



YIELDING TO THE POWER OF THE LIVING SEED

An Invitation To A DAY OF EXTENDED WORSHIP

Vassalboro Friends Meeting, Saturday, October 5, 2024, 9:00 am - 2:30 pm
48 S Stanley Hill Rd, Vassalboro, ME 04989

*“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 October we will be holding our eleventh such meeting, this time at Vassalboro Friends Meeting. We hope you will join us.

We will gather in the Vassalboro 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. 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 callings 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, a crucible, for God to do that awakening. You can also read Marcelle Martin’s Pendle Hill Pamphlet (#366), *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

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| 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, 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. Michael and Jean are carrying this ministry under the care of an Anchor Committee from Bennington and Middlebury Meetings.

LOGISTICS

- Please remember to **Bring Your Own Lunch** if you plan to stay beyond the morning worship.
- **Overnight Hospitality:** Vassalboro Friends are offering overnight hospitality for Friends coming from a distance. **If you would like Friday night hospitality**, it is necessary to contact Heidi Weidner at (weidnerholly@gmail.com) 207-649-1305 or Michael Wajda at (mfwajda@gmail.com) (484) 639-3356 **by October 1, 2024.**
- **If you could offer carpooling**, please let us know.
- **Parking:** Please park on the grass next to the Meetinghouse. We have one handicap spot at the foot of the access ramp at the other end of the Meetinghouse for anyone with authorization to use it.
- **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.
- **Regarding Covid:** Masks will be optional, and we will spread out in the meeting room. 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.

For questions, please contact Michael Wajda (mfwajda@gmail.com) (484-639-3356) or Jean Rosenberg (rosenbe@middlebury.edu) (802-388-6453).

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