

SPOKANEWORD

November
2025



Spokane Friends
1612 W Dalke

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(509) 327-7852

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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 8:30 a.m. or
when first person sits down
Gathering worship 10:00 a.m.
In-Person and Via Zoom
See Website For Link
INUUC Worship Service 11:30 am

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

EAT MY DUST

by John Kinney

Luke 10:1--20

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go.

He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer had been taught to believe that the Spirit of God still speaks to the Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house.

Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you.' Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.' I tell you, on that day it will be more tolerable for Sodom than for that town.

Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. Indeed, at the judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will be brought down to Hades. "Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me."

The seventy-two returned with joy, saying, "Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!" He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

The reading reminds me of the gentlemen who go out in twos dressed in white shirts, black pants and dark ties. I don't agree with their theology but admire the young Mormon men's zeal, and you can be 20 years old and be an elder. Cool! There is a Jehovah Witnesses Kingdom Hall across the border in Salmo BC. They also go out in groups of two, and I have had several pleasant conversations with them and Mormon missionaries. We cordially agree to disagree. My goal is at a minimum for them to go away and think, "He was nice and polite. Too bad he is Catholic." My mother hated confrontation and when I was a young boy, she would see the missionaries coming and ask me to tell them that she was not in the house. She did not want me to have to lie, so she would step outside into the backyard until they were gone.

(continued on next page)

(continued from page 1) I would like to look at several verses from the Scripture one at a time.

1. **Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals** Jesus wants the disciples to be dependent on the hospitality of others. The receivers will see that the message is not about the messengers. No Rolex watch, no fancy tour bus, no give of your treasure to help our mission grow, no rented auditorium with contemporary music and a phenomenal light show. How about us now? If you want to carry the good news to others, keep in mind that your demeanor and behavior are crucial.

2. **Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you.** Kind words cost you nothing. If they are rejected no biggy, not your problem, no offence should be taken. How about us now? If you are a peaceful person then you are a conduit for peace. Peace from the Light flows into and out from you. If you are not a peaceful person then you block the flow.

3. **Do not move about from house to house.** I had a phenomenal principal for 20 years. He frequently told us, "It is all about relationships." I came to value the wisdom in that. I don't care how good a teacher you are, if the students don't think you care about them, then they aren't going to learn as well." Jesus is saying to the sent 72, it takes time to establish relationships and trust, so if you find a place that welcomes you, stay. How about us now? "Bringing someone to Jesus" is never going to be a one and done.

4. **Eat what is set before you.** Doesn't sound like a big deal, but with all the dietary restrictions Jews had, it was a big deal. Jesus is saying that common courtesy overrides manmade laws. This is kind of off-track but for Catholics, it used to be that we were to abstain from meat on Fridays. The practice was rooted in the early Church and a form of penance and remembrance of Christ's sacrifice on Good Friday. I think it also had to do with some form of cultural adhesion. There were lots of ways to have it not be much of a penance. You weren't to eat meat, but lobster or salmon were ok. As a boy we would often have a form of breakfast for dinner on Fridays with pancakes and scrambled eggs. Two of my favorites. I did not like tuna fish casserole and if we had that, then it was definitely a severe penance. I remember as a boy being at a friend's house on a Friday, sitting down to partake of the dinner they had graciously prepared for me, seeing it was pot roast and having the audacity to say, "I can't eat that." It makes me shudder. Little John Kinney the Pharisee. Matthew 23:23: **"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cumin and have omitted the weightier matters of the law: judgment, mercy, and faith".** I will say this as a lame defense of my behavior. I was taught and believed if I knowingly violated a church law, then I was going straight to hell, do not pass go, do not collect \$200.

5. **But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you.** Boy, have I ever misinterpreted that verse. I thought it meant you were to say to the town, "In your face, eat my dust, you bunch of ingrate jerks!" Wrong. It is saying don't carry any resentment with you. Express your disappointment. Shake it off. Then move on. How about us now? Let go of resentments? Easier said than done, especially if you have ever been purposely, deeply wounded by another.

6. **I tell you, on that day it will be more tolerable for Sodom than for that town. Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida!** Notice that Jesus is not referring to an individual. He doesn't say "Woe to you, Fred." He is referring to towns, their established culture, what their children are indoctrinated with. Corporate, systemic evil is worse than anything we do as individuals. Culture dulls your sense of right and wrong.

*Murder is wrong . . . unless your country is at war. Then it is praised. In fact, the more you kill, the better. You might get a medal and parade to honor your accomplishment.

*You can't love God and money . . . but capitalism's goal is to accumulate wealth, hence greed is good. Over and over again we are assaulted with buy, buy, buy. The whole shebang is based on ever-increasing amounts of consumption. If everyone decided they would get by with just what they need, then the whole thing collapses. Walter Brueggemann, the beloved biblical scholar said this about the American Church, "it is so largely enculturated to the American ethos of consumerism that it has little power to believe or act." He also argued that the Church must provide a counter-narrative to the dominant forces of consumerism, militarism and nationalism.

*Blessed are the meek and humble. . . but we admire the boastful, and humility is for losers. Culture has more to do with forming consciousness in our nation than religion. How about us now? **Woe to you, America.**

(continued on page 4)

MONTHLY MEETING FOR BUSINESS

October 19, 2025



Friends Meeting for Worship to Conduct Business was opened with prayer by Laverne Biel. The Minutes for September's meeting were read by Recording Clerk Bob Wiese and **ap-proved** by the Meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Jon Maroni reported that in May of this year our Income was negative \$1.60, but with a transfer from our Everence Financial account and increases in donations, our checking account now stands at \$14,591.00, of which around \$4,500 has been given specifically for the new HVAC system. One friend suggested that some funds could be returned to Everence to earn more interest; this was **approved** by the Meeting.

Elders Report: The Elders met on 10/15/2025 via Zoom. There was discussion about the overlap of times when the Silent Worship Group and the INUUC Music Practice meet in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings. Kent Biel conferred with both groups and reached agreement that the INUUC people would not arrive earlier than 10 am.

The Elders discussed the use of Open Worship Time as being only for silence or Spirit-led contributions and that some people used it inappropriately for other purposes. There was also concern that some people who previously volunteered to plan events for the community have not followed through. Gatherings for certain age groups were suggested as particularly needed.

Nominating Committee Report: The Committee is awaiting responses from members they would like to nominate for open positions. They hope to bring some nominations to the November Business Meeting.

Stewards and Trustees: The community greatly appreciates the work done by Kent Biel, Bill Emery, and Jonathan Watson in finishing the Men's bathroom in the basement. It is now ready for use, come one come all. (Men Only).

Bill Emery and Sue Keehnen accepted appointment to represent Spokane Friends on the Coordinating Committee to oversee building use and maintenance. Bill Gillis and David Bucher will represent the Quaker Worship Group, and members representing with INUUC will also be included. The Coordinating Committee will meet on a regular basis to address questions that may arise.

Refugee Family: Lyn Lindell reported the need for winter clothing and shoes/boots for Safia and the children

New Business: Lois Kieffaber brought a request from the Worship Group that we return to including on our Web-site the information that we host a traditional "silent" meeting, because that is how half of the current attenders found out that there was such a group in Spokane. It was made clear that since their use of our building was similar to the other groups who meet here, the mention of those groups on the Church Calendar is sufficient. LaVerne Biel agreed to explain this policy to them.

The meeting was closed in prayer by Laverne Biel.

Respectfully submitted, Bob Weise, Recording Secretary

A Night of UNBREAKABLE SPIRIT

FAITH ACTION NETWORK'S ANNUAL DINNER

Sunday, November 16, 2025

Gonzaga University Hemmingson Center, Pamplona Ballroom
702 E Desmet Ave, Spokane, WA 99202

Reception starts at 4:30 PM

Dinner begins at 5:30 PM

Program starts at 6:00 PM

Register by November 10 at
<https://fanwa.org/annual-dinner/>



FAITH ACTION NETWORK
A Partnership for the Common Good

Office Hours

Diana Davis, Office Administrator,
works remote Mon-Wed
checking email and phone messages.

In-office hours are
Thurs and Fri, 10:30 am–2:30 pm

Walter Simon, Publicity Manager,
In-office hours are
Tues and Wed 10:30 am–3 pm
or by appointment

(continued from page 2) 7. **Whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the One who sent me.** . . Read through the New Testament and you will notice that the only people Jesus rejects are the rejecters. Prostitutes, tax collectors, lepers and the poor are rejected by the culture of the powers that be but accepted by Jesus. The powers that be, the rejecters, are rejected by Jesus.

More tolerable than Sodom? Wait a minute! I thought it couldn't get much worse than the sexual shenanigans of Sodom, but apparently Jesus says that being a rejecter is worse. How about us now? If we reject the LGBTQ+, the trans, the homeless, immigrants, new agers, addicts, Muslims, Hindus, atheists, fill in the blank, then we will be rejected by the Light.

8. **I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you.** In this shoe box I have 2 rattlesnakes. Let me check on them. The verse says, "nothing will hurt you." OK. who is first to pick up a snake? I got this from the internet. **The passage is not meant to be taken literally. It has a deeper, spiritual meaning using symbolism: Snakes and scorpions represent demonic forces and evil influences. Jesus used this to show the spiritual opposition and power of the devil His followers would face.** In modern terms: The snaky politicians and white supremacist scorpions will try to eat you alive, but I will be with you. Many Bible readers don't know how to read texts symbolically or metaphorically. Reading the Bible literally is easy. You don't have to think or do contextual or historical analysis. But it is superficial and often results in harmful conclusions. The Bible has been called the greatest book ever written and also the most dangerous. Misinterpretation has been used to justify slavery, colonialism, gender inequality, discrimination against LGBTQ + people, racism, segregation and child labor. Hard core Zionists use Genesis 17:8, where God says to Abraham **"I will give to you, and to your seed after you, the land of your sojourning, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession"** to justify genocide in Gaza. I have met people that are literalist. They will believe the earth was created in 7 days literally, but not take seriously "love your enemies." Many young people see the blatant hypocrisy and bail on organized religion. How about us now? Our actions will always speak louder than our words.

My message has traveled far and wide (along with the disciples Jesus sent out) and I am having a hard time tying it together with a clever unifying statement. So I will end with suggesting some queries.

Query: Where is systemic evil most visible to you?

Query: What group is easier for you to reject than to accept?

John Kinney and his wife Erin have been part of our community for a number of years. They live in Metaline and often attend on Zoom, but once a month they travel to Spokane so John can bring us an in-person message. John is a semi-retired math/science teacher who presently teaches precalculus and operates the wastewater treatment plant. The message above was given during Sunday worship at Spokane Friends on September 14, 2025.

Some Thoughts/Quotes about Gun Violence

"When a country with less than five percent of the world's population has nearly half of the world's privately owned guns and makes up nearly a third of the world's mass shootings, it's time to stop saying guns make us safer." Dr. Deshanne Stokes

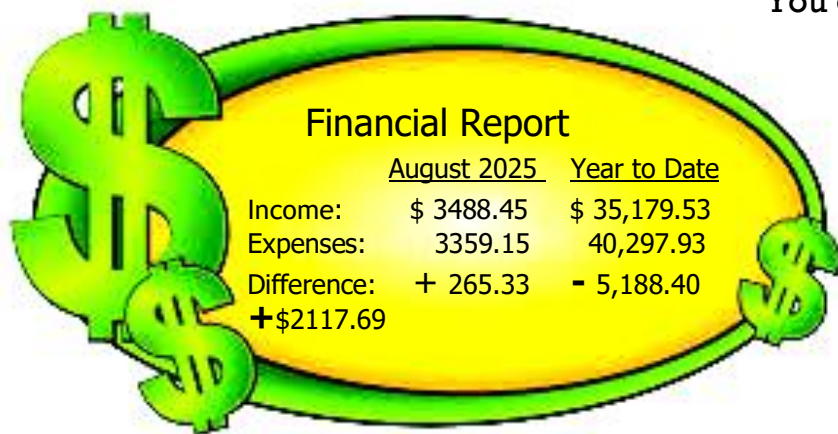
"Don't let anyone tell you that these bad things happen and then everyone goes back to 'normal.' ... You don't have to be 'everyone.' Stay with the grief. Stay with the anger. Stay troubled by it all. Stay open-hearted to those who grieve. Stay tuned to those working for change."

— Morgan Harper Nichols, artist

"Gun control? We need bullet control! I think if every bullet cost five thousand dollars, we wouldn't have any innocent bystanders." — Chris Rock

"If guns don't kill people, why do we give people guns when they go to war? Why not just send the people?"

— Ozzy Osbourne



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or you can mail it to us.

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Thank you for giving to Spokane Friends !

2025 Fall Fund Drive

Oct. 21 to Dec. 2
*a time for
renewing and new sponsors
to deepen our roots*

BY SUPPORTING OUR MISSION TO

- share stories of difference makers
- connect people with resources
- build understanding across differences
- inspire respect and solidarity

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or by mailing a check to
**The Fig Tree • 1323 S. Perry St.
Spokane, WA 99202**

BRAIDING SWEETGRASS
Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific
Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants
By Robin Ward Kimmerer

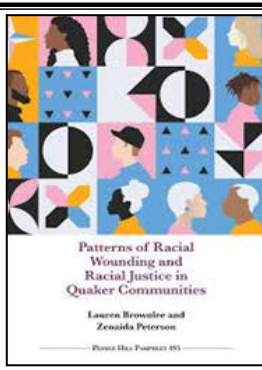
During November the Book Club will be reading Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Ward Kimmerer, author, research scientist, professor, mother. As a botanist, Kimmerer has been trained to ask questions of nature with the tools of science. As a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, she embraces the notion that plants and animals are our oldest teachers. In this book, she brings these two lenses of knowledge together to take us on “a journey that is every bit as mythic as it is scientific, as sacred as it is historical, as clever as it is wise” (Elizabeth Gilbert).

The Guardian describes the book as beautiful and unusual, the rare book that might cause you to forever see the world a little differently. In lyrical essays that span science, memoir, Indigenous wisdom and storytelling, Kimmerer, who is Native American, invites people to reconsider their relationship with plants and animals. She encourages us to couple values with our scientific knowledge as the only way to save our home from the devastation caused by climate change.

**WE WILL DISCUSS THIS BOOK AFTER WORSHIP SERVICE
ON NOVEMBER 30 AT THE MEETING HOUSE.**

The latest Pendle Hill Pamphlet (#495) is entitled “Patterns of Racial Wounding and Racial Justice in Quaker Communities” by Lauren Brownlee & Zenaida Peterson. The authors examine how harmful patterns of behavior can persist within Quaker communities and offer ways to shift these practices toward equity, repair, and beloved community.

AVAILABLE NOW IN YOUR CHURCH LIBRARY!



Note: The opinions expressed within this Newsletter and on our website are those of the authors, not the Meeting or the editor Lois Kieffaber.



No Kings Rally Draws Big Crowd

(Out and about with Spokane Quakers)

Quakers were among the thousands of people who gathered at Clark Park in Spokane at the No Kings Demonstration against the policies of President Donald Trump On Saturday, October 18. Spotted there were **Bill and Emalee Gillis** (right), **Heather and Mike Tadwell** (below center), **Lois Kieffaber and daughter Sarah Peterson** (below right). We know other Quakers were there also, although we do not have photographic evidence; **Amy Cross and daughter Charlotte** were said to be in the company of a pink unicorn. Many people came dressed in inflatable costumes. As one participant said, "How can you say that some-one dressed up as a white bunny is a "terrorist" or a "violent criminal?"

Police played their part well by wearing light blue shirts and black vests rather than "riot gear," mixing with and talking to protestors, and communicating consistently with the organizers. An estimated 7 million people showed up at more than 2,700 No Kings rallies across the country, NBC reported. Around 10,000 people showed up in Spokane. It ended at 4 pm and there were no arrests.



to



Quaker Connections

- ⇒ **Mindy Burns**, a former member of Spokane Friends along with her husband Dan, is now the pastor of Crossroads Community Church in Astoria, OR. She wrote a very thoughtful and interesting **review of the book *Scrappy Church*** by Thom Ranier. You can find it on Northwest Yearly Meeting's website at <https://nwfriends.org/2024/07/10/scrappy-church/> (Nice photo of Mindy there, too.)
- ⇒ **What you need to know about the Gaza ceasefire agreement** is a very recent (Oct. 21, 2025) update from American Friends Service Committee's Middle East policy and advocacy coordinator Nusaiba Mabarak. Read all about it at <https://afsc.org/news/what-you-need-know-about-gaza-ceasefire-agreement>
- ⇒ **Eight international Quaker organizations** have added their voices to the growing worldwide consensus that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza, and they are asking other Quaker organiza-

tions to endorse their statement. The statement and background resources may be found at <https://afsc.org/sites/default/files/2025-08/quakers-discern-genocide-is-occurring-in-gaza-and-urge-courageous-action-2025-07-25>

<https://afsc.org/endorse-gaza-statement>

<https://www.scymfriends.org/minutes-of-concern/minute-on-ongoing-devastation-in-palestine>

- ⇒ Pacific Yearly Meeting, North Pacific Yearly Meeting, and San Francisco (Calif.) Meeting have joined a **July lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)** over the threat of federal immigration enforcement in houses of worship. Other plaintiffs include Evangelical Lutherans, American Baptists, and Metropolitan Community Churches.
- ⇒ **North Pacific Yearly Meeting** has announced that their Annual Session next year will be July 22-26 at Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington