



Welcome to the **July Web Edition** of the Gunpowder Newsletter. Some information has been redacted. To receive the full monthly Newsletter please feel free to inquire with Gunpowder's Clerk at [gunpowderclerk@gmail.com](mailto:gunpowderclerk@gmail.com).

Members and attenders may access newsletters and monthly minutes in the log-in area of the website.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Clerk's Announcement:**

If you would like an email or a notice to go out to members and attenders of the Meeting, please send your request to [GunpowderClerk@gmail.com](mailto:GunpowderClerk@gmail.com).

### **Please join our SECOND SUNDAY SINGS!!!**

Each Second Sunday, 9:00 to 9:45am we gather to lift our voices in song; carrying messages of love and hope, and peace into the universe. Ruth Fitz's Spirit led leadership carries us beyond ourselves in ways that we hadn't anticipated into beloved community as she teaches, uplifts, encourages, enlivens and enlightens. Whether you consider yourself a singer, or not, doesn't matter! Spirit is in the room! Clearly a time not to be missed! Mark your calendar for every Second Sunday from 9:00am to 9:45am.

### **Fine Weather Invites WORSHIP ON THE PORCH**

For many years, worship on the porch in fine weather was a Gunpowder tradition. This is still a welcome practice -- at any time of the year -- but particularly joyful perhaps when the sun shines and breezes waft.

A difference now is that some Friends will continue to stay in the worship room to share time with those who join us across the technology bridge.

The choice is yours. We hope that all who come to worship will gather at 10:55 in the worship room so all may hear the sharing of joys and sorrows.

**FORUMS: YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED...** A little more information on the upcoming Forum topic

### **July 21<sup>st</sup> – The Conversation Project, Planning for Death While Living Your Values.**

Planning for Death? Far from a dreary or maudlin exercise, it is very freeing to have clarity and make some wishes known while we still can. And it takes responsibility instead of pushing decision making into the hands of others, who might not want that burden or even know what we want.

"The Conversation Project" has produced a simple booklet to stimulate thinking and conversations for ourselves and family members to be clear about many things from practical matters to medical care decisions. We will use this tool to begin this work.

Later this Fall we plan another forum on the broader subject of "Death and Dying" using a more spiritual perspective that invites wholeness with the reality of our mortality.

## **QUIET DAY @ Gunpowder Meeting: Second Saturday**

After a Silent Retreat Day at Gunpowder Meeting, here's what some Friends have said:

*"It's wonderful to have this space and time."*

*"I feel a spaciousness here."*

*"I think in a different way when I'm here."*

*"My approach to whatever I'm doing is more spacious."*

*"The deep shared silence is beautiful."*

*"I don't want to leave!"*

Curious? Want to experience some of this? Come join us!

**When:** Second Saturday of each month (with occasional date changes) 9 am until 3 pm

**Who:** All are welcome

**Where:** Gunpowder Friends Meeting House

**Contact:** LouAnne Smith [louannesmith2@gmail.com](mailto:louannesmith2@gmail.com) to learn more or confirm attendance

The Meeting website provides detailed information about how the day goes:

<https://gunpowderfriends.org/spiritual-deepening/silent-retreat-days/>

**If you are not currently serving on a committee, the Nominating Committee invites you to consider 'ad hoc' (as needed) availability for specific tasks, for example:**

- hosting outside groups at the meeting house (Property Committee & Trustees);
- providing transportation or other help to a Friend in need (Care and Oversight Committee);
- making phone calls or writing emails and letters (Care and Oversight Committee); and
- providing Adult Education or a forum (Ministry and Counsel Committee).

If you can support the Meeting in this way, please contact the current clerk of the committee:

- Care and Oversight Committee - Claire Twose - [ctwose@verizon.net](mailto:ctwose@verizon.net) - 443-413-6838
- Property Committee – Alan Schmaljohn - [aschmalj@xecu.net](mailto:aschmalj@xecu.net) - 240-626-3704
- Trustees – Alan Schmaljohn - [aschmalj@xecu.net](mailto:aschmalj@xecu.net) - 240-626-3704
- Ministry and Counsel – Rebecca Richards - [rebecca.richards4912@gmail.com](mailto:rebecca.richards4912@gmail.com) - 410-491-5170

## **What are the different committees and what do they do?**

**Trustees:** Trustees are legally responsible to receive, hold, and protect real and personal property of the Meeting.

**Care and Oversight Committee:** Because we see each person as a minister, Friends collectively accept responsibility for the pastoral work that would be performed by a paid minister. This committee tracks and coordinates meeting the personal needs of members and regular attenders—needs for encouragement, counsel, and support.

**Finance Committee** The Finance Committee informs and advises the Meeting regarding cash available for operations and information about account balances of cash and investments. It also prepares the annual budget and presents it to Meeting for Business.

**Ministry and Counsel Committee:** The Ministry and Counsel Committee cares for the spiritual health and refreshment of the Meeting. The Committee cares specifically for Meeting for Worship.

**Property Committee:** As stewards of our meetinghouse and grounds, this committee maintains the building and grounds for present use and preserves them for future generations, while respecting the historic legacy of the property.

### **PEACEWALK 2024**

On May 7, 2024, Veterans For Peace and other peace and justice organizations began a walk of 650 miles from Maine to Washington, DC. Their plan is to arrive in Washington, DC on July 4<sup>th</sup>. The walkers are currently in Maryland. You can see their route and follow the progress on their website: <https://peacewalk2024.org/>

### **CALLING ALL FRIENDS: McKim Summer Camp Days at Gunpowder**

On Thursday, July 11th and Friday, July 12th, Gunpowder will welcome—for the third year in a row—the McKim Summer Camp Youth. We'll be offering sessions for learning and fun, a drumming circle, a trip to the Matthews' neighboring farm, and camper-friendly meals (think "Breakfast for Lunch" and "Pizza Friday"). Our partnership with McKim continues to be a blessing to the many Friends who participate. The youth and McKim staff will be with us each day from 10:30 until 2:00 p.m. There are many ways to get involved. If you're interested, email or call Amy Schmaljohn ([amy@schmaljohn.com](mailto:amy@schmaljohn.com) or 410-245-8300).



### **Thinking About Race (July 2024)**

This month we turn our attention to a matter of grave injustice to Native American people, culture and communities – Indian boarding schools run by the U.S. government from 1819 to 1969 and some beyond – intentionally designed to eradicate Native American cultures and seize tribal lands.

In 1969 a report issued by a Senate sub-committee included a searing criticism of these schools: “They were designed to separate a child from his reservation and family, strip him of his tribal lore and mores, force the complete abandonment of his native language, and prepare him for never again returning to his people.” Though not mentioned by that report,

physical and sexual abuse was well documented. Still, many of these schools continued without oversight for another 30 years!

A lengthy report in the Washington Post details much of this history and its legacy of individual and societal trauma. The link to that report is below. A few stories from the WAPO report are illustrative.

“One by one, starting in the 1950s, Geraldine Charbonneau Dubourt and her eight sisters from the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa were sent more than 400 miles away from their North Dakota home to St. Paul’s Indian Mission School in Marty, S.D. on the Yankton Sioux Reservation.” All eight sisters detailed their experience in a 2008 court filing over alleged physical and sexual abuse. One told of being repeatedly abused by a priest in a basement where coffins were stored. “One time he put me inside a coffin and I thought I would die.”

In 2022 the Interior Department issued the first report (ever!) to count and locate the schools the government supported. “The report also revealed that at least 500 boys and girls died at the schools – and that the number could be in the thousands or tens of thousands. Many buried in unmarked graves.”

Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, a member of the Pueblo of Laguna tribe of New Mexico, traveled the country in 2022 to hear in person the stories of the schools’ survivors and their descendants. For many it was the first chance they had to confront the government. Matthew War Bonnet, 78, told of being sent to a school at the age of 6 where the severity of beatings regularly landed children in the infirmary. He described being beaten with a strap, imbedded with sharp metal strips, which the priest called the “Jesus rope.” “This strap taught me not to feel,” said War Bonnet.

The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition reports that the few remaining schools are now run by tribes or the Bureau of Indian Education and promote Native American culture and language and families now have a choice as to whether their children will attend. Deborah Parker of the Coalition says, “We want to know what happened to our grandmothers, our parents, our family members. We’ve been lied to. We want to know the truth. We need to begin to heal.”

The link to the WAPO article:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/investigations/interactive/2024/american-indian-boarding-schools-history-legacy/>