

The Tote Bag

PYM Religious Education
and Family Resources



Dear Friends,

Warm greetings, in this challenging time. I'm thinking a lot these days about how we're taking care of one another. I'm caring for my three children at home, and sometimes they take care of me: a cup of coffee brought to my office, encouragement to join the walk, pitching in to get dinner on the table.

Caring for the carers, nurturing the nurturers, guiding the guides -- When I think about paying attention to these ideas, parents and others with care of children come to mind. Next week, on Tuesday evening and Thursday afternoon, QREC is hosting Conversation Circles on, "**Guiding the Guides: Supporting Spiritual Nurturers of Children and Youth in the Home.**" More information below; I hope to see you there!

Recently, I've had opportunities to gather with Friends in both PYM and New York YM to ask "How are the children?" and how are we providing religious education resources and programs in this time? The thoughts shared in those presentations is gathered here on the PYM website: **Together at Home and Online: Religious Education during COVID-19**. It's a work in progress, as we continue to find our way -- and new ways -- *together*. Let's stay in touch!

In service and hope,

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

Recipients are subscribed to the PYM Religious Education Thread List and the Youth Programs Thread List.



PYM Programs for Youth & Families

Where are the opportunities in this time apart to widen the circles of who gathers in community?

- Who can join virtually who was unable to travel, or who might be more comfortable trying this format as an introduction to a new community?
- Are there families and young people in your meeting who you can encourage to try out a youth program event?

April 17: Young Friends Friday Check-ins:

Fellowship & games on Friday afternoons. *Playing Drawful on 4/17*
Register here for the Friday series

April 18: VIRTUAL Quaker Family Meetup, 3-5pm

We're moving this party online! Join PYM Families to check in, tell jokes, hear a story together, and share fellowship across our homes. BYOS! (Bring your own snacks this time!)

Pre-register on the PYM website to receive Zoom link

April 18: Middle School Friends Hangout, 1:30-3:00pm:

Home Scavenger Hunt and time to hangout with old and new friends.

Register here

Every Wednesday: Children's Worship Group, 7:30pm

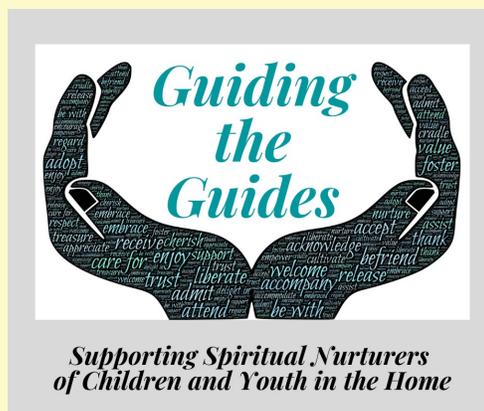
Families with children in 5th Grade and younger gather for stories, yoga, waiting worship, and spiritual nurture in community.

Pre-register here for the Wednesday evening series

April Conversation Circles Hosted by Quaker RE Collaborative

Guiding the Guides: Supporting Spiritual Nurturers of Children and Youth in the Home

Parents are children's first and most important teachers. This is especially true for faith formation. Grounded, creative religious education is happening in Quaker homes, on walks in the woods, during bedtime routines, and conversations in cars — one discussion, one query, one storybook, and one project at a time. Religious educators have long recognized the vital role of parents in the faith formation of children and youth. During this time when the home is so much the center of family life, we want to support parents and grandparents effectively as they seek new ways to weave spiritual nurture and balance into the rhythm of daily life. **This Conversation Circle will make space for a rich sharing among Quaker parents, grandparents and home caregivers about faith formation adventures and questions from the home front.**



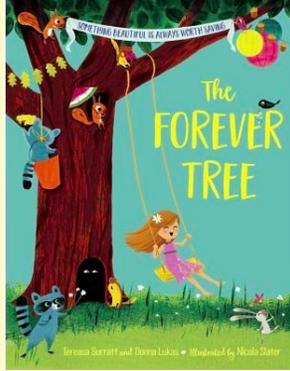
**Registration is
required:**

**Tuesday, April 21
8:00pm ET
Register HERE**

**Thursday, April 23
1:00pm ET
Register HERE**

REsource Sharing:

Grandparents and older Friends miss young people in their lives, and children are missing contact with their elders. Online worship or other times to connect virtually



or through pen pals, etc. are ways to reach across the distances between us.

Children's books that show pictures with diverse people gathering and playing together outside in multigenerational community are hopeful images and reminders to hold up for children in this time of isolation from peers, distancing from older family and friends, and closed playgrounds. Words and images in stories may also create a space for children to voice their feelings and what they are missing.

A book that I'll be sharing at the Quaker Family Meetup on April 18 is, "The Forever Tree."
[You can also watch it read on YouTube!](#)



I wonder what other books Friends recommend that portray multigenerational community?



The Quaker Religious Education Collaborative (QREC) has created a *group* on Facebook for sharing of support and resources: "**Valiant Together: Sharing Quaker Religious Education Support and Resources During COVID-19.**" Posts include lesson plans to share with families worshipping at home, free resources, questions and advice from fellow RE practitioners.

"I have a question about resources, programs . . . or a great idea to share!"

[Click here to email the Youth Religious Life Coordinator](#)

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends
1515 Cherry Street, Philadelphia, PA 19102

