



YIELDING TO THE POWER OF THE LIVING SEED

An Invitation To A DAY OF EXTENDED WORSHIP

Mt Toby Meeting, Saturday, March 30, 2024, 9:00 am - 2:30 pm
194 Long Plain Rd, Leverett, MA 01054

*"God alone is able to strengthen us to dig deep,
to remove all which lies between us and the safe foundation..."*

John Woolman

OVERVIEW

In earlier times Friends would often worship for hours fully expectant and deeply patient for the Living Presence to do its work in the gathered body of Friends. These gathered experiences were core to Quaker conviction, personal transformation, and prophetic challenges to the cultural behaviors in the places where Quakers lived.

Modeled on a twenty-five-year practice in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, we have begun these opportunities for NEYM Friends to experience a full day of Quaker worship. In March we will be holding our eighth such meeting, this time at Mt. Toby Meeting. We hope you will join us.

We will gather in the Mt. Toby Meetinghouse at 9:30 a.m. for three hours or so of expectant waiting worship. Three hours may sound like a long time, but Friends who have been practicing this kind of extended worship have often been surprised how quickly it seems to go by. Friends are free to get up and move around, to lie down on the benches, to use the bathroom, even to take a walk outside and rejoin the worship as led. Following the worship, we each eat our own brown bag lunch (beverages provided). After lunch, we will return to the meeting room for some worship-sharing about our experiences of the morning. We will close by 2:30 p.m. Friends are welcome to come for the morning only, to stay for lunch, or to stay for the whole day.

Transformative experiences can happen when the Living Presence has adequate time to remove the spiritual cobwebs and to shine a Light on the deep calls that are beckoning us to change and to make the world a better place. It is God's work to awaken people to God's wisdom, guidance, and love. These extended meetings for worship can provide a seedbed for God to do that awakening. You can also read Marcelle Martin's Pendle Hill Pamphlet, *An Invitation to a Deeper Communion*, which describes the beginnings of these extended worship experiences in Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

(See the full schedule and other important details on the reverse of this page)

SCHEDULE

9:00	Tea, coffee, and light snacks will be available with an opportunity for quiet conversation outside of the meeting room.
9:30	Meeting for Worship
12:30	Brown Bag Lunch and time for a walk, relaxation, conversation, etc. Beverages will be provided.
1:15	Reflections on the morning experience of extended worship
2:30	Closing

CONVENORS

Jean Rosenberg, Middlebury Meeting, and Michael Wajda, Bennington Meeting, are part of a small online extended worship group with nine other NEYM Friends that has been meeting now for more than three years. Michael and Jean started these full-day extended meetings in May 2022 and are committed to moving them around the yearly meeting every 2-4 months as possible.

LOGISTICS

- Please remember to **bring your own lunch** if you plan to stay beyond the morning worship.
- **If you plan to come, please let us know**, in case we need to make changes due to weather or Covid. See the email addresses below. ***Please come whether you let us know or not!***
- **Overnight Accommodations:** If Friends coming from a distance would like overnight hospitality, please contact the convenors. Limited accommodations will be available.
- **If you could offer hospitality** to a Friend from a distance, please let us know. If you plan to come and could offer carpooling, please let us know.
- **Announcements:** In order to allow us to hold the deep experiences of the longer worship, and the reflective time in the afternoon, we ask Friends not to plan to make announcements of other Quaker events at the end of either session of the extended meetings. The only announcements that we will make will concern the extended meetings themselves. If you want to share information about another upcoming Quaker event, we ask that you bring the information in printed form, which can be put on a table at the venue where we meet.
- **If your meeting would like to host** one of these extended worship days in the future, please let one of the convenors know and we will be in touch with you.
- **Regarding Covid:** Masks will be optional, and we will spread out in the meeting room. The Mt Toby meeting room has quiet HEPA air filters that will be operating during our gathering. If on that weekend you have any symptoms of COVID, flu, or a cold, please do not attend.

Our vision is to strengthen Friends corporate yielding to the Living Presence in all our meetings for worship and business so that the Inward Teacher can fully do its work of abundant guidance and love.

To register and for questions, please contact Michael Wajda (mfwajda@gmail.com) (484-639-3356) or Jean Rosenberg (jrosenbe@middlebury.edu) (802-388-6453).

We look forward to being with you in That Which Is Eternal.