Bozeman Worship Group
State of the Meeting
June 2020

To Friends everywhere:

How do we find words to describe the change that we have encountered in the last year? Some concerns seem trivial by comparison to the global challenges we face with the Corona virus pandemic. Others are just as worrisome as they were a year ago, climate change and immigration injustice, for example.

Way back in September we had our annual business meeting. There was interest at that time in the concept of Spiritual Nurture Groups but we concluded that we were not quite ready yet. One consistent energy arising quietly in worship and informal discussion was a concern for the worship group to be involved in some sort of social action as a group.

Seemingly out of the blue came just such an opportunity when we became connected with an effort to address the needs of some Honduran families who have moved to Bozeman, often working in Big Sky. Five of our group became active in working on this issue. Since then two Friends developed a mentoring program which has grown much beyond our worship group. Funds for our project of befriending Honduran families were received from all over the state and used in many ways. One friend drove a Honduran individual all the way to Salt Lake City and another to Kansas for immigration hearings.

Looking back it is fascinating to see that we put “out there” the interest in a social justice project and, lo and behold, we had one in front of us!

In December we met for our annual potluck and worship sharing. Once again we had many people (21) and a lovely time.

We continued to meet at the campus Christian Center, Christus Collegium. Then in March everything started to change as we realized that we were in a global pandemic. By late March we were meeting by Zoom, finding it vital to be together in the way that was possible while missing the physical closeness and energy of being present to each other physically. An unexpected side benefit of Zoom is that we have been enriched by the participation of Friends who are otherwise too far away to regularly attend. We find that we like worship sharing more often.

Now as our country’s dark under side has been laid open for all to see, we are exploring what we can do about that, how we can take action that is centered in inner guidance, love and hope. We continue to find that seeking wisdom within and from the light in each other provides us with a north star in this time of great challenge. We are finding ways to take make small acts of kindness and support of others, finding political will to act and listening deeply to how Spirit is moving among us.