

SPOKANEWORD

October
2021



Spokane Friends

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Spokane, WA 99205

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Sunday Schedule

Doors Open at 9:00 a.m.
Worship begins in stillness
when first person sits down

Programmed worship 10:00 am
In-Person (masked)
and Via Zoom
See Website For Link

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

Creating Resilience for Climate Justice

from a keynote talk by Cherice Bock to North Pacific Yearly Meeting, July 15, 2021

[**Editor's Note:** We at Spokane Friends know Cherise from her work on Peace issues for Northwest Yearly Meeting, including January Peace Month materials. She is now a recorded minister with Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends and works as a Creation Justice Advocate with Oregon Interfaith Power and Light.]

What is an appropriate response to an emergency? In many emergencies, we have to react immediately in order to survive. Our bodies fill with adrenaline and respond in a split second. Our fear keeps us safe.

But what do we do when the emergency is not instantaneous, but is instead a threat that continues for months, years, lifetimes? What is an appropriate response?

As mere individuals, there's not much we can do but hoard and fight, or run away to someplace safer. We saw how people in the United States dealt with low-level emergencies over the last year, right? Remember how there were shortages of toilet paper, pasta, and dry beans? People were concerned they wouldn't have enough and that they were going to have to survive on their own, so they started hoarding. And there's some rationality to that. It's an appropriate response to the situation we're in, with a cascading set of emergencies due to mismanagement of our planet, and where each person is imagined as an individual rather than in a web of interconnected relationships. As mere individuals, there's not much we can do but hoard and fight, or run away to someplace safer. But it's those reactions that have gotten us into this mess.

It doesn't have to be this way. In this last year, in addition to the challenging and scary events we've experienced, I've also witnessed and participated in the most widespread movement for racial justice I've seen in my lifetime. I've seen mutual aid groups and faith communities helping others during the wildfires and an ice storm, and I've been encouraged by the massive mobilizations in activism and advocacy around racial justice and climate justice. A story of courage, care, and resilience is emerging, and we can be a part of it.

Notice what happens in your body and in your spirit when you imagine yourself as part of a community where you help meet others' needs and your needs are met by others, where you share what you have today, and trust others will share when you have a need tomorrow. What happens in your body? I find myself breathing more deeply and settling into a smile. I feel an incredible expanse opening up in my heart, so vast that there is room for all.

This is what some people call the Kingdom or Kin-dom of God, what some call the Beloved Community. This is what we will need to weather the coming decades, as we face into the increasing impacts of climate change, and as we experience a reckoning after centuries of extractive and exploitative actions by our ancestors (particularly our European-American ones). We have set in motion planetary systems, some of which we can no longer reverse, but we do have a choice of how to relate to one another in the midst of the coming challenges.

We are at a decision point as a planetary human society, and I believe the Religious Society of Friends also needs to make that same choice. Many of us are probably feeling the siren song of wanting to return to "normal," which was a pretty comfortable time with a booming economy for those who benefitted from the system. But we know that January 2020's "normal" is not sustainable, nor was it equitable. The murder of George Floyd made that very clear, if it wasn't already.

So, we're at this decision point now: Will we continue living into a culture that pretends we
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and protects property over human life, that treats life as a commodity to be bought and sold, that treats care as a naïve and laughable trait only good for exploitation? Or will we have the courage to live into a different way? Will we have the guts and the faithfulness to live out radical care? Will we do our part to build communities of care that can withstand the coming storms together?

Friends have dreamed and attempted to enact the type of Beloved Community I'm talking about since our denomination first began, and they based it on what they saw in the Bible. They noticed Jesus' message of true peace that can only happen through justice and love. They noticed the early Jesus Movement selling all they had and taking care of the needs of all comers. They noticed in the biblical witness a community that stood in radical resistance to the Roman Empire's claims of property and power. Ephesians 4:1-4 says,

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling. . .

The author of this letter was a prisoner because he had been resisting the Empire's claims and inviting all people into a community of belonging, where everyone is part of one body. Early Friends continued this tradition, standing up courageously in their day for equality and radical faithfulness. They, too, wrote letters from prison, encouraging the building up of that same communal body.

Of course, early Friends did not get it all right, and although we have much we can celebrate about our denominational story, we yet have much to learn and much repair work to do as a Society of Friends. Friends did not create the Doctrine of Discovery or slavery, but White Friends did benefit from those systems. Suffice it to say here that European-American Friends still have much learning and repair work to do in relation to living in right relationship with people and land.

But I bring us back to the questions I asked at the beginning of this message: What is an appropriate response to our current emergency? Showing up is the first step. In the face of the challenge of intersecting climate injustices, it's easy to let fear paralyze us. But one of the main things that can help us feel and have actual collective power is to move out of our paralysis and take a step in the direction of the world we want to see.

Second, particularly for those of us who are White, it's important to show up in solidarity and ready to learn, ready to partner and collaborate. It's European-Americans who largely got us into the mess we're currently in, with their focus on extraction, exploitation, and domination. It is not likely to be European-Americans who can see what needs to be done to get us out.

I attended the Treaty People Gathering in Minnesota last month to stop the construction of the Line 3 tar sands pipeline. The Anishinaabe People invited everyone to come join them in stopping the pipeline, and they called it the "Treaty People Gathering," because if we live here in what is now called the United States, we are all treaty people. Rather than coming in believing, "I can fix this thing. I can save people," I had to enter with an attitude of repentance, with the awareness of the need for repair.

At the Treaty People Gathering, I witnessed a beautiful expression of the Beloved Community as over 2,000 people gathered and sang together. We blocked progress of what Indigenous people call the "black snake," the oil pipelines. At the location where I was, we occupied a boardwalk, so heavy equipment could not cross it to drill and place the pipeline underneath the headwaters of the Mississippi River.

Then, last but not least, we realize we cannot do this work alone. We show up; we're ready to learn and collaborate; we're ready for radical action; and we shift our worldview and actions as we become more aware of the harm we've caused. Then, last but not least, we realize we cannot do this work alone. We have to have others to go on this journey with; we can't form a community by ourselves. And communities are hard work. People have personality conflicts; they do hurtful or annoying things; people break trust in myriad ways.

So, I think this is really where the Quaker community comes in, with our already built-in networks of care and relationships among members. Being able to act with a strong community takes away some of our fear and anxiety. We no longer have to fear that we won't make it on our own. We no longer have to be anxious that we have no safety net, because we have one. This work of mutual care is challenging and countercultural, but it is the work in which we must engage if we want to survive and thrive in the coming decades, and if Friends want to have a meaningful part in the work of our time

[A complete manuscript of Cherice Bock's keynote talk is published at: <https://westernfriend.org/media/creating-resilience-climate-justice-unabridged>]

MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES
19 September 2021



The meeting was opened by Presiding Clerk, Jonas Cox. 13 people were in attendance.

The minutes of the August meeting were read and approved with one correction. The 3 new items for the 501c3 application were approved.

Treasurer's Report: We are 6K in the hole at this time for the year. We need to have some type of written copy monthly in hand to review and to file monthly with the Minutes. Laverne Biel agreed to help the treasurer with Quick Books.

Elder's Report: People have requested that we start up a Silent Meeting again. It will start on October 3rd and go from 9 to 9:45 am. We will also start having a Greeter again to welcome and hand out materials. The speaker's fee will be raised to \$150 for those who are not regular attenders or members of our church. The pew arrangement has been changed due to insurance requirements for handicap access. The money raised by the Gideon Meals will not only go to See the Need but other organizations that we have funded in the past.

Stewards and Trustees Report: Nothing specific for this meeting

PILLARS:

Sharing the Light: We have started the book, Living the Quaker Way. Those who are distributing the money for See the Need will give a report every 2 months.

Serving the Community: We will be working with World Relief in the future concerning the many refugee families from Afghanistan that will be relocating to the Spokane area.

Congregational Care: No report today

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

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Nixon, Recording Clerk



The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah
Reviewed by Sue Keehnen

This book reminds me of The Grapes of Wrath; however this story is more focused on women, one in particular, and relationships.

1921: Elsa is one of three daughters of a wealthy family. Unfortunately she is 6 feet tall and does not have any of the other standards of beauty of the time. Her parents have written her off as totally hopeless.

She immerses herself in books and romanticism, then meets Raif who is 5 or 6 years younger. Pregnancy, unwanted, leads to a marriage where both feel trapped. However Elsa does find love and acceptance from her in-laws.

The story continues through Raif's abandonment, the Depression, and the Dust Bowl. Elsa and her two children join the great migration to the "land of milk and honey" and endure major hardships in California. The descriptions of living conditions in the migrant camps leave Grapes of Wrath in the dust.

"A testament to hope, resilience, and the strength of the human spirit to survive adversity."

**October
Sunday Morning
Schedule**



October 3 Sarah Scott
October 10 David Morrow
October 17 John Kinney
October 24 Johan Maurer

The Gideons Are **NOT** Coming!
(They have decided to meet
elsewhere)

Financial Report	
August Giving:	\$2,886
August Expenses:	\$3,479
Difference:	- \$592

WORLD RELIEF ASKS FOR HELP

Temporary housing

New arrivals often need temporary places to stay while we find a more permanent housing solution. If you or someone you know has a space for temporary, separate housing for refugees, please email wrspokane.org or call us at 509-484-9829.

Donations needed

Mattresses	Box springs
Bed Frames	Toys
Coffee tables	Chair Sets
Cutlery	Pots and pans
Plates	Household cleaning items

Items should be in good condition, without stains. Items can be delivered to our office address. For pickup, please send us a message. Thank you for your support.



Spokane Friends will again host an Alternatives to Violence Basic Workshop

This Workshop is an intensive 24-hour interactive program which will meet on the weekend of October 15-17 at the following times: Friday, 6 - 9 pm; Saturday 8 am—6 pm; and Sunday 12—6 pm. The cost of the Workshop is \$30 and will include lunch on Saturday.

The Basic AVP Workshop teaches interpersonal conflict resolution skills through a series of in-depth exercises and discussion with interludes of play. The intent of the workshop is to increase participants' ability to interact with others with skill and composure in situations which may be fraught with disagreement, anxiety or even violence. Through different processes, we became more familiar with each other and ourselves, so that long-held issues which had kept us from being fully present began to be exposed.

AVP teaches that transforming power happens through five principles (see diagram) These principles can best be achieved by:

- ◆ Seeking to resolve conflict by reaching for common ground.
- ◆ Reaching for that something good in others.
- ◆ Listening before making judgments.
- ◆ Being ready to revise your position, if it is wrong.
- ◆ Risking being creative rather than violent.
- ◆ Using surprise and humor.
- ◆ Learning to trust your inner sense of when to act.

Spokane Friends who have attended this workshop felt they had profited by it and that the time was well spent and worthwhile.



Quaker News

- ⇒ **Metolius Friends Community Church** (in Northwest Yearly Meeting) officially launched the Bend Friends Church on August 29! We are so excited to celebrate with them the birth of this new church, as they aim to reach people for Jesus in Bend!
- ⇒ **Fall Quarterly Gathering** will be on Saturday, October 23. It will be fully virtual (on Zoom) rather than in-person as we had hoped. More information coming soon with details on schedule and registration at <https://www.scymfriends.org/newsletter>.
- ⇒ The **Friends Committee on National Legislation** seeks a Spirit-led, seasoned, and strategic Quaker leader who brings vision, inspiration, and executive experience to lead the biggest faith-based lobbying organization in Washington, DC. More information can be found at gssearch@fcnl.org. FCNL is also seeking a **Meeting Planner** who is responsible for the planning, production, and execution of FCNL public conferences and events. Please see the full job description and application at the following link: <https://apply.workable.com/friendscommittee/j/4EAA9CF576/>.
- ⇒ **Other Job Openings:** Paonia Friends Church (CO) in Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting is seeking a student ministry pastor. Chandler Friends Church (OK) in Mid-America Yearly Meeting is seeking a lead pastor. Colorado Springs First Friends Church (CO) in Rocky Mountain Yearly Meeting is seeking a part-time Pastor. Get more information for all these positions at <https://nwfriends.org/job-openings/>.
- ⇒ **Quaker Parent Mutual Support Groups** will meet for six months each, starting roughly in mid-November, for one hour every two weeks. The purpose is to provide Friends who are currently parenting children with a space for mutual conversation and support. This year, the project is co-sponsored by New York Yearly Meeting, Friends United Meeting, and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, but ALL Quaker parents are welcome to participate, regardless of location or affiliation. More information in the Sept. 24 Newsletter at <https://www.scymfriends.org/newsletter>



CLARAROSE CHILDS

1932 - 2021

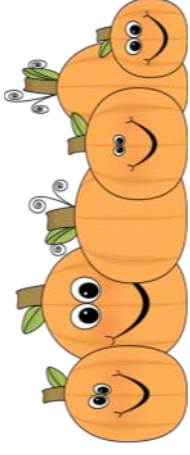
We remember **Clararose Childs** who was a member of Spokane Friends Church many years ago. Clararose had a long history in the Quaker faith, but was recently attending Life Center. We recently learned that she passed away on July 25, 2021, of esophageal cancer. She began an early-childhood center named Wee World and ran it for 20 years. She was also Lilac Poet for the City of Spokane in 2011. She is survived by her three sons and their families. The family urges anyone diagnosed with Barrett's Esophagus to seek and accept medical help for this precursor to esophageal cancer.



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Birthdays and Anniversaries	October 3rd is WORLD QUAKER DAY				1	2
3 10:00 Worship in Meeting House AND via Zoom — see web-site for link Vigil for Healing the Earth 3—4:30 pm	4	5 7th Story 4:30-6 pm Gideon Meal—6 pm-	6 CC Wranglers 2-4p	7 TOPS 5 pm Book Discussion on Zoom 7:00 pm	8	9 Workshop Prep AVP Meeting 9—12 am
10 10:00 Worship in Meeting House AND via Zoom — see web-site for link	11	12 7th Story 4:30-6 pm <i>Jeremy Street</i>	13 CC Wranglers 2-4p Elders Meeting 6pm <i>Jeremy Cushman</i>	14 TOPS 5 pm Book Discussion on Zoom 7:00 pm	15	16
17 10:00 Worship in Meeting House AND via Zoom —see web-site for link 11:15 Monthly Business Meeting	18 Alternatives to Violence Workshop 1—6:30 pm <i>Bob Wiese</i>	19 7th Story 4:30-6 pm	20 CC Wranglers 1-3 p	21 TOPS 5 pm Book Discussion on Zoom 7:00 pm	22	23 FAN Cluster Meeting Westminster UCC
24 10:00 Worship in Meeting House AND via Zoom see Web-Site for Link	25	26 7th Story 4:30-6 pm <i>Mark Hurd</i>	27 CC Wranglers 1-3p	28 TOPS 5 pm Book Discussion on Zoom 7:00 pm	29	30 Alternatives to Violence Meeting 9 —11 am
31						



Spokane Friends Meeting
1612 W. Dalke Avenue
Spokane, WA 99205

Holding in the Light . During Meeting for Worship, many share joys about changes in their lives, new opportunities, new ministries, unexpected blessings; others share concerns. You may wish to carry these joys and concerns in your heart and remember them in your prayers.

- Reinstating unprogrammed worship service at 9:00 am on Sundays
- Jack and family who have safely arrived in New York.
- That the Pacific Northwest is such a beautiful corner of the world.
- Comfort and healing for grandchildren that are victims of COVID.
- Pam and Bill's new dog Walter.
- Jude who lost his leg to cancer.
- Judi in Mexico as she follows a leading of the Spirit.
- Possible postponement because of COVID of a critical surgery for Mila Rose.
- World Relief as it searches for temporary housing and furnishing for incoming immigrants.
- Hope that our country may begin to address the systematic racism of our economic and criminal justice systems. .



"Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that.

Hate cannot overcome hate; only love can do that."

— Martin Luther King, Jr.