

Friends,

What an interesting time to be alive! If you are like me and my family, I'm sure you are getting a little stir crazy. But as we wait for life to get back to normal, I'm encouraging everyone to look for signs of hope during this dark time. I found a poem by Father Richard Hendric that I found encouraging. I hope you do too.

"Yes there is sickness. Yes there is even death.

But, They say that in Wuhan after so many years of noise  
You can hear the birds again. They say that after just a few weeks of quiet  
The sky is no longer thick with fumes, But blue and grey and clear.  
They say that in the streets of Assisi people are singing to each other across the empty squares, keeping their windows open so that those who are alone may hear the sounds of family around them.  
They say that a hotel in the West of Ireland  
Is offering free meals and delivery to the housebound.  
Today a young woman I know is busy spreading fliers with her number through the neighborhood so that the elders may have someone to call on.  
Today Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples are preparing to welcome and shelter the homeless, the sick, the weary  
All over the world people are slowing down and reflecting  
All over the world people are looking at their neighbors in a new way  
All over the world people are waking up to a new reality to how big we really are.  
To how little control we really have. To what really matters.  
To Love. So we pray and we remember that, Yes there is fear. But there does not have to be hate. Yes there is isolation. But there does not have to be loneliness.  
Yes there is panic buying. But there does not have to be meanness.  
Yes there is sickness. But there does not have to be disease of the soul.  
Yes there is even death. But there can always be a rebirth of love.  
Wake to the choices you make as to how to live now.  
Today, breathe. Listen, behind the factory noises of your panic.  
The birds are singing again the sky is clearing, Spring is coming, and we are always encompassed by Love. Open the windows of your soul and though you may not be able to touch across the empty square, Sing."

Grace and peace - Jon



IN OUR  
*Thoughts and Prayers*

**Please keep these Friends in your prayers**

*Susan Block*

*Cheryl Sanford*

*Mary Gang*

*Dan Sheridan*

*Dolly Kellar*

*Alec Wessendorf*

*Bea McMurtrey*

*Walt Wessendorf*

*Liz Nielander*

*Emily West*

*Johanna Ridenour*



Jon will give a live-streamed message each Sunday at 10:30 am on our Facebook page. Please keep connected via Facebook by going to [www.facebook.com/firstfriendsskokomo](http://www.facebook.com/firstfriendsskokomo).

A paper version of the messages will be mailed to those without Facebook.

*Friendly Reminders*

Quiet time will be at 7:00am and at 9:00pm.

This is a time we have set aside to "be still and know". If you pray during either of these times, you will know that other Quakers are praying at the same time.

Please remember to check in with each other via phone calls to stay connected.

Just a reminder that, during this trying time, we still have bills to pay. Checks can be made to First Friends and mailed to the office: 1801 W. Zartman Rd., Kokomo, 46902.

If you need anything or have a prayer request, please call the church office and leave a message. We will be checking messages every day.

The office number is:  
765-453-9490.



Committee meetings will be held via conference call until further notice. Information to access the meetings by conference call will be send via email.



A complete & accurate count is critical for your community. The results will affect community funding, congressional representation and more. To protect census workers, please

complete your census online at <https://2020census.gov> or mail in your census form.



For proper handwashing tips and other guidelines to keep yourself and others healthy, go to the CDC website:

[www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html)

Be a good neighbor and protect our community and those at a high risk of severe complications. In a spirit of loving our neighbor, protect others

by not going out and not having any in-person contact with others. Check on friends and loved ones via the phone, email, text, & Facebook.