



**Spring 2025
Children and Family Ministries
Information and Events**

**DISCERNMENT DISCOVERY
DAY
&
TEEN RETREAT**

New England Yearly Meeting will be hosting a day-long, all ages event to explore the Quaker practice of discernment. Childcare and youth programming will be held on-site. There is also a teen retreat running in tandem with this event.

[CLICK HERE](#)

to see what it would look like for you and your youngsters...

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR DISCERNMENT DISCOVERY DAY](#)

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THE TEEN RETREAT](#)

NEW ENGLAND YEARLY MEETING SESSIONS

Each year, hundreds of Quakers from across New England and beyond join together for worship, fellowship, and seeking how God will guide us in meeting for business. Having first gathered in 1661, New England Yearly Meeting of Friends continue to gather annually.

******This year, Sessions will be held at***
UMass Amherst from August 1–6, 2025.***

[CLICK HERE](#)

to learn about
upcoming [PARENT VISIONING CONVERSATIONS](#)
for future Sessions...

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR JYM & JHYM SPRING RETREATS!

(Photo by Becca Lapham and Emma MartinMooney)



**Junior High
Yearly Meeting**

**(JHYM)
Spring retreat
for 6–8th graders**

REGISTER NOW

May

**16–18
Framingham Meeting
Framingham, MA**

**Junior
Yearly Meeting
(JYM)**

**Spring retreat
for 2nd–6th graders**

REGISTER NOW

**June 6-8
Westport Meeting
Westport, MA**

YOUTH MINISTERS' CORNER

**NEW
Quaker
invitation**



John Backs, the First Day School teacher of Westerly Friends Meeting, has a new project and wants your help! As a retired teacher from Westtown School, he knows the importance of students internalizing their learning.

Over the next year, he will be writing, curating, and testing a collection of Quaker Learning Queries to eventually publish as a deck of cards. He anticipates that listening to responses will help him evaluate the depth of the young people's understanding of Quakerism. The process will also engage their minds and help them internalize why they might look forward to be practicing Quakers as adults.

Examples of learning queries include:

- If you and your friends couldn't agree on what game to play, how would you decide what to do? (for ages 6-12)***
- What does living a life of simplicity mean to you, and how does it shape your daily choices? (for teens)***

If this project sounds like it would be beneficial to young Quakers in your care, click below to get involved!

[CLICK HERE TO SUGGEST A QUERY OR TO VIEW EXAMPLES](#)

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR MARCH 10th LYMSE SESSION](#)

**WE HAD A GREAT
WINTER RETREAT SEASON!**

**Photos from the JYM
Winter Retreat
by Martha Schwope**



**Thirty 2nd-6th graders
of JYM (Junior Yearly Meeting)
explored the spiritual gifts of light
and darkness through song,
flashlight tag, and more.**

**THANK YOU
TO THE VOLUNTEERS
WHO MADE IT POSSIBLE!**

**JHYM
WINTER RETREAT
STAFF**

Amie Saulnier
April Merleaux
Brennon Schifman
Buddy Baker-Smith

**JYM
WINTER RETREAT STAFF**

Amy Greene
Amy Howland
Ben Guaraldi



Rebecca Edwards
Susannah McCandless



Photo by Martha Schwope

Discernment Discovery continued...

Discernment Discovery Day
Saturday
March 15, 2025
Moses Brown Friends School
Providence, RI

9:00

Discernment Discovery

Teen Retreat

March 14–16, 2025

Providence Friends Meeting

Providence, RI

This year's teen retreat (ages 13–18) will be in tandem with [Discernment Discovery Day](#), where we will spend most of Saturday. Teens will need to register for one of the afternoon workshops. A description of the workshops can be found [here](#). There is a question on the LuMa registration where you will choose which workshop you are registering for.

This retreat will be similar to the Young Friends retreat program, with the addition of those in 7th and 8th grade who are 13 or older being invited to join us. This is a great opportunity for youth in those grades to get a sneak peek of what Young Friends retreats are typically like before they start high school and become eligible to join the Young Friends program.

**REGISTRATION CLOSES
ON
FRIDAY, MARCH 7TH!**

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR DISCERNMENT DISCOVERY DAY](#)

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THE TEEN RETREAT](#)

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SESSIONS continued...

Sessions Visioning Conversations for Parents



Attending Sessions as a family is different than attending as an adult individual. As Friends in New England discern possible changes to Annual Sessions as part of the [Sessions Visioning](#) process, we especially hope to hear from parents of infants, children, and teens regardless of whether you have attended Sessions before or not. Join one of our Zoom-based facilitated conversations:

**Tuesday, [March 4th](#)
from 7:00–8:30 p.m.**

or

**Sunday, [March 30th](#)
from 4:00–5:30 p.m.**

Our 365th Annual Sessions of New England Yearly Meeting of Friends will be held at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, MA, August 1-6, 2025. As we have done the past few years, Friends are encouraged to arrive on Friday night (August 1) and we will begin programming on Saturday morning. There will be updates on this web page and through NEYM's monthly newsletter, which you can view [here](#) and subscribe to [here](#).

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR MARCH 4th CONVERSATION](#)

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR MARCH 30th CONVERSATION](#)

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[Learn more about our youth retreat program](#)

[Learn about other ways we nurture youth](#)

