



# The Tote Bag

PYM Religious Education  
& Family Resources



September 2021

Dear Friends,

[The Religious Education resources on the PYM website have moved!](#) You can find this updated section under **Resources** on the website toolbar. The PYM curricula are there, along with newer resources to support religious education planning and programs, and a specific section for Racial Justice Curricula and Resources.

The [Youth Programs section of the website](#) also underwent revision during the summer, and now all three program communities K-12 are in one section of the website, under **Programs & Services** on the toolbar. You'll find youth forms and program, staffing, and event information in this section of the website, along with support for *Friends Who Care for Youth* and background check information.

What would you like to talk about? We'll be hosting Religious Education Conversations again this year for our PYM community of practice. [This short survey asks for your input about topics of interest.](#) Thanks for sharing!

In friendship and service,

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

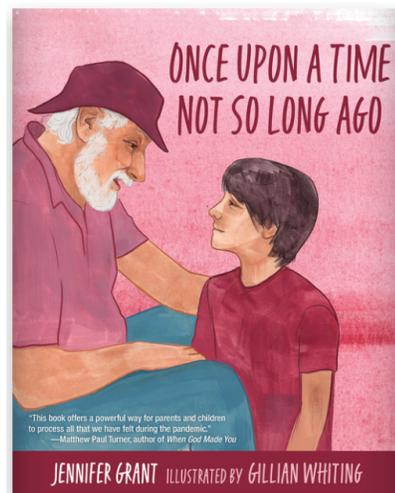
# REsources for Meetings & Home

## Books and Ideas:

### [Once Upon A Time Not So Long Ago](#)

The story of the COVID-19 pandemic and the changes it has brought into our homes and lives. This picture book captures the joys and sorrows of the time and the underlying message to readers is that we can make it through difficulty.

The illustrations celebrate love, family, and community as expressed all across the globe, teaching us the meaning of togetherness. [Order from Bookshop.org](#)



### [Nativity Sticker Sheets](#)

I know, I know -- Christmas is a ways off . . . but these fabulous stickers sell out fast!

*From Illustrated Ministry:* "Are you tired of Nativity sticker sheets with a white baby Jesus? Would you like to give out sticker sheets that include more accurate depictions of the characters from the Nativity story? Our designs are unique, hand-drawn, authentic, and diverse." Each set includes 25 sticker sheets and comes with free downloads of backgrounds.



# Anti-racism Learning and Action

*For parents and adults working with children:*

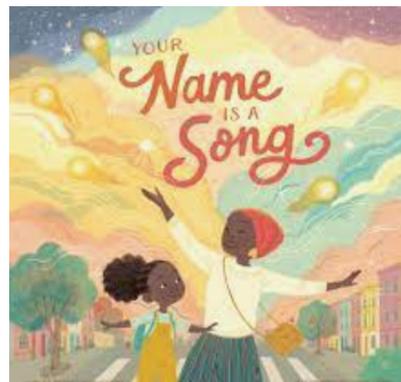
## Raising Anti-Racist White Children

**Saturday series: October 2, 9, 16 at 7:00pm**

An online, live interactive workshop for parents and educators offering information and guidance on how to prepare white children in our increasingly multiracial society. The workshop encourages the development of an anti-racist outlook in all children, and focuses on the particular experience of raising white children. [More information on the website.](#)

## Your Name is a Song

A back to school, anti-racism story written by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow and illustrated by Luisa Uribe-- "Frustrated by a day full of teachers and classmates mispronouncing her beautiful name, a little girl tells her mother she never wants to come back to school. In response, the girl's mother teaches her about the musicality of African, Asian, Black-American, Latinx, and Middle Eastern names on their lyrical walk home through the city."



## **Our Shared Future: Reckoning With Our Racial Past**

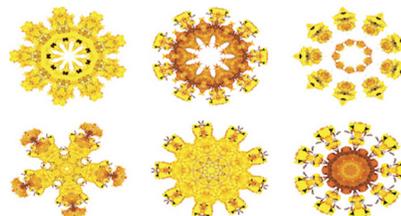
["Educational Resources for Teaching About Race and Racism"](#) A project of the Smithsonian Institute, this site is full of resources and ideas for educators and parents organized by age.

## **Event Updates:**

Two PYM-wide programs for Children's Religious Education and Youth spiritual nurture have moved to the 3rd Sunday of the month this fall: *September 19, October 17, November 21, December 19*

## Giant Children's' Meeting.

Join Friends and Families from across the Yearly Meeting for a monthly religious education program. The 30-45 minute program is for preschool and elementary-age children and their



families. Each time will feature a theme and seasoned facilitators leading us through grounding, exploring, wondering, and creating. Our program themes will connect with the Youth Programs theme for this year, “*Building the Quaker Community We Want to Be*”

### Youth-led Meeting for Worship

The 30-minute online worship on Sunday evenings will be hosted by PYM Youth Programs staff and youth will have care of meeting for the community. **This is a youth-centered space, and registration is for youth in Grades 6-**



**12.** The two staff members who will host the online space will be responsible for Zoom and following [PYM online youth safety guidelines](#). Youth members of our Youth Programs community, like the Young Friends Nurture Committee, will have care of worship.

## *Youth Programs Calendar Fall/Early Winter 2021*

(Please share with Families and Youth! 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:** Bucks Peace Fair Gathering September 17-19
- Young Friends:** Christmas Gathering December 27-30
- Giant Children's Meeting:** 3rd Sundays 9am Zoom
- Youth-led Worship:** Middle School & Young Friends 3rd Sundays 8 pm, Zoom
- Middle School Friends:** Cooking with Alix! October 17 & December 12
- Children & Families:** Winter Family Overnight Camp Onas January 15-16 2022
- 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](http://www.pym.org/youth-programs)  
Questions? Contact the Youth Religious Life Coordinator at [mwennerbradley@pym.org](mailto:mwennerbradley@pym.org)

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**Quaker Parent Mutual Support Groups!**

**Please share with families in your meeting!** These groups will meet for six months, starting roughly in mid-November, for one hour every two weeks. *The purpose is to provide Friends who are currently parenting children with a space for mutual conversation and support.*

This year, the project is co-sponsored by New York Yearly Meeting, Friends United Meeting, and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, but ALL Quaker parents are welcome to participate, regardless of location or affiliation. Participating parents need access to Zoom and the ability to converse in English.

**[Parents can register here until October 31.](#)**



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## 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.



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## 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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