



Offerings

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The cost of the newsletter was subsidized in memory of Jeffrey David Hubbard. Thank you!

ABOUT US

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

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OUR STAFF

Jim Krisher, Center Director
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Cultivating a Spirit of Gratitude Presented by Rev. Paris Price Thursday, November 12 | 7-9 p.m. via Zoom

We are living through unusual and trying times; some days, the pandemic might even make you feel hopeless. At the same time, we know that God is a very present help in times of trouble. The practice of being grateful is called gratitude. Gratitude reminds us how special and beautiful our lives are today, even in the midst of such uncertainty.



Join us as we explore how to cultivate a spirit of gratitude: What does scripture say about gratitude? What are the benefits of a grateful spirit? And how can we cultivate gratitude?



Paris Price is the pastor of the Harriet Tubman AME Zion Church in Auburn and is finishing her degree at Northeastern Seminary. Paris is serving an internship with us this fall, and her Bible studies have been received enthusiastically. *Fee \$20, or whatever you can afford.* Preregistration is required, preferably through our website. You can also register by emailing us at mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com.

RECURRING GROUPS

The Center offers these regularly meeting groups for your spiritual growth. **Newcomers are always welcome.**

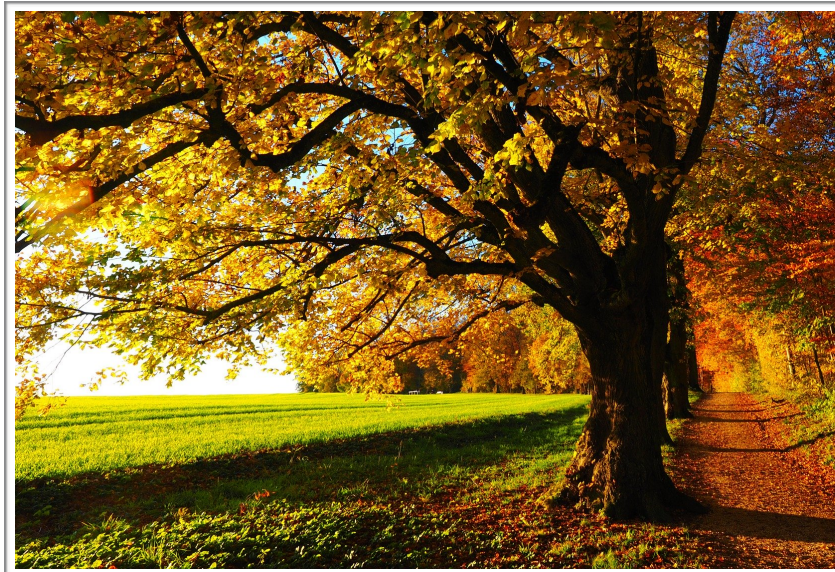
Our weekly **Tuesday** morning **Catch the Spirit** Bible study group meets online, 10 to 11:30 a.m. Marise May, OSF, and Rev. Paris Price co-lead the discussion on the coming Sunday's lectionary readings.

People who have completed the Spiritual Exercises are invited to the online **Ignatian Spirituality Group**, meetings the second **Wednesday** of the month, 6:30-8:30 p.m., to converse and pray together the Ignatian way. Led by Lou Sogliuzzo, SJ, upcoming dates are **November 11 and December 9.**

Email mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com to obtain the zoom links for these meetings.

Due to the pandemic, the Spiritual Renewal Center's doors remain closed at least through December 31. But the Center's ministry is flourishing, even in these difficult times.

- ❖ We continue with our ministry of **spiritual direction** for individuals and have a great line-up of renewal events and retreats all delivered virtually. Register for any event via our website (spiritualrenewalcenter.com).
- ❖ **Andrea, our Administrative Assistant, is available** by phone (315-472-6546) Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. to take registrations and prayer or library requests.
- ❖ Help the Center save money AND the planet by **switching to our e-newsletter!** Switching will help the Center save thousands of dollars annually. To sign up, email mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com and simply tell us that the e-newsletter is fine for you!
- ❖ See the back page for exciting news about Hand to Hand and our library!



What Does Grace Look Like? is a series of reflections about God's grace. This month's feature is written by Paul DeFelice, St. Augustine's parish in Baldwinsville

What Does *Grace* Look Like?

Just before last Christmas, the men's group of my church served pizza to homeless residents at a men's shelter. As the men passed through the serving line, you could hear many offering Christmas blessings and thanks.



Toward the end of our serving, a man approached me, expressing his appreciation for the food and servers. I asked how things were going and he said his Christmas wish was for a clean bath towel, noting he had not showered for days. The shelter's towels were badly worn and did not seem very clean. Sadly, all he really wanted was a towel of his own.

I remembered that I had a clean towel in the bag of used clothing I had brought in my car. I retrieved the towel and handed it to him. His eyes lit up like a child's on Christmas morning.

What transpired over the next three weeks seemed nothing short of a miracle. After sharing the story at church and asking for donations of towels for homeless men, I was able to bring 225 more towels to the men's shelter—and yet more towels were brought in soon after. In the end, over 550 towels were collected. We were able to supply not only the men's shelter but also the women's shelter and our church's migrant ministry.

That's what *Grace* looks like.

Upcoming Events

Hope in the Midst of Hardship: A Journey of Daily Prayer and Weekly Reflection Presented by Rev. Gerry McKeon, SJ Four Thursdays, November 19, December 3, 10 and 17 | 7-8:30 p.m. via Zoom

Enter into Advent by sharing this journey of hope, by means of daily prayer and weekly group reflections. The first week offers the opportunity to pray the Daily Examen, deepening our conscious contact with God on a daily basis. The remaining weeks offer specific meditations on Scripture passages in dialog with current realities. Models of Christian hope will be discussed during weekly Zoom group meetings. Suggested prayer offerings will invite the retreatants to explore many manifestations of hope in the midst of hardship and injustice. The final days of the retreat will offer the opportunity to contemplate the Incarnation.



Participants commit to praying 30-45 minutes each day throughout the retreat, and to gather virtually as a group weekly for sharing and prayer suggestions. *Fee: \$60, or whatever you can afford.*

Preregistration is required for all of our events; space is limited. Registration through our website is preferred. You can also register by emailing us at mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com please include your full name, email and phone number.

The Gospel Christmas Stories Presented by Jim Krisher Three Thursdays, December 3, 10 & 17 | 10-11:30 a.m. via Zoom



The Christmas stories in the Bible are both much richer and sometimes different from the Christmas story that exists in our minds. Jim Krisher, the Center's Director, will lead us in a three-session study of these familiar and inspiring —yet surprising—accounts of Jesus' birth as related in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. These sessions will be offered entirely online through Zoom, and will include helpful emailed handouts and time for discussion and questions. An excellent way to deepen your appreciation of what we celebrate at Christmas! *Fee: \$15/session, or whatever you can afford.*

Advent in a Time of Polarizing Politics and Dangerous Disease Presented by Rev. Stephen Surovick, SJ Tuesday, December 8 | 6:30-8:30 p.m. via Zoom

Take a break from 2020's chaos and uncertainty into an oasis of spiritual opportunity as we explore the dynamics of discernment during Advent. Join us for a chance to connect while discerning how God is moving you as we look at the steps of spiritual discernment using the Gospels of Advent and St. Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises. In this evening of guided meditations, Gospel reflections, personal reflection and faith sharing, renew the spiritual connection with God that can help us through times that try our souls. *Fee: \$20, or whatever you can afford.*



Stephen has been a Jesuit for 17 years. Trained as a spiritual director, he presently serves as a staff member at the Jesuit Novitiate in Syracuse, New York.

Visit our Library and Hand to Hand Fair Trade Gift Shop

We are happy to announce **limited hours for browsing our library in person and shopping at Hand to Hand Fair Trade Gift Shop**. From November 5 - December 17, we will be open on Tuesdays, 10 am - noon and Thursdays, noon - 2 pm (except for the week of Thanksgiving). Visitors must be masked and social distancing protocols will be observed.

If you want to shop and are unable to make these hours, Judy Carr, our shop manager will arrange a time that is mutually convenient. Email admin@spiritualrenewalcenter.com and Judy will get back to you. You can always peruse our library's catalog online, and email or call us with the titles you'd like to check out; Andrea will arrange a time for you to pick up or return books.



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 and get the the latest information sent right to your inbox.

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