

# Friday with Friends

A Weekly Newsletter from  
Klamath Falls Friends Church  
1918 Oregon Ave.  
Klamath Falls, Oregon

3.1.24



March 3, this Sunday, starts our book discussion on *Living Buddha, Living Christ*, by Thich Nhat Hanh. We will be meeting after meeting for worship (11:15 – 12:15). Discussion will be focused on the introduction and everyone's history of and knowledge about the book. Timing of how often to meet will also be part of the discussion as will pace of reading. Feel free to participate if this is your first time reading this book or if you have read it ten times. We cheerfully teach each other. Joe Tolton is the group facilitator. A list of questions for Sunday's discussion are attached.

This Sunday is Unprogrammed Worship

March 3, 2024 @ 10:00

Come and feel the movement of Spirit

Or rest your spiritual selves in silence.

*(The excerpt below on what "Unprogrammed Worship" means is from Berkley's Friend's Church webpage)*

**In a world filled with constant stimulation and frantic deadlines, the quietness of a Quaker meeting for worship may provide you with a refreshing respite.**

Our private and public places today are full of unceasing noises coming from a variety of sources, human and machine-made. In our culture we find solace in noise, because it gives us the often-illusory impression that something is happening. We find silence uncomfortable because in it we come face-to-face with our inner emptiness and anxiety. We are often compelled to utter words in order to secure approval from others because we are focused on our outer image and are afraid to confront our inner nakedness and spiritual hunger. Breaking free from the distractions of hyperactive busyness and passive entertainment is difficult, and it may be tempting for places of worship to cater to these entrenched habits.

The discipline of silence in Quaker worship offers a corrective. For over 350 years, the Religious Society of Friends, AKA the Quakers or the Friends Church, has cultivated communal silence as an integral part of our religious practice. Friends sometimes call this practice “waiting” worship because of the Scriptural counsel to “wait upon the Lord.” Waiting worship is a road less traveled for most Christians, yet it has led to some remarkable destinations well worth exploring:

- **Silence allows us to listen:** Jesus concluded many of his teachings with the injunction “*Hear, anyone who has ears to hear!*” In order to hear inwardly, we must quiet ourselves outwardly.
- **Silence frees us:** It is liberating to know, both individually and communally, the deep call of Psalm 46:10, “*Be still and know that I am God.*” Resting in this knowledge, we can leave behind the distraction and busyness of our lives.
- **Silence itself is not the object of worship:** Rather, we seek to “*worship in Spirit and in Truth*” (John 4:24). We practice silence in a worshipful, prayerful manner, that we may be spiritually revived by the inward Truth. Our inward communion with this Truth in the quiet supports and sustains our work for peace and justice in the world.



Upcoming Committee meetings and other corporate and institutional meetings:

- The Children's Committee will be meeting on March 3 at 9:00 downstairs to talk about next steps.
- The Stewardship Committee will be meeting on March 10 at 9:30 downstairs to look at printer replacement options and make a recommendation to the meeting for purchase.
- Anyone interested in where the Friends Pantry will be relocated is encouraged to come to a meeting at Klamath Lutheran Church (1175 Crescent) on Monday, March 11th at 4 pm. Volunteers from KLC and Hope Lutheran will be there as well as Leslie Gutierrez from the Food Bank. We will tour the facility and learn how they ran their food pantry. Please come with any questions you have so that when we discern this issue again, you'll be well-informed and hopefully have all your questions answered. Refreshments will be served.



**Saturday, March 16**

**All are invited for a time of shared fellowship, conversation, worship, and lunching. Please mark your calendars for March 16 from 10-3 for a day of deep listening to one another and to God about our church. It is a potluck luncheon too, so bring your nutritious dishes to share with one another. Judy Maurer, the representative from our yearly meeting who has been conducting the interviews around “who we are and who we want to be,” will be leading us in small group and large group discussions as well as a time of shared worship.**

## Community news

First Presbyterian is looking for a financial secretary (PR) 2-3 days a week. Some work can be done remotely. It's a great job for a retiree who is looking for something to do or make a little more cash or an at home mom who could use some money. The pay is \$21-24 per hour depending on skills. First Presbyterian Church, 601 Pine Street, Klamath Falls, OR 97601 (541) 884-7781.

## Art and Spirituality worship-shop March 10 after meeting for worship Led by Sue Graves Everyone is an artist



On Tuesday February 27, Klamath Falls Friends Food Pantry fed more than 30 families. Here is what one volunteer, Michele, wrote to the food pantry volunteers and is well worth a shout out. If you are interested in being a pantry volunteer, please get in touch with Maureen. Call the church office for her number.

What a Great evening at The Pantry.

Kate's yummy & Hot Apple Cider was just what everyone needed on this cold evening.

Maureen surprised us with a Much Needed load of Perishables, canned veggies & fruit, soups, oatmeal, breads & pastries.

And then worked check in with Dan & as Expediter, organizing shelves & making note of what is needed for next month.

Thanks Maureen.

Bravo!!

Jay never stopped moving. Taking load after load of groceries with folks to their cars.

Always smiling. Thoughtful & attentive.

Thanks Jay.

Bravo!!

Dan and Joe Welcomed each & every shopper to sit down & finish whatever paperwork was needed for them to shop. They made an often overwhelming task much more doable for folks. Lifting spirits.  
Bravo Fellas!!

I do believe the shoppers; Carla, Lee & Michèle had a good time. Chatting with folks. Sharing stories, recipe ideas & tales of the trails. I heard how to bake & enjoy garbanzo beans (lightly seasoned) next to where the best places to experience Hawaii might be.  
Bravo Shoppers!!

Geoff was Rockin' & Rollin' back there at the refrigerators & freezers. He served up the meats, fish, eggs, milk & frozen fruits with conversation & panache. Looked like a veritable smorgasbord of delights. His excitement was topped off by sending each & every salad plus all the goats milk home with Very Happy families!  
Bravo!!

Twas a long evening.  
5:00-7:40  
Bravo Team Pantry!!

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## A Call to Action:

### Minute on the Ongoing Devastation in Palestine

#### Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends, February 2024

Quakers believe in the sacred worth of each person and testify against all wars, terrorism, imperialism, hostage taking, and unjust imprisonment. We recognize active peacemaking requires interrupting antisemitism and Islamophobia wherever we see it, and we pledge to show up in solidarity alongside our Jewish, Muslim, and Arab neighbors.

As people who live in the United States of America, we feel it is necessary to speak up and take action on this matter because our tax dollars continue to support this decades-long violence, settler and military occupation, and displacement, and the people we put in power with our votes are making these decisions on our behalf. In solidarity with ally groups such as Jewish Voice for Peace and If Not Now, we say not in our name and never again.

When the International Court of Justice (ICJ) found it plausible in January that the Israeli government's acts could amount to genocide, we continued to grieve for those who had lost their lives, and we held out hope for the protection of citizens in Gaza enduring apocalyptic humanitarian conditions, destruction, mass killing, wounding, and irreparable trauma. 1

The ruling issued by the ICJ ordered six provisional measures including for the Israeli government to refrain from acts under the Genocide convention, prevent and punish the direct and public incitement to genocide, and take immediate and effective measures to ensure the provision

of humanitarian assistance to civilians in Gaza. The Court also ordered the Israeli government to preserve evidence of genocide and to submit a report to the Court, within one month, of all measures taken in line with its order.

Since that ruling was issued, the Israeli government, with US military and financial support, has:

- continued killing hundreds of Palestinians each day and has injured thousands more;
- attacked hospitals and ambulances and killed dozens of healthcare workers;
- blocked aid, attacked a United Nations aid convoy, and shelled a shelter belonging to Doctors Without Borders (MSF);
- increased military operations in the West Bank and continued airstrikes on sites in Lebanon and Syria; and
- proposed a ground invasion of Rafah.

In the Gaza strip, as of February 23, 2024: 2

- 38,066 Palestinians have been killed, and 71,220 are injured, and tens of thousands more are missing; 3
- 2 million Palestinians have been displaced;
- 99,600 homes have been destroyed, while 241,400 have been partially destroyed;
- 406 schools, 613 mosques, and 3 churches have been damaged;
- and 3,120 Palestinians have been detained or disappeared. 4

We condemn the Israeli government's intensification of its siege of Gaza, blocking access to water, food, fuel, electricity, and medicine in an act of collective punishment. Hundreds of thousands of civilians are at grave risk of starvation and deadly disease. We condemn the US government's veto of an immediate humanitarian ceasefire as well as the ongoing aid to assist the Israeli government's military actions in Gaza.

We call on the US government to end its military aid of the Israeli government and to fully restore UNRWA funding to aid Palestinians. The US government must stop sending the Israeli military more weapons.

We call on the Israeli government to grant access and safety to United Nations and humanitarian agencies to fulfill their duties. We need immediate humanitarian access for Gaza and adherence to international humanitarian and human rights law.

We agree on the following:

- There must be an end to indiscriminate fire.
- A comprehensive arms embargo is needed.
- The Israeli government must end its occupation of Palestinian territory and its blockade of Gaza.
- Elected Palestinian leaders now held as political prisoners must be freed.
- Palestine must be recognized as a nation state.

We suggest the following actions for Friends and allies:

- Find a protest or demonstration near you and show up.
- Call and/or write to your congressional representatives, senators, and the president. You could use and share a form letter such as this one from Jewish Voice for Peace: <https://www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org/resource/call-congress-support-ceasefire/>
- Support ceasefire statements from whatever organizations or groups you're already part of.
- Find a way to participate in boycotts, divestment, and sanctions. More information is available at [bdsmovement.net](http://bdsmovement.net).
- Write a letter to the editor.
- Donate to an organization that is already in Gaza doing work there, such as Doctors without Borders and UNRWA.
- Join with the FCNL (Friends Committee on National Legislation) in their ceasefire efforts.
- Quakers have long participated in arrestable actions and civil disobedience such as stopping weapons transport. Get involved.
- Think creatively about something you can try (no matter how small it might seem) and try it!

1 Amnesty International, January 26, 2024, "Israel must comply with key ICJ ruling ordering it do all in its power to prevent genocide against Palestinians in Gaza,"

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/01/israel-must-comply-with-key-icj-ruling-ordering-it-do-all-in-its-power-to-prevent-genocide-against-palestinians-in-gaza/>

2 Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor, <http://euromedmonitor.org>. Number killed includes: 130 journalists, over 700 healthcare professionals, and 14,350 children.

3 Updated numbers of those missing are unavailable right now because Gaza has been cut off from the Internet.

4 This Minute is limited to mainly discussing the current flare up in the conflict in Gaza, but we also recognize that violence, settler incursion, and unjust imprisonment has also increased in the West Bank in recent months.

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- Please go to <https://www.scymfriends.org/community-news> to sign up for the Sierra Cascades Yearly Meeting's newsletter.