toppings, buns, ice, server ware and drinks.

We ask each Monthly Meeting to bring at least:

- One dessert
- One main or side dish
- Snacks or finger foods are also very welcome.

Schedule

- 8:30 AM – Doors open for coffee and fellowship
- 9:00 AM – Quarter Business Meeting
- 10:00 AM – Meeting for Worship
- 11:00 AM - Quarter discussion / updates if needed Noon: Potluck picnic and all ages activities

Agenda Items

The short summer agenda will include new fall calendar dates, news & updates and discussions including:

- Opportunity for Quaker meetings who want to grow meeting membership but need help getting clear to join the Shoemaker Grant and AQM supports,
- September 15th, 7PM Community Engagement Zoom workshop, • October 4th Abington Quarter All-Ages Community Art experience with Todd Drake at Gwynedd MM
- The re-scheduled AQM Fall Business Meeting on November 1st at Plymouth MM - and more!
- Sharing Quaker worship, leadings, actions, care across the Quarter

The Optional RSVP Form -

It is nice to RSVP and helpful if you are coming with kids or helping with them (see below)

<https://forms.gle/NWvvEVeC5m7nZgEQ9>

Meeting Clerks or Representatives may coordinate their Meeting's contribution with Laura Lanza at AbingtonQtrCommunications@gmail.com or 215-990-3196.



Friends are needed to help provide childcare to our youngest Friends (not JFC age) during business parts of Quakerly meetings. If you are able to help and have your current clearances, Please email the AQM Clerk Mike at mikemenski@gmail.com . with any questions and if you can help after August 2 as well.

Thank you so much.

Community Engagement:
Using Assets & Local Approaches to Grow Quaker Meetings



Tues. Sept 15
7 pm / zoom
Register here.

<https://forms.gle/hwtJ9BoLvJtWGkYa8>

AbingtonQuarterlyMeeting.org

Registration required:

<https://forms.gle/hwtJ9BoLvJtWGkYa8>

Get inspired by a promising approach to vitalizing Quaker meetings pioneered by one of the smallest groups in Abington Quarter! Friends from Byberry Friends Meeting in Philadelphia describe the successes and lessons from several years of committing to local outreach to grow their meeting.

Mary Ellen McNish describes why and how they united on a community engagement approach to revitalize their declining Meeting. She touches on logistics of investing in renovations and staff to implement the plan. Michael Doyle, their Community Engagement Coordinator, will share how connecting with the wider community has brought hundreds of new people into the meetinghouse and resulted in new friends in their meeting.

Mike offers many examples of activating the meetinghouse through rentals, partnering with other organizations to host a range of activities – from historical reenactments, wellness classes, community groups, trainings, flea markets to fireside chats. The result of these repeating and one-off events with *Quaker*

adjacent groups has increased attendance, awareness and vitality. Participants will leave with practical takeaways, reflections, and ideas for welcoming ways to open the door and invite new visitors back to experience the life of the Meeting.

Brought by AQM's *Engagement, Communications, In-reach & Outreach Topic Series* — designed to build community and grow Meetings across Abington Quarter (and beyond).

The Todd Drake Creative Intergenerational Quarterly Meeting

Come Play with Your Friends!

**OCTOBER 4, ABINGTON QUARTERLY MEETING
AT GWYNEDD FRIENDS**

**A Creative, Intergenerational Experience of Collaboration:
with Spirit, Each Other, and Artist, Todd Drake**



Nurturing the Light within everyone, we let that experience guide our compassionate actions for peace and justice. AQM

What symbol will you use to represent

- Peace
- Justice
- The Light, or
- The Natural World?

Register by August 23, at your Meeting, or
at the QM Picnic August 2, at Norristown Friends

October 4, 2026 Quarterly Meeting Schedule:

8:00 – 8:30: Coffee and bagels
8:30 – 9:30: Meeting for Worship
9:30 – 11:30: Carving & Sticker
Printing Projects

Parents: It's going to be a long wonderful day! You know your kids. Please arrive any time before 9:30, that works for your family.

Participants will carve a simple and personally meaningful image. Children will need to have an adult buddy. These images will be printed onto a sticker to keep, and the print blocks will be used in the afternoon.

11:30 – 12:30: Lunch for all.

Todd will present an artist talk with slideshow of his Witness as a Quaker Pirate. He will share how his life has been shaped by this creative practice, from making art with children in the West Bank to posting graffiti on the streets of New York City.

12:30 – 2:30: Printing Project

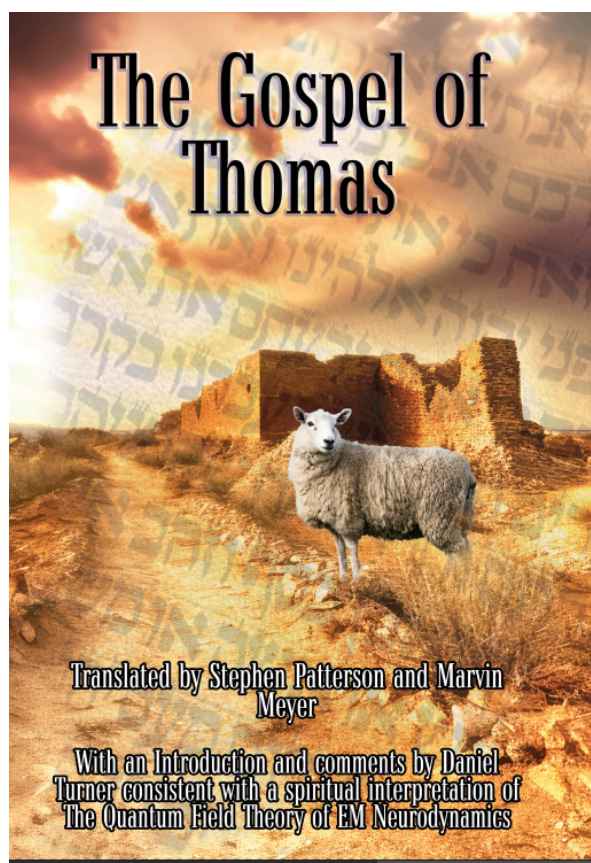
- Todd will bring 19 x 25" prints with a light gray "ghost" image of the selected image.
- Participants will use the stamps they created in the morning to embellish the background of the large ghost image.
- Todd will do the final print of the image chosen by the Quarter on top of our background printing. Each Meeting will receive their own prints and a method for hanging.

2:30 – 3:00: Final Reflection. Silence and sharing

News from Meetings of the Quarter

Abington Monthly Meeting

New Book



Dan Turner, Abington Quarter's recording clerk, has published a commentary on the heretical, long lost but recently rediscovered Gospel of Thomas. It provides a perspective on Jesus' assertions in all 4 canonical gospels that little children belong to the Kingdom of Heaven...because, aside from the cells of our bodies, we are spiritual beings animated by individual shares of the light of life -- the "inner light."

In Quaker parlance. Hoping to catch the attention of "universalist" Quakers, the commentary is consistent with a spiritual interpretation of the Quantum Theory of EM Neurodynamics. Don't be alarmed; aspects of this and other modern ideas are only discussed where they are clearly relevant!

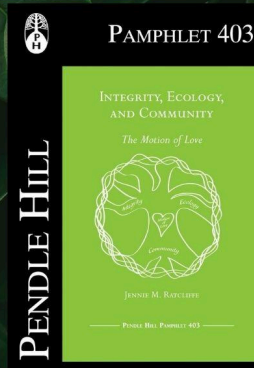
Dan Turner

HOSTED BY THE LIBRARY
COMMITTEE

BOOK CLUB

READING PENDLE HILL PAMPHLET #403:

 **Join us** on August 30th,
at 11:30 in the upstairs
library



 **Copies of pamphlet** available in
upstairs library.

 **Questions?** Ask library co-clerks
Krista Hill-Steel or Salma Garcia
Nolasco

Salma's email is AMM@abingtonfriends.net

Community Gun Violence Prevention Day

Community Gun Violence Prevention Day

Check out the photos below, taken during Abington Monthly Meetings Collaboration with Heading Gods Call! This Community Gun Violence Prevention Day occurred in November, 2025 and had 30-40 participants. The Peace and Social Justice Committee of AMM planned and sponsored the event along with other meeting members and with the agreement and support of the Clerk and AMM community.





Salma Garcia Nolasco, AMM Administrator

Gwynedd Monthly Meeting

Friendly Finds

GREAT DEALS. GREATER CAUSE.

benefits worldwide projects of the American Friends Service Committee

Our next sale is **September 12** from 9-1pm. There will be lots of clothing (both men's and women's, in all sizes), shoes, housewares, cookbooks and jewelry, as well as our popular bake sale table.

A flyer to share at your meeting will be sent in a few weeks. Also, if you have any questions or would like to help with the sale (even just for one hour), please contact the sale committee clerk, Chris, at christophermrozinski@gmail.com.

Plymouth Monthly Meeting

Annual Picnic

On Sunday, June 28, Plymouth Monthly Meeting held its annual picnic and warmly welcomed Friends from Norristown Monthly Meeting to join. Over the past year or more, the two Meetings have invited one another to events, supporting each other's efforts and sharing common concerns. The annual picnic offers everyone a chance to relax and enjoy fellowship without a special agenda.

There were grilled veggie burgers, regular burgers, and hot dogs, but also a delicious variety of side dishes and



desserts including strawberry-rhubarb cheesecake and ice cream. The weather cooperated and picnickers enjoyed the sizzling smoke of the outdoor grill, bird song, and shared conversation under tents on the Meeting's outdoor patio.



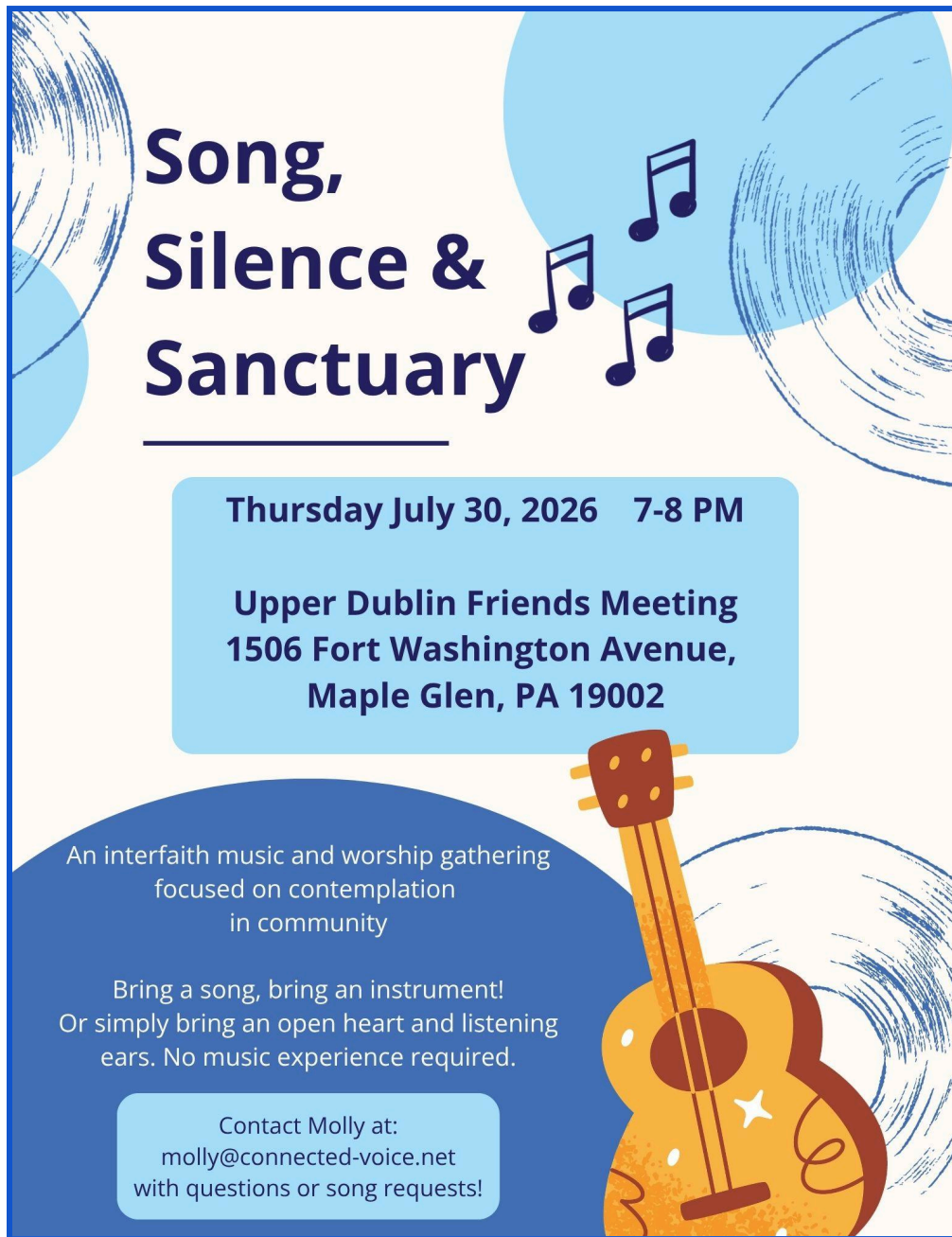
The annual picnic also brings friends we have not seen for a while and a chance to catch up in conversation.

This year included a visit from local deer who were catching savory smoke floating through the air and wondering what those Friends are up to.



Sally Bishop with photos by Carol Coffin

Upper Dublin Monthly Meeting



This will be outside under the stars ! All friends are invited.

Molly is a super talented Quaker singer songwriter with a new way to share worship and silence with songs . Bring a chair and join us.

Pam Yalle