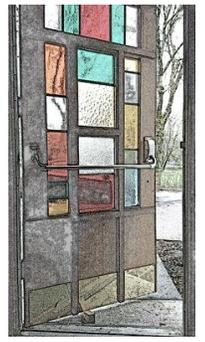




Thresholds

Opening Doorways to Connection, Clarity, and Transformation



West Hills Friends Church,
www.westhillsfriends.org,
503-246-7654

Events (at WHF unless stated otherwise)

Sun, June 4, after worship

- Ye Olde Fair Trader
- Food Bag Collection
- Kindling Conversation, 12-1:
Village movement and supporting seniors

Tues, June 6, 6-8 PM

Youth Group, Starbucks and Quakers Book Group

Wed, June 7, 6-8 PM

High School Youth Group

Sat, June 10, 1 PM

- QVS Farewell Picnic, Mt. Tabor Park
- Grief Workshop, 1-5PM, WHF

Sun, June 11, after worship

- Klarissa and Graham wedding shower
- Business Meeting

Tues, June 13, 6-8 PM

Middle School Youth Group

Wed, June 21, 6-8 PM

High School Youth Group

Fri-Sat, June 23-24

Rummage Sale!

Sun, June 25, after worship

Potluck

Tues, June 27, 6-8 PM

Middle School Youth Group

Thurs, June 29, 6-9, Bridge City

Friends

FCNL Advocacy Workshop

Kindling Conversation, June 4

The Village Movement, and How Do We Support Our Seniors?

Winter weather prevented a Kindling Conversation this winter with Friends from River West Village. We will host them instead on June 4. The Village movement seeks to help seniors age in their homes, a choice that many seniors and their caretakers wish they had. Our guests from River West Village will offer us information about this and we will also take this opportunity as a community to talk about what it looks like to care for the elderly in our lives. What does supporting them as a church community look like? If you'd like to be a part of this conversation, please join us for our next Kindling Conversation on **June 4th from 12-1 PM.**

Imagining a New Thing – What Comes After NWYM?

By Chris Durost

Now that we are on our way out of NWYM, we have the opportunity to consider what we would like to do next. Perhaps there will be a new Yearly Meeting, and perhaps we will choose to join it. Or perhaps there will be some other New Thing, some looser association of monthly meetings. The Interim Committee will meet on June 7 to start framing questions to be considered during the Annual Session this summer, only a couple of months from now. Elijah Walker and I felt called to [More on page 5](#)

North Seattle Friends: An Introduction

This is the third in our series about the other monthly meetings that are being "restructured" out of the Northwest Yearly Meeting. The following was written in response to questions from Mark P-R.

Tell us a little bit about North Seattle Friends. What does your meeting for worship look like? What are some of the stories of people that worship with you?

North Seattle Friends Church has been in existence for over 100 years, with our early beginnings in 1905 in a tent on an empty lot. While we have a long history full of stories, our current meeting is very much alive with the sense that God is present among us today. [More on page 3](#)

Rummage Sale: June 23-24, 9-4

Talk to Rachel H. to volunteer or get more info! Come buy stuff!

Youth Group News: Navigating Awkwardness

by Mark Pratt-Russum

When I think over my last seven years working with adolescents here at WHF, it dawns on me that I devote a good portion of my energy doing one thing — navigating awkwardness. In fact, I think this is the art of youth ministry.

I've been searching for images to help me explain this work and the best I'm coming up with is a hard lump of clay. At times, potters need to hold the clay in their hands for a while, warming it and softening it before they can work with it. I think about the times when a middle-schooler walks into a youth group gathering with the hood of their sweatshirt covering their head and eyes, or when a youth group gathering is made up of teens with wildly different social skills and identities. It's my job in those circumstances to take each of their hearts, like a lump of clay, and warm them, to soften their fears of embarrassment, to calm their anxieties about having to start a conversation.

This means I wade into the deep and murky waters of awkwardness, making myself vulnerable to embarrassment and failure while using the skills I've learned to soften that hard clay. I need to be mindful of the ways extroverts and introverts handle my guidance through the awkwardness. I need to be mindful of the body language cues. I need to be thinking about what I know about each of their lives, what they are into and what's been happening for them. I need to see possible connections between people in the room and do that connecting. I need to be mindful of the people who may feel left out of loud or intense conversations and find a way to create space for them.

A youth worker I highly respect noted in one of his recent books that, generally speaking, adults are terrified of teenagers and teenagers are terrified of adults. I often wonder how much of that terror is due, in part, to the times in which we've encountered that awkwardness with each other and simply didn't know how to wade through it together.

I'm thinking about this work of navigating awkwardness as creating the spaces and opportunity for our young people to be their truest selves. To take the risk of vulnerability. Parker Palmer says that the "soul is shy." I don't think that it's enough, all the time, for us to show up and be together, trusting that our souls will emerge without some warming up of the clay first.

Recently during a youth gathering here on Sunday the group seemed especially steeped in awkwardness. I was doing all the heavy lifting of awkwardness management, but I needed to leave the room to get something. I knew that, chances were, the group would sit in complete silence while I was gone —but not that good kind of silence. Before I left the room, I decided just to point out the impending awkwardness and said, sarcastically, "Okay, I don't want you guys to say a word to each other while I'm gone." That brought out some authentic and calming smiles.

I wonder if we can just be real about the awkwardness of being human beings together. It's going to be awkward, and maybe there is freedom in simply saying that out loud. If we know it will be awkward, we can be prepared for the voices of failure or embarrassment when interactions with one another don't seem to be comfortable or smooth.

Who's Who at West Hills Friends: Leaders, Committees, and Groups

Pastor:	Mike Huber: mike-at-westhillsfriends-dot-org	Kitchen Coordinator:	Rachel Hampton
Pastor (Youth):	Mark Pratt-Russum: mark-at-westhillsfriends-dot-org	Music:	Jim Nail
Presiding Clerk:	Doreen Crail	Newsletter:	Mark Pratt-Russum
Recording Clerk:	Dover Norris-York	Nominating:	Margie Simmons
Treasurer:	Mitch Bixby	NWYM reps:	Julie Peyton, Keri Kimberly
Elders:	Keri Kimberly (Clerk), Jayne Calkins, April Vanderwal, Jill Townley	Pastoral Care:	Mike Huber
Ushers:	Mark Guenther	Peace Concerns:	Kay Ellison
Decorations:	Kara Romero	Retreat:	Tim Crail
Directory:	Sally Gillette	Story Committee:	Sally Gillette
Earth Care:	Julie Peyton	Stewardship:	Frank Verhoorn
Hunger Concerns:	Dana Hawkins	Social:	Dover Norris-York
		Traveling Ministry:	Jen Seamans and Terri Beardsley

Continued from page 1, North Seattle

We are a Christ-centered Quaker Meeting that is committed to Listening deeply to God in community, following the Leadings that come, and freeing each other to live into the ministries that arise in our midst. Truth is that we are not a neighborhood church, but a place to which people come, from all over the area, looking for a Christ-centered Quaker presence. We invite all people to join us, recognizing that those who stay are those who have a similar thirst for knowing God.

We gather in Meeting each week with our primary purpose being to Listen together to God who is present in our midst and speaking to us. Whatever else happens is of no consequence if we do not Listen together and allow God to speak to us. Generally, we also include music, God stories, and a message, but not always. We are very aware that we all bring something to this gathering and that it is not up to the upfront leaders to create the experience for us. We bear witness to how God works in our midst. We have a strong sense that we accompany each other as we go through the week, so we often announce where the community is going the next week. We also love blessing each other, whether it be going out in ministry or submitting to surgery. But no matter what else we do, we always have a time of silence so that we can Listen deeply to God and in that time, we invite people to share their Leadings out of the silence.

Interestingly, this will be our third Yearly Meeting. From our beginning as Friends Memorial Church in 1905 to 1948 the church was part of Indiana Yearly Meeting. In 1948 Friends Memorial was accepted into Oregon Yearly Meeting (renamed to NWYM in 1974). In 2004 Friends Memorial changed the name to North Seattle Friends Church. Sometime soon we will exit Northwest Yearly Meeting for our third affiliation.

How has the decision from NWYM impacted your community? What are your next steps? What are you hopeful about? What concerns do you have?

We grieved the news that NWYM is unable to hold the diversity that has long been present in this yearly meeting. It was our sense that we would do our best work if we stayed together. However, when that was no longer possible, it became clear to us that it was time for us to move on. On April 2nd, we gathered in a Meeting for Worship to conduct business and came to clarity around a minute that we are leaving NWYM during this restructuring process. Since a new yearly meeting or association of churches has yet to be formed, we did not minute action on joining the new group, although we named representatives to “Our New Thing” and are actively working with others to create this new joint entity. We hold hope that this will be a Quaker organization that can truly live into what it means to be Christ-centered Quakers in the northwest. We look forward to the ability to shed those negative associations that attach themselves to evangelical communities.

What are your biggest dreams for North Seattle Friends?

That we can be fully faithful to our Leadings as they arise in our midst. We have long since learned that we don't have enough to be everything we thought church was supposed to be... but that we do have everything we need to be the church God has called us to be. Our simplest and most basic desire is to live into that fully. In so doing, we have seen God do amazing things among us. It's a wild ride and we love it!

Can we at West Hills Friends be of any service to you? In what ways can we be helpful?

We are delighted at the prospect of continuing to be part of a larger community that includes West Hills Friends. Thank you for being willing to participate in the interim committee for Our New Thing and for naming representatives to that group. We need your maturity and experience in doing the good work of creating this new thing. We in Seattle will be best served by a sense that we are well joined with other Meetings with similar hearts and understandings.

Additional Questions from Eric Muhr

What might be a hope or two that you hold in light of the NWYM restructure? What opportunities might this hold for you and for the larger body of Friends in the Pacific Northwest?

I really yearn for a strongly Quaker and Christ-centered yearly meeting in the Pacific Northwest. It has felt to me for many years like there has been a tug and pull in NWYM between various parts of the YM. Quaker vs. Evangelical, social concerns vs. evangelism, and the struggle around joining FWCC are the areas that I've been most aware of. I believe this struggle goes way back to 1925 when Oregon Yearly Meeting (now NWYM) left Five Years Meeting (now FUM) and probably before that. While I have always believed that we are stronger when we stay together and hold the tension of our diversity, I have been disturbed when one group wants to marginalize the other. With the restructuring, I yearn for us to move forward in freedom as both Quaker and Christ-centered.

[More on page 4](#)

Continued from page 3, North Seattle

What work does the community of North Seattle Friends have to do specifically as a result of the NWYM restructure?

Since we have already made our decision to leave NWYM, we are working with others to create a new entity of some sort that will be a place for like-minded churches to gather in community. Once there is definition to the process, we will discern whether we are to join this group, although I think there is little question but what we will become members.

What work do you see from your perspective for the rest of us as a result of the NWYM restructure?

This decision has come rather easily for us as we have done our work along the way. We also live in Seattle! I recognize that many churches are now faced with a decision which requires them to face into the diversity in their Meetings. The truly sad thing is that it is forcing divisions that are not ready. But it is what it is and we all are trying to make the best of it.

Quaker Ink: Buddha's Footprint

By Mia

I like Beat Poets and I like learning about Buddhism. Allen Ginsburg found this image called the Buddha's footprint while in India in the mid 60's. He writes about it as a symbol of permanent impermanence (like the nature of Buddha's footprint, right?) and as a testament to so many trios across spiritual beliefs. This tattoo reminds me of the permanent nature of change and time *and* it represents the most important trio of my life: my mom, my dad and me.



Summer Fun: Erica's Art Camps for Kids and Adults

Kids: JULY 10-14th, 10 AM-noon, open to ages 7-12

Adults: JULY 10-14th, 6-8 PM

COST: \$125.00 for the entire week, children or adults

WHAT WILL WE DO?

- Learn art history (Erica uses props and costumes to make this extra fun!)
- Work with a variety of mediums
- Finish the week with your own 5 masterpieces!

TO REGISTER:

Call Erica Huber at 503-680-8973

or email artist.ericah@gmail.com

Space is limited! Don't miss out!



Yearly Meeting Transition Updates

Continued from page 1, Imagining a New Thing

represent WHF on this committee, were nominated, and were approved by the meeting at the May 21 business meeting.

When I stepped forward to serve on the Interim Committee, it was with an open mind. I don't know what the New Thing will look like, if it emerges, or whether we will choose to join it, but I want us to be part of envisioning possibilities. This moment of freedom, this in-between time when many paths are open, feels rich and exciting. In The Magician's Nephew, C.S. Lewis described the Wood between the Worlds — a place “where nothing happens” but where there are portals into many different realities. That's what this feels like to me – a place that is quiet but full of potential, depending on what choices we make.

Ever since I arrived at WHF, I've been interested in the NWYM conflict, and one thing I have asked myself and others is, “Why do we care?” Why does it matter that we could be/have been expelled from this larger body? If they don't want us, why don't we just move on? I got

many answers. Some people spoke about treasured relationships with individuals, developed over many years. Some talked about memories of activities and learning that took place with people from other meetings, some going back to childhood. Some told of social justice ministries that could do bigger things when supported by a larger body. Some stressed the value of staying in the conversation to provide a challenge to NWYM's current Faith and Practice, and a witness about affirming LGBTQ people and relationships. Others mentioned practical benefits of membership. More broadly, I heard the message, “Relationship matters. Connection with a broader community of faith matters.”

Now that we no longer have the option of staying in NWYM, there are new questions: Do we want to be in formal relationship with other Pacific Northwest meetings? Are there things we want to do that can become reality in cooperation with other meetings, that we could not do alone? If there is a new organization, what would make us want to be part of it?

The Interim Committee will begin meeting on June 7, and our major work is likely to be planning for what will happen at the Yearly Meeting Annual Sessions this summer (July 23-26). My understanding is that there will be some joint sessions where all attendees participate, and some parallel sessions where those staying in NWYM will meet separately from those leaving, or contemplating leaving. The Interim Committee will be planning what will happen during the parallel sessions for those who will or may leave. I have no idea how many people from WHF will be interested in or able to attend those sessions, or will care about what happens there. Will you care?

If you care, or if you think you might care when the time comes to decide whether to join whatever the new thing is, **Elijah and I want to talk to you – soon! We are your representatives, and we need to know:** What are your questions, concerns, hopes, fears, perspectives? What are the essential issues, from your point of view, that must be discerned? Do you have ideas about ways we can facilitate this work at Annual Sessions and thereafter? If there is a New Thing, what should it be called?

I can be reached at chrisdurost@gmail.com or 971-207-7820. (I tend to slip out after worship on Sundays, but I really do want to hear from you – email is the best way to reach me.)

Elijah can be reached at elijahfromthesource@gmail.com or 870-243-1436.

www.QuakerNews.com Highlights

Date	Topic
2/25	Meeting commits to safety for LGBTQ+
3/20	Camas Friends rejects 'authoritarian path'
3/25	NWYM Transition team releases report
3/28	Associations offer model for PNW Friends
4/3	North Seattle approves minute to leave NWYM
4/20	NWYM Transition team researches fiduciary trust
4/21	North Carolina offers model for PNW
4/24	Minutes from Eugene gathering available
4/25	Pocatello worship group to join new fellowship
5/12	Newberg Friends considers split over YM issue
5/19	North Valley releases survey results
5/30	Interim Committee members named

Interim Committee

Clerk: Jan Wood

Communications:

Eric Muhr

Camas

Joann Boswell

Helen May

Eugene

Marie Matsen

Elizabeth Price

Joanne Halgren (alt)

Klamath Falls

Faith Marsalli

Carol Whorton

North Seattle

Jan Wood

Cecilie Hudson

West Hills

Chris Durost

Elijah Walker