

# A Place to Be

## Spirituality Center

*Accompanying those who seek meaning and purpose and something beyond themselves.*

**January-April 2022**

**Newsletter**

### **In this Issue:**

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**...and more!**



We are standing on the threshold of newness – a new year, a new beginning, a new perspective. For some, this threshold holds joyful memories, new beginnings, a point in time full of hope and promise; for others, the sentiment is “good riddance!!”, relief it’s finally over, let’s just shut that door and move on!

Wherever we are, this time of year compels us, invites us to reflect, recollect and renew. News programs showcase the biggest stories of the year, talk shows highlight the most memorable people lost (according to them), and magazines predict key moments to come. And, truth be told,

there have been some news stories that just won’t go away, regardless of how hard we try to ignore them!

For me, this past year has been full of huge ups and downs – gratitude for the growth of our ministry, humbled by the stories shared, thankful for my numerous friends and family who have celebrated the various life events along the way. And there is great sadness in the loss of loved ones, friends and family alike - iconic figures in my life who succumbed to illness and surrendered into a new version of life. My heart breaks over the horrific events of this past year – hurricanes, tornadoes, and mass tragedies too numerous to name. I feel the tension of a culture in crisis and pray for healing, compassion and mercy. It really has been quite a year! And yet, in the midst of all this heaviness and seeming darkness, I feel tremendous hope. In the wise words of Barbara Holmes,

*No matter how fractured things seem to be, no matter how the crisis splinters our delusions, there is a solid foundation within and beneath us, beside and between us. We can depend on this wholeness when it is experienced as a dark night of the soul for individuals, or an eclipse of the ordinary for the community.*

Acutely aware of the temptation to close the door on 2021 and move on, I know we cannot make room for light without traversing the darkness. We cannot really feel the hope of a new day until we have truly embraced the darkness off the night. And so I invite all of us to pause, look back on this past year, open our hearts to what is there and allow “it” to share its wisdom. Then, using that wisdom, look ahead to the upcoming year and do the same. If it’s helpful, Joyce Rupp can guide you through his exercise in her “New Year’s Meditation”. Or Craig, Ruth or I would be happy to companion you as well. Regardless of the way, I hope you will venture onto that path.

For us, at APTB, we hope to be offering you some helpful tools to navigate this new year ahead. We start the season off by taking a hard look at the journey of forgiveness. We explore the universal struggle to forgive in our 3-part *Forgiveness Retreat*. Delving into the stories of Sacred Scripture, we see how the OT stories are our stories in *Journey Through the Bible* series. Stories also play an important role in Jesus’ teachings. Through *Parables: Stories with Intent* we look at how Jesus used stories to draw forth wisdom and offer a new way of living. St. Paul continues to challenge us to stretch and grow in our continued study of his letters.

To keep us from getting too serious, we gather to play, pray and eat in our monthly *Fishes & Loaves Potluck*, engage in a friendly game of *Euclre*, and build friendships while creating beautiful art at our *Friday Night Fun with Art* series (be sure to check out January’s project – so cute!!). And we cannot overlook our amazing annual extravaganza: *The Art Regatta Fundraiser!* Join us on Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate APTB’s milestones of the past year and look ahead to an exciting future – not to mention win some fabulous art and other Silent Auction prizes! More to come on this fun event soon!

However you are approaching this threshold event, APTB will be praying for you and your family this season and all the rest! May your 2022 be filled with peace, joy and abundant blessings!

Kelly

## Our mission:

*A Place to Be* accompanies those who seek meaning and purpose and something beyond themselves.

### Core Values:

- ◇ Sacredness: We believe in every person and all creation dwells the indwelling Spirit.
- ◇ Respect: Acknowledge the dignity, diversity, and worth of each person as a unique image of God.
- ◇ Community: Through prayer, empathy, listening and sharing, we create a safe, nonjudgmental, peaceful place.
- ◇ Hospitality: Welcome all with compassion, acceptance, and celebration.
- ◇ Professionalism: Commit to competence, quality, trust, and personal spiritual development.
- ◇ Emotions: We believe in the authentic sharing of ourselves through laughter, tears and joy.

**COVER ART:** Photo taken by Phil Block, a talented and accomplished photographer and good friend of *A Place to Be*. Phil is a retired corporate trainer and experienced small group leader in area faith communities.

## Have you visited our Spiritual Resource Library?

Our library features a variety of books, cd's and dvd's on a multitude of topics, available to check out, to foster personal and spiritual well being.

If you have spiritual books that you would like to give a new home, we are accepting donations. If they do not fit in our library, we will pass donations along to St. Vincent de Paul.



## How to register:

Go online to [www.aplacetobesc.org](http://www.aplacetobesc.org) and click on "Register" link on the program description page. The donation for most events is due at the time of registration.

### **Financial assistance:**

If you would like to attend a program but cannot manage the entire donation, please call Kelly Lemens, Director, at (262) 277-1928 or email [lemensk@aplacetobesc.org](mailto:lemensk@aplacetobesc.org). We are committed to serving everyone on their spiritual journey and will hold your request in confidence.

**Social media:** Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube!

[www.facebook.com/aplacetobesc](http://www.facebook.com/aplacetobesc)

[www.instagram.com/aplacetobesc](http://www.instagram.com/aplacetobesc)

YouTube Channel: A Place to Be Spirituality Center

## Art Regatta Fundraising Event for A Place to Be

Friday, January 28

5:00-9:00 p.m.

\$25 Admission

***TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE  
ON OUR WEBSITE!***

Join us for an amazing evening of:  
**Food & Beverages • Live Music**  
• **Silent Auction**

And the chance to win beautiful **Original Artwork from a variety of local artists**, all while socializing and supporting A Place to Be!

If you or your business have items they would like to offer as a donation for our silent auction, please contact Kelly at [lemensk@aplacetobesc.org](mailto:lemensk@aplacetobesc.org).

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

"WE SAW THE  
STAR IN THE EAST,  
AND WE CAME TO  
WORSHIP HIM."

CF. MATTHEW 2:2

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR  
CHRISTIAN UNITY 2022



## January 18-25

Join us daily on our Facebook, YouTube and website pages as we offer daily video meditations around this year's theme:

*"We saw the star in the east,  
and we came to worship Him."*

**In-Person Prayer Vigil at APTB  
Monday, January 17, 3:00 p.m.**

# Book Groups & Bible Studies

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## Spirituality Book Clubs

Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00 pm *or* Thursdays, 9:30-11:00 am

**Facilitator:** Kelly Lemens    **Donation:** Varies by selection

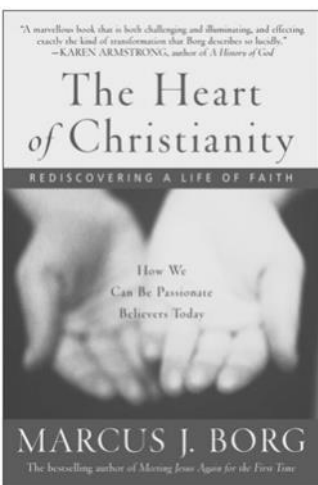
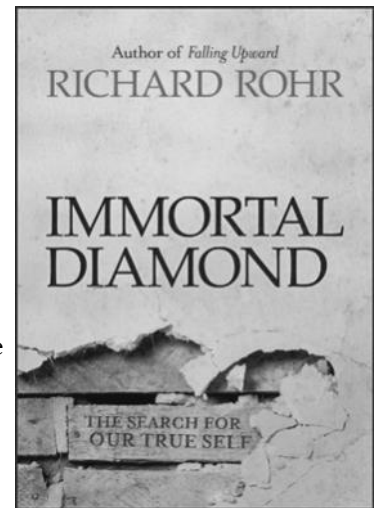
These groups provides encouragement and fellowship for anyone looking to delve deeper into different areas of Spirituality. Join other seekers in studying a faith topic using a variety of genres followed by reflection, discussion, and prayer.

### **Immortal Diamond: The Search for our True Self** by Richard Rohr

~~Wednesdays, beginning January 5, 6:30-8:00 p.m. (Group full for this selection) or  
Thursdays, beginning January 6, 9:30-11:00 a.m.~~

**Suggested Donation:** \$25 (includes book)

Bestselling author Richard Rohr often teaches about the ego (or the False Self) and how it gets in the way of spiritual maturity. But if there's a False Self, is there also a True Self? What is it? How is it found? Why does it matter? And what does it have to do with the spiritual journey? This book likens the True Self to a diamond, buried deep within us, formed under the intense pressure of our lives, that must be searched for, uncovered, separated from all the debris of ego that surrounds it. In a sense True Self must, like Jesus, be resurrected, and that process is not resuscitation but transformation. *Immortal Diamond* explores the deepest questions of our identity, spirituality, and meaning.



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### **The Heart of Christianity** by Marcus J. Borg

Mondays, 6:30-8:00 p.m.

February 7-April 11

Facilitator: Craig Bergland

Donation: \$25, includes book

In The Heart of Christianity, Marcus Borg wants to show us, as today's thinking Christians, how to discover a life of faith by reconceptualizing familiar beliefs. Being born again, for example, has nothing to do with fundamentalism, but is a call to radical personal transformation. Talking about the kingdom of God does not mean that you are fighting against secularism, but that you have committed your life to the divine values of justice and love. And living the true Christian way is essentially about opening one's heart—to God, and to others.

*Marcus J. Borg was professor emeritus in the philosophy department at Oregon State University, where he held the Hundere Chair in Religion and Culture, and author of the New York Times bestselling Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time, The Heart of Christianity, The Last Week, and Jesus. He was an active member of the Jesus Seminar when it focused on the historical Jesus and he had been chair of the historical Jesus section of the Society of Biblical Literature.*

# Book Groups & Bible Studies

(continued)

## Parables: Stories with Intent (via Zoom)

Saturdays, 9:00 – 10:00 am

Beginning January 8, 2022

Facilitator: Kelly Lemens

Suggested Donation: \$25, includes materials

Jesus understood the power of stories. He often used them to teach transformative lessons, convey deep spiritual truths, and confront and challenge his audience to open their hearts to the kingdom. These same stories are equally relevant today. Join us as we explore Jesus' parables in their original context and discuss their meaning for us today.



## A Journey through the Bible

7 Session, all on Thursdays: 1/6, 1/20, 2/3, 2/17, 3/3, 3/17, 3/31, 4/7

6:30—8:00 pm

Facilitator: Kelly Lemens

Donation: \$25

Focusing on the historical books of the Old Testament, this narrative approach to studying the



Bible gives the big picture of salvation history and shows how everything ties together. Based on The Great Adventure Bible Study by Jeff Cavins, we will explore individual events as well as the overall story God's relationship with His people that ties together and makes sense of all the books of the Bible. Once we get a grasp of this "big picture," Scripture comes to life and makes sense; we begin to see how our lives fit in God's loving plan. All are welcome—no previous Bible study experience necessary.

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## Bible Study: The Letters of Paul

2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Facilitator: Kelly Lemens

Ongoing; join anytime

**Suggested Donation:** \$25

Paul's 2nd Letter to the Corinthians is the most personal of all his writings, and it reveals much about his character. Rich and varied in content, the letter reveals Paul's deep reflections about his relationship with this community, his vision and sense of values about a faith community as well as how Jesus' passion and resurrection are the pattern for his and all Christian life. Join us as we explore these and several other issues that have arisen in the Corinth Church and are still present in our Church today. The only supplies needed are a Bible.



# Community Social Events



## Community Euchre Nights

4th Mondays, 6:00-8:00 p.m.: 1/24, 2/28, 3/28, 4/25

**Facilitators:** Jenny & Kenny Mitchell

**Donation:** Free-will offering

We are SO excited to be bringing back one of our favorite monthly social events! Join us for a fun evening of snacks, fellowship and cards at A Place to Be Spirituality Center! Whether you are a Euchre pro, novice, or just want to learn a new game, please join us. All are welcome! This is a free-will offering social event. Come learn, play, and enjoy an evening of cards with us! Please contact Jenny Mitchell with any questions: [mitchellj@aplacetobesc.org](mailto:mitchellj@aplacetobesc.org), 414-339-0561. **No registration needed.**



## Friday Art Fun Nights

3rd Fridays, 6:30-8:30 p.m.: 1/21, 2/18, 3/18

**Facilitators:** Varies

**Donation:** \$15

TGIF! At the end of the week, don't we all deserve to relax, enjoy amazing company, and let our creativity shine? Join us for our Friday Art Fun Nights, where we welcome guests to participate in an evening of art and refreshments. Each month we will feature an instructor-led art project with supplies on hand for anybody who would like to join us in creativity and friendship. Whether you are a seasoned artist or have no art experience, we would love to welcome you for socialization and self expression at our Friday Art Fun Nights!

**Registration requested so we can make sure we have enough supplies.**



## Fishes & Loaves

## Potluck & Game Nights

Fridays: Jan 14, Feb 11, Mar 11, Apr 8, May 13

5:30-9:00 p.m

**Donation:** Free-will offering

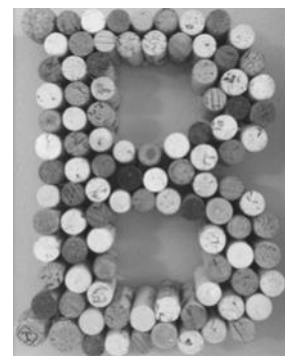
Join us for food, fellowship, and friendship. Bring a dish to pass and enjoy a fun evening of company and game playing. Beverages will be provided.

**No registration necessary.**



January 21 Project:  
Mini Polymer Clay Gnomes

February 18 Project:  
Wine Cork Monogram



# Sharing our Sacred Stories...

I was originally from a family of staunch Lutherans and Mennonites in NE Ohio. Jesus was presented a terrifying figure as my siblings and I were told that we'd burn in Hell for all eternity. My parents undoubtedly rejected such teaching and we found ourselves in a "Unitarian" church in rural Kentucky in the late 1960's. I remember little about it except that it was fun for a little kid and no one was telling me that I was going to do laps in lakes of fiery brimstone for whatever reason.

Many years went by and I was eventually baptized at 30 years of age in the Methodist Church outside of Baltimore, Maryland. Still very unclear about Jesus, I looked to the church largely as a source of support as I was a young mother with no family even remotely close by. From there, when I moved to the state of Illinois, I joined a small Presbyterian church that was also very supportive of me as a mother and wife of someone who worked a lot of hours. I still couldn't really understand Jesus, the role of the Trinity, and the scriptures. Since moving to Wisconsin in 2004, I have bounced from church to church. The Presbyterian Church that my family and I went to fired three of its pastors; the congregation splintered.

Thirty years in various Christian churches, I still didn't "get it" in terms of the traditional religious teaching. From the terror embodied in me as a young child to a person of science (chemistry), I have had significant trouble reconciling my background with religious teaching despite being part of various Christian congregations. I simply could not understand the Trinity or recite the various creeds along with the congregation, as the literal words made no sense to me.

Lost, I joined a Unitarian Church hoping to find that "something" that was missing and elusive. I participated in a "Write your own Theology" course and loved the ability to try to get to know God in a way that made sense to me. Sadly, within a short period of time, the minister there was also fired. And so my search for the reconciling of my life's work as a chemist and the elusive knowing and understanding of God stalled at least in terms of organized religion. I subsequently immersed myself in reading and searching on my own. While this was helpful to me personally, it was lonely as I had almost no one to talk to about what I was reading, learning, experiencing.

Fast forward several years, I found myself at A Place to Be and immediately felt like I had found "it." I joined a book group and suggested it to a dear friend. That first book related the teachings of the Buddha to the teachings of Jesus. The group conversation was open and honest and welcomed questions/questioning. It was exactly what I was seeking after all these years. I felt like the Catholic Church that supported APTB had to be amazing to support this wonderful group and not what I thought in terms of some of the negative controversies associated with them. I had found it. This was now my spiritual home.

**I adore the approach that not only allowed expanded perspective but encouraged engagement and questioning of such perspectives. The ability to expand religious perspective is far from scary to me. Expansion to me is inclusive. Not exclusive. When the circle is widened, by its very nature it includes others.**

Is this not a primary teaching of Jesus? God made available to those who did not/do not understand? Is that not a purpose of somewhat enigmatic parables? It seems to welcome exploration and expansion of perspective to me.

Since that first book group, the friend that I invited and I are actively engaged in programming as time and work schedules allow. I have also brought 4 other friends to various programs at APTB. One is Agnostic/Unitarian, two are Catholic, and one has a very aggressive form of cancer and is possibly looking at her own mortality.

For me personally? I have been able to reconcile my profession as a person of science with that which is mystical/

Thank you, Brenda, for sharing your story!  
If you have a story you would like to share,  
please email it to Jenny at [mitchellj@aplacetobesc.org](mailto:mitchellj@aplacetobesc.org).

-Brenda W

# Other Programs & Retreats



## Forgiveness Workshop

Mondays: January 10, 17 & 31; 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Facilitator: Kelly Lemens

**Suggested Donation:** \$50

The quality of human life on our planet is nothing more than the sum total of our daily interactions with each other. Each time we help, each time we harm, we have a dramatic impact on our world. Because we are human, some of our interactions will go wrong, and then we will hurt or be hurt, or both. Forgiveness is the way we set those interactions right; it is the way we stop our human community from unraveling.

Do you struggle with forgiveness? In this 3-part workshop, we will explore the mysteries of forgiveness, probe how we can freshly engage with the process of forgiveness, and reflect on how forgiveness can transform both us and the world.

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## Sacred Circle



1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month, 1/7, 2/4, 3/4, 4/1

10:00 am - noon

Facilitator: Ruth Hoenicke

**Suggested Donation:** \$10 per session

*Sacred Circle* is for anyone desiring a deeper awareness of themselves and God, the opportunity to explore their own inner territory, and dialogue with other seekers. Through contemplative dialogue, *Sacred Circle* provides sacred space for compassionate listening, both to our inner selves and to others, in a way that restores our sense of self and God. Each session begins with a contemplative practice before reflecting and exploring a sacred writing. *This program is not offered via Zoom.*

## Drumming Circle

Thursdays: January 13, February 10, March 10  
6:30-8:00 p.m.

Hand drumming is an ancient art used in many cultures. The music of drums creates a conduit to the Divine. Drumming is an opportunity to experience worship with our bodies as well as our minds. Join us for this monthly evening of drumming and discover inner strength and encouragement by those sharing the experience. Bring a drum of your own or use one of ours. No experience is necessary. All are welcome!





# Other Programs & Retreats

(continued)

## Bereavement Support

Every 1st Tuesday, 6:30-7:30 pm

**Facilitators:** Kelly Lemens

**Donation:** Free-will offering



The journey through grief is not easy. There is help along the way - it can come from those around you, like family and friends, or others who have experienced grief before you. You'll have the opportunity to process your own unique experience while receiving the comfort and support from others who have personally experienced loss.

*"As long as this place existed I've been coming here. I started out coming to the grief group before it was A Place To Be. Kelly was our grief leader. Knowing how I needed more she asked me to join the Bible study group. I did. Then it went on from there. A Place To Be became a place for everyone and everything from Bible study groups to book study groups, bereavement groups, art classes. And so much more. I invited my family members to come to some of the events offered. My daughter liked and felt welcomed to join in on some of the events. Everyone is welcome here. It's a safe place to be able to join in groups and feel it's ok to have your views and to accept other views as we discuss the books we are studying. They offer so much I wish I could have time and energy to do more. I just wish this was available when I was younger. When Covid hit we had to go virtual. That was a little bit intimidating for me, but the group I was in made it feel ok to do this. Now that they are open again it's great to be able to join in the activities again." -Darlene K.*

## Day of Solitude

**Donation:** \$35, includes optional spiritual companioning session and simple meal

Yearning for a day to unplug and pause from the demands of life? You are invited to spend a day of solitude at the Center where you are given



permission to simply BE. Solitude offers a place to listen to and rest in God. Choose a day that works for you. Begin and end the day with prayer with a Spiritual Companion. You will be offered a private, comfortable room and a simple meal. Options include attending Daily Prayer, using our art supplies, enjoying a walk, and meeting with Kelly Lemens, Spiritual Companion, if you wish.

## Healing Hands, by appointment

**Practitioner:** Maria Giordano, HCT

**Donation:** \$55 for a one-hour session



Hands on healing is a complementary healing technique for stress-reduction and relaxation to improve health and well-being.

Hands on healing combines deep breathing, meditation, and light touch to bring balance to your body, mind, and spirit. Benefits include: releases stress and pain, calms anxiety and depression, enhances the immune system, improves sleep patterns, and maintains health. Contact Maria book an appointment at [mariag@healinghandsenergy.com](mailto:mariag@healinghandsenergy.com).

# Other Programs & Retreats

(continued)



## Whole Garden Planning

Saturday, March 26, 9:00-11:00 a.m.

Presenter: Nicole Tautges, PhD

**Donation:** \$25

Have a small growing area? Are you stuck planting the same things in the same places every year?

Puzzled about how to arrange annuals vs. perennials? Reinvigorate your garden and growing spaces by gaining some knowledge about which crops rotate well year to year, which vegetables grow next to and complement each other well, and how to arrange plants to make sure you get the highest quality fruits and vegetables possible.

Participants will learn:

- How to start healthy seedlings at home
- Organic soil management—health and fertility
- How to rotate vegetable crops year to year for optimal growth
  - Ecological methods for pest control
  - And more!



*Presenter: Nicole Tautges, PhD, has 10 years of experience in field crop production and gardening, and is an expert in crop rotation and ecological plant and soil management. Nicole is eager to help other people expand and optimize their growing spaces to grow food and enhance beauty and biodiversity.*

## Radical Grace Virtual Retreat

Facilitator: Kelly Lemens

Suggested Donation: \$50



The spiritual journey invites us to examine closely those things that get in the way of our relationship with the Divine. Radical grace is needed to help us in the process. In this retreat, we explore three movements that get us closer and closer to a pure heart, to “will the one thing” – union with the Divine. Through Radical Hospitality, we open our heart to ourselves; Radical Humility invites us deeper and deeper into our impure hearts; which will ultimately lead us into Radical Transformation into who we are created to be. Each movement of this retreat includes prayer, reflection and an artistic exercise intended to bring us deeper into the material and into our own personal journey.

Also included is 1 hour spiritual companioning session with Kelly Lemens to explore and unpack the retreat experience, if desired. All materials provided at no extra cost. Access to videos and retreat materials provided upon registration.

Radical Grace is one of our online program offerings.

Other programs available online include:

**A Journey Through the Bible** and  
**The Sacred Art of Fasting.**

Visit our website for more information and to register!

# Spiritual Companionship

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Spiritual companionship is the process of sharing one's sacred stories with a trained, compassionate listener. It can be helpful to anyone seeking spiritual growth, healing, or a deeper connection with God and others. It is a time-honored practice of compassionate, non-judgmental listening to another in a safe setting where what is shared is held with reverence and confidentiality.

A trained spiritual companion will listen intently, patiently, and confidentially as you share your sacred stories. Your spiritual companion will journey with you as you navigate through life's complexities and transitions, and be a trusted guide as you discover your inner wisdom. Spiritual companions do not offer counseling, advice, or problem solving. Rather, they accompany you as you explore your own spiritual path.

## Why Spiritual Companionship?

Seeking God is a universal human quest - common to all ages and to all cultures. Growth in the quest for God happens when we pray with honest, authentic desire. The spiritual companion helps an individual to sort out the various desires in their life and to recognize and respond to their desire for God. Do you desire a compassionate, non-judging listener? Do you long to grow spiritually and communicate with God? Qualified spiritual companions can help you place yourself freely before God and reflect on your life experiences. Spiritual companions are often thought of as "trained listeners," or people who guide you to discover what is already within you.

Typically, spiritual companionship is one hour long and occurs monthly and/or during a directed retreat.

Suggested donation is \$50 per hour. If the donation is beyond your means, please request a scholarship. No one will be turned away because of the inability to pay.

## Our Spiritual Companions



**Kelly Lemens**

[lemensk@aplacetobesc.org](mailto:lemensk@aplacetobesc.org)



**Ruth Hoenick**

[1raheducate@gmail.com](mailto:1raheducate@gmail.com)



**Craig Bergland**

[craig.bergland@gmail.com](mailto:craig.bergland@gmail.com)

Please check out detailed biographies on each of our Spiritual Companions at [www.aplacetobesc.org](http://www.aplacetobesc.org).



*Getting to know*

## **Ruth Hoehnick**

I have lived in Wisconsin my entire life. Although I've traveled to various parts of the world, I love returning home where I was raised with traditional midwestern values. My personal spiritual journey has not been a smooth or straight path. It began with a Catholic upbringing, then exploring many traditions, practices, and beliefs. In addition to teaching at Cardinal Stritch University for 25+ years with the values of St. Francis of Assisi, I ventured into the life of St. Ignatius as I attended retreats at the Jesuit Retreat House for the last 30 years. During my Spiritual Guidance Training, I was able to explore world religions, the Spirituality of the Universe, Jesus and Cosmology, God in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Discernment, Grief & Healing, and so much more. Having taught English in Thailand, Vietnam and Ethiopia, I have been exposed to and participated in a variety of expressions of sacred life. I spend much of my prayer and meditation time in contemplative practices, journaling, spending time in nature, and companioning others in their journey.

I believe the Divine provides the guidance when sitting with another, while I am the companion. It is in sharing sacred stories that individuals find their way. I bring the gifts of listening, sharing, and questioning. Exploration of connections with self, others and the Divine are a means for seekers to find what they are looking for in life. My goal in companioning is to provide a safe and compassionate place in which deep listening and seeking takes place. By encouraging the expression of prayer and spirituality through traditional means as well as movement, visual arts, journaling, music and sustained silence, individuals find new and exceptional paths to follow.

The value of sharing one's spiritual journey is the dialog that brings about new awarenesses, realizations, and discoveries about self, others and God. This wandering can bring about transformation, subtle changes, and a new found peace and serenity. When one continues to investigate a spiritual path, challenges and blessings arise. Navigating what unfolds brings about its own balance and beauty.

I maintain my personal spiritual footing with daily practices of morning readings, short journaling, contact with loving relatives and friends daily, and regularly attending gatherings of a spiritual nature. My devotional practices are eclectic which adds to the mosaic of my life.

I am a wife, mother and grandmother, sister, daughter, companion and friend. I have worn the hats of retreat director, educator, mentor, gardener, yogi and avid reader. I am forever the student.

# Friends of the Center

*A Place to Be* Spirituality Center relies on donations to keep our programs, retreats, and spiritual companioning affordable and accessible to all who seek support. With your support, we can continue offering life-changing programs and retreats to meet the spiritual needs of adults, offering hospitality, peace, hope, gentle care. Whether you've contributed in the past or are ready to make a first-time gift, would you consider making a monthly gift? Year-round, consistent support is vital to sustaining our ministry.

*Friends of the Center* is a monthly giving program that fits your budget. You decide the amount of your gift and authorize your bank to transfer that amount from your checking account directly to *A Place to Be* Spirituality Center. It's that easy! Not only is it convenient and safe, but your donation goes further by reducing administration, postage, and paper costs.

You can designate your gift to our scholarship fund or to our general donation fund. Either way, know that you are helping others on their path to connecting with God, meaning, and wholeness. Thank you for your generosity.

For more information and an enrollment form, visit [www.aplacetobesc.org](http://www.aplacetobesc.org) and click on *Support Us* button or call (262) 277-1928.

Over these past few months, A Place to Be has found itself, like many, in the midst of unique challenges. The need to serve did not end, and in fact became more necessary for our friends and community.

One of the challenges we faced was interacting with individuals either socially distanced or remotely. In response a number of our programs and events were offered virtually via Facebook Live and YouTube. What we discovered through this, is that the virtual world is beyond our traditional physical boundaries of Saukville/Port Washington, even beyond Ozaukee County. Because of the virtual offerings, A Place To Be is now serving people across America, and indeed across the globe.

The real discovery is that APTB is being called to serve no matter where our neighbors and friends are located, and therefore, many of the programs and events that you see in this newsletter are being offered both in-person and virtual.

During this time, we have also searched for other ways to reduce barriers. The APTB Leadership team has recommended that as many programs as possible be offered as a 'Free Will Offering'. This allows participants to contribute only what they can afford. Through the generous support of our friends in the APTB community we believe that this opens the door to many that may not have otherwise been able to participate.

We encourage you to share this newsletter and invite your friends to signup and participate for one of our many offerings.

We thank you for your support and participation at A Place To Be and we look forward to seeing you (maybe virtually) at our next event.

Mark Goeden, APTB Leadership Team Member

## Where to Find Us

*A Place to Be* Spirituality Center is located in Parkside Community UCC Building next to Grady Park on W. Dekora St. in Saukville.

Enter under the awning in the back of the church.

## Hours of operation:

Monday - Thursday: 10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Other times by appointment.

Telephone: (262) 277-1928

Email: [information@aplacetobesc.org](mailto:information@aplacetobesc.org)

Website: [www.aplacetobesc.org](http://www.aplacetobesc.org)

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### Registration Process

Please visit the *A Place to Be* Spirituality Center website at [www.aplacetobesc.org](http://www.aplacetobesc.org) to register for each session. The donation is required at the time of registration; if you would like to pay in installments or register by phone, please call (262) 277-1928 or send an email to [information@aplacetobesc.org](mailto:information@aplacetobesc.org). We accept credit cards, personal checks and cash for all registrations not completed online. The donation must be made in full prior to the start of the program to be a confirmed participant.

### Refund Policy

Cancellations made at least 48 hours before the start time of an event will qualify for a refund.

### Registration Deadlines

Many programs/retreats have a registration deadline. This will help us make important decisions regarding the status of the program/retreat. Many programs fill quickly; early registration is recommended to guarantee placement. Prompt registration also helps reduce the possibility that a program or retreat might be canceled due to insufficient enrollment, an issue that inconveniences both participants and presenters.

### Scholarship Information

We honor and respect everyone in their search for spiritual healing, growth and renewal and will not turn anyone away because of inability to pay. Our scholarships are based on need and the type of program or retreat. We give scholarships to anyone who asks for financial assistance for spiritual direction and partial scholarships for programs or retreats. Please contact us for more detailed information about scholarships and payment options for specific retreats and programs.

## Our Leadership Team



Dan Becker



Karen Becker



Barbara Bode



Bob Burant



Barb Dickmann



Christine Flint



Mark Goeden



Chris Lear



Fr. Patrick Wendt

## Our Staff



Kelly Lemens  
Director



Jenny Mitchell  
Marketing Coordinator



Please join us in welcoming the newest addition to our APTB Leadership Team, Christine Flint!

Thank you for joining us, Christine!

# Calendar of Events

## JANUARY

- |            |                                   |             |                                   |                  |                                   |
|------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Tues. 1/4  | Bereavement Support, 6:30 p.m.    | Wed. 1/12   | Spirituality Book Club, 6:30 p.m. | Thurs. 1/20      | Spirituality Book Club, 9:30 a.m. |
| Wed. 1/5   | Spirituality Book Club, 6:30 p.m. | Thurs. 1/13 | Spirituality Book Club, 9:30 a.m. |                  | Journey through Bible, 6:30 p.m.  |
| Thurs. 1/6 | Spirituality Book Club, 9:30 a.m. |             | Peace of Mind Seminar, 3:00 p.m.  | Fri. 1/21        | Friday Art Fun Night, 6:30 p.m.   |
|            | Journey through Bible, 6:30 p.m.  |             | Drumming Circle, 6:30 p.m.        | Sat. 1/22        | Parables, 9:00 a.m.               |
| Fri. 1/7   | Sacred Circle, 10:00 a.m.         | Fri. 1/14   | Fishes/Loaves Potluck, 5:30 p.m.  | Mon. 1/24        | Euchre Night, 6:00 p.m.           |
|            | Red Cross Blood Drive, 1:00 p.m.  | Sat. 1/15   | Parables, 9:00 a.m.               | Tues. 1/25       | Paul's Letters, 6:30 P.M.         |
| Sat. 1/8   | Parables, 9:00 a.m.               | Mon. 1/17   | Christian Unity Vigil, 3:00 p.m.  | Wed. 1/26        | Spirituality Book Club, 6:30 p.m. |
| Mon. 1/10  | Forgiveness Retreat, 6:30 p.m.    |             | Forgiveness, 6:30 p.m.            | Thurs. 1/27      | Spirituality Book Club, 9:30 a.m. |
| Tues. 1/11 | Paul's Letters, 6:30 p.m.         | Wed. 1/19   | Spirituality Book Club, 6:30 p.m. | <b>Fri. 1/28</b> | <b>Art Regatta, 5:00 p.m.</b>     |
|            |                                   |             |                                   | Mon. 1/31        | Forgiveness Retreat, 6:30 p.m.    |

## FEBRUARY

- |            |                                   |             |                                   |             |                                   |
|------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| Tues. 2/1  | Bereavement Support, 6:30 p.m.    | Wed. 2/9    | Spirituality Book Club, 6:30 p.m. | Fri. 2/18   | Friday Art Fun Night, 6:30 p.m.   |
| Wed. 2/2   | Spirituality Book Club, 6:30 p.m. | Thurs. 2/10 | Spirituality Book Club, 9:30 a.m. | Sat. 2/19   | Parables, 9:00 a.m.               |
| Thurs. 2/3 | Spirituality Book Club, 9:30 a.m. |             | Drumming Circle, 6:30 p.m.        | Mon. 2/21   | Heart of Christianity, 6:30 p.m.  |
|            | Journey through Bible, 6:30 p.m.  | Fri. 2/11   | Fishes/Loaves Potluck, 5:30 p.m.  | Tues. 2/22  | Paul's Letters, 6:30 p.m.         |
| Fri. 2/4   | Sacred Circle, 10:00 a.m.         | Sat. 2/12   | Parables, 9:00 a.m.               | Wed. 2/23   | Spirituality Book Club, 6:30 p.m. |
| Sat. 2/5   | Parables, 9:00 a.m.               | Mon. 2/14   | Heart of Christianity, 6:30 p.m.  | Thurs. 2/24 | Spirituality Book Club, 9:30 a.m. |
| Mon. 2/7   | Heart of Christianity, 6:30 p.m.  | Wed. 2/16   | Spirituality Book Club, 6:30 p.m. | Sat. 2/26   | Parables, 9:00 a.m.               |
| Tues. 2/8  | Paul's Letters, 6:30 p.m.         | Thurs. 2/17 | Spirituality Book Club, 9:30 a.m. | Mon. 2/28   | Euchre Night, 6:00 p.m.           |
|            |                                   |             | Journey through Bible, 6:30 p.m.  |             |                                   |

## MARCH

- |             |                                   |             |                                   |             |                                   |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| Tues. 3/1   | Bereavement Support, 6:30 p.m.    | Fri. 3/11   | Fishes/Loaves Potluck, 5:30 p.m.  | Mon. 3/21   | Heart of Christianity, 6:30 p.m.  |
| Wed. 3/2    | Ash Wednesday                     | Sat. 3/12   | Parables, 9:00 a.m.               | Tues. 3/22  | Paul's Letters, 6:30 p.m.         |
| Thurs. 3/3  | Spirituality Book Club, 9:30 a.m. | Sun. 3/13   | SJ23 Parish Mission, 9:00 a.m.    | Wed. 3/23   | Spirituality Book Club, 6:30 p.m. |
|             | Journey through Bible, 6:30 p.m.  | Mon. 3/14   | SJ23 Parish Mission, 5:00 p.m.    | Thurs. 3/24 | Spirituality Book Club, 9:30 a.m. |
| Fri. 3/4    | Sacred Circle, 10:00 a.m.         | Tues. 3/15  | SJ23 Parish Mission, 5:00 p.m.    | Sat. 3/26   | Whole Garden Plant, 9:00 a.m.     |
| Sat. 3/5    | Lenten Day of Reflect, 9:00 a.m.  | Wed. 3/16   | Spirituality Book Club, 6:30 p.m. | Mon. 3/28   | Euchre Night, 6:00 p.m.           |
| Mon. 3/7    | Heart of Christianity, 6:30 p.m.  | Thurs. 3/17 | Spirituality Book Club, 9:30 a.m. |             | Heart of Christianity, 6:30 p.m.  |
| Tues. 3/8   | Paul's Letters, 6:30 p.m.         |             | Journey through Bible, 6:30 p.m.  | Wed. 3/30   | Spirituality Book Club, 6:30 p.m. |
| Wed. 3/9    | Spirituality Book Club, 6:30 p.m. | Fri. 3/18   | Friday Art Fun Night, 6:30 p.m.   | Thurs. 3/31 | Spirituality Book Club, 9:30 a.m. |
| Thurs. 3/10 | Spirituality Book Club, 9:30 a.m. | Sat. 3/19   | Parables, 9:00 a.m.               |             | Journey through Bible, 6:30 p.m.  |
|             | Drumming Circle, 6:30 p.m.        |             |                                   |             |                                   |

## APRIL

- |           |                                  |            |                                   |             |                                   |
|-----------|----------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| Fri. 4/1  | Sacred Circle, 10:00 a.m.        | Wed. 4/6   | Spirituality Book Club, 6:30 p.m. | Tues. 4/12  | Paul's Letters, 6:30 p.m.         |
| Sat. 4/2  | Parables, 9:00 a.m.              | Thurs. 4/7 | Spirituality Book Club, 9:30 a.m. | Wed. 4/13   | Spirituality Book Club, 6:30 p.m. |
| Mon. 4/4  | Heart of Christianity, 6:30 p.m. |            | Journey through Bible, 6:30 p.m.  | Thurs. 4/14 | Spirituality Book Club, 9:30 a.m. |
| Tues. 4/5 | Bereavement Support, 6:30 p.m.   | Fri. 4/8   | Fishes/Loaves potluck, 5:30 p.m.  | Fri. 4/15   | Good Friday                       |
|           |                                  | Sat. 4/9   | Parables, 9:00 a.m.               | Sun. 4/17   | Easter Sunday                     |

### Weekly online offerings

Kelly offers livestreamed offerings on Facebook Live every week.

#### Tune in to join us:

Praying with Beads  
Mon/Wed at Noon

Contemplative Practice  
Mon/Wed/Fri at 4:00 p.m.

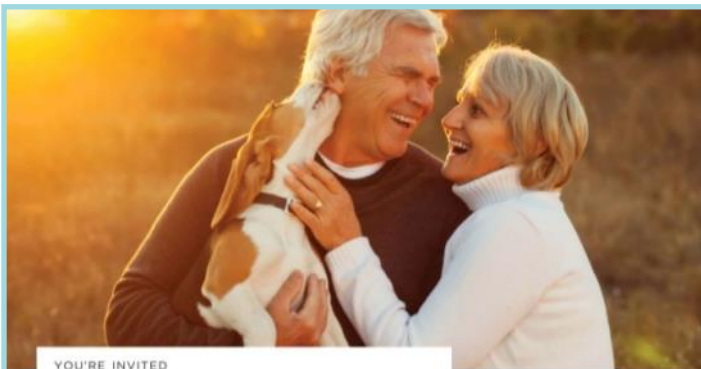


### Week of Prayer for Christian Unity January 18-25

Join us daily on our Facebook, YouTube and website pages as we offer daily video meditations around this year's theme: *"We saw the star in the east, and we came to worship Him."*

**In-Person Prayer Vigil at APTB  
Monday, January 17, 3:00 p.m.**

# Community Connections



YOU'RE INVITED

## Peace of Mind Seminar

We invite you to learn how planning for your final wishes may shield your family from unnecessary emotional and financial burden. Join us and learn more about pre-arrangements, veteran benefits, cremation, burials, and more.

Thursday, January 13th  
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

A Place to Be Spirituality Center

Please RSVP at (262) 284-2601

### WE WILL DISCUSS

- Cremation & Burials
- Traditional Funerals
- Veteran Benefits
- Payment Plans
- Pre-arrangements

PRESENTED BY  
Eernisse  
Funeral Homes

## St. John XXIII Parish Mission

### *Our History, Our Journey, Our Legacy*

March 13, St. Mary's Church, noon – 2 pm  
March 14, St. Peter's Church, 6 – 7:30 pm  
March 15, Immaculate Conception Church,  
6:30 – 8 pm

Join us as we reverence our past, celebrate our St. John XXIII identity and envision our future as a Catholic community.

Go to [www.stjohn23rd.org](http://www.stjohn23rd.org) for more information.



For information about community events, visit: [www.aplacetobesc.org/calendar-of-events.html](http://www.aplacetobesc.org/calendar-of-events.html)

## Art Regatta Fundraising Event

Friday, January 28

5:00-9:00 p.m.

\$25 Admission

**TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE!**

Join us for an amazing evening of:

**Food & Beverages • Live Music • Silent Auction**  
And the chance to win beautiful **Original Artwork** from a variety of local artists, all while socializing and supporting A Place to Be!

### Physical address:

166 W. Dekora St. Saukville, WI  
Inside the Parkside UCC Community Building  
(Entrance under the awning by the parking lot.)

### Mailing address:

1800 N. Wisconsin St.  
Port Washington, WI 53074  
Phone: (262) 277-1928  
Website: [www.aplacetobesc.org](http://www.aplacetobesc.org)  
Email: [information@aplacetobesc.org](mailto:information@aplacetobesc.org)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/aplacetobesc](http://www.facebook.com/aplacetobesc)  
Instagram: [aplacetobesc](https://www.instagram.com/aplacetobesc)

*A Place to Be is a sponsored ministry of  
St. John XXIII Catholic Church*