

SPOKANEWORD

May
Fifth Month
2019



Spokane Friends
1612 W Dalke
Spokane, WA 99205
(509) 327-7852
www.spokanefriends.com



Sunday Schedule:

Doors Open at 9:00 a.m.
Worship begins in stillness
when first person sits down.
Worship continues with song
and messages 10:00 am
Fellowship 11:00 am

Third Sunday of the Month:
Monthly Meeting for
Business begins at rise of
worship.

Here I Am

by Bob Bowman

Remember the Bible story of young Samuel? He was sleeping in the temple when he heard the Lord call, "Samuel! Samuel!" The young Samuel said, "Here I am!" (1 Samuel 3:4). He thought his guardian, Eli, was calling, so he ran to Eli again saying "Here I am."

I imagine Samuel's mother had taught him to respond in that way when he was very young, even before he was sent to be raised in the temple under the guardianship of Eli.

It is just one word in Hebrew: *hineini*. When it is a response to being called, it is usually translated "Herel am" or "Here am I" in the Bible. The phrase comes up frequently and it is worth close examination. It is more than a polite response that says, "I hear you." It is a declaration that I am present, totally present to the one calling.

Woody Allen once said, "Eighty percent of success is just showing up." The challenge is not only to show up, but to be fully present, to be mindful of who, where, and with whom you are.

Pastors soon discover that words, even when quoting scripture, are never adequate in the face of tragedy. Words also pale into insignificance in the presence of great joy. What is most helpful at those times is personal presence. "Here I am."

"Here I am." This phrase turns up in other places in the Bible. Isaac called his son and Esau answered, "Here I am" (Genesis 27:1). When Jacob wanted someone to take a message to Joseph's brothers, he said to Joseph, "Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them." He answered, "Here I am" (Genesis 27:1).

Being totally present is hard! It involves being present in space but also in time, in the "now." My mind often wanders between anticipation for tomorrow and second-guessing my yesterdays. Saying "Here I am" means relinquishing by obsession with past and future and accepting who I am and where I am in the present. Here I am, at this precise moment in time: a moment that has never been before and will never be repeated in my life. It is, as it always is, a holy moment.

Saying "Here I am" also involves being present within myself, identifying my emotions, owning my failures, confessing my sin, and accepting my strengths. Here I am, all of me, just as I am. I may not be where I wish to be nor where I pretend to be. I may not be where others wish me to be, but if I could be nakedly honest with myself, I could come out of hiding and answer, "Here I am!"

There is one glaring spot in the Bible where the phrase "Here I am" is shockingly absent. In Genesis 3:9 after taking the forbidden fruit, the man and the woman hid from God. God called, "Where are you?"

God's call still rings through the world, "Where are you?" God's question does not always come in words or even in clear categories of thought. More often it is a small echo of mystery, intangible and indescribable. Every human relationship and all of creation contains God's question, "Where are you?" and yearns for a response. And each time we answer this persistent call with "Here I am," we discover God's "Here I am" in response.

We find that God may be more ready to say "Here I am" than we are. Isaiah 65:1 is especially telling. "I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask, to be found by those who did not seek me. I said, "Here I am, here I am," to a nation that did not call on my name. As

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Meister Eckhart said, "God is at home, it's we who have gone out for a walk." But if we return home — that is, return to ourselves — then we return to the presence of God. There is a deep connection between learning to become totally present and learning to recognize the presence of God. When one becomes completely "here," it is not far to recognize that God is "here" also.

If "Here I am" is about finding one's self, it is also about finding one's task. When we say "Here I am" to God, it is not only self identity, it is a commitment to action. This is how the phrase feels when God called Moses. "When the Lord saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he [Moses] said "Here I am" (Exodus 3:4)

The same was true of Abraham. "After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, 'Abraham!' And he said 'Here I am'" (Genesis 22:1). And, again, "The angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, 'Here I am'" (Genesis 22:11). Jacob experienced the same: "Then the angel of God said to me in the dream, 'Jacob,' and I said, 'Here I am!'" (Genesis 31:11).

When "Here I am" is used this way as a response to the call of God, it is a declaration of willingness: "I am ready to be of service." In the temple vision (Isaiah 6:8), God said, "Whom will I send? Who will go for me?" Isaiah's response was, "Here am I! Send me!"

The most common prayers are "Help!" and "Thanks." Think about letting yet your next prayer be "Here am I" with all that phrase means.

Bob Bowman is an ordained minister and professor emeritus of religion at Manchester University, North Manchester, IN. Copyright Messenger magazine, all rights reserved, used by permission, link to <http://www.brethren.org/messenger/articles/2016/here-i-am.html>

How Therapists Dance

Dane Cervine

Washington, D.S., after a conference:
we head into the urban night
led by jive-talking white ghetto boy
raised in black foster homes,
bent on showing us the town. We
wander from nightclub to bar,
a mix of earnest saviors, black, Asian,
Latino, white, eager to party, to strip
the mind of diagnostic prognostication,
to revel. Eventually, one by one, our group
slips back to the hotel till I am alone
with a young black woman who says,
I want to show you one more place.
She leads me down an alley to a club.
I am the only white face in the joint,
and while she is gone to the bathroom,
the owner saunters over, asks how I'm doing,
says, *If you have any trouble, come find me.*
And I am suddenly more alone
than ever, till my young friend returns,
looks at my anxious face, smiles, and says,
This is what I wanted to show you.

*God plucks the world out of our hearts,
loosening the chains of attachment.
And God hurls the world into our hearts,
where we and God together
carry it in infinitely tender love.*

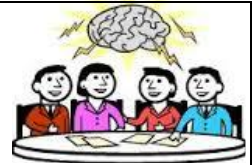
— Thomas Kelly



Timothy P. Schmalz 2012

Homeless Jesus

MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES 14 April 2019



The meeting was opened by Presiding Clerk, Jonas Cox. Nine people were in attendance. The March minutes were read and approved as read.

Treasurer's report: Was given by Wade Schwartz. Our tithes and offerings were up for the month of March. An annual donation from the Missions Committee to American Friends Service Committee was approved. The addition of the Fig Tree was approved last month.

Stewards & Trustees: The hallway and foyer will be painted before the new flooring is installed. Caritas is getting a new desk and table that will not damage the new flooring. The upstairs bathroom has been painted and the flooring will be replaced. Three women, Lorna Lorna Hernandez Jarvis, Pam Emery, and LaVerne Biel began to remove the wallpaper from the downstairs women's bathroom. Mold was found on the inside walls. Pam Emery will get an estimate about the mold abatement. LaVerne Biel will get an estimate about replacing the flooring. A big thanks to the Ad Hoc Meeting Beautification Committee.

Elders: Previous messages have been reviewed with good comments from the congregation about some of them. The AVP workshop has been approved and rescheduled for May 3-5th. An audit will be done on the church financial books as Wade Schwartz leaves the job of treasurer.

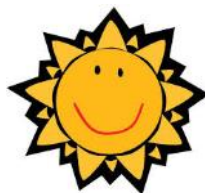
New Business: Jonas Cox has contacted our prior interim pastor, Deborah Seuss, about coming to Spokane for a month or two. He will ask her if she wants to work full-time or what she would like her schedule to look like. We approved a full-time salary of \$5,000 a month.

We want to thank Pam Emery for the fresh flowers in the Sanctuary.

With no other old or new business and all hearts and minds clear, Bob Wiese dismissed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Nixon, Recording Clerk

When locking the front door of the meeting house, please check that it is truly locked by pulling on the handle. Sometimes it does not completely close.



Your relationship with God is the same as your relationship with the sun. If you hide from the sun for years and then chose to come out of your darkness, the sun would still be shining as if you had never left. You don't need to apologize. You just pick your head up and look at the sun. It's the same way when you decide to turn toward God — you just do it. If, instead, you allow guilt and shame to interfere, that's just your ego blocking the Divine Force. You can't make it stop loving you. It's just like the sun. You can't make the sun stop shining on you; you can only choose not to look at it. The moment you look, you'll see it's there.
- Michael Singer, The Untethered Soul

Update from Amber

Our news is good news! Howie is being released from the rehab facility tomorrow. The orthopedic surgeon cleared him to travel home. Chris, his brother, is flying down to help drive the RV home.

We plan to leave here Friday morning Howie has made great progress in the last week in walking and climbing stairs. Last Sunday I brought the RV to the care facility and he had a chance to practice getting in and out and moving around. He had no problems with any of it.

We also saw the oncology specialist last Tuesday, and if Howie's most recent blood tests continue to show no problems, the specialist recommended a chemo holiday until the monthly tests show the need for intervention. This would be great, since his knee will heal faster and we will have a more flexible schedule for a while. See you soon . . .



News from Caritas

Here are the Service Reports from February and March:

| | February | March |
|--|----------|----------|
| Individuals served | 809 | 800 |
| Households served | 340 | 329 |
| Children (0-18) | 254 | 241 |
| Adults (18-54) | 358 | 346 |
| Seniors (55 & over) | 197 | 213 |
| Lbs of food distributed from Table of Plenty & Food Pantry | 15,150 | 16,246 |
| Emergency utility assistance | \$ 76.69 | \$706.19 |
| Hygiene & Cleaning Supplies | \$436.00 | \$547.50 |
| Fuel Vouchers | \$ 50.00 | \$ 60.00 |
| Bus Passes | 2 | 1 |
| Number of Volunteers | 52 | |
| Volunteer Hours | 620 | |



The **Easter Egg Hunt** was a huge success! Thirty-five children (and their families) participated. It included face painting, prizes, food and games., and each child went home with an Easter Basket full of good things. The three remaining baskets were given to children that were not able to participate.

The date for the **annual Yard Sale** has been set for Saturday, June 15. 10' x 10' spots will be available for \$15 per spot.

Two Big Events Coming in May

Health & Resource Fair, Monday, May 13th 10am-2pm

Experts from over 20 agencies will be onsite opening the door to hundreds of answers. We invite everyone interested in learning about the network of help available in Spokane (whether you are a client, advocate, supporter, or simply curious!) to come take part!

Boiler Room Fundraiser, Thursday, May 23rd 5pm-9pm

Starting in May, we will be posting teasers of our raffle baskets on Facebook and our volunteers will be selling raffle tickets at their churches. Tickets may also be purchased in advance directly from the Caritas main office or at the event. Drawings will be held at 9pm the night of the event – need not be present to win.



Sunday Leadership Schedule

Apr 28 Jon Maroni

May 12 Gary Jewell

Please tell an Elder when you would like to take a turn.



Wish you had a small garden?

A raised bed in the Peace Garden (out back) is available for anyone who would like to grow some vegetables or flowers this year.

We are offering it to Friends before we offer it to our neighbors. See an Elder if interested.



New Quaker in Town

Thanks to all who responded to suggest rental properties for Francesca Mulazzi. She has now located housing that will serve her well when she arrives in June.

It's Here at Last

Alternatives to Violence



The 18-hour intensive Workshop is being presented on the weekend of May 3-5 at Spokane Friends Church. Up to twenty participants and facilitators will take part.

AVP workshops seek to assist people in personal growth and change. Participants and facilitators join together to explore their own corners of violence and seek more satisfying ways to respond.

To learn more about AVP, please visit their website at www.avpusa.org.

It's not too late for you to sign up!!
Call (327-7852) or email
(spokanefriends@gmail.com) the Church Office