

# the Facing Bench

An NYC Quakers Zine Summer 2026

*The "facing bench" is where the person who begins and ends a Quaker meeting for worship sits.*

# Quaker Meetings in NYC



There are six year-round Quaker meetings (congregations) in NYC, each with its own vibe and flavor. Inside, Friends talk about what makes their meeting unique.





## Brooklyn Meeting

**110 Schermerhorn St., in downtown Brooklyn, NY**

Sunday worship at 9 and 11 am. Children's program at 11 am.  
Coworking Tues and Thurs. Community dinner for anyone who  
wants a meal on Fridays & last Sundays. [brooklynmeeting.org](http://brooklynmeeting.org)

A large meeting with both newcomers and more experienced  
Friends and an active young adult community.

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### What do you particularly like about Brooklyn Meeting?

*Eliza (age 5):* I like the projects in First Day School.

*Dianne (adult):* I like the community and the opportunity  
to meet other Quaker families.

### How is Brooklyn Meeting unique?

*Eliza:* It's unique because there's lots of people working  
on things. Also, some places have meeting rooms and  
some don't.

*Dianne:* Agreed that the meeting room at Brooklyn is  
unique! I love the big windows and how much light comes  
into the room.



### From Brooklyn Meeting's quarterly report, April 2025:

We continue to witness a surge in visitors and new attendees at our 11 am meeting. Attendance at the 11 am meeting averages well over 100 people in person (at times even reaching over 200), and another dozen online.

At our February 2025 business meeting, Brooklyn Meeting made the decision to join the lawsuit against the Trump Administration, over ICE enforcement in houses of worship. This decision was made with full spiritual unity and conviction.



# Flushing Meeting

137-16 Northern Blvd, Flushing, (Queens), NY

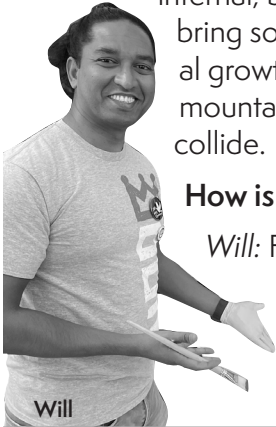
Meets on Sunday, 11 am. Silent worship with occasional spoken messages, followed by social hour with refreshments. Children welcome to attend. [flushingfriends.org](http://flushingfriends.org).



An historic 330-year old meeting-house located in one of the most diverse neighborhoods in the country.

## What do you particularly like about Flushing Meeting?

*Will (adult):* Flushing often finds itself in spiritual battles, usually internal, but sometimes external as well. While this can bring sorrow, I also find joy in the spiritual growth that results, sort of like when mountains form after tectonic plates collide.



Will

## How is Flushing Meeting unique?

*Will:* Flushing is one of the oldest meetings and I enjoy learning about how its history impacts the lives of those who come.



Hugo

“Now, Friends, deal plainly with yourselves, and let the eternal Light search you, and try you, for the good of your souls. For this will deal plainly with you. It will rip you up, and lay you open, and make all manifest which lodges in you; the secret subtlety of the enemy of your souls, this eternal searcher and trier will make manifest. Therefore all to this come, and by this be searched, and judged, and led and guided. For to this you must stand or fall.”  
— Margaret Fell



Margaret Fell by Lisa Maltby

## Manhattan Meeting

**15th Street Meeting, Room 1, 15 Rutherford Pl., New York, NY**  
Meets on Sunday, 9:30 am. Pastoral (AKA Programmed) worship service. Children welcome to attend. First Sunday of each quarter (Jan, April, July, and October) is a joint meeting for worship with 15th Street Meeting at 11 am. Seekers and attenders are also welcome to join Manhattan Meeting's monthly virtual prayer meeting on 3rd Thursdays at 7 pm.  
[nycquakers.org/meetings/manhattan-meeting](http://nycquakers.org/meetings/manhattan-meeting)

Pastor-led Quaker worship with songs, readings, and prepared messages. Volunteers from the community currently take turns serving as pastor. The meeting sponsors a school in Davanga, Kenya, and recently completed a successful book drive for the school.



Report from meeting for worship on June 7, 2026:

Gloria T. opened with a prayer based on the New York Yearly Meeting theme, "led by Spirit," and then invited a remote Friend to do our first reading from Ephesians (4:25-32). After a few moments of quiet, Dwight H., a young Friend and longtime member of the meeting, queued up "Make Me a Blessing," a hymn on YouTube complete with words. We all sang along.

We moved to a responsive reading, Psalm 51:10-17, and then settled into a generous amount of silence. We concluded with the sharing of joys, sorrows and concerns, the closing hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty," and a closing prayer.

This year the meeting is encouraging members and attenders to focus on reading three books of the Bible that are critical to Friends' testimonies: John, Ephesians, and Revelation (the source of our first reading that morning). The idea is to read just 5 verses a day and then write a brief reflection.

Manhattan Meeting holds the **People of Color Worship and Reflection Group ([pocquakers.org](http://pocquakers.org))** under its care; see page 8.

# Morningside Meeting

12th Floor, Riverside Church (enter at 81 Claremont Ave., NYC)

Meets on Sunday, 11 am. Silent worship with occasional spoken messages, followed by social hour with refreshments. Meeting for children is held on the 13th floor. [morningsidequakers.org](http://morningsidequakers.org).

Friendly Meeting active in witness work, particularly prisons, equality, and peace. Friends sometimes eat breakfast together before worship.

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## What do you like about Morningside, and what makes it unique?

*Ellie (adult):* Our meeting is unique in many ways — mainly its deep, quiet energy. Normally, no one delivers vocal ministry for at least the first half of meeting, so it's possible really to settle into the silence. Then, when Friends begin to stand and speak, it is often the case that Friends' words resonate with each other in powerful ways.

*Ellie's daughter (age 8):* I like the friends and the people who go to Quaker Meeting.

*Ellie's son (age 10):* I really like the community building, and I think it's nice to try to take other people's perspectives.

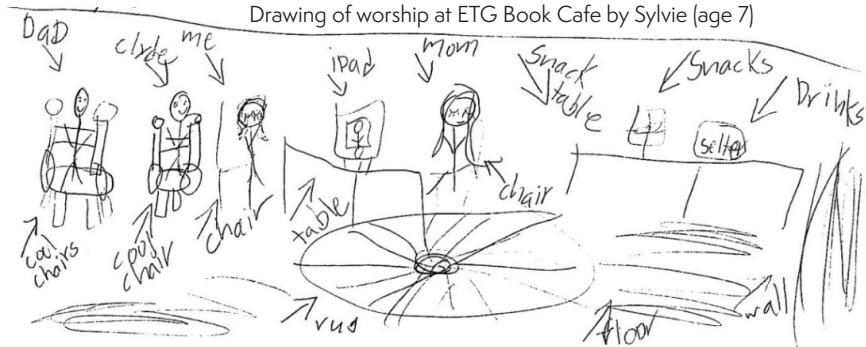


## From Morningside Meeting's quarterly report, April 2026:

Morningside Monthly Meeting is busy and healthy as spring arrives. Our meeting room is regularly full for worship and many more Friends join us online.

Morningsiders also remain committed to witness. We shared information with each other on how to take action against the war in Iran and in response to recent changes in the draft laws.

Drawing of worship at ETG Book Cafe by Sylvie (age 7)



## Staten Island Meeting

**Time and location varies; check [statenidlandquakers.org/contact](http://statenidlandquakers.org/contact)**

Silent worship with occasional spoken messages. Children are welcome to attend. A friendly and family-inclusive meeting.

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### What do you like about Staten Is. Mtg., and what makes it unique?

*Abigail (age 13):* The Staten Island Meeting is special because it's a small group where everyone knows each other. The ratio of kids to adults is high. It's also very local — everyone in the meeting has a job (duties) to the meeting. In addition, we have unique beach meetings where you swim and become one with nature.

*Eleanor (adult):* The best thing about going to Quaker Meeting is to reconnect to our source light. I could do that by myself and I do, but sharing the light is the main thing. Staten Island Meeting is uniquely small. The shared light is so powerful — a great place to grow from and I'm grateful.

*Clyde (age 10):* What is unique is that it's when you don't have to do anything, just clear your mind.

### From Staten Island Meeting's quarterly report, April 2026:

At the suggestion of one of our member families, we experimented in March with an added meeting time and place — an afternoon meeting in the Parish Hall at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. We had a good turn-out, at 13 Friends, including 5 school-age children, and Friends were generally charmed by the space.

# People of Color Worship & Reflection Group

Quaker Meetinghouse, 137-16 Northern Blvd., Flushing, NY

Join us for worship and reflection every 2nd Sunday of the month at 10 am. Children welcome.

Committed to the “open, expectant religion” envisioned by the founders of Quakerism with an emphasis on the rich spiritual heritage of People of Color in the US.



People of Color Worship Group quarterly report, April 2026

POC Quakers are developing responsive Witness by engaging in issues of peace, economic justice, and anti-racism. We continue to engage in community building with our inclusive First Day School Curriculum and field trips.

More about the Quaker meetings in NYC:  
[nycquakers.org/our-meetings](http://nycquakers.org/our-meetings)



## Quakers in NYC Celebrate LGBTQI+ Pride

NYC Quakers cared for rioters during the Stonewall uprising in 1969 and have been participating in the NYC Pride March every year since its beginning. We united behind “Love Thy Neighbor,”

our statement in defense of transgender people. An

excerpt: “We urge our representatives and

politicians to support legislation protecting the rights, safety, and human dignity of trans people.”

Visit [nycquakers.org/pride](http://nycquakers.org/pride) and RSVP to walk with Friends in the NYC Pride march on June 28th!



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