

Newtown Monthly Meeting Annual Report - November 2025

Newtown Monthly Meeting had another busy year, with a strong, engaged community of talented and skilled members and attenders actively contributing to the life of our Meeting.

Membership Statistics (through June 2024)

- Total Members: 343
- Under 18 years of age: 24
- Joined: 3 (new Quakers, no transfers or births)
- Left: 3 (two transfers, one death)

On a typical First Day, we may have 60 attenders and a few more on Shared Meal days or when we have programs on topics or with speakers of high interest.

We have a joyful and busy Inreach/Outreach committee. They have a greeter at the door to welcome all who come for Sunday worship and organize hosts for the social hour after worship. It sponsors our Friendly 8s groups and a picnic at Core Creek Park each summer. This year, they also hosted an Open House during Market Day in Newtown. Visitors seem to enjoy seeing the Meetinghouse and Edward Hicks gravesite.

Adult Religious Education (ARE) draws upon our own members as well as outside speakers who provide quality programs 3 times a month featuring diverse topics. We wisely utilize local news via The Advance, Herald and the Patch to reach out externally and has led many a visitor to our Meetinghouse. Worship & Ministry may use some of our Adult Education slots for specific topics or purposes. We also hosted a Spiritual Formations group joined in by attendees from various local Meetings.

Our Children's programs have teachers, babysitters, and leadership centered on keeping lessons and activities flowing. The children traditionally host a Simple Supper and Lasagna Dinner while also learning the process of discernment and philanthropy by choosing the charity and serving the dinner. This year, as we have fewer children overall, we will just be hosting event: the Simple Supper.

Communication is essential for people to know about these activities. Internally, we have a visually appealing newsletter, *This Week* that captures it all. We are in the process of updating our website to be more user friendly. Our tech needs continue to grow and we are appreciative of the efforts of many hands and minds to keep it effective for its intended purposes and the many meetings it hosts.

Building and Grounds is ever busy taking care of projects big and small. We strive to stay on top of aging trees. However, we were hit hard on July 8th when a tree fell on our Meetinghouse. We were fortunate to have astute volunteers and dedicated contractors as we were able to remove the tree off the rood and tarp it before another storm hit that evening. Our 2nd floor was off limits for a while as repairs were made to cracked beams in the attic, the roof and internal water damage. We received stellar service from our insurance broker, Parry Insurance and affiliated services. Sadly, we had to cut down a majestic oak tree that may have been one of the oldest in Newtown. We will need to update our landscaping plans due to the recent loss of numerous trees and the costs are not clear at this time.

Our finances are well managed, and we can handle our ongoing responsibilities to the building and membership and are also able to be generous to various charities and local agencies.

Care and Counsel continue their ongoing work by staying in touch with and supporting members near and far. This may entail visits, delivering healing quilts, membership issues and sending personalized notes for various occurrences. C & C also hosts fellowship after Christmas Eve candlelight services and the distribution of Hicks prints of the Peaceable Kingdom to those turning 21 years of age.

We have a robust Nominating Committee that helps fill our many slots for various committees and are grateful for their work keeping our Meeting humming along in traditional and non-traditional ways as way opens.

Janet Braker, Clerk