

20211011_Flushing Monthly Meeting

Flushing Monthly Meeting continues to meet every first day on Zoom and we have also had six to eight people meeting in person in chairs on the grounds in front of the meetinghouse, in a hybrid meeting which is looped to Zoom with an iPhone. The first two first days of each month are also First Day School which are regularly attended on a Zoom break-out room. A book is read each session, discussed by the children, and then brought back with responses to the full meeting. Each meeting for silent worship ends with a social period to check in with each other for support.

The clerk of Flushing has continued to worship earlier in the morning with Bethpage Meeting as they continue efforts to stand up a meeting there. The clerk of Bethpage, Jayant Singh then joins Flushing in Zoom meeting afterwards. A memorial service was held yesterday, October 10th for Patrick Symes, a dearly loved long-time attendee, friend, and local historian. It was held on the porch and worship took place by some distanced and masked folks in the worship room with doors and windows all open and attendance on Zoom as well. Many messages, deeply felt, were shared.

All committees have been meeting on Zoom, most of them once a month with a couple meeting as needed. There have been many first and second readings for many new committee members. A new committee, for the long term spiritual and financial vitality of the Meeting has now met three times. Diverse topics include efforts at anti-racism and racial reconciliation, community volunteerism on gardens on the grounds, responses to the proposed filming of a documentary film on the Flushing Remonstrance, and a presentation by members of the Quarter on housing and support for our elders.

There will be a workshop on conflict resolution given by a Friend from Philadelphia Meeting, George Schaeffer, who is trained and credentialed for this work, within the Committee for Ministry and Worship.

Our important issues sometime create disunity within the community and ways toward unity continue to be explored and engaged. Being a Friend in a small community is sometimes challenging as well as rewarding and issues of maintenance, money, and adding attendees and members is a work in progress!

With Warm Regards,
Jeffrey Guyton, Co-Clerk with Caroline Lane