

SPOKANE WORD

December
2024



Spokane Friends

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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
at rise of worship

Last Sunday of the Month
Book Club at rise of worship

THE WORK OF CHRISTMAS

by Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman (1899 – 1981), was a key figure in the life of the USA during the 20th century. Thurman was an author, philosopher, theologian, Christian mystic, educator and civil rights leader. He was also an early leader and mentor in the nonviolence movement that shaped and included Martin Luther King, Jr. The poem "The Work of Christmas" is from his The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations.

Here is a second poem from that book:

I WILL LIGHT CANDLES THIS CHRISTMAS

by Howard Thurman

Candles of joy, despite all sadness.
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch.
Candles of courage for fears ever present.
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire my living,
Candles that will burn all year long.

Finally, here is one last quote by Howard Thurman from his book (continued on next page)

(continued from page 1) "I know that the experiences of unity in human relations are more compelling than the concepts, the fears, the prejudices, which divide. Despite the tendency to feel my race superior, my nation the greatest nation, my faith the true faith, I must beat down the boundaries of my exclusiveness until my sense of separateness is completely enveloped in a sense of fellowship. I will light the candle of fellowship this Christmas, a candle that must burn all the year long."

May we also light the candle of fellowship this Christmas.



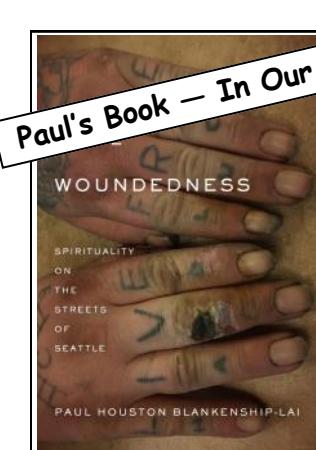
NOVEMBER'S BOOK OF THE MONTH

What does it mean to exist as an indigenous woman in America? This powerful memoir is told in snapshots of the author's encounters with gun violence. Toni Jensen grew up around guns: As a girl, she learned to shoot birds in rural Iowa with her father, a card-carrying member of the NRA. As a Métis woman, she is no stranger to the violence enacted on the bodies of indigenous women, on indigenous land, and the ways it is hidden, ignored, forgotten.

In *Carry*, Jensen explores how history is lived in the body and redefines the language we use to speak about violence in America. In the title chapter, Jensen connects the trauma of school shootings with her own experiences of racism and sexual assault on college campuses. "The Worry Line" explores the gun and gang violence in her neighborhood the year her daughter was born. "At the Workshop" focuses on her graduate school years, during which a workshop classmate repeatedly killed off thinly veiled versions of her in his stories. In "Women in the Fracklands", Jensen takes the listener inside Standing Rock during the Dakota Access Pipeline protests and bears witness to the peril faced by women in regions overcome by the fracking boom.

Toni Jensen is a brave new voice and a fearless witness to her own difficult history – as well as to the violent cultural landscape in which she finds her coordinates. With each chapter, *Carry* reminds us that surviving in one's country is not the same as surviving one's country.

We read this book during November and maybe you did, too, if you receive our weekly information email. Because of scheduling difficulties, we will discuss it after worship on December 8 at the Meeting House or via Zoom. Hope this invitation to join us reaches you in time.



Paul's Book – In Our Library Now!

Soul Woundedness

by Paul Blankenship-Lai I

This is an intimate, piercing book about everyday life for young adults living on the streets of Seattle. Based on over five years of research and as a participant-observer, Paul Houston Blankenship-Lai presents the personal experiences of "street kids," highlighting how their spiritual beliefs and practices offer them comfort, a sense of community, and a feeling of belonging amidst their struggles.

By paying deep, sustained attention to what spirituality is like on the streets and what difference it makes, Blankenship-Lai uncovers an important, overlooked dimension in the experience and study of homelessness. Readers are asked to question how our own spiritual and otherwise practices can help create "a more loving love."

Aimed at a diverse audience, *Soul Woundedness* is particularly relevant for those interested in spirituality's role in addressing social inequities. It underscores the importance of spiritual practices in overcoming adversity and promoting social change, making a compelling case for a world where everyone has a place to call home.

Paul Blankenship-Lai served Spokane Friends as part-time pastor in 1919-20 while writing this book. He left Spokane to teach at Seattle University and is currently Asst. Professor of Spirituality at Earlham School of Religion in Richmond, IN.



Paul speaking at the Opening Convocation at ESR, August 2024. See his message at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KyXSCAS03qY>



KENNETH DAVID PEACOCK

1964- 2024

Ken Peacock was born in Bogota, Columbia, where his parents served as missionaries in Literature Ministries. Ken is bilingual (Spanish and English). He received a BA in Sociology (1987) from Houghton College in New York and began his lifelong career of helping others including job coach, housing supervisor for people transitioning from homelessness, and foster care social worker. In 1995 he received an MS in Child and Youth Studies from Nova Southeastern University in Florida.

Ken moved to Washington in late 2013 with Trader Joe's and attended Spokane Friends until early 2015, during which time he met his wife, public health nurse Amy Cross. After their marriage he attended Millwood Community Presbyterian Church with his wife and step-daughter Bria, and in 2017 their second daughter Charlotte was born. Ken served Millwood Presbyterian as a Ruling Elder since 2017.

Ken entered the Clinical Pastoral Education program at Whitworth University, doing his internship and residency at Providence Sacred Heart and Providence Holy Family hospitals. Concomitant with his chaplaincy training, he also received a Masters of Theology degree from Whitworth University in 2022.

In January of 2024, Ken became the part-time Pastor of Congregational Care at Spokane Friends where his duties included community outreach through home, hospital, and community visits, connecting with new visitors to Spokane Friends, and availability during office hours for spiritual guidance and grief counseling. Through his excellent interpersonal skills and experience with pastoral outreach, he greatly strengthened the sense of community in our Meeting as we sought to overcome the chaotic effects of the COVID years.

Even though his time with us was short, we loved and admired his spiritual qualities, his gentle faithful leadership, his knowledge and practice of Quaker values, and the growth of membership that accompanied his months of service with us. He was a man of great integrity and deep faith whom we trusted deeply and will miss profoundly. While we grieve his passing, we are filled with gratitude for the life he lived among us and the example he gave us of a dedicated follower of Jesus.

My Ken Peacock Memory A number of people shared their memories of Ken Peacock via the Meeting's email. We share some of them below. Our plan is to put them into a booklet for Amy and family. SO . . It is not too late for your memories to become a part of that. Please send them to us via email and we will take it from there.

I can tell Ken really truly cared about people. I learned from observing that when someone came in to his office, that person became the most important "thing" regardless of whether they just wanted to chat and regardless of work that might be waiting to be done, something I need to learn. I wish I had spent more time getting to know Ken and garnering his wisdom. Ken sent me a letter after I spoke at Spokane Friends one Sunday and it was just full of encouragement. He will be truly missed.
Diana Davis, Office Manager

The first time Ken came to Spokane Friends he sat with me. We had such a good conversation. We went out to lunch several times. We had coffee and conversation just a few weeks ago. We talked about both of us being on Coumadin. I really loved him as a friend. I prayed for God's will but really felt like he had so much more to give to everyone. I'm glad I got to see and hear him during our business meeting. May God continue to give you grace, comfort and peace. Blessings on you and your entire family, Love, Linda Nixon.

MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS MINUTES

November 16, 2024



The business meeting was opened with prayer by Clerk Laverne Biel. Following prayer, the minutes for October were read by Recording Clerk Bob Wiese and approved as read.

Elders Report (copy attached): Lois Kieffaber reported that the Elders continue to study the results of the Survey on gifts of those in the meeting and how to integrate newer people into service of the Meeting. They are working on new Greeters and Worship Leaders documents and revising them to be helpful for those that fill those positions. Sue Keehan will work with greeters to help make visitors feel welcome when they arrive and after the meeting for worship in keeping with our goal to be a welcoming community.

They are also grateful to Taylor Blackwell for planning a Christmas Party for our children on December 7th. There is a desire to have an event once a month. And they are researching the Faith and Play curriculum for possible use in Children's Church. A training session for area Quakers is planned for next Spring.

Chaplain's Report: Ken Peacock provided pastoral care in October through in-person contact, text messages, email and phone calls. Those receiving these contacts report feeling supported and encouraged. There were no hospitalizations or family crisis reports for October. Ken maintains contact with former and current members and prays specifically for situations expressed during Joys and Concerns.

Treasurer's Report: Kent Biel provided the report as Pam was not feeling well. October was a better month financially and our current deficit reported then has decreased due to increase in giving. Plans for updating the men's bathroom started with a meeting with Don Hyslop, Jon Maroni, and Jonathon Watson who agreed to help with this improvement. Don and Lorna Hyslop volunteered to help clean the Meeting House once a month. A repair was made to a valve in one bathroom and it now works better. There was a discussion regarding church insurance.

The group also discussed Solar Power for the church building. There are plans to place the meeting-room projector above the audience for services and moving the Zoom camera to a better location.

Publicity: Walter Simon met with LaVerne and Lois on 11/14/2024 to discuss Solar Power. The Salish Language School will be acquiring a new facility. Walter spoke in favor of Quaker unity and reported that the unprogrammed meeting has had as many as 16 people in attendance.

Walter wishes to advertise again with Fig Tree and KPBX Public Radio here in Spokane during the Christmas season. The cost would be about \$500.00; these expenses will be covered by donations from Walter over several months.

There being no New Business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer by David Roberts.

Respectfully submitted

Bob Wiese, Recording Clerk.

It's the Christmas Season — Don't stress out; laugh instead

Once again, we come to the Holiday Season, a deeply religious time that each of us observes, in his own way, by going to the mall of his choice. — Dave Barry

There are four stages in life: 1) You believe in Santa Claus. 2) You don't believe in Santa Claus. 3) You are Santa Claus. 4) You look like Santa Claus.

Christmas is the season when you buy this year's gifts with next year's money. — Unknown

"Once you stop believing in Santa, you get underwear for Christmas." — Unknown

We are reprinting this poem from last month's Newsletter because **one line was omitted from it then!** Test your own memory/poetic sense and see if you can tell which line was left out last month. Answer is on the next page.

Quaker Connections

- ⇒ The unprogrammed group hosted by Spokane Friends has become a Worship Group affiliated with North Pacific Yearly Meeting under the sponsorship of Sandpoint Friends Meeting. Their name is now **Spokane Quaker Worship Group**. They average 10–12 worshipers on Sunday mornings.
- ⇒ Found in **NYPM Currents** (North Pacific Yearly Meeting Quarterly Newsletter): "Happy news! Sandpoint Friends Meeting has taken **Spokane Friends Worship Group** under its care. The two groups met in Sandpoint on Sunday, November 3rd, for Meeting for Worship followed by a potluck. We are all looking forward to getting to know one another and working together for the benefit of both groups."
- ⇒ **North Pacific Yearly Meeting** will hold Annual Sessions on July 9–13, 2024 on the University of Montana campus in Missoula, Montana.
- ⇒ **Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting** is meeting for their **Winter Gathering** on Saturday, February 8, at West Hills Friends. They plan to worship together, attend workshops, enjoy a meal together, and listen to each other and the Spirit in meeting for business.
- ⇒ **Sierra-Cascades** has also announced the dates and location of their **2025 Annual Session**. It will occur July 25–27 at Reedwood Friends Church in Portland, Oregon. Keep up with Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting at <https://www.scymfriends.org/events>
- ⇒ Evangelical Friends Mission, a consortium of six yearly meetings including Northwest Yearly Meeting has approved **a new mission field in the Balkans** (Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro.)



Poet's Corner

We Say Good Morning!

Olen and I take an early morning walk
We both walk, and to him, I talk.
"How many smiles did we see in
response to our own?"
One on every single face.
Such a privilege it is
To fill the streets with morning grace.

— Sally Bumgarner, written August 21, 2024

This poem is for Ken's family and friends:

Final Notations
by Adrienne Rich

It will not be simple, it will not be long
it will take little time, it will take all your thought
it will take all your heart, it will take all your breath
it will be short, it will not be simple.

It will touch through your ribs, it will take all your heart
it will not be long, it will occupy your thought
as a city is occupied, as a bed is occupied
it will take all your flesh, it will not be simple

You are coming into us who cannot withstand you
you are coming into us who never wanted to withstand you
you are taking parts of us into places never planned
you are going far away with pieces of our lives

it will be short, it will take all your breath
it will not be simple, it will become your will

— from The Art of Losing, edited by Kevin Young, 2010



YOU CAN GIVE TO SPOKANE FRIENDS in many ways:

- ◊ Click the **Donate** button on your weekly email with worship information for Sunday or
- ◊ Go to our website, Spokanefriends.org, and click the **Donate** tab, or
- ◊ Drop checks or cash into the offering plate at the back of the meeting room, or
- ◊ Make an automatic donation through your bank's free **Bill Pay** service — you choose the amount and how often.

Thank you for giving to your Spokane Friends Meeting!

"Cut-and-paste cartoon here"

ANSWER: The missing line was "One on every single face."

A PARABLE

There once was a man who had nothing! God gave him ten apples. He gave him three apples for food. The man ATE the first three apples.

He gave him another three apples to trade for shelter from the sun and rain. The man TRADED the second three for shelter from the sun and rain.

He gave him three apples to trade for clothing to cover his body. The man TRADED the third three for clothing to cover his body.

And He gave him the tenth apple so he would have something to give back to God in gratitude for the other nine. The man held up the tenth apple and examined it in admiration. . . It seemed larger and juicier than all the rest. He knew in his heart that this was the apple God expected him to use as a **GIFT IN GRATITUDE** for the other nine. But the tenth apple seemed better than the others. And, he reasoned, God had all the other apples in the world . . SO THE MAN ATE THE TENTH APPLE . . And gave back to God the core.

CARITAS Needs This Week



FOOD

Pancake mix	Syrup
Jam/jelly	Chili
Canned beans	Soups
Ravioli	Mac 'n Cheese
Pasta	
Breakfast cereals—boxed	

NECESSITIES

Dish Soap	Shampoo
Can openers	

Thank you so much,
Caritas Staff and Volunteers



Floridalma Hernández sells plants as a member of the Women of Success Group in Guatemala. She used her microloan to invest in buying more soil, fertilizer and plants. She trusts that with time she will have a larger nursery.

Right sharing of World Resources is an independent Quaker not-for-profit organization sharing the abundance of God's love by working for equity through partnerships around the world. It gives grants to groups of marginalized women in Guatemala, Kenya, Sierra Leone, and India to fund individual micro-enterprise projects. Our stamp collection project supports this organization.

