

SPOKANENWORD

August
2020



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**Sunday Schedule
during
Covid-19 Restrictions**

**Morning Worship
10:00 am**

**At Meeting House
And Via Zoom**

See Website For Link

A Benediction for My Brother

by Jim Weaver

Let us live in active anticipation of that day when all of God's family will gather for a great picnic by the river of justice that flows from the throne of God.

All of God's children will be there regardless of race, creed, or orientation.

And the only greeting will be "Hello, Brother" and "Good to see you, Sister," and all of our loved ones, who have gone before us, will be saving our places.

On that day the lame will shoot slam dunks and the tone deaf will sing arias, the blind will see bluebirds and the deaf will hear them sing because all pain and scarcity and limitations will have disappeared.

Bayonets will be used to toast marshmallows to make s-mores because war will be no more, scarcity will be replaced with abundance, regrets of the past and fear of the future will be replaced by an eternal glorious now! And there will be hugs of reunion, tears of joy, dancing, and singing — *oh, the singing!*

All instruments and machines join to create a wondrous symphony of salvation.

The total cosmos, with one voice, will sing "Alleluia!"

And God will be laughing and shouting "Yes! Yes!! Yes!!!"
This is going exactly according to my plan."

Our challenge is to work toward making this dream become a reality.

God's promise that it will take place is our benediction.

In the name of God who creates and sustains,
Jesus who teaches, heals, and saves,
And the ever-active, ever-present Holy Spirit.

Right on! Amen! Hallelujah!

Jim Weaver was a retired family and marriage counselor and member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Saint Charles, Ill. He died Oct. 25, 2019.

Queries for Summer of 2020 [Taken from the Sierra-Cascade Minute for Black Lives, June 13, 2020.]

- “Why have I chosen not to see the racism that is happening in front of me every single day? Why have I chosen to remain destructively silent and immobile as I watch Black people lynched in our streets? How did I become so well-adjusted to injustice?”
- “How will I work on my anti-Blackness? How is my heart closed to the public and private suffering of Black, Indigenous and people of color?...[What is] preventing me from living into a life of anti-racism and love for the humanity of Black, Indigenous, and people of color[?]”
- What are we doing to educate ourselves about historic and current manifestations of systemic oppression in our nation and in our local communities?
- How has the Quaker testimony of peace masked passivity? How can we be accountable, show up and support Black, Indigenous, and people of color in ways they have asked us to?
- “You may say John Woolman sayeth this, and nineteenth century Quakers sayeth that, but what canst thou say? — What will we say? What will our actions say? What will our budgets say?”

Oscar in Belize

One of our speakers this month was Oscar Mmbali, a Kenyan pastor working with underprivileged youth in Belize. He described his ministry to us since he arrived two years ago – renovating an old warehouse to become his center of operations, learning to know his neighbors and beginning projects with them, re-opening a school there and starting a church.



The first rays of light found their way into the new classrooms in the Belize City Friends Center. In the image, workers are cutting windows into the walls.



Sunday morning worship service

Denfield's story: Denfield is 13 years old. He was the latest student to join Friends School this semester. The previous Sunday, he came to church for the first time. After the service, Ms. Candi asked that I take him to the bus stop. As we drove to the city, I asked her where Denfield was going. She told me that he lived in Ladyville, about 8 miles from Belize City. So, I decided just to drive him home. On the way, I learned that he lost his mother about a year or so ago. He had dropped out of school until a friend of his late mother came to him and encouraged him to return. He said he came back to school not just to succeed but also in honor of his mother. Denfield spends his free time working for people to earn a living and take care of himself. He lives with his grandmother, aunt, and grandfather who has been chronically ill and hospitalized for months. Despite all this, Denfield dares to travel 8 miles to attend church.

Those who heard him speak may be interested in a bit more information. These photos and the story below were found on the Friends United Meeting Website, where interested persons can connect with Oscar's program via his newsletter.



On Thursday June 17, Belize Friends School was able to host a small, in-person graduation ceremony while still complying with the Covid-19 public health directives for Belize.



Community members at the first Safety Forum at Belize City Friends Center.

One Neighbor at a Time
by Kelsie Rowland

Gratitude! As we head into a strange and uncertain new decade, I can't help but reflect on the many amazing ways God has provided for the Caritas ministry since its inception in 1992. Caritas functions on a razor-thin budget, consistently operating on less than 10% indirect costs. The overwhelming majority of donations go directly to client services like food, hygiene items, and utilities & transportation assistance. While Caritas does seek out grant opportunities, we rely heavily on our supporting churches and private donors. A few are able to give financially, others provide items to fill our shelves, and some give out of what they have, which is the power of prayer. These gifts and intercessions allow Caritas to face the daily needs and challenges that come through our doors. One neighbor at a time, one conversation, one precious moment after another. We are rebuilding lives and caring for the most vulnerable of our society. And, the more blessings God pours out, the more people God brings for us to serve. In the last five years, our service numbers more than doubled! And with COVID-19, we are seeing spikes of need across the county. We trust that with each new face, new story of heartbreak, God will continue to provide volunteers, funds, and most importantly, God's Grace to this mission and our clients. Thank you to all of our supporters.

Sue's Corner



THE DUTCH HOUSE

by Ann Patchett



This is a story of a brother and sister (Maeve and Danny) and their relationship to the Dutch House over the course of fifty years. The house becomes a character insofar as Maeve obsessed about it.

The house was built by the VanHoebeek family, whom we never meet. Maeve and Danny's father buy this fully furnished mansion as a gift to his wife. She hates it, won't live there and deserts the family to work with the poor in India.

The father remarried the wicked stepmother with two young daughters. She loves the house and the perceived status it gives her. Maeve especially resents the new wife. Any sense of love and stability that Maeve and Danny get are from the maid and cook.

The father suddenly dies and Maeve and Danny are forced to leave home. After discovering an educational trust fund established for Danny and the two younger girls, Maeve pushed Danny through boarding school, college and medical school, hoping to drain the trust.

An interesting portrait of love, hate, ambivalence and eventually forgiveness.

Global Online Worship: Celebrating 100 yrs of Friends' Testimony Against War

On August 15, at noon, the **Friends World Committee for Consultation** (FWCC) is hosting a centennial celebration of the Friends' testimony against war. The world office is inviting Friends to 1 ½ hours of worship to mark 100 years on from the first world gathering.



Come Celebrate 100 years of Friends' Testimony Against War FROM 1920 TO 2020

GLOBAL ONLINE WORSHIP
AUGUST 15, 12:00 NOON TO 1:30 (UK TIME)

100 years ago, the first All Friends' Gathering was held to collectively and publically oppose all war. Now, 100 years on, we will gather again as a global community to mark the occasion and to express our continued spiritual imperative to work for a peaceful world.

What compelled Friends in a post-war environment and what inspires us now to continue in our work for a peaceful world? How has God called us for these 100 years? To what can we testify today?

As a global family, we welcome Friends across the branches, across sections, and across time zones. Please join us!

Corresponding Timezones for Friends around the world:

Spokane, WA, USA
Sat, 15 Aug 2020,
05:00 am PDT (8 hours earlier
than Greenwich Mean Time)



Caritas Stats for June 2020



Individuals served	554
Households served	235
Lbs. of food through the Table of Plenty & Food Pantry	264,350
Hygiene & Cleaning Supplies	\$ 149
Financial Aid Pledged	\$ 600
Number of Volunteers	39
Volunteer Hours	1047

COVID-19 Relief Aid

June saw a dip in service numbers. We are encouraged by the amazing amount of "pop-up" services in Spokane that show just how deeply our community cares about one another and will band together in a true state of emergency. Massive food give-aways by 2nd Harvest, State Unemployment paying out extra in COVID relief, Basic Food increasing benefits, Avista and COS suspending shut-offs, and STA waiving fares . . . We can see from our low service numbers this month that our clients are not double-dipping or trying to take advantage of their local food bank unless they truly need it. We also know that these are temporary measures. We expect to see another wave of client requests as these extra blessings revert back to their normal scope of service while COVID restrictions are still in place. The next few months will be a roller coaster no one can predict. We humbly ask for your prayers as we gird ourselves to face future needs at the door.

*"Whatever your hand finds to do,
do it with all your might. . ."*
Ecclesiastes 9:10 (NIV)

Kelsie Rowland
Operations Manager
Caritas Outreach Ministries

Two options to worship with Spokane Friends this month

The Meeting House is now open for those who wish to **meet in person** for worship. We follow the Governor's guidelines which are listed below: Attendees must wear face masks and maintain social distancing. In addition, they must use hand sanitizer when entering and leaving and cannot consume in the Building. Singing is permitted with face masks.

Those **attending via Zoom** will use the link on the Welcome page of the Meeting's website at spokanefriends.com just as they have during the last two months.

Quaker News

- ⇒ More information coming soon for the next Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends **Quarterly Gathering**, which will be October 24 by Zoom Videoconference.
- ⇒ **Working Toward Right Relationship with Indigenous Peoples** Webinar Series: In response to the pandemic, Pendle Hill has converted its conference "Working Toward Right Relationship with Indigenous Peoples" into a series of six online webinars via Zoom on the second and fourth Mondays of August, September, and October. The series begins on Monday, August 10, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Please contact the Office for more details if you would like to be part of this Webinar.
- ⇒ Klamath Falls Friends Church is pleased to announce that Anthony Kirk, M. Div., will be joining us as our full-time pastor starting August 1. Anthony will be journeying to Klamath Falls, Oregon from Richmond, Indiana, where he recently graduated from Earlham School of Religion. Welcome, Anthony!
- ⇒ Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends approved a challenging and prophetic Minute for Black Lives on June 13, 2020, during their Annual Session. It can be found on their website in the Newsletter Archives, Bulletin 06.19.2020. Also see p. 2 herein.

MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES



There was no July Monthly Meeting for Business.
Next scheduled one: August 16.

Sunday Worship Schedule

Aug 2	Oscar Mmbale, a Kenyan pastor working overseas in Belize
Aug 9	Walter Simon
Aug 16	Andre Dove
Aug 23	Jon Maroni
Aug 31	LaVerne Biel