

April 18, 2025

Unami Monthly Meeting  
100 East Fifth Street  
Pennsburg, PA 18073

## Unami Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

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### *Calendar*

#### **This Month**

April 20, Meeting for Worship, 11 a.m.

April 27, Meeting for Worship, 11 a.m., Earth Day Trampling, 11:15 a.m., Pot Luck, Rise of Meeting.

#### **Future:**

May 4, Meeting for Worship, 11 a.m.

May 11, Meeting for Worship, 11 a.m.

May 17, Workday at the Meetinghouse, 9:00 a.m. - Noon

May 18, Meeting for worship with a concern for business, 9 a.m, Meeting for Worship, 11 a.m.

May 25, 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](mailto:unamifriendsmeeting@gmail.com)

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

### *Newsletter Deadline*

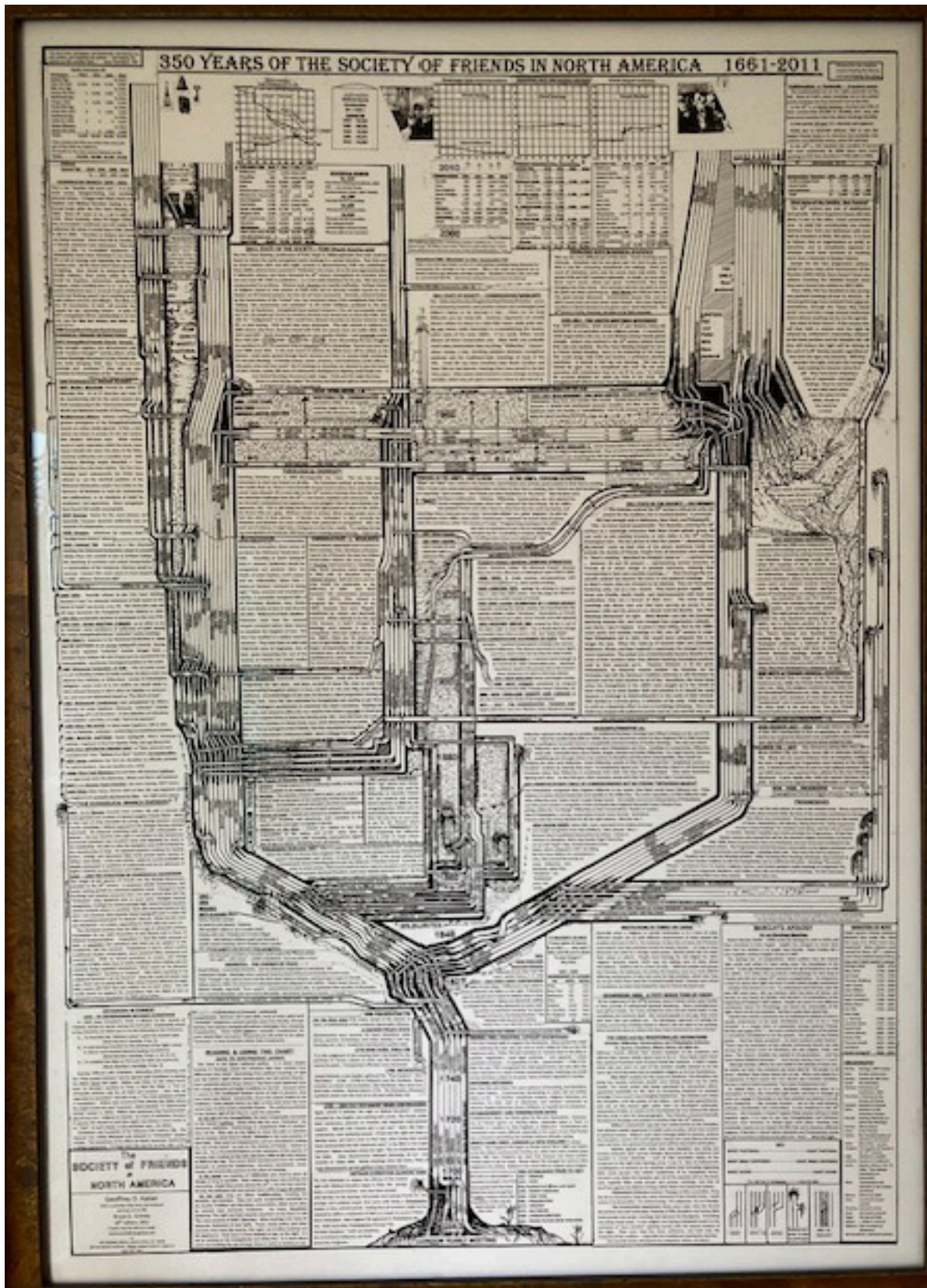
The deadline for the next  
newsletter is May 16 **at 4 PM.**

This is Friday deadline.

Send your news to [danielhazelton@rcn.com](mailto:danielhazelton@rcn.com).



## Geoffrey Kaiser's Tree



“Am I a Quaker? I don’t know what I should be doing in worship. I don’t know what I would be signing up for if I wanted to be a member here.”

Allison Ramsey-Henry echoes the energy that draws 25 older folks and 12 younger ones on a rainy Saturday to crowd the Unami meetinghouse for a four-hour intensive called Quakerism 101.

Other questions flow out. “I’m interested in quaking,” Chris Fantozzi says.

“What are the rules, often unspoken about worship, decisions, truth?”

“What if I’m a non-theist?”

“What about Quakers and kids?”

“What’s the meaning of Life?”

Melanie Douty-Snipes and Jonathan Snipes, friends of Mo Nolan and Friends from Falsington Monthly Meeting, have come to field our questions.

### **Why do you come to Unami?**

The day begins with “This little light of mine.” Then we sing “This Pretty Planet” by Tom Chapin. “Your garden, your harbor, your holy place” circles round and round in voices mostly unused to singing *here*. We sound nice together.

The younger ones leave for their own Quakerism 101 led by Kristin Simmons and Daniel Doan, leaders from Philadelphia Yearly Meeting’s Youth program. Who are here free of charge! Colton Musselman, a local high school senior, is here as big bro.

“We’re all on a spiritual journey together,” Melanie says to introduce the first exercise in the meeting room: “Why do you come to Unami Meeting?”

We gather in twos to answer that. Allie Herb—mother and student and former yoga instructor—tells her partner that she comes to hold the pieces of her life together. “It’s almost like a drink of water. I am so thirsty for the quiet.”

“We live in trying times,” Jonathan says reassuringly. “But that’s always been true for us. From our earliest beginnings, there’s been dissent, and wrestling with questions of power and structure.” He smiles. “And we Quakers have a history of periods of ease and periods of struggle.”

### **The burning and the bright**

Who were they—those earliest Friends?

Jonathan answers: George Fox was a depressed young man seeking something to ground himself. He disrupted religious services in churches with his outspokenness and actions until it dawned on him one day: The Jesus Christ of the Bible is a mirror for what courses in him,



what these early Friends began to call the Inward Christ. *That spirit and power lives among us, that power and spirit is available to us all the time, to everyone.* Mo exclaims: “We’re all apostles!”

It was a trying time full of creative energy. An energy that created equals. Elizabeth Bathurst, in her 20’s in the 1670s reading the Bible, came to a complementary conclusion: *The Bible is not the Truth but rather a record of the Truth, written in Time by human beings. It points to the Truth.*

That bit of history recalls what hangs in Unami’s library: the poster of a knotty tree made by Geoffrey Kaiser, one of Unami’s founders. The tree shows the splits that happened in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in the United States and that still caricature Quaker groups today.

There are mainly two groups: “unprogrammed” and “programmed.” Historically the unprogrammed tended to be country mice sitting in silent worship, waiting on messages spoken and unspoken. The programmed were the “more overtly Bible-oriented,” Jonathan says, and the city mice. To this, Nadeen McShane observes: “If Quakers are seekers seeking and seeking, and if you disagree with another seeker seeking and seeking, then you can see that there would be splits!”

### **So what’s the why and how of silent worship?**

Melanie presents a list of our unexpressed hopes for what we want to experience when we gather together. Love. Peace. Awe and Wonder. Wholeness. Connection. Humility. Healing. Clarity. Grounding. “It’s not a meeting for thinking,” she says (and some of us inwardly sigh for we are thinkers).

“Worship can start with shifting our attention, with every breath, remembering we are alive.”

How to do that?

A few acknowledge that they begin by repeating the Hail Marys of their former religious tradition.

“I’m happy to be here. I begin to count my blessings,” says Cheryl Knight. One by one. Nancy Donnelly uses visual images such as a river or a garden.

Meredith Walters starts with the Beatles song, “I’m fixing a hole where the rain gets in” and follows the hole down to the wet place and there, asks herself: Is this Fate/God or Free Will? Wow.

Russell Frey says that learning silent worship is “almost like developing a muscle.”

Melanie leads the group in a meditation that she’s been using recently. *Be still and know that I am God.* Psalm 46:10. She says each word slowly aloud and then retracts a word one by one. In this way, each phrase becomes a distinctly different doorway. *Be still and know that I am.* . . a moment to look into the face of the *I* outside or the *I* inside. *Be still and know that.* . . a moment to experience the spaciousness of stillness. *Be.* . . .

Sometimes, the shift of attention doesn't occur. But it may be happening to someone else and result in a message that brings about a dawning in the moment, a week later, another time.

Jonathan adds another bit of Quaker history. Silent worship was not the invention of George Fox. He came to it through Elizabeth Hutten, who in her 50s or 60s was leading a group gathering in silence. They called themselves the Seekers. Jonathan holds up a *Faith and Practice* and reads from it. To believe that there is Light in every person paved the way for so many social movements, he says.

### **And then there's lunch.**

Sumptuous collation. Vegan cream of cauliflower soup by Rob Herb, who always brings enough to feed a biblical 5000! Pea shoot with watermelon radish salad by Becca Munro. So much high decibel conversation. So much weaving in and out of children, helping themselves to sweetness.

### **How to know if you have something to say in worship?**

"I've been attending Quaker meeting for 18 years," Jenn Reimels says, "and I've had the thought: 'you should say that,' but physically I couldn't say it." She's just back from a retreat at Pendle Hill and is finding her voice!

Jonathan nods and says, "In the old days, if you'd been given a message and didn't share it, you were being selfish and wasting the spirit!"

Individuals offer up their experiences of having a message: "I don't know how I know, except that I have to say what I have to say."

"There is nothing like you. Worship is an opportunity for you to experience and nurture your unique spirit," Melanie says. "And being Friends is also an opportunity to practice spiritual friendship."

At the end of the day, one person thanking Worship and Ministry committee (Jenn, Mo, Becca, and Nadeen) for planning this event says, "I learned so much. I didn't think you could speak in meeting unless you were a member." Ouch.

### **What's next?**

There's Joyce Moore's story of her young son long ago in silent meeting shouting out that he wanted to go home; embarrassed, she left the meeting, and what followed were messages rich in the meaning of home. Children have messages: let us hear them.

Quakerism suggests a dance of process. To stand or not to stand when speaking? What about voices that crack or want to sing? How do we live the fracturing and the pounding of he who shall not be named? And in spite of and because, create "a garden. . . a harbor. . . a holy place" for each other? In a world of so many needs?

--Joyce Munro, April 16, 2025

## **Spring Workday at the Meetinghouse Saturday, May 17th from 9 am - 12 pm.**

### **Work List**

- Move items out of the Library and First Day Room into the Basement and Nursery to make room for the flooring work to occur.
- General interior cleaning.
- Clean up around building.
- Paint any exposed wood on exterior windows.
- Work to finish trim on sign.
- Work to hang banner.
- Move piano out of building.
- Install grab bars for toilets in bathrooms
- Install dead-bolt up high for basement steps (child-proofing to prevent falls down steps)
- Clean branches and vegetation over sidewalk along Maccoby Street
- Cut grass

### **Property Committee**

## **April 27: Earth Day at Unami**

*Pennsburg Nature Park and the Story of how Unami helped to make it a park.*

Join us for a scavenger hunt and other activities for everyone to see what has been happening at the park for the past 20 years!

We will gather at the meeting house at 11 a.m. for 15 minutes of worship.

Wear clothes and footwear suitable for trampling as we leave for the park.

Or stay behind and enjoy Earth Day that way.

Potluck afterwards.

## **Your feedback on in-reach, outreach and communications topics is needed.**

Dear Friends!

### **Your feedback is wanted.**

To better serve the needs and interests of the nine Quaker meetings in Abington Quarter, we invite all members and attenders to complete a short survey.

Click on the survey link below to get to the 9 questions:

<https://forms.gle/hpU89BdBfzUjYVdT6>

### **Why is your input valuable?**

We all want to strengthen our Quaker meetings with effective communications and In-reach and Outreach efforts.

But time is short and people power is limited.

Together we can help each other. We aim to foster a network of friends across the Quarter, by learning and collaborating together on communication, in-reach and outreach skills that enhance and promote all our Quaker meetings.

### **What is the survey asking about?**

What formats, workshops, and topics for learning sessions interest you or could benefit your meeting?

Many thanks for your feedback. It will help us plan future topics, identify potential facilitators, engage more people and improve our offerings.

Faithfully Yours,  
the AQM Communications Committee

*Responses appreciated by May 15, 2025.*

## UFS Summer Camp 2025

### A Season of Exploration and Friendship

Summer is a time for curiosity, joy, and deepening connections with our friends at UFS. Our **Summer Camp** offers an engaging and nature-based experience for children ages **4 and up**, with flexible weekly sessions running **Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** throughout **June and July**. We will even offer a 3pm pickup option for an additional fee.

Rooted in Quaker values, our camp program will help to foster a spirit of **wonder, kindness, and collaboration**. Campers spend their days immersed in the beauty of our **outdoor classroom and local community park**. Water play with **sprinklers and water tables** brings laughter and refreshment, while our playground invites **imaginative play, games, and storytelling under the trees**.

Children will also participate in **baking and cooking projects, along with weekly PE classes with Stretch-n-Grow with Amy and music classes with Bethany**. Each week, campers will gather for **Meeting for Worship**, offering moments for **reflection, gratitude, and shared wisdom**. Throughout their time at camp, children will engage in activities that nurture **creativity, problem-solving, and a sense of community**, always guided by the **Quaker testimonies of simplicity, peace, integrity, community, equality, and stewardship**.

Campers should bring a **nut-free snack and lunch** each day. On **Fridays**, we celebrate our week together with a special treat of **pizza, fruit, and a refreshing dessert**. Your child's camp fee includes lunch on Fridays.

Join us this summer at **United Friends School**, where learning is joyful, friendships flourish, and every child is encouraged to **explore, create, and grow** in a nurturing and inclusive environment. With the exception of Theatre Camp, our program is best suited for students who have completed 1 year of Preschool, Kindergarten, 1st or 2nd grade.

- **Week of June 16: "In the Garden"**
- **Week of June 16: "Theatre Camp" with Delilah Maestri** *\*for rising 1st through 4th graders*
- **Week of June 23: "Handwork & Crafting"**
- **Week of July 7: "Eco-Explorers"**
- **Week of July 14: "Superheroes"**
- **Week of July 21: "ART Camp: Sea Creatures" with Ali Aiken**
- **Week of July 28: "Icky, Sticky, Slimy"**

#### Camp Fees

**\$275 per week/5 days**

**\$160 per week/3 days**

**Add-on 1pm to 3pm available**

More Info: <https://secure.smores.com/n/csagmh-summer-camp-2025?ref=email>



## **AQM Enabling Fund**

For friends who are members of Unami who may be needing short term financial assistance, funds are available from the Abington Quarter Meeting Enabling Fund.

For more information contact:

Rebecca Cratin, the Administrator of the Home and Care Committee,  
215-542-8738

[rhcratin@cratin.com](mailto:rhcratin@cratin.com)

or

Mary Hanisch, representative from Unami to the Home and Care Committee

215-529-4317

[mary.hanisch@gmail.com](mailto:mary.hanisch@gmail.com)

or

Lynn Biddle, Unami's Care of Members Committee clerk

267-377-6560

[lbiddle@hotmail.com](mailto:lbiddle@hotmail.com)

## **Query for the Month of April**

### **Deepening Our Faith: Meeting for Business**

- Is our meeting for business held in worship in which we seek divine guidance?
- How do we sustain prayerful consideration of all aspects of an issue and address difficult problems with a search for truth that is unhurried by the pressures of time?
- Do we recognize that we speak through our inaction as well as our action?
- *Do I regularly attend meeting for business? If unable to attend, how do I fulfill the responsibility to understand and embrace the decisions made?*
- *How do I affirm and support God's presence in the process of discernment and reaching a decision?*
- *Do I remain open to personal transformation as the community arrives at the sense of the meeting?*