

*Visitors and seekers are
always welcome.*

Welcome

As a diverse community we speak in different ways.
Amid diversity we seek and find unity.

Meeting for Worship and First Day School:
10:30 am every Sunday
(childcare available)

Early Meeting for Worship:
9:00 am every Sunday
(no childcare available)

Please visit our Web site at:
www.quaker.org/pghpamm



Prepared by the
Outreach Committee
and
Ministry Committee
November 2009

*The Religious Society of Friends
(Quakers)
4836 Ellsworth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412-683-2669
www.quaker.org/pamm*

Meeting for Worship

Welcome to a Meeting for Worship of the Religious Society of Friends, Pittsburgh. Ours is an “unprogrammed” meeting. Rather than follow a pre-set order of service, we seek to be led by divine guidance as we worship.

Friends cherish the fundamental Quaker faith that the Inner Light, the light of Divine Truth, is in every human being. It is in our gathered worship, in the presence of the Spirit, that our common life is grounded.

Each Meeting for Worship begins as soon as the first person enters the meeting room. Please enter quietly right away and sit wherever you wish, as no places are reserved.

Each worshipper seeks an alert attentiveness as we wait together in silence upon the Spirit. Once the community has had sufficient time to “center,” the silent worship may be broken by someone offering a message. Before speaking, the person has first attempted to discern that the message is truly divinely inspired and that the message is intended for the gathered community and not just for the speaker. As we continue to wait in silent worship, it is expected that a period of silence will follow each message so that others may hear and reflect upon what has been said. Subsequent messages may explore more deeply the spiritual theme of the first message, or may be unrelated to it, as the Spirit leads.

Messages are not planned, but arise out of the silence as worshippers are moved by the spirit of God. On occasion, the worship hour may conclude without any spoken ministry being offered. It is customary to speak no more than once during any given meeting. If someone is speaking when you enter the meeting room, please stop at the door and wait until he or she has finished before finding a seat.

After approximately one hour, an individual appointed to end the meeting shakes hands with those nearby, at which point others do the same. At the 10:30 Meeting for Worship, the “queries” for personal reflection are read. Subsequently, you will be invited to introduce yourself; this provides us with an opportunity to welcome you.

We hope to see you again.

Getting Acquainted

When you arrive at our Meeting House, you may fill out and wear a name tag provided at our Welcome Board.

After Meeting for Worship we invite you to join us for fellowship and light refreshments. Feel free to talk to us about our experiences as seekers and as a community, especially if you have any questions about Quakerism or Pittsburgh Meeting in general.

Please sign our guest book in the parlor (the large room to the left of our front entrance foyer). It gives us a record of your visit and helps us get in touch with you.

In addition to the booklets available on the welcome board, we offer a number of informational pamphlets on our literature racks that are free or for sale at a nominal price. We also encourage you to browse and read in our extensive library (immediately to the left of our front entrance). If you wish to borrow from the library, please ask a Friend for assistance.

Children are welcome to participate in our First Day School Program, which meets during the 10:30 Meeting for Worship. Usually, the young people go upstairs for class and then join us in the Meeting Room at about 11:20. Also, child care is provided for infants during the 10:30 Meeting for Worship.

We have a variety of other activities that we welcome you to attend. We conduct our business meetings on the second First Day of every month. We also offer a wide range of special events, such as classes, discussions, workshops and a Fall Retreat, which relate to different religious or social action topics. Child care is usually provided during these activities. For a listing of events, see our written weekly announcements or monthly newsletter, or ask a Friend.

You are always welcome.