

Shared Space

We are located at the NYYM Quaker Conference and Retreat Center which means we frequently share Powell House with conference participants on Sunday mornings. During that time we have use of the library, the large living room known as the Perrera room, the playroom, the basement classroom and the bathroom off the dining room.

Sometimes conference participants will worship with us. At other times they will hold their own Meeting for Worship in the dining room.

Lunch is served for conference participants at 12:15. Old Chatham Friends offer refreshments in the Perrera room for visitors and Meeting participants.

A New Meetinghouse

Our community is growing and includes many children. We feel led to build a new home on the Powell House grounds where our spiritual family can continue to grow and offer spiritual hospitality to an expanding circle of seekers.

We imagine a building that will embody Quaker principles of simplicity, equality, community, care for the creation and seeking the Light. Our dream is that this meetinghouse will be both functional and inspiring.

Meeting for Business

The second Sunday of each month we gather for a Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business following the regular Meeting for Worship. During this time we take up the business of the Meeting, seeking to discern God's leading in our work. All are welcome to attend.

Committees

Committees help to "season" the work of the Meeting and then to implement it. Seasoning involves discussion and worship and time for an idea or leading to develop and take root or to fall away. Below is a list of our committees and the contact person for that committee. You may leave a message for the Friends below at 518-794-0259.

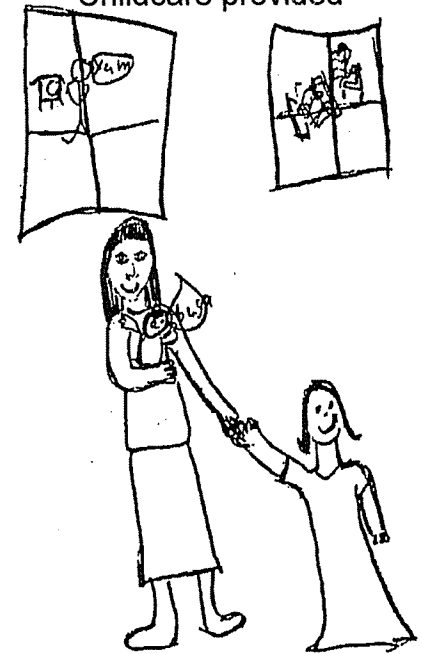
Bob Bacon Fund.....*Sandra Beer*
House and Grounds.....*Paul Nowak*
Finance.....*Chris Erb*
First Day School.....*Willie Denner*
Meetinghouse Fundraising.....*Spee B.*
Meetinghouse.....*Eric Harris-Braun*
Ministry and Counsel.....*Becky McBride*
Newsletter....*Bob E and Richard Green*
Nominating.....*Debby Gordon*
Outreach, Peace and Justice..*Terry Dix*
Bob Elmendorf
Rayville Burial Ground..*Elisabeth Grace*

Old Chatham Quaker Meeting

524 Pitt Hall Rd, Old Chatham, NY
12136
518-794-0259

Clerk – Bill Thompson
Assistant Clerk – Elisabeth Grace

Meeting for Worship 11:00 a.m. Sunday
Childcare provided

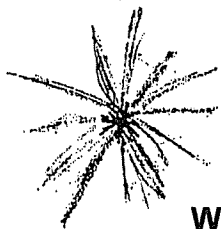


*Our life is Love and Peace and
Tenderness and bearing one with
another and Forgiving one another and
not laying accusations one against
another and Helping one another up
with a tender hand.*

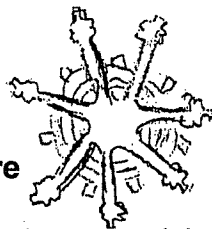
Isaac Pennington

...describing a Quaker is like describing a snowflake. Each Quaker, like each snowflake, has a unique, non-imitative form. They resemble one another; Quakers and snowflakes, only in their essence, not in their "outward."

Jessamyn West



Who We Are



Old Chatham Friends are a rich mixture of artists, scientists, farmers, teachers, healers, engineers and more. We live in the Chathams, New Lebanon, Kinderhook, Canaan, Averill Park and beyond. Some of us are new to the area, others have been here a long time. Some of us are Christian. Some of us are not. We are married and single and many things in-between.

In the tradition of early Quakers, we are seekers. What we seek is as various as who we are: a quiet place to gather our thoughts, an intimacy with God, the path we are to walk, hope, strength, a sense of belonging.

The essence, what holds us together, is our belief that there is that of God in each of us. It is our experience of this essential goodness in one another and our desire to recognize it and call it out of one another that draws us to walk together. We invite you to join us in this journey.

Worship

We meet for unprogrammed worship every Sunday (First Day) at 11:00 a.m. in the Library of Pitt Hall at Powell House. We gather in silent, expectant waiting to come into union with one another through the Spirit (communion).

There is no minister, pastor or priest. Each of us is called to listen for the movement of the Spirit within us. At times, a message may arise within one of us that is clearly intended to be shared with the group gathered. At such times that person will stand and speak. The meeting then continues in silent waiting. A message truly given will deepen the worship of those present.

At other times the full hour will pass with no vocal ministry given and yet participants will feel a sense of connection and fullness.

The meeting for worship closes with a handshake initiated by a member of Ministry and Counsel. Introductions and announcements are made followed by fellowship and refreshments.

Children

Children of all ages are welcome to participate in our faith community and our meeting for worship. Childcare is provided in the upstairs playroom for infants and toddlers. A First Day School class is held from 11:00 to

11:40 in the basement for school age children. Following the class, the children join in the remainder of the meeting for worship.

Teens

Teens are encouraged to worship with us on Sunday morning. They also meet frequently on Sunday evenings from 5 to 7 p.m. for a light meal and a program. For more information on the teen gatherings you may contact Claudia Kenny at 392-9963 or Chris DeRoller at 794-0569.

Activities

The Outreach, Peace and Justice committee of the Meeting offers a movie night the first Monday of the month from 7-9 p.m. that is free and open to the public. Light refreshments are served and a discussion period follows the film.

Meetings for Learning are held throughout the year. These are led by members of our community and reflect the passion and work of our members.

Quakerism classes are held periodically. These focus on the historical and contemporary writings about our faith and the practical application of our faith in our life.