

February 14, 2025

Unami Monthly Meeting
100 East Fifth Street
Pennsburg, PA 18073

Unami Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends



Calendar

This Month

Feb. 16, Intergenerationa Worship Discussion,
10:0 a.m., Meeting for Worship, 11 a.m.

Feb. 23, Meeting for Worship, 11 a.m.

Future:

March 2, Meeting for Worship, 11 a.m.

March 9, Meeting for worship with a concern
for business, 9 a.m, Meeting for Worship, 11
a.m.

Zoom Link for Meeting
for Worship, Meeting for
Worship with a Concern
for Business and Sunday
morning Discussions.

Contact Unami at:

unamifriendsmeeting@gmail.com

if you would like to join us for Meeting for
Worship on Sundays at 11 a.m. on Zoom

Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for the next
newsletter is March 14 **at 4 PM.**

This is Friday deadline.

Send your news to danielhazelton@rcn.com.



Unami Pizza & game night 2-7-25



Intergenerational MFW Discussion

February 16, 10:00 a.m.

Hello, Friends!

We are hoping you will attend/participate in our discussion about Intergenerational Worship on February 16 at 10:00 a.m. If you are planning to come in person or by Zoom that morning, we invite you to read the questions we've listed here. If you will be unable to come to the discussion but would like your chance to comment, email Jenn Reimels (hafvalla@yahoo.com) a brief answer to one or more of the questions.

Questions for Parents

What kind of Intergenerational subjects do you feel we should broach?
Are you willing to facilitate one yourself?
How often should Intergenerational Worship happen?
Are your kids ready/willing to have a bit of programmed worship on a recurring basis?
What do you think is going right for Intergenerational Worship and what could use improvement?
What kind of feedback do you get from your kids?
What do you want the kids to learn about Quakerism in IG?
Should we have more rules for IG? If so what should they be?

Questions for Kids

Do you like to come for IG? Why or why not?
What kind of topic would you like IG to be about?

Worship and Ministry Committee

Query: Why am I a Quaker and Why am I a member of Unami Meeting?

MY MUSINGS ON THESE QUERIES

Background story:

My journey to Quakerism starts with my earliest memories of ‘going to church’ on Sunday mornings at First Presbyterian Church in Lancaster - using crayons to color sheets with Biblical figures and memorizing the Lord’s Prayer. I remember that the man who was speaking to the congregation from the raised pulpit started to appear in my dreams as God. In 7th grade I went to a class for a few months in preparation for my “Confirmation.” Ironically, that class was where I began to understand that I was not a believer. By Ninth grade I was ready to move on to pursue answers to the biggest questions in life – What is my purpose? Is there only one God? Is there a Heaven and Hell? And on and on. I had so many questions and I was not afraid to ask them to anyone interested in engaging.

When I was 13 years old I left my parents church to join a Methodist church close by. This church had a vibrant youth group and I could ride my bike to get there. I came across a photograph of this group a few days ago and counted 25 kids between 13-18. It was fantastic! I loved engaging with all these peers and the Youth Pastor who was a young man fully open to having group discussions on almost any topic. This was 1960’s and at the time I believed that I had found my place amongst a group of seekers.

By the time that I graduated from high school my circle of friends had begun to shrink. I began to understand that my intensity to pursue these big questions in life was not always welcome in the world around me. I needed to adapt and understand that I might drive away good people by my persistent intent to turn discussions to all the big questions of our time and of all time – political, spiritual, social and everything else.

When I left home to go to college I felt very isolated from the world around me. It was not easy at first. A few weeks later I met the love of my life. It took a few months but that changed everything for me. I no longer felt isolated in the world. I had found someone who could see me for who I was and who shared my curiosities about life in general. After our marriage we spent the next few years exploring adventures and maintaining a dialog that brought us together toward a vision of our future. Children were very much a part of that vision.

Why am I a Quaker?

By 1980 Nancy and I were growing our family. We were doing so without a religious dogma as the core belief for our family. I was confident that we would cultivate positive moral virtues in our children without religious dogma. We were now navigating the world as parents and we were seeing things in a different light. A few years later our children were talking to us. As is the case with most children they asked many questions and then more questions. I always was open to their questions and learned so much just by listening and doing my best to answer while at the same time asking questions of them. Does the age of the questioner really matter?

We first came to know Quakers up close when Nancy accepted a job at United Friends School in 1988. After being in the UFS community for a few weeks we decided to attend meeting for worship at Richland Meeting. For me it was transformative. This was an unknown space. The silence surrounded me and held me. I had never in my life felt this community in silence for a full hour. I know that there were vocal messages that morning (one in particular that stays with me to this day) but silence and grace was the gift that I took away from that first experience of meeting for worship. It did not feel as though I had found a home but rather that *I had come home*... to a community of seekers who had called me. We attended Richland for a few years and I found that the Sunday period of silent worship in meeting was enriching my spirit for life and for the future. I applied for membership at Richland Monthly meeting and was accepted into membership around 1989. In my clearness committee I asked a very specific question – Can you accept me into membership even though I am not a Christian or a believer in God? It was the most important question that I had for the committee. I was so happy to hear that members of my Clearness Committee were fully accepting of me without any reservation. At this point it is worth describing the one vocal message that I remember from that first visit to Richland. It was a message from an older woman who expressed her strong love for Richland Meeting and her appreciation for the meaning of membership. She went on to express her awareness that she had not been contributing to the life of the meeting in the way that she believed was expected of a member. She made the point that at that particular moment in her life circumstances she was just unable to do more but she knew that the time would come when she would be able to do so again. She wanted to let other Friends know that this is OK – that they may not be able to contribute to the life of the meeting at some times in their lives but that they were all welcome to come to meeting during those times. I know that she did eventually contribute greatly to the life of Richland Meeting and have always valued her perspective. I believe we all give what we can when we can. We do not need to feel burdened with guilt at times when we are unable to fully participate. Just showing up is a blessing for the meeting. The simple answer to why I am a Quaker is that I am naturally drawn toward this community of seekers where questioning and uncertainty is at the core of the spiritual practice. I believe strongly in continuing revelation.

Why am I a member of Unami?

We moved to our home in Barto in 1991. I remained an active member of Richland MM for a few years after our move and was serving as the clerk of the Peace and Social Concerns committee at the time that we moved. I felt a commitment to Richland MM and it will always remain true that this is where I first felt at home with Quaker practice. While I had some uneasiness with the meeting's focus on tradition and legacy, my recollection is that at the time of our moving to Barto I told Friends at Richland MM that I would remain a member because it was not too far to travel. It was not long before we decided that we should at the very least visit Unami. From the first day we attended it was abundantly clear to me that this was where we belonged. It was not about the drive at all – it was about the indescribable magic of Unami Friends.

- Philip Donnelly

Dear Unami Friends Meeting,

Pendle Hill is excited to share that registration is now open for [Publishers of the Truth](#), a collaboration of Pendle Hill's Quaker Institute and Earlham's Quaker Leadership Conference exploring how Friends witness and publish the truth with integrity in an age of fractured political realities, disinformation, and artificial intelligence.

The conference will be from May 2-5 on Pendle Hill's campus, and it is open to all those in Friends communities (not just literal publishers of media). Here are some useful links regarding this program:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->[Event Page](#)

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->[Program Flyer](#)

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->[Schedule](#)

We would be very grateful if you could share this opportunity within your meeting, whether through a newsletter, a rise-of-meeting announcement, or by posting the program flyer on your bulletin board or info desk.

In fellowship,

Lucas Meyer-Lee

P.S. Knowing that finances may be a barrier for some Friends to attend Pendle Hill's programs, we offer [financial assistance](#) to ensure our programs are accessible.

Lucas Meyer-Lee (he/they)

Education Associate

Query for the Month of February

Witnessing in the World: Witness and Civic Responsibility

- What is our meeting doing:
- To become aware of systemic legal, economic and political injustices in our local community?
- To build relationships with other faith communities around common concerns?
- To reduce polarization within the larger community?
- To work together with others to address injustice?
- How does our meeting assist in restoring public recognition that government fulfills legitimate functions?
- *Am I mindful of how my lifestyle, work-life and investments affect others?*
- *Am I open to seeking clearness on matters of conscience? Am I open to assisting others in doing so?*
- *Do I fulfill my civic responsibilities when they do not conflict with divine leading?*