

*We of
Gwynedd Friends Meeting
invite you
to worship with us*



A brief introduction
to Quaker worship
in the spirit of our founder,
George Fox (1624-1691)—

*“I took them to their Teacher
and left them there.”*

Welcome to Gwynedd Friends Meeting

We worship in the traditional manner of Friends (Quakers) in this plain unadorned room. Without a prearranged service we settle into silent worship, centering our thoughts, expectantly waiting to enter into direct personal communion with God and to experience the power of this gathered group.

Silent prayer and meditation are powerful aids in reaching toward this goal. It is often helpful to enter into worship by deliberately relaxing both body and mind, repeating to one's self some remembered prayer, quotation, poem or verses of Scripture and then centering the mind on God, Christ or some person or situation which represents a very high quality of life.

The silence may continue for many minutes—sometimes all through meeting. Each of us is seeking a sense of God's presence and God's guidance. You are invited to join in this experience.

Worship may lead to some new discovery or revelation. Often this seems to answer or inform a personal situation or activity for us. At other times a message may seem inexplicably meant for other worshippers. At times we feel compelled to break the silence to share the message we have received. After this sharing, the silence continues, drawing us closer to one another and to God.

Before speaking in meeting, you may find it helpful to consider the following queries:

- Is this a message from the Spirit?
- Am I ready to share it simply and clearly?
- Can this message wait for another time?
- Can I speak into the silence without disturbing the worship?
- A message is never a reply to what someone else has shared but may build or reflect upon it.

Meeting for worship concludes with two persons on the facing bench shaking hands. This gesture of fellowship then spreads throughout the group. Following meeting there will be an opportunity for you to introduce yourself and for us to meet you.



There is a guest book at the front in the meetinghouse for you to sign so that we may have a record of your visit. If after attending Meeting you would like to have more information about Quakerism, please feel free to ask the person who closed meeting. To learn more about Friends we encourage you to inquire and pick up further literature from our library area.

A brief history

Gwynedd Meeting was founded in 1699 by Friends who came from Wales the previous year. Meetings for Worship were held in settlers' homes until a log meetinghouse was built in 1700.

A second and more permanent building of stone was completed in 1712. The present meetinghouse was built in 1823. A community room and facilities for First Day (Sunday) School and kitchen were built in 1902 and expanded in 1948. In the late 1990s a large renovation and expansion project provided our community—which includes our active preschool—with ample room for work and play.

The existing schoolhouse across the parking lot was built in 1857 and presently houses our kindergarten.



In 1967 the continuing care community of *Foulkeways at Gwynedd* was built on property left to Gwynedd Meeting in an earlier bequest. Many residents of Foulkeways have since become valued participants in the Meeting community.

Children are encouraged to participate fully in Meeting for Worship. Those who have difficulty remaining for the entire meeting may stay with child-care providers and will be brought into meeting to sit with their parents for the last fifteen minutes.

Meeting for Worship
9:30 – 10:30 am (all year)

First-Day (Sunday) School for Adults and Children
10:45 – 11:45 am
2nd week in September through
2nd week in June

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Note:

Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business:
supplants First Day (Sunday) School
the third Sunday of each month,
10:45 am

Gwynedd Friends Meeting
P.O. Box 142
Gwynedd, PA 19436

(215) 699-3055
<http://www.gwyneddfriends.org>

Want to know more?

Readings recommended to new acquaintances regarding Quaker worship and community. These publications are available in the Gwynedd Meeting library.

Brinton, Howard

- ***Friends for 350 Years, ed. Margaret Hope Bacon***

A Quaker classic, an easy reading history. Frequently given out to new or prospective members. *Pendle Hill, Wallingford, PA, 1952/2002*

- ***Quakerism and Other Religions***

A helpful survey of where we fit into the religious mosaic. *Pendle Hill Pamphlet No. 93, Wallingford, PA, 1957*

Cronk, Sandra

- ***Gospel Order A Quaker Understanding of Faithful Church Community***

This Pamphlet is a response to concerns of local Meetings and students at Pendle Hill to find ways of upbuilding the meeting community and to explore what it means to belong to a community of commitment, to truly build a community of Faith. *Pendle Hill Pamphlet No. 297, Wallingford, PA, 1991*

Cooper, Wilmer

- ***The Testimony of Integrity in the Society of Friends***

One of the best explications of Quaker Testimonies in print, showing how all the rest of our Testimonies are based in and grow out of the principle of integrity. An excellent teaching tool. *Pendle Hill Pamphlet No. 296, Wallingford, PA, 1991*

Gates, Thomas

- ***Members One Of Another***

The dynamics of membership in Quaker Meeting. Tom Gates examines the many aspects of membership and obligations it may impose upon us, individually and as a faith family. *Pendle Hill Pamphlet No. 371 Wallingford, PA, 2004*

Griswold, Robert

• *Creeds and Quakers:*

What's Belief Got to Do with It?

This Pamphlet is a useful resource for discussions with other Christians who are curious about our distinctive Quaker practices. *Pendle Hill Pamphlet No. 377, Wallingford, PA 2004*

Kelly, Thomas

• *A Testament of Devotion*

A Quaker classic, as quoted on the back cover: "A Testament of Devotion is the ideal companion to the highest of all the human arts, the lifelong conversation between God and God's creatures." His description of the Blessed Community is a great inspiration for the work of any Worship and Ministry Committee. *Harper & Row, New York 1941*

Morley, Barry

• *Beyond Consensus: Salvaging Sense of the Meeting*

Barry Morley discusses three essential components in discovering a sense of meeting: release, long focus, and transition to Light, all of which are nurtured by worship. Rich stories of life experience illustrate the process in this Pamphlet that offers a true gift back to Friends. *Pendle Hill Pamphlet No. 307 Wallingford, PA, 1993*

Wilson, Lloyd Lee

• *Essays on the Quaker Vision of Gospel Order*

The statement on the back cover sums it up nicely: "Gospel Order and the search for it, has shaped the Quaker experience since George Fox. In this series of essays, Wilson explore the concept of Gospel Order as understood by early Quakers. Each essay addresses a facet of the faith and practice of Friends, articulating the ways in which Friends' vision of Gospel Order has shaped their beliefs as well as their outward lives. Both seasoned Friends and readers new to Quakers will find these essays helpful to their understanding of this 'peculiar people'." *Celo Valley Books, Burnsville, N.C. 1993*