



# The Tote Bag

PYM Religious Education  
& Family Resources



March 2021

Dear Friends,

There are snowdrops up in my yard, and other signs of spring peeking through the fall leaves and remaining snow. Please pass along to families in your meeting the information below about **Spring Continuing Sessions, March 26-28**:

- We've added an event for fellowship on Friday evening, with singing!
- Registered children and youth will be mailed materials for an Earth-friendly craft project.
- Families attending all-ages worship on Saturday will find on the PYM website [suggestions to invite and anchor children's experience of that gathered worship](#).
- Rounding out the weekend for young people are Giant Children's Meeting and Youth-led Worship on Sunday.

While Friends and meetings may observe Easter in different ways, **ideas for teaching about Easter** including [suggested books, curricula, and other resources are posted on the PYM website in the Religious Education section](#). *See also the announcement about the "Road to Easter" video series, below.*

It has been almost a year, Friends, since we began our journey with Covid-19 and the changes to our lives and communities. In a future issue of the *Tote Bag*, we'll explore re-gathering again, and how that might look and feel for our children and youth. Please be in touch with ideas and reflections, and let me know what you need!

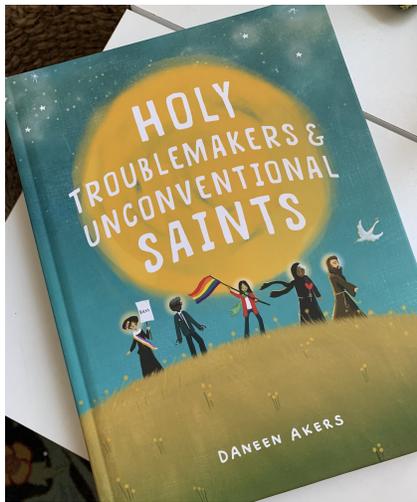
In friendship,

Melinda Wenner Bradley  
Youth Religious Life Coordinator  
mwennerbradley@pym.org

Recipients are subscribed to the PYM Religious Education news list.

# REsources for Meetings & Home

## Books and Curricula:



The wonderful book [Holy Troublemakers & Unconventional Saints](#) now has a **companion curriculum!** This is one of my favorite books in the last couple of years, and the companion curriculum will be a *great resource for meetings* exploring faith and witness with children. Bayard Rustin and Alice Paul are two of the "holy troublemakers" featured in the book, along with other historical and contemporary figures. If your meeting is interested in this recommended resource and needs support to purchase a copy (there are EPUB and PDF options), [please be in touch with me directly](#) so that PYM can make that happen!

## NEW QREC Website Launched! [NEW URL!](#)

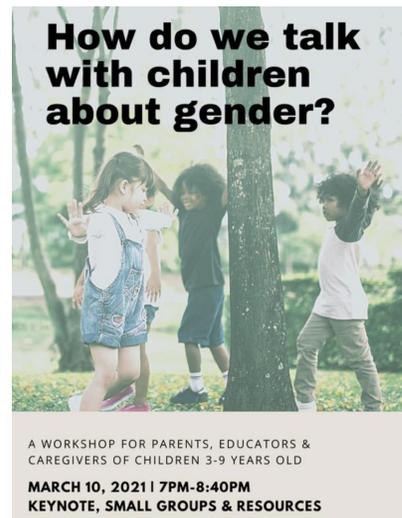


**Quaker Religious  
Education Collaborative**  
Joining Hands in Service to Quaker Religious Education

Explore the new Faith at Home page, the revised Resource Library, Quaker RE events page, and more.

## Workshops and Conversations:

The next workshop in the series, *Talking with Kids About Gender*, a workshop for parents, educators, and caregivers of children 3-9 years old, will be held on Zoom on March 10, 7-8:40pm ET. The series is offered through a preschool-college public/private partnership, which includes funding from Media-Providence Friends School and the Office of Inclusive Excellence at Swarthmore College. [You can find out more and register at the project website.](#)



[\*\*Raising Anti-racist White Children\*\*](#) is a live, interactive online workshop that I highly recommend from my experience of it! **3-part series: Friday, April 9, 16 & 23 from 1-3pm ET** (Each session is video-recorded, if you can't attend all three dates.)



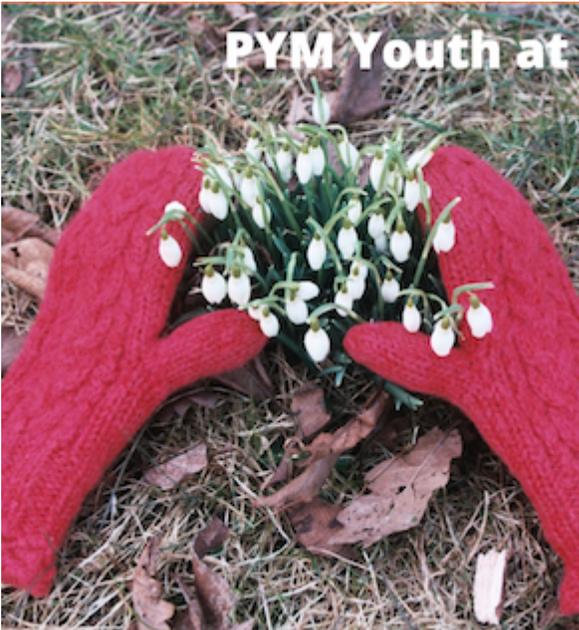
**Home is the heart of faith formation for families!**

If you missed the RE Conversations last week, [the slides with suggestions for spiritual practices at home are posted on the PYM website.](#) Many family practices in our homes are grounded in Spirit and Friends' testimonies. The Quaker Religious Education Collaborative's updated website has a new section on [Faith at Home](#), with simple activity suggestions, articles about spontaneous conversations, videos, book recommendations, and much more.

## **Spring Continuing Sessions is for Everyone! March 26-28 Online**

Please share with Families in your meeting and encourage them to join! Listed below are programs specific to our youth community. [More information and youth registration here.](#)

Parents and guardians should also visit the [Spring Continuing Sessions page](#) for the schedule on Saturday and adult registration.



**PYM Youth at Spring Continuing Sessions**

**Fun - Community - Worship . . .  
Continuing Sessions is for everyone!**

**Friday: March 26 - 6:00-7:30 PM**  
All-ages fellowship, sharing stories, and songs

**Saturday: March 27**  
9:00-10:00 AM All-ages Worship  
12:30 -1:30 PM K-12 Youth Program

**Sunday: March 28**  
9:00-9:45 AM Giant Children's Meeting  
8:00-8:30 PM Youth-led Meeting for Worship

## Stories of Faith on the Road to Easter

In the weeks before Easter, we're sharing stories of Jesus' life and teaching. [Each Monday, the PYM website will be updated with a new story linked.](#) While the style of this storytelling is often associated with programs for children, these are for all of us at any age. Show the videos over Zoom or share the link for viewing at home. The six stories are offered in a way that is open to wonder and continuing revelation, supporting exploration of Quaker faith and its Christian roots: *The Parable of the Good Shepherd*, *The Woman at the Well*, *The Parable of Great Pearl*, *Living the Ways of the Spirit (Quaker testimonies)*, *Faces of Easter*, and *An Easter Story for Friends*.



## Sharing Ideas for First Day programs: *Patterns and Examples!*

Friends are invited to share your great ideas and make available lesson plans, handouts, calendars, etc. The place for easy access and sharing among our Community of Practice:

[A folder in Google Drive is available](#) to contribute and find fresh ideas.



## Stay in touch!



[The Quaker Religious Education Collaborative \(QREC\)](#) has a group on Facebook for sharing of support and resources, [Valiant Together](#).

Visit [PYM Religious Education](#) for resources and support. When you find, "*I have a question about resources, programs . . . or a great idea to share!*" reach out to Melinda Wenner Bradley, Youth Religious Life Coordinator, [MWennerBradley@pym.org](mailto:MWennerBradley@pym.org)

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