

SPOKANEWORD

October
2023



Spokane Friends

1612 W Dalke

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Following the teachings of the Living Christ, we are an open, loving, and affirming community. We believe that God's Light is inherent within all people. There are no exceptions.

Sunday Schedule

Traditional worship in stillness
begins at 8:45 a.m. or
when first person sits down
Programmed worship 10:00 a.m.
In-Person and Via Zoom
See Website For Link

First Sunday of the Month
Potluck Meal at rise of worship

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

INSIDE OUTSIDE UPSIDE DOWN*

by LaVerne Biel

For some of you that don't know me, I thought I'd give you a little background on who I am. I was the middle child of five. I was raised in California, and I also spent my summers on a farm in Amity Oregon with my grandparents.

I asked my husband Kent to define me personally in a few sentences. (Thankfully he was kind.) He said first that I like to think outside the box and approach things/problems creatively. The second trait was that I was driven and determined (like the character in this story). I like to see things through. I agree.

I believe that I landed where the Holy Spirit was directing me to the story of Zacchaeus to show the importance of mentorship. I looked up mentorship online and there were anywhere from 5 to 15 traits a mentor has. In Zacchaeus' story I found two, to be present and listen. Sometimes to do that you have to look at things inside, outside, and upside down.

My thoughts about mentoring sprang from something that happened this summer. Kent and his siblings were planning for a family reunion, texting back and forth about things to do and interesting places to visit. One sister suggested visiting the Spam Museum in Austin, Minnesota. Kent's brother Mark replied that he was not interested in going and would do something else. No one responded directly, and they continued making plans and arrangements. Then a text showed up from Mark which said, "Pam and I were talking, and apparently I was mistaken. I would love to go the Spam Museum." Sometimes a mentor nudges you in the right direction.

I began by looking at great mentors in the Bible. I looked at Jethro and Moses, Samuel and David, and Elizabeth and Mary and came up dry. I then turned my attention to Luke, my favorite gospel writer. Since Luke was a physician, he loves to encompass body, mind, and spirit in his writings. In Luke we find that Jesus addressed physical issues by cleansing the 10 lepers and giving sight to a blind beggar. He emphasized dedication and persistence through the parable of the Persistent Widow. With the surgeon's precision Jesus dissected the hearts of the Pharisees. And then he enters Jericho and befriends Zacchaeus.

Interestingly, Luke's gospel is the only one who recounts Jesus' encounter with Zacchaeus. This story reveals Luke's interest in body, mind, and spirit. Jesus was showing Luke (and me) how to mentor others. Let's read Luke 19:1-10:

Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ² A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³ He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short, he could not see over the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

⁵ When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, "[Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.](#)" ⁶ So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

*Title taken from a Berenstain Bear children's story.

(continued on next page)

(continued from page 2) ⁷ All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.”

⁸ But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now, I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”

⁹ Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

Jericho was a pivotal point throughout Biblical history. Moses died near Jericho. It was home to Rahab. We know about the falling walls of Jericho, and that Joshua cursed the rebuilding of its walls. The prophet Elisha visited Jericho. A Babylonian king was captured in Jericho. It is safe to say that Jericho had an extensive history with a colorful past. I surmise that Zacchaeus had a colorful past as well.

My title gave me license to explore this topic inside, outside and upside down. Be warned that I’ve taken some creative liberties with this passage. Let’s look inside Zacchaeus first.

Inside Zacchaeus’ character: As you have heard, I’m Jewish and work as a Roman tax collector. Because of this, I am despised by the entire Jewish community of Jericho. I have no friends. For some reason I didn’t grow as tall as my peers and classmates. No matter what I did, I received scorn and ridicule, and then it turned physical. I would constantly find myself bruised and battered. These beatings crushed my confidence and spirit. I grew resentful and angry.

When my parents passed away, I took a job that no one else wanted -- I knew that a good Jew would not work for Rome. I was not loyal to my people because they could care less about me. So, I became a tax collector. I hoped I would gain stature through my money and influence. The people of Jericho couldn’t hurt me anymore than they already had.

Here I am years later, feeling lonely and deserted. My money has no value. It’s cold and unfeeling. I’ve learned that influence is fleeting. Then I heard about Jesus. He sounds amazing. I’ve heard that he is a great teacher and counselor. There is talk that he can see people’s physical and emotional limitations. He’s a miracle worker who heals them. I need healing. I need to repair my relationship with my people. I believe that Jesus can help me show others that I really need them. I need companions. I need a sense of family.

When I heard that Jesus was coming to Jericho, I knew I had to see and talk with him at all costs. I ran out to meet him without my security guards. People were lined up in front of me. I couldn’t see anything. I weaved between people, but they closed ranks and blocked me at every turn. They knew it was me. They looked down on me and pulled their children to their shoulders, closing ranks to make it more difficult for me to see Jesus.

How can I gain height? How can I see Jesus? A sycamore tree. I can climb up to see him that way! It sounds like a great plan. I just need to find one where I can reach the first limb. I ran until I found one! People are watching me, and no one offered to help! I must do this myself! The first limb was almost beyond my reach. I jumped up and managed to grab it. I used my sandaled feet to climb up, straddle, and finally sit on the branch.

Next let’s examine who was on the Outside: the people of Jericho: Oh no, can you believe it? Look who decided to show up to see Jesus! Jesus is all about healing and lifting people up. What could Zacchaeus possibly want? Is he planning on selling tickets to make more money? He’s rich. He doesn’t need Jesus’ help. People are shouting, “Jesus can’t make you taller, Zacchaeus”. There was laughter throughout the crowd. “Go away, Jesus is Jewish not Roman. He’ll want nothing to do with you”. “Block Zacchaeus’ path!” There was a lot of jostling and sniggering. Wait, what is he doing? Look, he’s attempting to climb a tree. This is hilarious. This is not his best look, no matter who he is. He’s hanging on to that tree for his life. I’m not sure it will hold him. More laughter from the crowd. Not good. I must look away. After all, I came to see Jesus, not Zacchaeus!

Where is he? Oh, I see him. He looks like one of us. That’s a surprise. Jesus is coming and I have a front row view of him. I wonder who he’ll heal today? Wait. Did I hear that right? There must be something wrong with my ears! What did he say to Zacchaeus? That can’t be right. Why would Jesus go to a self-glorified, money-hungry traitor’s home? What about us? Why is he wasting his time with Zacchaeus? (continued on page 6)

MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES.
17 September 2023

The meeting was called to order with prayer by Don Hyslop. Thirteen people were present.

Minutes: The minutes were read. It was noted that Jimmy's Roofing did the repair work on the roof. The minutes were approved with that addition.

Elders: There is no report. Clerk Laverne Biel stated that Krista Maroni has resigned from Elders. There is a need for a speaker for October 1. There is still only one applicant for the pastoral care position..

Treasurers Report: No official report was made but status paperwork was made available. YTD income is - \$2868.18. Income is down because we paid \$4,500 down on roof repairs; the balance is due September 22. The down payment was from "our" funds; the balance will come from the Everence investment funds.

Steward/Trustees: Stewards made a recommendation to have an outside accounting firm do the Treasurer duties. LaVerne Biel reported a cost estimate of \$400-1,000/month based on online research. This is possible if we do not hire a part-time pastor. She will continue researching online accounting firms. Lois Kieffaber is awaiting a return call from Cheryl Bendixen regarding a recommendation of a local accounting firm that we might hire, since some concern was expressed about hiring a firm nobody had personal connections to and that would not be in Washington state.

Walter Simon reported that he has done three months of research and has found only three organizations that could provide funding for the roof. Trustees suggest that Walter research funding to pave the parking lot to prevent dust pollution.

Nominating Committee: Names presented at the August meeting for Elders were Pam Emery (for three year term) and Lois Kieffaber (for three months maximum). These were **approved**. Sue Keehnen was nominated for Elders, to be brought for approval at the October Meeting for Business. Pam withdrew from Elders for the moment. She wants to consider becoming the Treasurer.

Lois Kieffaber said she had arbitrarily assigned various term lengths for the current people on the various committees, based on her memory of how long various people had already served in those positions.

We may possibly need new bank signature cards, and clarification as to who are currently signatories. Pam will contact Jonas Cox, asking if he is still a member of Stewards/Trustees.

There was no further business and Bob Wiese closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Keehnen, Recording Secretary

Financial Report

<u>September 2023</u>		<u>Year to Date</u>
Income:	2,409.09	27,990.63
Expenses:	7,261.65	35,510.99
Difference:	- 4,852.66	- 7,529.36

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Louis Becker (Louie) last July. Louie and Ann were members of Spokane Friends for many years, and Louie served on committees and in a number of offices while they were with us.

If YOU have a Louie Becker story, please send it to the Meeting's Office, so we can include it in a memorial for him in next month's Newsletter.

Saturday Night Date ??

**Caritas Annual Fall Fundraiser
Silent Auction**

Assumption Parrish Gym
3624 W. Indian Trail Road,

Event begins at 5:30 PM
Hors d'Oeuvres at 6:30 PM
Silent Auction will end by 8:00 PM



Tickets are \$30 each. To purchase tickets please email staff@caritasoutreachministries.org or visit Caritas 9 AM - 2 PM on Mon, Wed, Thurs

The Touch of the Master's Hand

'Twas battered and scarred, and the auctioneer
Thought it scarcely worth his while,
To waste his time on the old violin.

But he held it up with a smile.

"What am I bid, good friends," he cried.

"Who'll start the bidding for me?

A dollar! A dollar, then who'll make it two?

Two dollars, once. And three!

Three dollars, once. Three dollars, twice.

And going for three . . ." but no...

From the back of the room a gray-haired man

Came forward and picked up the bow.

And wiping the dust from the old violin

And tightening the loose strings,

He played a melody pure and sweet

As a caroling angel sings.

The music ceased and the auctioneer

With a voice that was quiet and low,

Said "What am I bid for the old violin?"

As he held it up with the bow.

"One thousand dollars, and who'll make it two?

Two thousand, and who'll make it three?

Three thousand, once, and three thousand, twice,

And going, and gone!" said he.

The people cheered, but some of them cried,

"We don't quite understand.

What changed its worth." Swift came the reply,

"'Twas the touch of a master's hand."

And many a man with life out of tune

And battered and scarred with sin,

Is auctioned cheap to the thoughtless crowd,

Much like the old violin.

A "mess of pottage," a glass of wine;

A game . . . and he travels on.

He's "going" once, and "going" twice,

He's going, and almost gone.

But the Master comes, and the thoughtless crowd

Never can quite understand

The worth of a soul, and the change that is wrought,

By the touch of the Master's hand.

Written by a **Myra Brooks Welch**, a Brethren poet, it first appeared in the journal *Gospel Messenger* in 1921. The Church of

The Office Mailbox . . .

From a note from Becky Williams:

I sure enjoyed my visit there, just wish it could have been longer.

We are having "cool" weather -- 80-90's! Did one watering of the orchard -- no olives on the trees, but they were looking thirsty.

This next weekend (Sept. 24th) we are having a family reunion to celebrate Mom's 99th birthday. There will probably be about 60 family members! She is doing well, does all her care, pays bill, etc. and runs the give-away clothing program at her church! Amazing Grace! Her eyes still give her problems -- have her on a new med now. . Please pray that she will begin to see better. She's as cheerful as ever.

I'm doing fine, trying to keep up the yard, house, etc. Looking forward to going to my high school reunion in Oregon -- 60th! Not sure I'll recognize anyone, but it will be fun.

Thanking God every day for His gift of Redemption. Please give greetings to the church family. Love, Becky



**OCTOBER 9
2023**

Because Columbus Day is a federal holiday, government workers get a paid day off and there's no mail delivery. But 17 states, including Washington, have replaced placed Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day.

The day is meant to recognize the painful history Indigenous people have faced and to celebrate their communities, said Nick Tilsen, who is Oglala Lakota and president and CEO of the NDN Collective, an Indigenous-led advocacy group. October 9th is often marked by protests against memorials to Columbus, for environmental justice, for the return of Indigenous lands and in honor of missing and murdered Indigenous women. Tilsen said he often participates in protests a day before celebrating with Native food, performances, art, music and traditional ceremonies.

Quaker News

- ⇒ **Sierra Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends** will have its hybrid **Quarterly Meeting** on Saturday, October 28, 2023 at Eugene Friends Church. To register, send your name, pronouns used, email address and church/meeting affiliation and whether you plan to come in person or by zoom to registrar@scymf.org. The SCYMF Youth will have a Meeting for Worship with attention to Dungeons and Dragons October 27, 2023 from 6 PM to 12 AM at Eugene Friends Church.
- ⇒ In July, **Indiana Yearly Meeting (IYM) decided to withdraw from Friends United Meeting (FUM)**, the international association of 26 yearly meetings in North America, Africa, and the Caribbean. For more information, see the column to the right.
- ⇒ **Quaker Social Action**, an anti-poverty charity based in London, is sponsoring a **Peer to Peer Learning Event** on Tuesday, December 5 at 3:00 - 4:30 pm PST. The event will be presented by Money Guiders England Network and is free and on-line. It hopes to share useful resources and tools to help build your money guidance skills. QSA helps people on low incomes in east London and across the UK to seek solutions to the issues affecting their lives. Contact the Office for more information on this event.
- ⇒ The following jobs are being advertised through Northwest Yearly Meeting: **Barclay College** is looking for a Chair, Bible/Theology Program, **Newberg Friends Church** is seeking to hire a fulltime Office Manager, **Metolius Friends Community Church** is searching for a Youth and Family Pastor, and **Meridian Friends Church** is searching for a part-time, paid Youth and Young Adult Pastor. More information can be found at <https://nwfriends.org/job-openings/>
- ⇒ **American Friends Service Committee** is advertising more than 15 jobs from volunteers to interns (\$20/hr) to top dogs (Chief Financial Officer (at \$180K). For more info, go to "American Friends Service Committee jobs" in your browser.
- ⇒ **FCNL** is advertising for an IT Network Administrator, an Advocacy Corps Coordinator, and a Legislative Manager for Native American Coordinator. They also have many volunteer opportunities for young adults. More information is available at <https://www.fcnl.org/about/work-fcni>

Indiana Yearly Meeting withdraws from Friends United Meeting (FUM)

Indiana Yearly Meeting (IYM) has decided to withdraw from FUM, the international association of 26 yearly meetings in North America, Africa, and the Caribbean. IYM hopes to continue to financially support FUM's missions in Africa.

At one point Indiana Yearly Meeting was the largest yearly meeting in the world and was a founding member of what became Friends United Meeting in 1902. In 1912, IYM's active membership was 20,000, but had dropped to 3,017 members by 2012. Ten years ago Indiana Yearly Meeting underwent a reconfiguration in which 15 monthly meetings left to form the New Association of Friends. IYM retained a membership of just under 2,000 Friends, primarily in Indiana and western Ohio.

Theologically and culturally conservative Friends from Indiana Yearly Meeting do not want to be "unequally yoked with unbelievers" such as theologically and culturally liberal Quakers, said Max Carter, William R. Rogers director of Friends Center at Guilford College, emeritus.

"It is as much sociology and culture as it is theology," said Carter.

Over the past decade each of the five North American pastoral yearly meetings experienced the departure of more liberal monthly meetings because they were open and affirming of LGBTQ+ people and relationships.

Members of Indiana Yearly Meeting want to be part of organizations that promote a literal interpretation of Scripture and oppose same-sex relationships. Some Friends in FUM argue against same-sex marriage and others believe that interpretation of the Bible should evolve over time and lead Quakers to affirm LGBTQ+ relationships.

"There is considerable diversity in Friends United Meeting," said Hamm.

Indiana Yearly Meeting wishes to continue supporting missions in Africa because members feel a theological and cultural affinity for Evangelical Friends churches on the continent, according to Carter.

Carter noted that Indiana Yearly meeting has a history of mission projects, including those aimed at educating Black Americans in the U.S. South.

The most profound impact of the separation is severing ties of fellowship, according to Carter. "I'm very, very sad because we've lost friendships," Carter said.

(continued from p. 2) **The Upside/down of Jesus and Zaccheaus:**

Zaccheaus was perched high above the crowd when Jesus spotted him in the sycamore tree. Zaccheaus had tuned out the crowd. He only had his ears and eyes on Jesus. Zaccheaus thought, What? Is he talking to me? I've never met him and yet he knows my name. The Lord said, "Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today." The crowd witnessed Zacchaeus almost falling to the ground in front of the Lord's feet. He collected himself and uttered, "Look, Lord! Here and now, I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount." A gasp came across the crowd! People cheered. They approached Zacchaeus and slapped him on the back. Maybe we were wrong about him after all.

⁹ Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham." ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost."

This Biblical story is upside down and backwards from what we experience in our everyday lives. Jesus stated clearly for all to hear that Zacchaeus was one of them, a son of Abraham. Zacchaeus needed them as much as they needed Zacchaeus. Jesus gave him salvation because of his faith and fortitude, not because of his position or money. He had been lost and Christ found him.

People still openly and freely tell you when you're wrong. I don't believe it's any different now than it was 2,000 + years ago. They don't expect you to change. It's easier to talk at each other than to each other.

In conclusion: I know that I need to be more Christ-like . Jesus exposed Zaccheaus to the crowd. He mentored him with laser focus. He didn't condemn, criticize, or blame what he had done or why. Jesus knew that Zacchaeus was broken and off-track but willing to change. Why else would he have been sitting up there in a sycamore tree? Jesus' mentoring style was to be present and listen. Remember, sometimes you must look at things inside, outside, and upside down to figure it out. It wasn't about where he was but where Zacchaeus needed to be. After all, Zacchaeus' name means "pure heart." Jesus had to come to Jericho to remind him of that.

LaVerne Biel and her husband Kent have attended SFC church for 40 years. They have been actively involved in various activities at SFC: Youth Group, Friends Acting Troupe (FAT), Fine Arts Festival, Stone Soup Group (along with several others) and music when needed. LaVerne worked full time as a HR Generalist for a construction company, Accounting Administrator, and helped manage (along with Kent) a telecommunication company until they sold the business in 2018. She is currently working as an Executive Director for a not-for-profit in the East Central Community. She graduated from Corbin University with a BS in Business Communication, and completed a MBA Degree later in life.

Editor's Note: This message was given by LaVerne Biel on September 22, 2023, and has been edited and shortened to fit this space. The complete sermon can be found on our website spokanefriends.com under Messages.



AND . . . IT'S FINALLY HERE!

Quakerism 101 Class

Saturday, October 14

We will gather at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall downstairs, have lunch together at noon, and continue into the afternoon till about 3:30 pm, depending on how much discussion there is.

If you want to attend and have not yet told us, leave a message on the Office phone, so we have enough materials for everyone.



Healthy Aging Conference

Saturday, October 14

8:00 AM – 3:30 PM

WSU Health Sciences Library
600 N Riverpoint Blvd, Spokane

One-hour sessions by experts
to educate you and your loved ones.

Topics available at Eventbrite

Space is limited.

Registration is free but required

Register online at

www.HealthyAgingSpokane.org