



September - October 2024  
Volume 11 • Issue 4

# Offerings



## Our Fall Open House Spotlights Mark Lawson and the Publication of "Fully Free" Wednesday | September 25 | 4-6:30 PM

### ABOUT US

The Spiritual Renewal Center is an ecumenical Christian ministry providing spiritual direction and renewal opportunities to all members of the community.

1342 Lancaster Avenue  
Syracuse, NY 13210  
spiritualrenewalcenter.com  
(315) 472-6546

### OUR HOURS

Monday-Thursday 9-5  
Friday 9-4  
The Center will be closed  
Sept 2 & Oct 14

### OUR STAFF

Steve Moore, *Director*  
Andrea Pollock, *Office Manager*  
Ann Derr, *Intake Coordinator*  
Judy Carr, *Volunteer Coordinator & Gift Shop Manager*  
Molly Wilber, *Librarian*

### OUR BOARD MEMBERS

Rev. Jose (Joe) Colon  
Ann Derr, *Secretary*  
Kirsi Donovan  
Rev. Beth DuBois  
Rev. Marie Jerge  
Rev. Don Kirby, *SJ*  
AJ LaPoint  
Maureen Lasda, *Chair*  
Sally Manahan  
Amanda Webster  
Randy Wolken, *Treasurer*  
Alice Zicari-Grant



Join us on September 25th from 4-6:30 as we gather to kick off another year of programming and community at the Spiritual Renewal Center. We will also be celebrating the launch of Center presenter and Spiritual Director Mark Lawson's new book, "Fully Free: Rejecting Racism, Renouncing Christian Nationalism, and Renewing American Christianity." Books will be available for purchase and Mark will give a short presentation about the new work at 5:30pm. **Stop by for the scoop on upcoming Center programs and opportunities, Hand to Hands Gift Shop specials, munchies, beverages and conversation! [QR for book on left!]**



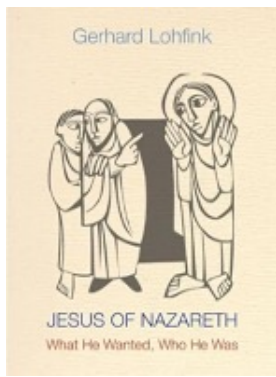
## Being One with God's Creation: the Church of the Woods Rev. Stephen Blackmer at the Center Monday, September 16 | 7PM | \$25 Suggested Fee



Our "Eco-spirituality Initiative" here at the Spiritual Renewal Center continues to grow, weaving an approach to faith that celebrates our connection to the natural world!

We will begin our new season of "Being One with God's Creation" with a powerful presentation by Rev. Stephen Blackmer, the founder and pastor of the Church of the Woods, a new kind of church on 106 acres of wild woods and wetlands in Canterbury, NH. Rooted in the Episcopal tradition, its congregation includes all life of the forest with the mission of loving, healing and blessing the Earth and each other! Participants seek to renew a widespread understanding of the natural world as sacred, and to restore this awareness as a foundation of both religious practice and practical action to conserve the Earth. Steve will be sharing how his journey of weaving ecology with spirituality has grown 'wild' in God's embrace!

A series of 3 Wednesday morning standalone monthly programs will follow:  
**Oct 2: Stillness | Nov 6: Simplicity | Dec 4: Service**



**Theologically Speaking on Mondays**  
**Facilitated by Steven Moore**  
**Starting Sept 9 | 12:05 - 12:55 PM | Hybrid**

Join Steve as we study “Jesus of Nazareth: What He Wanted, Who He Was” by Gerhard Lohfink.

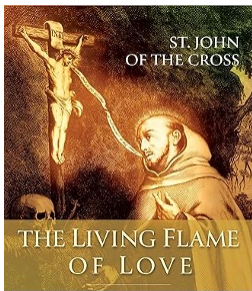
Who was Jesus? A prophet? There have been many of those. A wise teacher? There have been many of those, too. In his latest book, renowned Scripture scholar Gerhard Lohfink asks, “What is unique about Jesus of Nazareth, and what did he really want?” Lohfink engages the perceptions of the first

witnesses of his life and ministry and those who handed on their testimonies. His approach is historical and critical, and he agrees with Karl Barth’s statement that “historical criticism has to be more critical.”

Lohfink takes seriously the fact that Jesus was a Jew and lived entirely in and out of Israel’s faith experiences but at the same time brought those experiences to their goal and fulfillment. The result is a convincing and profound picture of Jesus.

Gerhard Lohfink (1934-2024), was a professor of NT exegesis at the University of Tübingen. This series will be drop-in seminar style. There is no required registration and no set fee. You are welcome to come if you have read the book or are just interested in the topic. We are offering this hybrid program during the lunch hour so you can attend either in person or via Zoom. *Free will offering.*

Preregistration is required for many events. Registration through our website is preferred. You can also register by emailing us at [mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com](mailto:mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com) Please include your full name, email, phone number, and program name. Suggested fee for most programs is \$25.



**Wisdom Wednesdays: “The Living Flame of Love” by St. John of the Cross**  
**Beginning October 2 | 4:00-5:00 PM | Hybrid**  
**Facilitated by Steven Moore**

Join Steve in a guided reading of “The Living Flame of Love” by St. John of the Cross. St. John of the Cross described the stanzas of his poem, *The Living Flame of Love*, as the “songs of the soul in the intimate communication of the union of love with God.” The verses capture the mystical vistas from the summit of the saint’s spiritual journey, describing the mystery and powerful experience of divine transformation as the soul

encounters and unites with the pure love of God. Our sessions will follow an informal seminar style as we engage in a close reading of the text. All are welcome! *Free will offering.*

**The 12 Steps and the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius of Loyola**  
**6 Tuesdays, October 15 - November 19 | 3-4:30 PM | In Person**

Drawing on materials from the Spiritual Exercises, the Big Book, the 12 & 12, and Scripture, this retreat **facilitated by Fr. Gerry McKeon** will explore themes of freedom from addictions, and encourage spiritual growth and private prayer or contemplation practices. *Suggested Fee: \$25 each or \$150 for the 6 week retreat.*



**Christian Contemplative Retreat | Facilitated by Tom O’Connor and Steven Moore**  
**Friday, October 4th | 9 AM - 12 PM | In Person**

Join Tom O’Connor and Steve Moore for a morning retreat exploring the Christian Contemplative Tradition. Contemplative practices will be presented and explored during our time together as we reflect on the teaching of the saints and wisdom literature. This retreat is appropriate both for those new to contemplative practice and those who already practice contemplative prayer and would like to go deeper. *Suggested Fee: \$35* Thomas O’Connor has been leading our weekly Contemplative Prayer practice since 1995.





**Sermon on the Mount Course**  
**3 Wednesdays | Oct 23, 30 & Nov 6**  
**10-11:30 AM | Hybrid**  
**Presented by Mark Lawson**

Mark Lawson will be offering this three-week course on the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's Gospel. Join Mark as he dives deep into this most

important section of the gospel which is essential to Christian Living. *Suggested Fee: \$25 ea / \$75 all*

Mark Lawson is a retired pastor ordained in the United Church of Christ, and an adjunct faculty member at LeMoyne College, where he teaches courses in religion and theology. Mark is also on the faculty of the New York School of Ministry, an alternative ministry preparation program of the United Church of Christ. He trained as a director here at the Center.

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**When Prayer is Hard, We Can Pray in Color:**  
**A Conversation & Workshop about**  
*Praying in Color with the Poetry of Mary Oliver*  
**Thursday, October 17 | 7 PM | In person**  
**Presented by Rev. Dr. Nick Bufano**

Mary Oliver's poems have touched countless lives around the world, and can often be used when we can't come up with words of our own. Praying in Color is simply doodling with color as a way of helping to focus our wandering minds during prayer or meditation, and in particular when our own words are lacking. It's a simple and creative way to pray, meditate, or reflect. No previous experience or artistic skills are required! Art supplies will be provided! *Suggested Fee: \$25*

Nick will guide us through a conversation about things that sometimes block our expressions of prayer, and then use some materials from the *Praying in Color* books by Sybil Macbeth to guide us through a few creative exercises to help us pray more creatively and open our hearts to the movement of the Spirit as we read some of Mary Oliver's poetry!



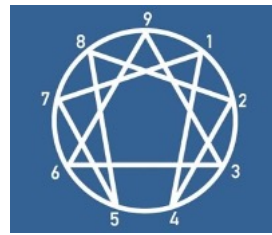

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**Poetry Series Continues**

**Wednesday, Oct 30 | 7 PM | Hybrid | Facilitated by Judy Carr & Friends**  
**Come help us celebrate the seasons by reading and discussing poems of Autumn on Wednesday, October 30 at 7pm.**

Registrants will receive a packet featuring both classical and contemporary poems for discussion and will be asked to share their favorite poem of Autumn. Sessions will be held at the Center and on Zoom. *Suggested donation: \$15.*

We are also hoping to present programs around the Poetry of Advent and Poetry of Lent in the upcoming liturgical seasons. Look for information regarding further offerings here and on our website.



**Enneagram Practice Learning Group**  
**7 Thursdays**  
**Sept 26 - Nov 7**  
**3-4:30 PM | In Person**

The Enneagram is an ancient symbol that has evolved as a dynamic tool for self-awareness and spiritual growth. These sessions offer an introduction to the three centers, body, heart and mind, and the 9 types. Each session will explore the process of the symbol as taught by various Enneagram practitioners, as well as practices to raise one's consciousness. Growing in self-awareness allows one to discover opportunities for healing while deepening one's vulnerability to be open to God's presence within. The group will be limited to 12 individuals. We will be using this book: "The Enneagram Guide to Waking Up" by Beatrice Chestnut, PhD and Uranio Paes, MM.

*Suggested Fee: \$15/each \$105 for the series*  
 Facilitated by Marge Babcock, Certified Enneagram Instructor & SRC Spiritual Director



## Recurring Groups at the Center

**The Ignatian Spirituality Group** for those who have completed the **Spiritual Exercises** is facilitated by Lou Sogliuzzo, SJ, and takes place on the **2nd Wednesday of the month at 6:00 PM**. There is no meeting in September. {Next dates are 10/9 & 11/13}

**Women's Faith Sharing Group** meets on the **3rd Thursday of the month at 2:30PM**. {9/19 & 10/17} This group is facilitated by Kathy Papa. Suggested donation is \$20 per session.

**The Contemplative Prayer Group** led by Thomas O'Connor meets **every Wednesday at 5PM**.

## Mark your calendar for November 7 | Thurs | 7PM Cultivating Compassionate Leadership Workshop Presented by Rodney Agnant

Director for Campus Culture & Inclusion at Colgate University  
A workshop for leaders who would like to integrate compassion and effective communication in their work with teams and in the community. \$25 suggested fee  
*Rodney also serves as a certified personal & leadership development coach.*



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**We are continuing to look for volunteer subs to cover for our scheduled front desk helpers when they are not available for their shifts.** If you can help occasionally by covering a 4 hour shift we'd love to hear from you. Training will be provided! Call the Center and leave your number or contact [volunteer@spiritualrenewalcenter.com](mailto:volunteer@spiritualrenewalcenter.com). It will be one of the best 4 hours of your week!!!



## Connect with the Spiritual Renewal Center

Get social with the Spiritual Renewal Center and find us on Facebook and Instagram today. You can also share your email address with us at [spiritualrenewalcenter.com](http://spiritualrenewalcenter.com) and get the the latest information sent right to your inbox.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Syracuse, NY 13210

