

Fall 2016 Newsletter



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The Spirituality Network, Inc.
provides:

- Education and formation through the Wellstreams Training Program
- Spiritual direction referrals for groups and individuals
- Retreat planning and facilitation
- Programs to foster the spiritual life
- Connection to a variety of spirituality resources in central Ohio

As an ecumenical organization, the Spirituality Network serves people both within and outside of religious institutions.

See "An Exciting Announcement from the Chair..." p. 4

Introducing Our New Executive Director

Rev. Dr. Renee P. Wormack-Keels' career in ministry began in Massachusetts in 1994 as the minister of Christian Education at Southern Baptist Church, Roxbury, MA. Renee was licensed as a minister and ordained to the Christian Ministry at Southern Baptist Church. Renee is the pastor emeritus of the historic First Baptist Church, Salem, Massachusetts. She has also served as the senior pastor at the United Baptist Church, Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, and as an intentional interim pastor to the First Church of Springfield, Ohio. She received her pastoral training at Andover Newton Theological School, where she was awarded several grants and scholarships, including the Jonathan M. Daniels Fellowship from the Episcopal Divinity School, along with fellow student, Rev. June R. Cooper.



Pastor Renee is active with The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts (TABCOM), serving as a member of the board of directors, and is a member of the executive committee of the Adnoriam Judson Association, where she serves as cochair for the Committee on Ordained Ministry. She is a native of Cincinnati, Ohio, reared by her paternal grandparents Fred and Katherine Wormack. It was their faith that laid the foundation for her spiritual journey and development. At the age of 8, Renee was baptized at Bethel Baptist and attended Sunday school, sang in the Junior Choir and the Bethel Wonders, and played piano for the Buds of Promise.

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Spirituality Network Events

Inviting the Wisdom of Autumn: A Contemplative Retreat

*Sunday, November 13, 4pm, through Tuesday, November 15, 2pm,
Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center, Heath, Ohio*

Overnight rate: \$225 prepaid by November 1; \$250 after; includes 2 nights, private room/bath, all meals, and materials

Commuter rate: \$125 prepaid by November 1; \$150 after; includes meals (except breakfast) and all materials

Space is limited. PREREGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

What wisdom does the season of autumn offer you?

What aspects of your life are preparing for a season of rest?

How will autumn help you to trust the darker days of winter ahead?

Before the rush of the holidays, take time to slow down, catch your breath, and renew your spirit in this contemplative retreat. We will gather for prayer, discussion, and reflection each evening and morning, allowing extended time during the day for individual meditation. Silence will be encouraged as a means to deepen your prayer. Optional individual and group spiritual direction is included. Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center in Heath (www.stspeterpaulretreatcenter.com) features private rooms with bath, excellent food service, and beautiful grounds for walking.

Limited scholarship assistance is available; call Amanda to inquire: 614/228-8867 or e-mail: ascushing4@spiritualitynetwork.org

Wellstreams

an ecumenical training program
in spiritual formation and development



wellstreamscolumbus.org/

Important Dates

August 26-27: New Wellstreams Class begins (#11)

September 24: Wellstreams 20th Anniversary Luncheon. Graduates should have received a personal invitation. More information on the website.

Wellstreams Workshops

Open to all spiritual directors and those in the helping professions. Please preregister (deadline one week before the class date) by calling 614/228-8867 or online: <http://wellstreamscolumbus.org/> (click on the Professional Growth tab).

Family Systems (Interactive Workshop)

October 15, 2016, 9:10am-3:30pm, \$65 (lunch on your own—brown bag or nearby restaurant). Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Dr., Columbus. **PREREGISTER BY OCTOBER 7.**

Our family, over the generations, exercises the most powerful influence in shaping who we are as persons. The more we know and understand how our family works and how it consciously and unconsciously affects our life choices, the more freedom we have to make choices that help us live and create our own selves and families in healthy ways. This interactive workshop presents:

- The basic elements in family systems theory
- An opportunity for participants to reflect on what they received from their forebears
- How this affects behavior in interpersonal and group relationships

Workshop includes lecture, discussion, personal reflection, and small group processing.

Facilitator: The Rev. J. Michael Jupin, is a retired Episcopal priest, serving on the board of Healthy Congregations. He began learning Bowen Family Systems Thinking from Rabbi Dr. Edwin Friedman in 1992 and continues to grow in his understanding as he applies the theory in his life and teaching.

A Man's Journey: Growing in Wisdom in Man's Spiritual Quest

November 19, 2016, 9:10am-3:30pm, \$65 (lunch on your own—brown bag or nearby restaurant). Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Dr., Columbus. **PREREGISTER BY NOVEMBER 11.**

The pattern of man's spiritual journey will be the focus of this workshop. The workshop will explore the male developmental process through life's transitions as men seek accomplishment, meaning, and connection. It will examine typical archetypal patterns that give men identity and explore ways to support men in finding wholeness and wisdom.

Facilitator: The Rev. Karl Ruttan is an Episcopal priest and spiritual director, with a passion for spiritual guidance. He has served in congregational ministry in Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and central Africa. He received his PhD in spiritual formation from Duquesne University. In more recent years he served as Canon for Life Formation in the Diocese of Southern Ohio. Karl has a long-time interest in male spirituality, leading retreats and presenting workshops at Spiritual Directors International's annual conferences. He now lives in Louisville with his wife, Mary; they have two adult children.



An Exciting Announcement from the Chair...

SPIRITUALITY NETWORK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Sara Ward, Vice Chair

Judy Ketterer, Secretary

David Holt, Treasurer

Elizabeth Bartley, Interfaith
Liaison

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Spiritual Director to the Board
Rev. Dr. Brenda Buckwell

Ex-officio

Joe Fowler
Past Chair

Maxine Shonk, OP
Women to Women Liaison

The Spirituality Network is pleased to announce that our new executive director is the Rev. Dr. Renee P. Wormack-Keels. We interviewed four excellent candidates with a variety of gifts and experience, which made for a very difficult decision. The interview team felt that Renee's abilities and experience were most aligned with our current needs and with our discernment process. The board voted in July to approve Renee to be our part-time executive director. Renee is a pastor in the American Baptist tradition. In addition to her experience in the parish and larger church she has management, planning, and development experience. We are fortunate to have her join us during this important time in the history of the Spirituality Network.

Rev. Wormack-Keels has hit the ground running in spite of a new knee. As she was recovering from surgery she read through a number of documents and reports from the past years of the work of the Spirituality Network. She also reviewed some of the materials related to our discernment process and has begun meeting with the staff and volunteers.

We look forward to Renee reaching out to our many partners and our many supporters and friends. She will be establishing her schedule in the days ahead and as she is able to return from her surgery.

This coming December the board will host an open house with a date, time, and venue to be announced soon. This open house will be an opportunity for you to meet Rev. Wormack-Keels, get updates on both Wellstreams and Women to Women, and hear the results of our discernment process and our next steps to implement what was discerned.

We appreciate the prayers and support over the past 2 years as we journeyed through the discernment process. The variety of voices and communities we heard from opened up new opportunities and challenges for the Network.

Richard Rohr writes, "All great spirituality teaches about letting go of what you don't need and who you are not. Then, when you can get little enough and naked enough and poor enough, you'll find that the little place where you really are is ironically more than enough and is all that you need. At that place, you will have nothing to prove to anybody and nothing to protect. That place is called freedom. It's the freedom of the children of God. Such people can connect with everybody. They don't feel the need to eliminate anybody" (*Healing Our Violence through the Journey of Centering Prayer*).

As we move into the future and into new directions these words are an invitation to be both challenged and creative and to have a clarity of purpose. I am sure Renee will be a great asset in gaining clarity and in challenging us to be both "more than enough and all that we need." It will also take the continued work of the board, the Wellstreams advisory council, the Women to Women collaborative circle, and all of you our friends and partners. Your continued support of the Spirituality Network through your prayers, your gifts, and your presence is valued and important to the board and our staff.

Peace,
Mark Diemer
Board Chair



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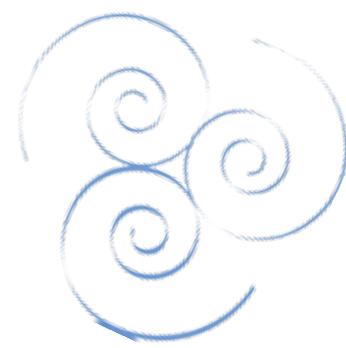
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Transitions, Challenges, and Opportunities



by Renee P. Wormack-Keels, Executive Director

The prophet Isaiah's writing to the children of Israel came during a time of transition and challenge. His words from chapter 43:18-19: "Do not call to mind the former things, or ponder things of the past. Behold, I will do something new, Now it will spring forth; Will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, Rivers in the desert."

New things are happening all around us that we may not be aware of.

Over the summer as I watched the Democratic National Convention, I was reminded that everything on earth (and perhaps in heaven, too) is in a state of transition. For the first time in history, a woman has been nominated as the presidential candidate of a major political party. Women have been voting since 1920, a short few 94 years. I expect that their vote will have a significant impact in the 2016 presidential election. Times are indeed changing.

Yes, transition is tough. Yet, I think we are up to the challenge. Transitions and change are prophetic. Did not Isaiah remind us that God is always up to something new?¹ The book of Joshua comes to mind also when I consider the challenge of transition. After 40 years of wandering in the wilderness Moses, who led them through those tough times, died before entering the Promised Land. A new, and much younger leader, emerged to take his place.

But God told Joshua, "Be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go."² God's words of promise and direction would be the foundation of Joshua's leadership in every situation.

And, finally, there is opportunity. Jesus would offer to the disciples (and to us as well) words of promise and opportunity. "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing in the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."³

Imagine that! Having opportunities to pursue a life of faith and to make a difference in our families, in our

communities, and in the world. There are also increased opportunities to know that God's love is unconditional.

Margaret Wheatley is one of my favorite writers. A not-too-recent publication, *Turning to One Another: Simple Conversations to Restore Hope in the Future*, features an article titled "Willing to be Disturbed."⁴ Her opening statement reads, "As we work together to restore hope in the future, we need to include a new and strange ally—our willing to be disturbed." That statement continues to guide my thoughts as I enter a new work and role as executive director of the Spirituality Network. This new work is filled with transition, challenges, and opportunities.

Transition from pastoral ministry to nonprofit management

I fully embrace the partnership leadership model of nonprofit management because it exists to make communities better places for people to live. In partnership, those who work within the organization have the power to determine how they will do their work. Everyone is then responsible for the outcomes of the mission. That's exciting for me.

What's the challenge?

New leadership brings forth new ideas and challenges to rediscover creativity. Wheatley offers insight into facing those challenges as well. She suggests, "We will succeed in changing this world only if we can think and work together in new ways." We cannot do it alone.

Then there are opportunities

All around us are opportunities to become more diverse but also inclusive. How might we create an environment where people feel they can actively participate, where their contributions are respected and valued? I think it means learning to have courageous conversations about culture, race, and spirituality.

Isaiah has motivated me to see new vision and re-newed interest in the new things of God. How about you?

¹Isaiah 43:18-19

²Joshua 1:7

³Matthew 28:18-20

⁴Margaret Wheatley, *Turning to One Another: Simple Conversations to Restore Hope to the Future*, San Francisco: Berrett-Koehler Publishers, Inc., 2002



New Executive Director – *continued from p. 1*

Renee's professional life includes work for former Governor of Ohio, Richard Celeste as a policy analyst on women's and children's issues. In addition, she has been a lecturer/instructor in the fields of sociology, women's studies, and Black studies at the University of Cincinnati and the Ohio State University. These experiences led her to Boston to become the executive director of Social Justice of Women, a nonprofit advocacy group, providing innovative treatment for women in the criminal justice system. From 2002-2007, she held the position of regional field director for Prison Fellowship Ministries, making her a very busy bivocational minister. In March 2002, Renee received the Stanley Jones Clean Slate Award for aftercare services to men and women released from jail or prison. In December 2008, she received the Outstanding Community Service Award from Waymark Seventh Day Adventist Church for her work as a prisoner rights advocate.

Renee's leadership style is based on the servant-leadership model with shared decision making to ensure that all members are heard and invested in a kingdom-building agenda. The gifts and talents that she brings to pastoral ministry include a commitment to a Christ-centered ministry of teaching and preaching; a strong faith in impossible possibilities; a joy for the Lord that is contagious and energizing; and a hunger for prayer, worship, fellowship, and service to others. Her hope for the church is that the body of Christ will become more unified through diversity with a clearly demonstrated vision and mission to the "least and the lost." Her vision and hope for ministry is both a model and a vehicle to bring the Word of God to hurting people in need of redemption.

She enjoys reading the latest books on her iPhone, gardening as time permits, traveling, continuing to learn Biblical Hebrew and spending quality time with her three sons, nine grandchildren, two great granddaughters, special friends, and a wide-reaching community family. Her greatest passion, however, is quilting. In 2013 Quilting Beyond Borders was established as a charitable trust to create business opportunities for women living in poverty in the Caribbean islands. Each year she travels to one of the islands (Trinidad, St. Lucia, Grenada, or Antigua) along with a team of master quilters to teach, train, and mentor women in the art of quilting and other fiber and mixed media arts.

Today, her fiber art has a new name: Metamofosi. Metamofosi is Swahili for metamorphosis or transformation. Her passion for ministry and the art of quilting and surface design power her commitment to helping faith-based groups and organizations experience the power of God as they change to enhance the Kingdom.

Women to Women

The summer is certainly flying by so fast. We are grateful for the blessings and bounty of summer and hope everyone is enjoying the longer summer days and evenings.

In the spirit of cooperation and partnership with the Spirituality Network, Women to Women appreciated the Network's invitation to attend the annual meeting. W2W members in attendance felt welcomed and affirmed. They also noted an intention to include W2W as an integral part of the Network. In keeping with this spirit, Network board members Rev. Mark Diemer and Sara Ward attended the August 8 meeting of the W2W Collaborative Circle to talk about the Network and help us be informed about Network activities.

W2W held a day of discernment on June 25, 2016 to renew and invigorate our mission and ministry. Both veteran members (some have been involved for 25 years) and more recent members came together with a focus on appreciative inquiry, led by Sr. Maxine Shonk. The history of W2W was presented and participants brainstormed the joys and challenges of the sites as well as how to increase the number of participants. The value and mission of the ministry were affirmed.

To celebrate the presence of W2W at the East Fifth Ave Apartments for 10 years, a cookout was held on Sunday, July 31 for the residents. Approximately 25 guests attended. In addition to celebrating the longevity of the relationship, W2W wanted to meet some of the newer residents to acquaint them with the Listening Circle and invite them to attend future sessions. We hope the excitement generated will carry over and new faces will be at the next Listening Circle.

W2W is excited to be exploring with two new sites the possibility of hosting W2W Listening Circles. St. John's Episcopal Church in Franklinton and St. Philip's Episcopal Church on Woodland Avenue are both eager to have the presence of W2W at their respective churches. We are currently in discussion with both sites about next steps including site preparation and advertising.

The members of W2W and our guests are looking forward to the fall retreat October 15-16 at Dominican Acres. Marguerite Chandler will be the facilitator.

As we move from the more carefree days of summer to the busy fall season we hope for peace in our hearts and in our world.

Submitted by Linda Williams





Celebrating 25 Years of Living Faith Awards

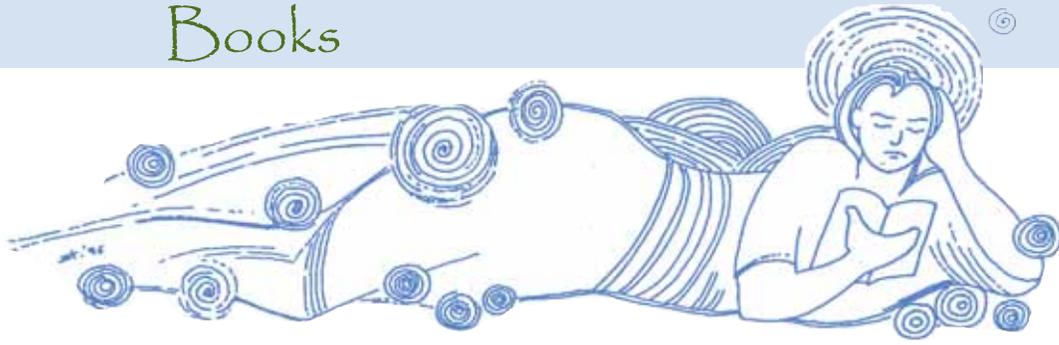


2016 Living Faith Awards recipients: left to right (standing)—Tom Helber, Rev. Dr. Richard Wing, Dr. Katelin Hansen, Sarah Leonard, Fr. Vinny McKiernan, Dr. Jefferey Kee, Richard Gehman, Jed Dearing, Shawn Fitzpatrick, OP, Bob Adrion (son of awardee Dr. William Adrion), Steve Bosserman; seated—Don Sexton

Save the Date!
Giving Tuesday, November 29, 2016

Celebrated on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving, #GivingTuesday has become a new preholiday tradition of support for nonprofit organizations. Please mark your calendar and remember to support the Spirituality Network on November 29.

Books



Catching Up with Jesus (A Gospel Story for Our Time) by Diarmuid O'Murchu (Crossroad Publishing Company, 2005)

This book is an attempt at a contemporary Jesus story for Christians and others who engage with the new cosmology. The Jesus contained within strict historical boundaries finds little space in this new worldview, while the Jesus who launched a daring new world, described in the Gospels as the Kingdom of God, very much belongs here.

Jesus belongs to all of us who have struggled with faith, as well as grown through it, who question it as much as abide by its guidelines. The book is written primarily for spiritual seekers of a Christian culture or background. It is designed for adult learners who can trust intuition, take risks, and have their horizons stretched.

It is the author's desire that this book will open up horizons of hope and fresh meaning in the human soul. It definitely will require a fresh engagement with the living story as distinct from fixed dogmas. Having read and pondered many of the ideas in this book, I would say that the author's desire is accomplished. Keep a fresh eye on the Kingdom of God as each of the following themes are developed: contemplation, right relations, and justice-making. These are so appropriate for today's culture.

Reviewed by Carol Ann Spencer, OP

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You can help The Spirituality Network when you shop at Amazon.com. Click on the Amazon Purchase Program link on our home page to learn about two ways to support the Network through your purchases.

spiritualnetwork.org/amazon.html



Ongoing Groups

CENTERING PRAYER

Led by Fr. Vinny McKiernan, CSP, at the Newman Center, 64 W Lane Ave, Columbus, Mondays 7-7:45pm and Tuesdays 12:15-1pm. 614/291-4674; e-mail: vinnycsp@yahoo.com.

Introduction to Centering Prayer, September 15, 2016, 12pm and 7:30pm, facilitated by Fr. Vinny McKiernan.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S WRITING GUILD

A network for the personal and professional empowerment of women through writing. Meetings free and open to all, for writing, reading, and gentle critiquing in a safe, supportive environment. **Men are welcome!** Contact Jeanne Marlowe at jamarlowe@juno.com, 614/476-8802 for free e-newsletter with additional dates.

September 3, October 1, November 5: 10am-12:30pm, Karl Road Branch Library, 5590 Karl Rd

INTERFAITH ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL OHIO SPIRITUAL SHARING GROUP

Contact Jeanne Marlowe, 614/476-8802; jamarlowe@juno.com; www.iaco.org. IACO represents nine major faith traditions—Baha'i, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu, Islam, Jain, Jewish, Sikh, and Unitarian Universalism.

TURNING LEAVES AND TEA LEAVES

Second Wednesdays, 2-3:15pm. Monthly book club facilitated by Marialein Anzenberger, OP, and Colleen Gallagher, OP. Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Dr, Columbus; 614/416-1910; martindeporres@oppeace.org; www.martindeporrescenter.net.

BLUE HERON SANGHA

Tuesdays, 7:15-8:45pm. Martin de Porres Center, 2330 Airport Dr, Columbus. A mindfulness community in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh. Contact Sandy at scoen@columbus.rr.com.

THOMAS MERTON STUDY GROUP

Third Mondays, 6-8pm. Vespers in Motherhouse chapel, 2320 Airport Dr, and discussion of Merton readings, led by Merton scholar David Belcastro, PhD. Hosted by Martin de Porres Center, 614/416-1910.

CENTERING PRAYER GROUP

First and third Saturdays of each month, 10:30am-12pm, Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E Stewart Ave, 614/512-3731.

TAIZÉ EVENING PRAYER

Third Sunday of each month, 4-5pm, Corpus Christi Center of Peace, 1111 E Stewart Ave. All are welcome to join us for evening prayer in the style and spirit of the Taizé Community: song, silence, reflection. The prayer of Taizé is known especially for its simple yet beautiful chants, the proclamation of sacred scripture and extended periods of silent meditation.

Community Events



C. G. JUNG ASSOCIATION OF CENTRAL OHIO

Jung Haus, 59 W Third Ave; 614/291-8050, JungACO@JungCentralOhio.org, www.JungCentralOhio.org. Call or e-mail for information and/or to register for these programs.

2016 Bollingen Lecture, Changing the Narrative: A Dynamic Interdisciplinary Psychology, September 16-17, 2016. First Community Church, 1320 Cambridge Blvd., Columbus. Presenter: Erik D. Goodwyn, MD. Friday, 7-9pm, Healing Symbols, Narratives, & Rituals; Saturday, 9am-1:15pm, Reconciling Science & Spirit

Friday's lecture explores how rituals reveal archetypal patterns that can shed light on common psychological functions. In Saturday's workshop, Goodwyn weaves Jungian psychology with research in evolutionary psychology, mental imagery, and dream research to help us understand archetypal and synchronistic events.

Jung 101, October 20, 27, November 3, First Community Church, Guild Room. Presenter: Jay Young. Introductory seminar on the work and contributions of Carl Jung intended for those with limited background and/or knowledge of the work of Carl Jung, using Murray Stein's book, *Jung's Map of the Soul*.

Dreams and Spiritual Growth, December 9, 7pm-9pm, & 10, 9am-4pm, Jung Haus. Presenter: Janice Bachman, O.P., Jungian Analyst. Space limited to 14 participants. Preregistration required by November 25, 2016.

ENNEAGRAM INSTITUTE OF OHIO

4231 Edgehill Dr, Columbus, OH; www.enneagram-ohio.com/

Experiential Enneagram Series, September 2016 through June 2017, first Wednesday of every month, 6:30-8pm, Room 105, Annex Building of First Community Church, 1320 Cambridge Blvd. \$20 payable at the door (scholarships available). Explore various aspects of the Enneagram, such as lost childhood messages, how each type tries to get what they want, addictions and eating disorders, the payoffs of contemplative practice for each type, among others. There is something for every type each month and each class is designed to stand alone.

CORPUS CHRISTI CENTER OF PEACE

1111 E Stewart Ave; 614/512-3731; corpuschristicenterofpeace@gmail.com; cccenterofpeace.org

A Day of Contemplative Prayer and Silence, Saturday, September 10, 9am-5pm. Limited to 20 people. \$20 (scholarships available). Three periods of Contemplative Prayer during the day will each include two 20-minute sessions with a walking meditation between them. The remaining time will be spent in noble silence. You will have the opportunity to spend the time outside of the Contemplative Prayer sessions in spiritual reading, walking meditation, art meditation, or a meditative practice of your choice. This day of silence is not recommended for those not experienced with contemplative prayer practice or those who find it difficult to remain still for extended periods of time. A simple lunch is included and the day will end with wine and cheese and conversation. Register online at cccenterofpeace.org/upcoming-programs.html



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The Spirituality Network is an ecumenical outreach addressing the “thirst for the God of Life.” Founded by Christians, the Network aspires to be a community of acceptance and inclusion. We seek to create hope, peace, and purpose in our community.

We Believe:

- That God’s love is unconditional
- That each person is drawn into relationship with God through the circumstances of human experience
- That a healthy, ongoing relationship with God, self, and all of creation moves one to respond authentically to the needs of others
- That a contemplative life stance must be rooted in prayer, nonviolence, and a radical passion for truth

To receive updates on Network and community events via e-mail, go to spiritualitynetwork.org and click on “Join E-mail List” on the lower right side of the page. Click on “Apply for group membership” on right side of the google group page. Click on red signup button and follow prompts using gmail or any e-mail address.

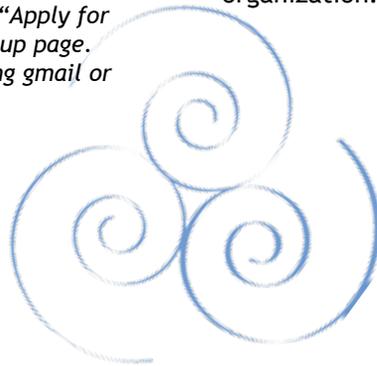
We Provide:

- Education and formation through the Wellstreams Program
- Spiritual direction referrals for groups and individuals
- Retreat planning and facilitation
- Programs to foster the spiritual life, including continuing education and professional enrichment for those in caring ministries
- Outreach to the underserved in society, through programs, scholarships, and other enrichment opportunities

We Serve:

- Both those with and without formal faith affiliations
- Both those with and without ability to pay.

The Spirituality Network, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization.



Support the Mission of The Spirituality Network:

DONATE ONLINE NOW

Or mail your tax-deductible gift to The Spirituality Network, 444 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

Thank you!