

The Tote Bag

PYM Religious Education
and Family Resources



Dear Friends,

We are called to accompany one another through a challenging time. We are called to share compassion and be present to one another. Our meeting communities are being asked to innovate and find new ways of being and gathering -- and in the midst of all this change, still, is *relationship*. How can we be in loving relationship with the young people and families in our faith community? They need connection more than ever right now. Shared below is a start on resources that I hope will support us to be that caring presence for young people and their families, and for one another:

Gathering Together: Support for Families and First Day Programs includes links to articles and free materials that may be helpful to parents of children from preschool to college, who are navigating COVID-19 together.

Some meetings are organizing virtual First Day programs and worship, and others are supporting families who will worship in their homes. This **lesson plan for families** focuses on creating space for worship at home, and to remember, hope, and be present to where we are now.

Resource Sharing Conversation and Support: On Tuesday, March 24 at 1:00 PM, there will be an opportunity for Friends serving children and youth religious education programs to gather for a conversation about *what we're trying, what we need, and how to support each other in this time*. **You need to register in advance for this conversation.** After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about how to join.

Please be in touch, Friends. I'm here to be present to your questions and concerns, listen and share, and be in relationship as we accompany one another through these days.

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

Please share with families in your meeting, as many events are moving

to an online forum in the hope of supporting families at home with children who are seeking connection. Youth Programs staff are cooking up new ways to be connected and in community during this time with Children & Families, Middle School Friends, and Young Friends, and will share plans in direct emails to those groups.

Everyday! *Family Devotionals* (multiple time choices)

Thanks to NYYM Friend Emily Provance, families stretching from California to England are gathering daily for worship and fellowship! There is singing or centering, a story, and reflection on a simple query. These daily Zoom (videoconference) calls are designed for adults and children participating together. The audience primarily in mind is elementary school and preschool. *PYM's Youth Religious Life Coordinator, Melinda Wenner Bradley, will be leading the 7:00pm times on Tuesdays and Thursdays. [Sign up here!](#)*

Saturday, March 28: Continuing Sessions will not be held in person. Watch for information next week about gathering as a PYM family in the morning, and Youth Program events during the day.

April 18: VIRTUAL Quaker Family Meetup, 3-5pm on Zoom! 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!)**



REsource Sharing:

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

"During the COVID-19 pandemic crisis, our community of practice has an opportunity to share resources, skills, gifts, questions and insights, and to support each other in the ministry of Quaker faith formation. Many Friends are creating and offering online, virtual resources -- let's share!"

**"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

