



The Tote Bag

PYM Religious Education
& Family Resources



August 2021

Dear Friends,

The [Youth Epistle](#) shared at Annual Sessions including the message shown here:

"Building the Quaker community we want to be," is the theme for yearly meeting Youth Programs this year, and we hope that local meetings will consider the invitation to collaborate and use this theme in some way in your programs with children and youth.

At a recent workshop focused on the [Religious Education resources on the PYM website](#), Friends also explored the possibilities for connecting the three areas of work and witness in our yearly meeting with the topics and experiential learning in children and youth programs (climate change, addressing racism, membership and belonging) and [specific curriculum resources to support thematic planning between our circles of spiritual community can be found in this website story](#). How can we build bridges between local meetings and the wider PYM family, and nurture our young people feeling authentically connected to the Quaker Way?

Tools and ideas for Fall planning:

- [What's Next? Planning Guide](#)
- [Building the Quaker Community We Want to Be](#)

"We encourage adults in our community to join us in the work of building the Quaker community we want to be.

If you are leaving these Sessions with new clarity about the issues before Friends and our work in the world, invite children and youth into the witness of the community.

The concerns they identified this week may sound familiar — justice, peace, caring for the Earth, and loving one another.

We advise you to be flexible with responding to young people and their needs, and seek to be open to receiving feedback, knowledge, and gifts from youth."

- [Sample Religious Education program calendar for 2021-22](#)
- and more below!

In friendship and service,

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

Recipients are subscribed to the PYM Religious Education news list.

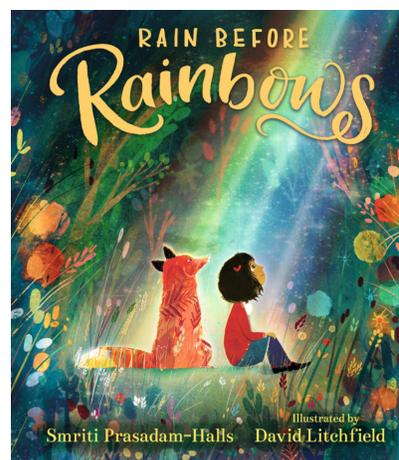


Crossing Thresholds into Fall

Books and Ideas:

As we prepare to return to fall programs for children and youth while Covid concerns continue in our communities, I cannot recommend this book enough. The simple and beautiful story acknowledges there will be hard days and we have companions alongside us to reach the sun again.

[Considerations for returning to religious education programs and indoor spaces](#) has suggested health and safety practices to consider for your meeting community, religious education programs/spaces, and gathering with children this fall.



Events:

Quaker Religious Education Collaborative 2021 Conference

Friday - Sunday, August 13-15 (times vary)

Join Friends from around the world for worship, fellowship, practical skill building, and listening for our call. We'll share what is rising now. Are new priorities coming into focus? Are you exploring new approaches to our ministry? Come away inspired, with insight and resources for effective ministry, vital faith formation, and fully multi-generational community.

Godly Play/Faith & Play Refresher for Fall

Tuesday, August 24, 7-8:30pm

Hosted by Faith & Play Stories, this is a gathering for the storytellers and Friends who support Faith & Play and Godly Play stories being used in their meeting's religious education programs. Whether you took off for the summer or are planning to resume programs after the last 18+ months, it's important to refresh and renew before starting again. The presentation portion of the program will be recorded and shared to everyone registered.

Open Office Hours for Our RE Community of Practice

Thursday, August 26 from 1-2pm and 7-8pm

Open Office Hours are times when you can join on Zoom or by phone and check in with other Friends who drop by to share ideas and questions. Many meetings are exploring how to resume children and youth programs in the fall, and have both questions and good ideas to share with each other about how they are approaching this. Will programs be in person? What safety practices still need to be in place? How can we connect our local meeting program with the PYM Youth Programs theme?

Anti-racism Learning and Action

For younger children:

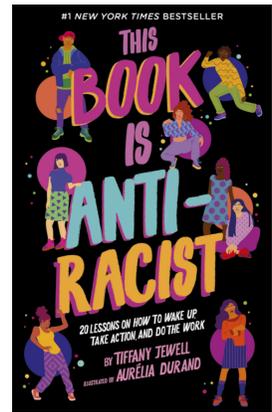
[Our Skin: a first conversation about race](#) by Megan Madison, Jessica Ralli, & Isabel Roxas

[Stamped \(For Kids\): Racism, Antiracism, and You](#) adapted by Sonja Cherry-Paul

For older youth:

["Teens Teach Adults About Dismantling Racism"](#) is an article about youth empowerment and adults listening in a faith community. Featured in the piece are the book and companion journal used in the youth program:

[This Book Is Anti-Racist: 20 Lessons on How to Wake Up, Take Action, and Do The Work](#)
by Tiffany Jewell



Please Share with Families and Youth in your meeting! Youth Programs Calendar for Fall/Early Winter 2021

(click on image for printable PDF)


Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
PYM Youth Programs "Building the Quaker Community We Want to Be"
FALL/EARLY WINTER 2021-22

Children & Families:

Apple Picking
Community Playdate
October 2
Linvilla Orchard

Fall Continuing Sessions:

November 6
All Ages Together
Special Guest Workshop
& Roller Skating!

Young Friends:

Late Summer Gathering
August 14-15
West Chester Meeting

Giant Children's Meeting

4th Sundays
9am
Zoom

Youth-led Worship:

Middle School &
Young Friends
4th Sundays
8 pm, Zoom

Young Friends:

Christmas Gathering
December 27-30

Young Friends:

Bucks Peace Fair
Gathering
September 17-19

Children & Families:

Winter Family Overnight
Camp Onas
January 15-16
2022

Middle School Friends:

Cooking with Alix!
October 17 &
December 12

Middle School Friends:

Fall Meetup at
Singing Rocks Park
September 25

Middle School Friends:

Winter Overnight
Retreat Date TBD

Learn more about yearly meeting Youth Programs and how they connect youth in local meetings with a wider community of young Friends at www.pym.org/youth-programs

Questions? Contact the Youth Religious Life Coordinator at mwennerbradley@pym.org

www.pym.org/youth-programs

Sharing Ideas for First Day programs:
Patterns and Examples!

I hope as you create programs, activities, and try ideas you're excited about, you'll share your lesson plans, handouts, calendars, etc. The place for easy access and sharing among our Community of Practice:

The [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

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