



PRISM

Poplar
Ridge
Information
Sharing
Monthly

the Religious Society of Friends, Poplar Ridge

FEBRUARY 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 9:00am King Ferry Food Pantry
3 10:00am Meeting for Worship - A.T. Miller	4 7:00pm Meditation Group @ Nelson's	5 7:00pm Peace and Social Action Committee @ Buxenbaum's	6	7	8 6:15pm The Cayuga Prison Worship Group	9 9:15am Extended Worship - Genesee Valley
10 10:00am Meeting for Worship - Rebecca Shillenback 11:00am Coffee Hour	11 7:00pm Youth Committee Meeting @ Otis'	12	13 7:00pm Mid-week Worship @ Sammond/Rhudy's	14 Valentine's Day	15	16 9:00am King Ferry Food Pantry
17 9:00am Adult Education - Quaker Testimonies 10:00am Meeting for Worship - Kukuk Monthly Meeting for Business	18 Presidents' Day 7:30pm Men's Spiritual Nurture Group	19 7:15pm Women's Spiritual Nurture @ Otis'	20 7:30pm Quaker Worship in Spanish	21	22 6:15pm The Cayuga Prison Worship Group	23
24 9:00am Adult Education - Quaker Testimonies 10:00am Meeting for Worship (unprogrammed)	25 7:30pm Ministry & Counsel @ Otis'	26 7:30pm Spring Gathering Planning at Richter's	27 Deadline for PRISM submissions 7:00pm Mid-week Worship @ Berggren-Thomas'	28		

Birthdays: 8th Mary Ann Nobben, Karen Brennan; 9th Miranda Cady Hallett, Deanna Nance; 10th Steff McGonagle; 12th Nick Dosch; 13th Thea Grube; 17th Janet Shea; 18th Patrick Connelly; 20th David Eckhardt, Bruce Culver; 25th Mark Ferrari

For more information about calendar events, check the PRISM or contact pr.prism@gmail.com.

MINUTES FOR POPLAR RIDGE MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS FOR JANUARY 2019

The January 2019 meeting for business was postponed to January 27th due to a winter storm. Minutes for this meeting will be included in the March PRISM.



SPRING GATHERING

Save the Date of May 17-19 for this year's Spring Gathering. Spring Gathering is a weekend gathering at Watson Homestead near Elmira of Quakers from our region. We at Poplar Ridge are planning the program for the weekend. It is a fun time to spend more time with F(f)riends from our own Meeting as well as meet new F(f)riends.

A vibrant group has been working on ideas for Spring Gathering. If you would like to participate in organizing the weekend, please contact: Hannah Richter <hannahrichter79@gmail.com>. Further registration information will be coming in the March and April PRISMs.

Please notify Donald Simkin (Donald.simkin@yahoo.com) to send a special note of remembrance from the meeting. Donations of cards are welcome.

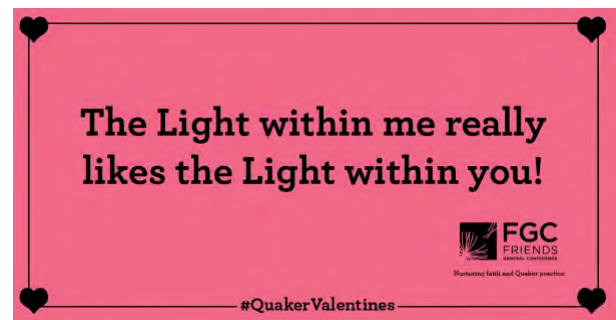
QUAKER TESTIMONIES

Join your friends in the next Adult Education sessions while we explore the Quaker testimonies of Simplicity, Peace, Integrity, Community, Equality and

Stewardship. The program will run for six consecutive Sundays starting on February 17th (2/17, 2/24, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17 and 3/24), at 9 am, before Meeting for Worship. Each week we will discuss the meaning of a different Quaker testimony in our lives. A group leader will help us to focus on a single testimony and will encourage sharing.

A pamphlet from the American Friends Service Committee about the testimonies and a guide from Friends General Conference will be available prior to the first meeting. We have also included a summary of these testimonies at the end of this PRISM.

For more information, feel free to contact a member of PRMM's Ministry and Counsel committee (Phyllis Bunker, Jim Frisch, Suzanne O'Hara, Dill Otis, Charlie Weld) or Craig Kukuk, Hannah Richter or Andy Simkin.



STATE OF SOCIETY

New York Yearly Meeting requests each Meeting to annually review the State of their own meeting and report back to the Yearly Meeting. We call this review our "State of Society".

The query for us to consider this year is:

In our meeting how are we making Friends' testimonies a way of life?

We will be reviewing this topic in the February and March business meetings. Please be holding this query in your minds and hearts over the next couple of months.

Pastoral needs or questions:
Call Craig Kukuk at 734-717-7719.

NYYM YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS

The Young Adult Spiritual Nurture Series through [New York Yearly Meeting](#) and under the care of the [Spiritual Nurture Working Group](#) is a six-part series that will provide young adult Friends (ages 18-35ish) with opportunities to **connect with each other** in Faith and community, **build skills** related to Quaker process and practice, and **enrich their faith** and understanding as Friends. With workshops and retreats spaced out over one year, YAFs may choose to participate in all workshops or in some, with the hope that all participants will join together for the final session and carpool/caravan to NYYM Summer Sessions at Silver Bay. Series are designed to intersect with various NYYM events and participants are encouraged to participate as able, appropriate, and led. While all parts of the series will be held in within New York Yearly Meeting, YAFs from other Yearly Meetings are welcome and encouraged to join us!

Virtual engagement will also be available whenever possible! If you cannot be with us physically, just indicate that you'd like to "Skype" in on your registration! There is no cost associated with this.

See <https://youngadultfriends.weebly.com/> for more information.



MULTIAGE INCLUSION IN QUAKER MEETINGS

Check out Emily Provance's set of 10 blogs for flipping the culture of our meetings to encourage multiage inclusion.

- [Being Relevant Outside the Meetinghouse](#)
- [Sacred Joy](#)

- [Cutting the Code](#)
- [A Meaningful Presence on Social Media](#)
- [Building a Permission-Giving Culture](#)
- [Examining Traditions in the Light](#)
- [Money, Money](#)
- [Writing for All Readers](#)
- [Nurturing Parents](#)
- [Getting Ourselves Together](#)

Visit <https://www.fgcquaker.org/cloud/farmington-scipio-regional-meeting> for more information about our regional meeting.



SHARE THE LOVE THIS VALENTINE'S DAY

#QuakerValentines is here to put your feelings into words

It's not always easy to find the words to express your feelings when it comes to love and romance. This year, FGC is here to lend a hand with #QuakerValentines, a social media-based campaign to share love and a good sense of humor this Valentine's Day. Friends can share these quirky Quaker cards on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#), or print out their own. Our #QuakerValentine print-out also features blank cards so you can write you own Quaker Valentine. As Quaker and founder of Pennsylvania William Penn once said, "Let us see what love can do!"

 [Download the print version of #QuakerValentines](#)

FGC News By Marta Rusek

An Introduction to Quaker Testimonies

Quakers believe in living life in the spirit of love and truth and peace, reaching for the best in oneself and answering "that of God" in everyone. Quaker testimonies are expressions of the commitment to put those beliefs into practice.

The testimonies bear witness to the truth, as Friends in community perceive it-truth known through relationship with God. They do not exist in any rigid, written form; nor are they imposed in any way. Each Quaker searches for how the testimonies can best be expressed in his or her own life.

While attempting to live in concert with these teachings, Quakers are tender with themselves and with each other when they fall short, ready to recommit and try again.

Queries

Quakers use queries for personal reflection, self-examination, or spirited discussion. We have included queries throughout our Introduction to Quaker Testimonies, inviting us to examine the testimonies in light of our own convictions and life experiences.

Peace – Peacemaking at Home and Abroad

Friends oppose and refuse to engage in war and violence. In pursuit of lasting, sustainable peace, they seek to eliminate causes of violent conflict, such as poverty, exploitation, and intolerance.

In renouncing war and violence, Friends embrace the transforming power of love and the power of nonviolence, striving for peace in daily interactions with family, neighbors, fellow community members, and those from every corner of the world.

Friends endeavor to see "that of God" in every person, regardless of nationality, race, gender, sexual orientation, age, ability, or social status.

Queries

How can I nurture the seeds of peace within myself, my community, and the world?

How can I work to eliminate hatred, injustice, and both physical and institutional violence?

How can I be more open to seeking the goodness in people who act with violence and hatred?

How can I work to settle disputes within the organization and the community with love and sensitivity for all involved?

How can I increase my understanding of nonviolence and use it in all my interactions?

Peace comes from being able to contribute the best that we have, and all that we are, toward creating a world that supports everyone.

- HAFSAT ABJOLA, NIGERIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST

Peace, in the sense of the absence of war, is of little value to someone who is dying of hunger or cold ... Peace can only last where human rights are respected, where people are fed, and where individuals and nations are free.

-TENZIN GYATSO, 14TH DALAI LAMA

Peace is not the product of terror or fear. Peace is not the silence of cemeteries. Peace is not the silent result of violent repression. Peace is the generous, tranquil contribution of all to the good of all.

-OSCAR ROMERO, CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP

If we are serious about peace, then we must work for it as ardently, seriously, continuously, carefully, and bravely as we have ever prepared for war.

- WENDELL BERRY, AUTHOR AND ACTIVIST

Peace in ourselves, peace in the world.

-THICH NHAT HANH, BUDDHIST MONK AND PEACE ACTIVIST

Equality – Seeking Social Justice

Friends hold that all people are equal in the eyes of God and have equal access to the "inner Light." This profound sense of equality leads Friends to treat each person with respect, looking for "that of God" in everyone.

This testimony was reflected in the practice of early Quakers, who granted equal spiritual authority to women, refused to use forms of address that recognized social distinctions, supported religious freedom, and worked to abolish slavery.

Queries

How do I respond to opportunities to establish personal and professional relationships with people whose back-grounds differ from mine, whether across class, race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, or ability?

In what ways do I work to change society so that everyone has equal opportunities?

How can I speak up and take action in a loving way when I see and hear injustices?

How do I "speak truth to power" in ways that honor the human dignity of people on all sides of an issue?

One has to fight for justice for all. If I do not fight bigotry wherever it is, bigotry is strengthened.

-BAYARD RUSTIN, QUAKER CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST

The good we secure for ourselves is precarious and uncertain until it is secured for all of us and incorporated into our common life.

- JANE ADDAMS, SOCIOLOGIST AND ACTIVIST

I think we have to own the fears that we have of each other, and then, in some practical way, some daily way, figure out how to see people differently than the way we were brought up to.

- ALICE WALKER, AUTHOR

being worthy of respect does not depend on ... possessing attractive qualities or skills. Until we can respect another person without justification except that he or she is a child of God, it is not really respect.

-PAUL LACEY, QUAKER EDUCATOR

Integrity – Consistency in Word and Deed

The need to deal honestly with all others and with oneself has long been a foundational belief among Friends, summarized by the old injunction: "Let your yea

be yea and your nay be nay." For Friends, having integrity means being authentic and having consistency between one's values and one's actions. Lack of integrity separates us from our own soul, from the Light within, and from our community. Quakers try to live according to the deepest truth they know, which they believe comes from God. This means speaking the truth to all, including people in positions of power. Friends do not take oaths when appearing in a court of law, rejecting the idea that there is one standard of truth for daily living and another for the court.

Queries

How is my work in harmony with the truth as I understand it? In what ways do my interactions with other people reflect my beliefs and values?

How can I listen with an open mind to others' experiences?

How can I speak my truth so that those who disagree with me can hear it?

How well do I bring my inner life and outer life into wholeness?

So let your lives preach, let your light shine ...

- GEORGE FOX, FOUNDER OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

It is in our lives and not our words that our religion must be read.

- THOMAS JEFFERSON, U.S. PRESIDENT

Knowing others is to be clever.

Knowing yourself is to be enlightened.

Overcoming others requires force.

Overcoming yourself requires strength.

- LAO TZU, CHINESE PHILOSOPHER

Wisdom consists in speaking and acting the truth.

- HERACLITUS, GREEK PHILOSOPHER

I have long believed that speaking truth is both the simplest way of leading your life and one of the most difficult to achieve.

- JUDITH AITCHISON, QUAKER AUTHOR

Community – living in Fellowship

While the Quaker faith is founded on the principle that every person can have a direct relationship with God, an equally central tenet lies in the power of the "gathered community." When Friends gather in silence to worship, they are collectively seeking the will of God, rather than meditating individually. Shared worship signifies unity and trust. The Friends community also provides a place for individual members to look for wisdom and support. For example, early Friends relied on their community to provide for the families whose bread-winners were imprisoned for their beliefs-and at Quaker weddings today, the union is not formalized by a clergy member, but is witnessed and endorsed by every member attending.

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Queries

Do I participate fully in making the our community a welcoming, respectful, and caring place?

In what ways do I honor the diverse gifts, talents, and resources of the individuals and communities with whom I work?

How do I help ensure a safe space for diverse voices and opinions in the communities where I participate and serve?

How can I contribute to AFSC meetings, whether participating in person or by phone, so these gatherings are more constructive and reflective of a truly inclusive community?

Simplicity – Spirit-led Restraint

Friends believe in simple living. This has historically meant simple dress, plain speech, and unadorned meeting houses for worship. Through the simplicity testimony, Friends encourage one another to look beyond the outward and to the inward.

In contemporary terms, Friends try to live lives in which activities and possessions do not get in the way of open and unencumbered communication with others and with one's own spirituality.

Clearing away the clutter makes it easier to hear the "still small voice" within.

Queries

Does the way I spend my time make the best possible contribution to my work?

How might I communicate with more honesty, clarity, and simplicity?

How do I take time to renew myself?

Do I know when to say no to work I cannot adequately attend to?

How can I be more thoughtful about what I need and what I acquire?

Living simply is the right ordering of our lives and priorities.

- LEONARD KENWORTHY, QUAKER AID WORKER

May we look upon our treasure, the furniture of our houses, and our garments, and try to discover whether the seeds of war have nourishment in these our possessions.

- JOHN WOOLMAN, QUAKER AUTHOR

There is enough for everyone's need, but not for everyone's greed.

- MOHANDAS K. GANDHI, INDIAN INDEPENDENCE LEADER

Out of clutter, find simplicity. From discord, find harmony. In the middle of difficulty lies opportunity.

- ALBERT EINSTEIN, PHYSICIST

Stewardship – Care for the Earth and Its Inhabitants

Friends strive to use God's gifts wisely, with gifts conceived in the broadest of terms. These gifts include our talents and our possessions, as well as our natural environment. Friends believe that such gifts are not ours alone.

To Friends, good stewardship means taking care of what has been given, not just for ourselves, but for the people around us and for future generations as well. Friends strive to use their gifts in accordance with their beliefs.

Queries

How can I better use AFSC's resources wisely, recognizing that these resources were given freely by others to be used in service of peace and justice?

How do I help others—colleagues, program participants, supporters—recognize and use their gifts?

How can I be a better steward of our environment in my consuming and recycling behaviors?

All things are bound together. All things connect. Whatever befalls the earth, befalls also the children of the earth.

- CHIEF OREN LYONS, NATIVE AMERICAN FAITHKEEPER

Everyone needs beauty as well as bread, places to play and pray, where nature heals and gives strength to body and soul alike.

- JOHN MUIR, ENVIRONMENTALIST

We are called to assist the Earth to heal her wounds and in the process heal our own—indeed to embrace the whole of creation in all its diversity, beauty and wonder.

- WANGARI MAATHAI, KENYAN ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST

Service is the rent we pay for the privilege of living on this earth. It is the very purpose of life, not something you do in your spare time.

- SHIRLEY CHISHOLM, POLITICIAN AND AUTHOR

A community can use all the skills of its people.

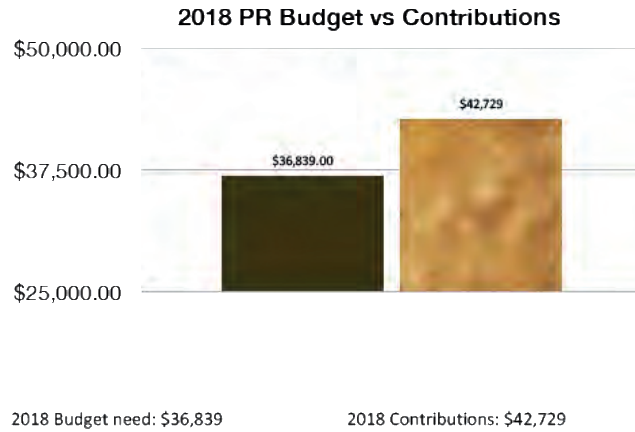
- MAORI PROVERB

Acknowledgments

The text for this document was extracted from [An Introduction to Quaker Testimonies](#) created by [American Friends Service Committee](#) which was inspired by a similar booklet created by San Francisco Friends School (which was itself modeled on one from Sidwell Friends School).

The Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting Ministry and Counsel Committee wishes to thank all who contributed to the creation of the original documents and their willing to share with our Meeting.

For those interested in further exploration of Quakerism and Quaker values, we suggest visiting the online Quaker Information Center at <http://www.quakerinfo.org/>.



POPLAR RIDGE FRIENDS MEETING

Clerk – Hannah Richter	Pastoral Care - Craig Kukuk (734-717-7719)
Assistant Clerk – Andy Simkin	Recording Clerk – David Connelly
Treasurer – Ruth Bradley	Ministry & Counsel Clerk – Charlie Weld
Musicians – Claire Howard, Jeff Layton, Cathy Mullarney, Mary Jo Granger	

Poplar Ridge Friends meet every Sunday at 10 am for worship. The fourth Sunday of the month is an unprogrammed meeting. The fifth Sunday has a variety of formats. Nursery is available during meeting. The meetinghouse is located at 1868 Poplar Ridge Road, Poplar Ridge, NY 13139.

See <http://www.quaker.org/poplar/> for more information, updated calendar or copies of previous newsletters or 1st day messages. Visit us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/poplarridgefriendsny>.

To change or correct a mailing label please contact Sally Otis at sotis3067@gmail.com or Scott Heinekamp at 246-7151. You can request PRISM electronically and save the Meeting the expense of postage by emailing pr.prism@gmail.com.

To contribute items for PRISM contact us at pr.prism@gmail.com or
 Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting: Attn PRISM
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 Poplar Ridge Monthly Meeting
 of the Religious Society of Friends