

Friday with Friends

A Newsletter of Klamath Falls Friends Church
1918 Oregon Ave.
Klamath Falls, OR 97601

Friday, May 17, 2024

Meet us at the courthouse!
This Saturday, May 18 @ 10:30 AM
For the blessing from a Klamath Elder
Traditional dance and drumming
Before the NAMI walk
Help raise money and awareness



This Sunday after worship



It's time for good food, laughter, smiles and unity

May 26, 2024 after worship

Please see sign up sheets on the entry table

Proposed by Ministry and Care



The Friends House next to the church has sold.

Thank you for your prayers and concerns.

Peace and Social Concerns

A landfill is being proposed on 806 acres of land south of Lenz Siding Road between Highway 97 and Klamath Marsh. This site is designated as Exclusive Farm Use (EFU), which according to the *Klamath Tribes News*, April/May 2024 in order “to protect and maintain agricultural lands . . . forests, scenic resources, and fish and wildlife habitat, and to maintain . . . the quality of air, water, and land resources of the county.” Leakage from landfill leachate could contaminate the Klamath Marsh, groundwater, the Williamson River, and Upper Klamath Lake. However, the Klamath County Planning Director Erik Nobel wants to consider allowing a conditional use permit for the landfill whereby wildlife, land, and water would be protected. The Klamath Tribes strongly oppose this project being proposed by developer Don Jensen from Salem, who had served on the board of a landfill currently facing a lawsuit for “noncompliance after it continued operations despite the revocation of its conditional use permit for environmental violations.” A public hearing will be held at the Klamath County Government Center building, 305 Main Street, **Tuesday, May 28, 6-8 pm** after which the Klamath County Planning Commission will make a decision.

Be still and cool in thy own mind and spirit from thy own thoughts, and then thou wilt feel the principle of God to turn thy mind to the Lord God, whereby thou wilt receive his strength and power from whence life comes, to allay all tempests, against blusterings and storms. That is it which moulds up into patience, into innocency, into soberness, into stillness, into stayedness, into quietness, up to God, with his power. -- George Fox, 1658

Be still and cool in thy own mind and spirit

Tampa Friends, Jan Dahm

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As modern day Friends, when considering these thoughts by George Fox, it is easy to move away from the depth of opportunity contained within by being distracted by language. For some, thee and thy is the 'stop' (another Quaker term, of course), for others, unfamiliar word choice, or even use of male pronouns to define God, and sadly, still others who see a reference to God and disconnect at once. However, for the purposes of spiritual reflection, we find it necessary to allow some challenge in order to grow. If we avoid any of the edges, we will find ourselves wearing down a diminishing though familiar path. So the encouragement is to test the difficulty, then proceed in grace. When we practice discernment, we are calling to the front our need to still our minds, our bodies, and lay ourselves open, expectantly, to Spirit. This stillness deepens with practice, and the ease in which we enter it is also a reflection of how intentionally we seek this path. The secular world places immediate demands on our attention and time, magnified by job and family responsibilities, distorted by interaction with media, and our response is not always as anchored as we would like to our center, our faith, our God. Fox using the phrase, principle of God to turn thy mind to the Lord God, is certainly language of the time, but the idea transcends—when we are still and cool we are closer to the foundational roots that ground us in God, and thus the reach to God is more accessible. From this access, having already moved ourselves from our own best ideas and entered a place of willingness, we additionally find ourselves available to a strength and

power that will sustain us in weathering life as life presents, the tempests, blusterings, and storms of interactions, hate-filled rhetoric, and injustice. This source continues to shape and form us (for those who don't like the British spelling of mould, either...) into examples of stayedness, which is an archaic usage describing a condition of resolve or intense conviction. And what are Friends, if not convicted, if not those called to live in that Power, to draw upon that Inner Light, to let their lives speak, to stand for and with others. We are a people who live that principle and turn our minds to God to fund us for this work.

<https://riverviewfriend.wordpress.com/2015/04/14/silence-or-stillness-as-a-spiritual-discipline/>

Silence — or Stillness — as a Spiritual Discipline

Posted on [April 14, 2015](#) by [Doug Bennett](#)

April 14, 2015

A good friend who is spiritually experienced and wise but not a Friend recently asked me about the Quaker practice of silent worship. Here's what I wrote back:



Wandsworth Friends Meeting, UK

For many Friends, myself included, stillness is a better term for what we are talking about than silence. Psalm 46, in a passage Quakers like, says “Be still and know that I am God.” We Friends don't seek to be silent; rather, we seek to wait upon God, to hear what God is saying to us and sometimes through us. Hence, in the stillness, we are occasionally surprised to find ourselves compelled to speak. (And hence, early Friends, at times quaking before they rose to speak, were derided as Quakers. Friends accepted this term.)

Stillness is a spiritual discipline (like Mass, like walking the labyrinth, like fasting, like praying, like hymn singing, etc.). Friends don't see it as a tradition, but rather as an

essential practice for their worship together. While other Christians, even early followers of Jesus, knew the use of stillness in worship, it was mostly practiced among monastic orders in recent centuries. George Fox, the founder of Quakerism (if there is one) was a literate if unschooled young man in the mid-17th century who found himself full of questions. He took those questions to various authorities of his day and found their answers not helpful. One day, on a spiritual retreat at a place called Pendle Hill, he heard a voice saying “There is one, even Jesus Christ, that can speak to thy condition.” In that epiphany, Fox realized that Jesus could and would speak directly to each of us if we will just still ourselves and listen. Revelation, he realized, is a continuing thing, not something finished and boxed in a book two millennia ago.

Continuing revelation is thus a core belief of (most) Friends. From this also comes Friends’ sturdy conviction about equality (men and women, black and white): all may hear what God is saying to us, and in that divine capacity we are equal one to another.

From their beginnings, Friends have been especially fond of the Gospel of John. Among the reasons are those majestic, puzzling opening words: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” Before the Bible, before Jesus lived, before time, before everything, was the Word. And we can hear that Word if we will still ourselves and listen.

Lastly, a personal note. In my teens I wanted going to church to be a deeper, more meaningful experience, but the more I tried to say the words that I was asked to say (creeds, prayers, hymns, responsive readings) the more distance I felt. Those were not my words; I could not give them my full assent. While gathering in stillness didn’t come easily to me as a spiritual practice, I found it more satisfying than going to a conventional worship service. Occasionally going to a Quaker meeting I would hear an unplanned message that was truly amazing: fresh, clear, energized, piercing. Those moments were not made less potent for me by the more numerous ordinary messages I also heard in Meetings. Gradually I realized that the way of gathering in silence was the spiritual discipline for me.

I don’t for a moment believe it is good for everyone as their main spiritual practice. I know that it is for some (like me), and small doses of it are pretty good for everyone.

<https://youtu.be/-0YigR7uvpA>