

Friday with Friends

A Newsletter of Klamath Falls Friends Church

1918 Oregon Ave.
Klamath Falls, OR 97601
June 21, 2024

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85381127592?pwd=Z01JTHFXNVdzeTZqTUUpwS1dmSFVxZz09>





- Food Bank is this Tuesday, **June 25**. Please donate toilet paper if possible. Let's build a tower for July's food bank
- There is a documentary, *Cutdown: Infant Surgery without Anesthesia*, that will be shown at the Klamath County Library, **June 27th** at 5:30.
This is a documentary about children, particularly infants, having surgery without anesthesia and the lasting effects of this practice. It is a companion to the book *Autobiography of a Sea Creature* written by Wendy Williams and recently released. The author will be there to answer questions. The film is part of the National PTSD Awareness Month
- Tuesday, **July 11** at 5:45 there will be a meeting of the pastoral oversight committee (delegates from the committees). The members are Maureen, Griffin, Mike, Jeanette and Tony. If you have suggestions or opinions about your pastors, please speak to one of them to have it placed on the agenda.
- Meeting for Business is **July 14** at the end of worship
- An Open House for Interfaith Pantry has been scheduled for **July 19**, from 5:30 to 7. If you'd like to help with refreshments, please let Linda know (541-281-5535). We could also use help with cleaning the downstairs area on **July 16th** after pantry stocking.
- Circle of Friends: **July 28, 2024** 11:00- 12:00
- Change of date for the county hearing on the proposed landfill. There is a hearing on the proposal for a landfill to be placed in Klamath Marsh in an area of the county designated for Farm Use. The Klamath Tribes have spent millions of dollars working to restore the environmentally important marsh. The hearing to change the designation (allow conditional use other than agricultural and exclusively farm use) of the area has been moved to **August 27, 2024, 6-8 PM** at the Klamath County Government Building. If the landfill is built in the area of the marsh, the leachate would negatively affect the Williamson River, Upper Klamath Lake, and the Klamath Marsh National Wildlife Refuge. The county commission is looking to make a final decision on the landfill and its placement in the marsh directly after this meeting.
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- The Food Bank is hoping for volunteers from each church to do the food sampling on pantry nights. Even if you are unable to be a regular volunteer, this could be something you could help with. Food sampling entails coming up with a cold or hot recipe that uses food we

living out the teachings. One called it “justice in action,” another “walking the talk.” People could tell that there was a focus on seeing God or The Light in every person inside and outside of the church.

A discussion was had about what it means to be Christ-centered. Some felt that it means being centered on the teachings of Jesus; some added the word “radical” to the form of Jesus it followed. It was pointed out that the attenders of the meeting are also open to all beliefs and no beliefs. There is more of a focus on Spirit and spirituality than religion, and on learning in a nondogmatic style. They are also learning from each other. One person summarized that we are people who can live with the tension of differences because we love, respect and care for each other.

The enduring nature of the church and reflecting on its history grounded some. Explaining this, they said that they were Interested and intrigued by the genesis and longevity of the Meeting and the initial connection with the Modoc community.

The discussion brought up questions like: What is our core? What holds us together? Is it the same for everyone? What does Christ-Centered mean? Are we followers of Jesus vs Christ-Centered? Do we need a new Mission Statement? Do we need a Mission Statement at all?

It was brought up that the SCYMF (Yearly Meeting)’s new preamble to the Faith and Practice includes three elements: being centered in Christ, developing around the Quaker distinctives, and including the LGBTQA+ full participation.

The goals suggested for going forward included:

- Make copies of our 50-year history easily available to old and newcomers – copies were sent to all on email list and there are hard copies in the foyer.
- Maybe a new Mission Statement?
- Greeter each Sunday
- “Homecoming” potluck yearly to invite past-attenders with no pressure to return – just to visit.
- Monthly potluck
- Continue to draw a more diverse group – age, race, ethnicity, socio-economic, gender, sexuality, et al.

The next meeting for the Circle of Friends was decided as Sunday July 28, 2024 directly after Meeting for Worship. Emphasis was placed on it only being an hour in length and that all people should feel welcome.

Summarized by Jeanette Rutherford and Leigh Tolton from notes taken by Jeanette and Sarah Watson

Job Descriptions of the Clerk of the Meeting, of Various Committees of the Meeting, and the Clerks for those Committees.

Ever wondered what those committees are and what they are supposed to do? For instance, we need a new clerk for our meeting. Jeanette has been our clerk for decades, and it is time to let her out of that role as she embraces semi-retirement. But what does a clerk do? Maybe you can do this. Read through this job description, and if you feel led, please let Jeanette, one of the pastors, Tony, Wendy or Bernie know.

Presiding Clerk: Must be an official member of the meeting; must demonstrate the traits of deep spiritual awareness and maturity, have faith in Quaker decision-making process, have the awareness of Quaker activities beyond the local community, be successful with group dynamics, be a good listener, have constructive attitudes, be a master of detail and follow-through and have a desire to serve.

There are eight responsibilities of the clerk:

- 1) Advanced prayerful preparation of the agenda for the meeting for worship and business.
- 2) Preside over the meeting for business in a spirit of worship, seeks divine guidance and fosters the discipline of reaching the decisions in unity.
- 3) Brings the business meeting's discussion to closure and articulates the sense of the meeting.
- 4) With the Recording Clerk, prepares the minutes in final form to be available to the meeting within two weeks.
- 5) Meets regularly with the pastor, the committee for ministry and care, and others to clarify responsibilities relative to the spiritual life and good order of the meeting for worship and business.
- 6) With the pastor and the committee for ministry and care see that decisions of the meeting for worship and business are implemented in a timely way.
- 7) Serves as ex-officio member of the committee for ministry and care.
- 8) Signs all official church documents except those designated to the Clerk of Stewardship

If you read through this prayerfully and felt led to respond, please hold it in the Light and let someone on ministry and care know your leadings.

Peace and social concerns

Traits of the committee members: a passion for issues of peace and social justice; a willingness to be an active participant; a team player; a good listener.

The responsibilities of the committee;

- 1) foster education with in the meeting around current issues of peace and social justice. Make suggestions for concrete action items on a regular basis to the meeting.

2) supportive of our Friends peace testimony, looking for creative ways to promote peace and offer peace education within the wider community of Klamath Falls

3) Oversee the food pantry ministry and garden activities including the annual harvest dinner.

4) propose a budget to the business meeting annually.

The responsibilities of the clerk are to call the meeting each month, prepare an agenda and guide the meeting in discussion and send out the minutes after the meeting.

Stewardship Committee

The traits of the committee members are a concern for the issues of stewardship, a willingness to be an active participant, able to follow through on tasks, a good team player, and a good listener.

There are eight responsibilities of the committee:

1) Organize and oversee the care of the church properties including the Meetinghouse, the Friends' House and the surrounding grounds.

2) Arrange for custodial services

3) Keep track of hospitality items such as napkins, paper towels, soap, toilet paper, and coffee and tea supplies and make sure they are replenished as needed.

4) secure and maintain adequate insurance of our properties.

5) establish guidelines and policies for the use of the building

6) supervise and assist the co-treasurers.

7) help promote education for the meeting of our Quaker SPICES – stewardship

8) Help prepare the annual budget in collaboration with the presiding clerk, clerks of ministry and care, peace and social concerns, and the pastor. Present the yearly pledge letter and budget to the business meeting for discussion and approval.

The responsibilities of the clerk of stewardship is to first be an official member of the meeting, call the meetings and prepare an agenda, send out the minutes after the meeting, and be the considered the official trustee of the meeting.

Being involved on a committee level can make being involved in the meeting a well-rounded experience.

The bad rap of committees: <https://www.schoolofthespirit.org/quaker-committees/>

More information on being a clerk: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clerk_\(Quaker\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clerk_(Quaker))

<https://www.fgcquaker.org/fgcresources/practical/practices/clerking/>

<https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/guide-to-quaker-clerking/>

The origin of clerking among Quakers: <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/a-guide-to-quaker-clerking-how-it-came-about/>



MEETING MINUTES

Peace and social concerns minutes 6- 16- 24

Peace and Social Concerns Minutes for June 16, 2024

Landfill

- A letter to the editor by Wendy on the subject was published
- The next meeting for the consideration of the conditional use permit is on August 27th at 6 pm
- Wendy talked to Eric Nobel (he's leaving his position at the end of June)
 - There are two reasons that the meeting concerning the landfill was continued
 - There must be an OK from the owner of the adjacent property to turn an informal access path into a formal easement
 - The railroad company must approve the easement because it passes over tracks
 - The process of approving the landfill could take a long time
 - The Chiloquin Waste Facility move took 4 years to approve
 - The decision can be appealed at every level regardless of the initial outcome
 - This includes the County Board of Commissioners, State Board, and state Department of Environmental Quality
 - Wetlands are on the property not just on adjacent property like we had previously thought
- Griffin researched Don Jensen
 - He has a website
 - Construction person and not landfill specialist
 - Only other venture in landfills was in Idaho

- On a committee that oversaw a landfill
 - Trucks repeatedly dumped fuel there which led to multiple fires
 - Landfill was cited almost yearly, fined, but never shut down
- Urgency for the current landfill project comes from the landfill in Deschutes being shutdown
- There was an effort to put a landfill in Christmas Valley in Lakeview, but there was heavy pushback
- “Don’t Dump on Klamath” Facebook group
- Lentz family were former owners of the land to be used for the landfill
 - Land was never to be developed
- Points to bring up with decision makers
 - Why Jensen and not some landfill company with experience?
 - Millions have been poured into restoring wetlands
 - We have environmental concerns? Do you have environmental concerns?
 - It’s not just NIMBY. We have specific environmental concerns
 - If they say they can’t talk about it because it is a pending permit, remind them they can talk about environmental impact because it is their job
- Possible contacts
 - Department of the Interior
 - Bureau of the Interior
 - Wendy will research
 - Department of Environmental Quality (Oregon)
 - State level decisionmakers
 - Wendy will ask Eric Nobel for more information about local level decisionmakers
 - Sarah will contact:
 - Paul Chamless—wrote article on landfill
 - Environmental Coordinator for the tribes Alta Harris
- Taking up the cause of the landfill will be really having the back of the tribes in a way that donations of money are not
- Write a letter by Peace and Social Concerns to be submitted to the monthly meeting
- Write 2 sentences to be minuted by the meeting
- May not be able to discuss it with the Planning Commission—possible ex parte concerns at county level
- Continue to show up at meetings
- Wendy will send the links to the committee

Disarm Hate –support Everytown for Gun Safety

- Recommend meeting members
 - Sign pledge
 - <https://www.everytown.org/solutions/disarm-hate/>
 - Lobby state legislators to take away guns from people convicted of committing hate crimes
 - <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/>

Election Violence Prevention

- Recommend working on relationships with people of diverse political views

- Talk to your neighbors more
- If you form groups to fight election violence focus just on the election violence and do not talk about points where you disagree
- Joe will talk to local law enforcement

Trans 201 workshop at yearly meeting sessions

- Be welcoming to everybody
- Do not quiz new people about personal details
- Tell them you're thankful you're here
- Show them where to find bathrooms
- Talk about their interests and passions not their jobs

Peace Suppers

- Leigh will contact OSU Extension person about finding a date (has previous contact)

Please reply with corrections or additions.

Joseph Tolton