

# West Chester Friends Meeting — Youth Religious Education

## Sundays 10:25–11:30am

*The Youth Religious Education committee of the meeting offers the following information in the spirit of love and community as we seek to care for one another.*



**Child care** is available for infants–preschool age children. *Childcare is provided by experienced, paid baby sitters during worship.* While the childcare room best serves children from ages one until they are ready for First Day School, parents with infants are welcome to stay with their child in the childcare room and babies may also remain with parents in worship.

**Children’s Meeting:** Our religious education program for children ages 4 – 5th grade gathers at 10:25 on the porch of the meetinghouse. *The Children’s Meeting is a spiritual community for the children within the larger spiritual community of our meeting, and is a welcoming place for all.* The program includes Quaker religious education curricula, Faith & Play stories about Quaker faith and practice, Godly Play (Bible stories), children’s books, art and service projects. Our spaces for child care and the children’s meeting are next to each other, to meet the requirements of the meeting child safety plan. At 11:15, the children return to the meetinghouse to join their families in worship.



**Young People’s Group (YPG):** Youth in 5th grade – 12th grade are welcome to join in the activities of the YPG. 5th graders are invited to attend either the children’s program and YPG as they are led, depending on the week. *YPG offers a community for older youth to explore issues related to being a Friend, how we live Quaker testimonies, and to do service work in fellowship with their peers.* YPG walks to the downtown one Sunday each month to discuss issues important to them in an environment that is "outside" the meeting

house. YPG gathers on the meetinghouse porch at 10:25 returns to the meetinghouse to join the final part of worship. On days when there is no YPG program, youth are welcome to attend the children’s program, but are encouraged to stay in meeting for worship with the adult community.

**Intergenerational Worship** is when we *gather with all-ages in waiting worship together.* While children are always welcome in meeting for worship, Community Worship is intentionally multigenerational. It often begins with songs or a story, and young people may choose to sit on the floor and work with quiet materials to support listening inwardly during worship.



**Parents are responsible for their children at all other times while at meeting:** during coffee hour, shared lunch, and other programs. Child care will be provided during Meeting for Business and adult religious education programs, and for committee meeting by request to the Youth RE clerk.