

MEETING CALENDAR

Sunday, Oct 15, 9:00 AM, Southeast Quarterly Meeting for Business (in-Person at Westerly Meeting and Zoom)

Sunday, Oct 15, Meeting for Worship: at Providence, 10:00 AM (Indoors and Zoom, Hybrid*); at Saylesville, 10:30 AM (Indoors); at Conanicut, 9:30 AM (Indoors)

Wednesday, Oct 18, 7:00 PM, Conversation on Caregiving and Caretaking (Zoom)

Saturday, Oct 21, 5:00 PM, Family Game Night (Providence Meetinghouse)

Sunday, Oct 22, Meeting for Worship: at Providence, 10:00 AM (Indoors and Zoom); at Saylesville, 10:30 AM (Indoors); at Conanicut, 9:30 AM (Indoors)

Sunday, Oct 29, Meeting for Worship: at Providence, 10:00 AM (Indoors and Zoom, Hybrid*); at Saylesville, 10:30 AM (Indoors); at Conanicut, 9:30 AM (Indoors)

Sunday, Nov 5, Meeting for Worship: at Providence, 10:00 AM (Indoors and Zoom); at Saylesville, 10:30 AM (Indoors); at Conanicut, 9:30 AM (Indoors)

Saturday, Nov 11, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Meeting Care Day (Moses Brown School)

Sunday, Nov 12, Meeting for Worship: at Providence, 10:00 AM (Indoors and Zoom, Hybrid*); at Saylesville, 10:30 AM (Indoors); at Conanicut, 9:30 AM (Indoors)

Sunday, Nov 12, Meeting for Business at Providence, Noon (Indoors and Zoom, Hybrid*)

Providence Monthly Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business 8th of Tenth Month, 2023 Minutes

Friends gathered at the Providence meetinghouse at noon with 13 present and 5 on Zoom. Presiding clerk Ariana Steele began the period of silent worship by reading the following queries taken from New England Yearly Meeting Advices and Queries:

Do you recognize divinely inspired insight? Can you distinguish between divine leadings and your own needs or desires?

To whom or to what are you accountable?

The clerk informed Friends that Quarterly Meeting will be held next week on the 15th day of 10th month, at Westerly Friends Meetinghouse in Westerly, RI.

The following items of business were brought forward:

1. From Finance Committee: the Meeting's financial records have been reviewed by an audit committee consisting of William Monroe and Matthew Hackman, who reported that the records appear to be in good order and without any material discrepancies. The auditors and treasurer identified some areas for which modifications of process may be proposed to a future Meeting for Business. Friends accepted the report.

2. For Ministry and Counsel Committee, Dan Lederer reported that the wedding of Heather Meehan and Felix Hagen took place on Ninth month 18 in accordance with the good order of Friends.

3. Em McManamy and Bob Watt reported on their recent trip to Cuba, working on the Alternatives to Violence Project (PAV in Spanish). They worked with an enthusiastic group of Cuban Friends who intend bringing the AVP/ PAV program to their local areas. Friends are invited to speak with Em or Bob to get more information about their experiences.

4. Peace and Social Action Committee requested that Providence Meeting authorize a sister meeting relationship between our Meeting and the Floro Perez Quaker Meeting, a small programmed meeting in Cuba, which joins in the request. This relationship would be in accordance with the Puente de Amigos (Bridge of Friends) program of New England Yearly Meeting; it is intended to foster spiritual relationships with Cuban Friends and to facilitate intervisitation, but there are no specific requirements or obligations. Friends noted that some social and religious beliefs and practices in Cuba may be different from those held by many Friends here. We also noted the opportunity for all of us to learn from one another. Friends approved the request. We ask Peace and Social Action Committee to establish a sub-committee for this purpose.

5. Nominating Committee proposed Meredith Stern, Vivian Liu, and Dan Rounseville as additional members of the Religious Education Committee. Friends approved.

No further business appearing, we closed with a period of silent worship at 1:20 p.m., intending to meet next on the 12th of Eleventh month at the Providence meetinghouse.

Respectfully submitted

Ariana Steele, Presiding Clerk
Rebecca Smith, Recording Clerk

Southeast Quarterly Meeting October 15

A gathering of the Southeast Quarterly Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, October 15, in-person at Westerly Monthly Meeting (57 Elm Street, Westerly, R.I.) and via Zoom. In-person attendees may enjoy morning refreshments beginning at 8:30 AM. Meeting for Business will begin promptly at 9:00 AM. Join us for all or a portion of the day. The Zoom link for the meeting is

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/412263516?pwd=QWUxd21FVjRUdUdSL1YyRnF1RUQ4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 412 263 516

Passcode: 571624

Conversation on Caregiving and Caretaking October 18

from Ministry and Counsel Committee

At 7:00 PM on Wednesday, October 18, Patti Muldoon, who is the coordinator for NEYM's Aging Resources Consultation and Help Program, will present a conversation on caregiving and caretaking. This will be specifically for Meeting, although we will be inviting Friends from the Southeast Quarter too.

We will hear from Patti and then there will be an opportunity for Friends to share their own experiences. The session will take place via Zoom and will go about an hour and a half, with the link sent out on our Meeting Email List ahead of time. If you're not on the email list, you can contact Dan Lederer (dlederer1@verizon.net) for the link.

Family Game Night October 21

from Special Events Committee

The Special Events Committee would like to invite one and all, especially our young ones, to our Autumn Family Game Night! We will provide pizza, beverages, and an assortment of board games. Feel free to bring your favorite snacks and games. This evening promises to be lots of fun and a terrific chance to meet new friends and learn new games.

Meeting Care Day November 11

from NEYM

Join us at Moses Brown School in Providence, RI, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Saturday, November 11th, for Meeting Care Day. This training and consultation gathering will focus on service to one's local Quaker Meeting and features five workshop topics:

1. Best Practices in Nominating
2. Serving as Recording Clerk
3. Pastoral Care
4. Meeting Communications & Outreach
5. Adult Religious Education (*Elements of Quakerism*)

Learn more and register for this in-person event by going to

https://neym.org/events-calendar/2023/11/meeting-care-day?mc_cid=8013522175&mc_eid=8370e855e4

Worship Room Decorum

from Ministry and Counsel Committee

Friends are reminded that worship on First Day begins when the first Friend takes a seat in the worship room. We ask everyone to respect the silence from that time until the end of worship, to turn off their cell phones, and to refrain from texting. If you have to leave or enter the room after the start of Meeting for Worship, please do so as quietly as you can, and, if at all possible, try to avoid interrupting a message that someone is giving.

Hospitality After Meeting for Worship

from Hospitality Committee

We now must set up tables and chairs in the social room after Meeting for Worship, and they need to be taken down at the end since the Music for Children program has resumed using the space during the week. Also, all positions for brewmeisters and brewmeistresses are open this month. If you're willing to volunteer, contact Eugenia Marks (emarks66@gmail.com).

Rides Needed for Two Elderly Friends

from Pastoral Care Committee

Two long-time Quakers who recently moved to Warwick would love to attend meeting in person at least once a month, but they no longer drive. Would someone be willing to give them a ride for at least Potluck First Day, which is the first Sunday of the month? They live on Cedar Pond Drive, which is just off the 117 exit from 95. It would be a lovely way to get to know some Friends you might not otherwise encounter. If you think you can help, contact Dan Lederer (dlederer1@verizon.net).

Revised Meeting Directory

from Communications Committee

Communications Committee will be publishing an updated edition of the Meeting Directory later this month. If you have had a change in contact information since the last edition, which was in April, or if you're not currently listed in the Directory but would like to be, please contact Dan Lederer (dlederer1@verizon.net).

In order to engage fully in the life of the Meeting, it's also helpful to be on the Meeting Email List, often referred to as "the listserv", which functions as our electronic bulletin board, providing upcoming event notices and other items of interest to Friends, including links to Zoom meetings. If you are not receiving these notices but would like to, contact Dan.

Letter from Vicky Ekk

Friends,

I'm about to set off on the next stage of my journey and I wanted to thank each and every one of you for your part in the blessings of my life here in New England for the past decade. Providence Monthly Meeting changed me, supporting my spiritual growth and gifting me with so many good Friend friends! We survived the pandemic together and learned so much about the importance of community even when we could not be together in person! PMM is a strong Meeting and I can already see it blossom with new energy and ideas! I was so happy seeing so many friendly faces at the potluck yesterday and I want to thank all of you who took time to connect with me in person, by phone, email or text!

As I start on the trek to Oregon, I want you to know that I will be holding all of you in the Light on the way there and as I set up my new home in Portland. I will be back to visit each summer as I have lots of family here and hope to see you when I drop in to Meeting then. Be well and know you are loved!

In Friendship, Vicky

How Quakerism Challenges Us

from Dan Lederer

Rather than provide Friends with ready answers to difficult questions, Quakerism presents some challenging propositions that set the seeker on a path to greater understanding.

First, Friends are asked to accept the premise that there is that of God in every person, which then challenges each of us to explore the nature of God and figure out how we relate to that which we consider sacred. Questions inevitably arise: For example, is God present only in humans or in all living things? And if the latter, what about inanimate objects? Do we turn to God only when we are in need, or do we seek to appreciate God's presence everywhere and at all times?

A second challenge is related to the Quaker testimonies represented by the acronym SPICES: simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, and stewardship. The challenge here is first to interpret what the testimonies mean to us, and then to find how to implement them in our own lives.

Again, questions arise. Some examples: Does living with simplicity mean giving up some of the things we consider necessities, such as cable TV? Does advocating for peace require us to oppose all war, and, if so, what is our proposal for resolving the conflict in Ukraine that doesn't result in that country's fragmentation and loss of democracy? If we aspire to a life of integrity, how do we prevent principles from becoming rigidity? How do we balance our personal lives with our obligation to the Meeting community and to the larger community as a whole? What's the best way to promote equality at home, in our work, and in our politics? And how do we preserve the planet while simultaneously providing food and energy to its numerous inhabitants?

There are no easy answers to these questions. Although it's often useful to consider the guidance of others on these issues, the beauty of Quakerism is that no one is telling us what to believe or how to proceed. Rather, it's up to each of us to determine our own response to these challenges, and that entails a process of ongoing seeking. If we follow that path, it becomes a journey of continual discovery, which, in my mind, is what makes Quakerism so interesting.

Presiding Clerk: **Ariana Steele** clerk@providencefriends.org
Newsletter: **Jen McFadden and Dan Lederer** providentfriend@providencefriends.org
Website: **Sam Schiffman** webclerk@providencefriends.org
Questions and Information: **Steve Schwartz** info@providencefriends.org

Address for Contributions:

**Providence Monthly Meeting
c/o Peter Swaszek
Box 1787
Kingston, RI 02881**

Newsletter of
Providence Monthly Meeting of the Religious
Society of Friends
(401) 331-4218 or
<http://providencefriends.org>

**Current activities are listed
on the Calendar on page 1.**

The Provident FRIEND
Newsletter of
Providence Monthly Meeting of
the Religious Society of Friends
99 Morris Avenue
Providence, RI 02906