

The Provident FRIEND October 16, 2024

News from the Providence Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

MEETING CALENDAR

Saturday, Oct 19, 10:00 AM to noon, Saylesville Book Swap (Saylesville Meetinghouse)

Sunday, Oct 20, Meeting for Worship: at Providence, 10:00 AM (Indoors and Zoom); at Saylesville, 10:30 AM (Indoors); at Conanicut (Weeden Lane, Jamestown), 9:30 AM (Indoors)

Thursday, Oct 24, 6:15 PM, Quaker Silence Workshop (Providence Meetinghouse)

Sunday, Oct 27, Meeting for Worship: at Providence, 10:00 AM (Indoors and Zoom, Hybrid*); at Saylesville, 10:30 AM (Indoors); at Conanicut (Weeden Lane, Jamestown), 9:30 AM (Indoors)

Sunday, Oct 27, 11:30 AM, Discussion Regarding Our Sister Meeting Floro Perez (Providence Meetinghouse and Zoom)

Saturday, Nov 2, 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM, Extended Worship (Providence Meetinghouse)

Sunday, Nov 3, Meeting for Worship: at Providence, 10:00 AM (Indoors and Zoom); at Saylesville, 10:30 AM (Indoors); at Conanicut (Norman Bird Sanctuary**), 10:30 AM (Indoors)

Sunday, Nov 10, Meeting for Worship: at Providence, 10:00 AM (Indoors and Zoom); at Saylesville, 10:30 AM (Indoors); at Conanicut (Norman Bird Sanctuary**), 10:30 AM (Indoors)

Sunday, Nov 10, noon, Meeting for Business (Indoors at Providence and Zoom)

*Hybrid = the in-person and online meetings are combined.

**For details regarding the Conanicut winter location, see Message From Our Conanicut Worship Group below.

**Providence Monthly Meeting for Worship
with a Concern for Business
13th of Tenth Month, 2024
Minutes**

Friends gathered at the Providence meetinghouse at noon with 13 present and one on Zoom.

Assistant presiding clerk Jules Burrowes read the following advice, taken from Britain Yearly Meeting's *Faith and Practice*:

Come regularly to meeting for worship even when you are angry, depressed, tired, or spiritually cold. In the silence ask for and accept the prayerful support of others joined with you in worship. Try to find a spiritual wholeness which encompasses suffering as well as thankfulness and joy. Prayer, springing from a deep place in the heart, may bring healing and unity as nothing else can. Let meeting for worship nourish your whole life.

After a period of silent worship, she read the following announcements:

On Saturday, November 2, there will be an NEYM-sponsored extended worship session at the Providence meetinghouse running from 9:00 AM to 2:30 PM. All members and attenders are invited. Friends who have attended similar sessions around New England report that it is a unique, worthwhile experience. Please consider joining us for all or part of it. We're still seeking overnight accommodations on Friday night November 1 for Friends coming from afar. If you can provide this, please let Dan Lederer know (dlederer1@verizon.net).

On Sunday October 27 all are invited to a meeting to discuss our relationship with our sister meeting in Cuba, Floro Perez. All are invited to correspond with our Cuban Friends via WhatsApp at any time. At this meeting we will discuss meeting-wide efforts that we can plan over the next few months. We will meet in the gathering room with a Zoom option as well, at 11:30 on 10/27. Please join us!

We have a local advocacy team that works on peace issues at the national level, under the guidance of the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), the national Quaker lobbying group. We meet on Zoom weekly and are looking to engage more people. Online training is available, and the next one is on Oct 24. Contact Nancy Houston, Bob Watt, Eugenia Marks or Steve Schwartz. We would all love to talk to you about this.

The following items of business were brought forward:

1. For the Communications Committee, Dan Lederer reported that the committee works in a variety of ways to improve communication within the Meeting and with the outside world. These include our website, monthly newsletter, two e-mail lists, directory of members and attenders, brochures explaining the Meeting which are available in the foyer at Providence and will be shared at our Saylesville and Jamestown locations, the Meeting handbook, and electronic Meeting archives including reports shared with the New England Yearly Meeting. Friends wishing for more information about any of these items should contact Dan at dlederer1@verizon.net.
2. Ministry and Counsel recommended that Barbara Zimmer, a member of this Meeting, be added to the Pastoral Care Committee. Friends approved.
3. Ministry and Counsel brought a proposal that a new microphone system be installed in the worship room of the Providence meetinghouse in order to enhance audio within the room. If approved, the system would be donated rather than come out of the Meeting's budget. Mike Hirtle explained that the proposed technology would include a 24-inch disc microphone suspended from the ceiling at the level of the current lighting system, and a transmitter which would communicate sound to small hand-held devices which work with ordinary earbuds. He still needs to ensure that this would work well and would not cause a problematic time delay for the device users. It was noted that thought would need to be given to the number of receivers that would be needed and to how they could be made easily available before the start of meeting. Concern was raised about keeping the transmitter off other than during Meeting for Worship so that private conversations would remain private; Friends asked that Ministry and Counsel Committee accept responsibility for ensuring that the system is turned off at the end of meeting. Friends approved asking Mike to pursue further research into whether or not this will work as we desire and, if so, to proceed with arrangements for installation.

No further business appearing, we closed with a period of silent worship at 1:10 p.m., intending to meet next on the 10th of Eleventh month at the Providence meetinghouse.

Respectfully submitted,
Jules Burrowes, Assistant Presiding Clerk
Rebecca Smith, Recording Clerk

Quaker Silence Workshop Continues On October 24

from Adult Religious Education Committee

The Quaker Silence Workshop continues for one more session, this being from 6:15 PM to 7:45 PM on Thursday October 24 at the Providence meetinghouse, so, even if you haven't been to previous sessions, there's still time to learn about the role of silence in Quaker worship, how to do it, and why it is so important. For more information, and to sign up, contact Laura Landen (laura.landen@hotmail.com or 401-277-1649). There is no enrollment limit.

Discussion Regarding Our Sister Meeting Floro Perez October 27

All are invited to a meeting at 11:30 AM on Sunday October 27 to discuss our relationship with our sister meeting in Cuba, Floro Perez. At this meeting we will talk about plans for meeting-wide efforts over the next few months. We will meet in the Providence meetinghouse with a Zoom option as well. Please join us! (Friends can correspond with our Cuban Friends via WhatsApp at any time.)

Extended Worship Session on November 2

Meeting has agreed to host a NEYM-sponsored extended worship session at the Providence meetinghouse on Saturday November 2. We're hoping for a good turnout from Providence Friends. The schedule for the session will be as follows:

9:00 AM: Tea, coffee, and light snacks will be available with an opportunity for quiet conversation downstairs.

9:30 AM: Meeting for Worship

12:30 PM: Brown Bag Lunch and time for a walk, relaxation, conversation, etc. Beverages will be provided.

1:15 PM: Reflections on the morning experience of extended worship.

2:30 PM: Closing

A more detailed description of the session was sent to the Meeting Email List. To see it again, click [here](#).

Message From Our Conanicut Worship Group

The Conanicut worship group moves to Mabel's Studio at the Normal Bird Sanctuary (583 3rd Beach Rd, Middletown, RI) as of November 5. Meeting for Worship starts there at 10:30 AM (as opposed to 9:30 AM on Jamestown).

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 listserve", which functions as our electronic bulletin board by providing upcoming event notices and other items of interest to Friends, including links to Zoom meetings. If you aren't receiving these notices but would like to, contact Dan.

The Provident FRIEND

Newsletter of
Providence Monthly Meeting of
the Religious Society of Friends
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