

# Friday with Friends

A Newsletter of Klamath Falls Friends Church

May 31, 2024

Zoom Link for June 2, 2024:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85381127592?pwd=Z01JTHFXNVdzeTZqTUpwS1dmSFVxZz09>

**A public hearing is scheduled to be held at the Klamath County Government building, 305 Main Street, Tuesday, June 25 from 6-8 pm where testimonies are taken from those both for and against the landfill that is proposed to go in a vital marsh by a company without a good track record. The Klamath Tribes strongly oppose this proposed landfill. According to the Tribal Chairman Clayton Dumont, extensive research shows that a landfill close to Klamath Marsh would damage irrevocably the marsh's unique and important ecological function. The Klamath Marsh is already in decline; in fact, "the Klamath Tribes recently secured \$2 million to begin restoring the entire marsh system and expect to secure another \$3 million by spring 2025."**

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## Representation at the Annual Session

There will be six people from Klamath Falls Friends Church attending the Annual Sessions of the Sierra Cascades Yearly Meeting June 7-9. They are Kate Murphey, Carl Andrews, Sarah Watson, Joe Tolton, Leigh Tolton and Faith Marsalli (retired pastor). It is a delight to have such wonderful people getting to know other Quakers in our yearly meeting. To join them or to participate through zoom contact [Registrar@scymf.org](mailto:Registrar@scymf.org).

Sierra Cascades Yearly Meeting describes annual sessions as "an opportunity for inspiration, fellowship, and learning as well as meeting together to decide together how the Spirit is calling us forward in decisions for the Yearly Meeting. In this Yearly Meeting, membership is both indirect—by membership in a local church—and also direct—individual members who do not attend a member church of Sierra-Cascades."

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Congratulations to the Food Pantry for its successful second month!!!! In the month of May 2024, the Interfaith Food Pantry fed 72 households for a total of 171 people (118 adults and 53 children). The 48 volunteers this month gave 92 hours of their time and energy. Congratulations too to Hazel Heaton (above), designer/artist of the new Interfaith Pantry's logo.

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THE PANTRY NEEDS TOILET PAPER AND MEN'S AND WOMEN'S TOILETRIES LIKE SOAP AND SHAMPOO. Please place in the bends in the corner of the entry hall of the church near the pastors' office.

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### Another Kind of Pastor

Quaker pastors are different from Protestant and Catholic pastors or priests. They are equal to the people in the congregation in power, ideas and many times, in every way because we are all equal, but they provide servant leadership to the

congregation individually and as a whole. To begin with and still in some places they are referred to as “released Friends” or “released ministers.” In the Quaker tradition, or Society of Friends, released ministers are people who are released by the community to serve and equip the church or to further an agreed-on cause or need. They are often paid to tend to connections in the church and alert the wider community to needs. Quakers believe that everyone is a minister and has equal access to God, so released ministers share leadership responsibilities with the rest of the community. Quaker churches do not all have pastors and in the beginning of the movement in the 1600’s they opposed having anything resembling pastors. But they soon found that they needed someone responsible for the cohesion of the congregation and able to tend the spiritual needs of the congregants in the meeting and in the community in which the meeting was a part. To this day, Quaker pastors are “the same, but different,” as said by Phil Baisley in his book of the same name about Quaker pastors. Phil is professor of Pastoral Studies at Earlham School of Religion, a Quaker seminary. Instead of being “ordained,” Quaker pastors are recorded by their meetings that recognize their gifts and make a record of those gifts in the minutes. Today, to insure educational purposes of the pastors, and to vet pastors before they are hired, Yearly Meetings can choose to have a recording process that examines the candidates for service in churches. Your pastors, Leigh and Joe, have different processes and have been through different screening processes. Your associate pastor, Joe is ordained by the Church of the Brethren but took many Quaker classes and all his classes with Quaker students at his seminary, Bethany in Richmond, Indiana, that shares faculty with Earlham School of Religion. Your pastor, Leigh, was vetted and recorded through the New Association of Friends and is recorded in her former meeting, West Elkton Friends in Ohio. New Association of Friends is the yearly-meeting-equivalent in Indiana. She has a MDiv in Theology with a focus on pastoring from Earlham School of Religion, a Quaker seminary.

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This Sunday we are discussion chapters 5&6 in Living Buddha, Living Christ, following meeting for worship from 11:15–12:15. The questions for this week are:

1. How are monasteries and convents different than churches in the outside world? What can we learn from them?
2. Buddhists cite three refuges Buddha, dharma, and sangha. What would it mean for us as Christians take refuge in Christ, the Christian way, and our local church?
3. In what way can you transform yourself to improve your local church?
4. How can you make Jesus’ presence real in our world today?
5. How can we heal the collective consciousness (pg 75-76)?

6. How can we pray for others whose needs are different from our own?
7. What can we do to heal the situation so everyone can get what they need?
8. How do you take action in the world without anger?
9. In what ways can you increase your love for your enemies? Who are your enemies?
10. How do you move beyond righteous anger against those who have wronged you?

**There will be a short called business meeting this Sunday at the end of service to discuss a small change that needs to be made on paperwork at the bank.**