



# Offerings

The cost of this newsletter was subsidized in memory of Jeffrey Hubbard. Thank you to our donor!

November / December 2019  
Volume 6 • Issue 6

## At Eternity's Gates: Christian Faith and Medical Decisions at the End-of-Life

Presented by: Kathy Faber-Langendoen, MD  
Wednesday, November 13, 10 a.m. - 12 noon

In the US, most people die under the care of the medical system, often in hospitals or extended care settings. What steps can you take to ensure that your treatment preferences are followed? How might one's Christianity impact the medical decisions you make for yourself or others at the end of life? During this interactive seminar, we'll discuss these issues and more, with an emphasis on faith-based decision making.



Kathy Faber-Langendoen is a physician (oncologist), bioethicist, and one of the Center's spiritual directors. She chairs the SUNY Upstate medical school's department of bioethics and humanities, and is the past director of the Upstate Ethics Consultation Service. *Fee: \$20, or whatever you can afford.*

### Opportunity in Ignatian Practice

The Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius have no specific ending, and many find benefit from continuing an Ignatian approach to prayer and spiritual direction. The last meditation of the retreat asks "Now what do I do?" Our **Ignatian Spirituality Group** can help you find your answer. People who have completed the Spiritual Exercises are invited to meet monthly on the **second Wednesday, 6:30-7:30 p.m.**, to support each other, build community, consider recent developments in Ignatian spirituality and pray together in the Ignatian way, under the guidance of Lou Sogliuzzo, SJ. Upcoming dates are November 13 and December 11.

### RECURRING GROUPS

The Center has a variety of regularly meeting groups for your spiritual growth.

**Newcomers are always welcome.**

Our weekly **Tuesday** morning **Catch the Spirit** Bible study group continues 10 to 11:30 a.m. Trevor Kelly, the Center's Jesuit novice, leads the discussion.

The **Contemplative Prayer Group** meets **Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m.** If you'd like to attend, contact Tom O'Connor at 315-313-3758.

The **Women's Faith Sharing Group** meets one **Thursday** a month (coming up: November 21, December 19) from 3 - 4:30 p.m. Led by Kathy Papa (315-457-4922), members meet for mutual spiritual encouragement as they navigate life.

### HOURS

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday:  
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Thursday: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The Center will be closed:  
November 28-29, Thanksgiving  
December 24-26, Christmas  
December 31, New Year's Eve

### ABOUT US

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

### VISIT US AT

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

### OUR STAFF

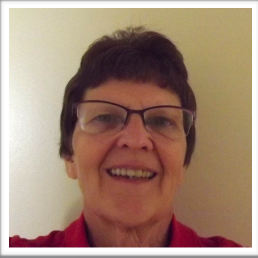
Jim Krisher, *Director*  
Meg Castellini, *Communications*  
Marise May, *OSF*  
*Programming Associate*  
Andrea Pollock,  
*Administrative Assistant*

### Grow with us!

The Spiritual Renewal Center offers many opportunities for spiritual growth and encouragement, through lectures, workshops, and seminars. These events have a small charge to underwrite their costs, but we also generally accept whatever you can afford. Our calendar is full with great options! Learn more about them in this newsletter. Register for any event online, or by calling us at 315-472-6546.

## Welcome!

The Center welcomes two new spiritual directors, bringing our staff to 23 directors from a wide range of Christian denominations.



Maureen Collins received her master's degree in theology from St. Bernard's Graduate School of Theology and Ministry, and her spiritual direction training at the Center. Maureen also has a doctoral degree in ministry from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH. Recently retired from NYS Department of Corrections as the Catholic Chaplain at Five Points Correctional Facility, she is now a substitute teacher in several Auburn-area schools.



Terry Zehr is a Conference Minister for New York Mennonite Conference of the Mennonite Church USA. He has a master's in teaching, and a seminary degree from Eastern Mennonite Seminary. He completed spiritual direction training here at the Center. Terry and his family are longtime residents of Lowville, NY.

If you are wondering if spiritual direction might be right for you, check out our website for helpful information!

## Shop Hand to Hand Fair Trade for the Holidays

The Hand to Hand Gift Shop is stocked and ready for your holiday shopping! Shop Fair Trade this season and give gifts that you know were made in safe environments and whose artisans were paid a fair wage. Our shop includes an assortment of holiday decorations and small nativities. We feature merchandise from Ten Thousand Villages and Serrv, both Fair Trade importers. The shop is open regular Center hours and all forms of payment are accepted. **Change the world by changing the way you shop!**

What Does Grace Look Like? is a series of reflections about God's grace. This month's feature is written by the Center's Director, Jim Krisher.

## What Does *Grace* Look Like?

It was his first time attending our Tuesday evening spirituality and scripture group for inmates at Midstate Correctional Facility, and he sat down immediately to my right at the rectangular table. I started the group as I usually do, with a guided meditation — this time based on a line from an ancient hymn to the name of Jesus: “Jesus, lover of every human face.”

In the sharing period after the meditation, this new friend on my right told a remarkable story. He shared how for many years now he couldn't bring himself to look at himself. “I don't know why, but I just couldn't look in a mirror,” he said. And to avoid having to see himself, he had grown a long and full beard so he wouldn't have to shave, which would have required him to look at himself in a mirror.

Yet, he shared, that very morning another inmate had challenged him on this saying “You're a good-looking guy — I don't understand what your problem is!” And so that very morning he had forced himself to spend some time looking at himself in the mirror, and he had thought about how Jesus loved him. And that very morning he had shaved off his beard.

“So, it just blows my mind,” he said, “that I come here tonight for the first time, and you begin with a meditation on how Jesus loves my face!” And it just blows my mind too when I think of that man with the clean-shaven face, and the big smile — a man who had come home to himself at last, and seen himself as beloved.

That's what *Grace* looks like.

## Upcoming Events

### Our New Song to the Lord: Christian Music for a Digital Audience

Presented by: Trevor Kelly, nSJ

Tuesday, November 19, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Let's be honest: when we "sing a new song unto the Lord," nine times out of ten we aren't singing songs that are new. The lyrics of much of contemporary Christian music are as timeless as the Psalms and Gospels themselves, even as people's tastes in music vary widely across time and culture. US church attendance is at an all-time low, even as a desire for spiritual experience is at an all-time high—especially among young people. In response, musicians from Hillsong UNITED, for KING & COUNTRY, Elevation Worship and others are responding with musical innovation, inclusive language and unapologetic authenticity.

What do these "new songs" sound like? Might they be helpful in your own communication with God? Join Jesuit novice Trevor Kelly and his brother novices of the Maryland and USA Northeast Provinces to learn more about these trends, and experience some new songs unto the Lord. *Fee: \$20, or whatever you can afford.*



### Four-week Advent Retreat, Based on Themes from Ignatius' Spiritual Exercises

Presented by: Gerry McKeon, SJ and Trevor Kelly, nSJ

Thursdays 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., November 21, December 5, 12, and 19

Enter into the season of Advent by participating in this four-week retreat, reflecting on God's gracious love, tender mercy and boundless compassion. In the spirit of Advent hope, this will provide an opportunity to spend time with God who chooses to draw close, and enter fully into our human condition. During the final week of the retreat, participants will be invited to contemplate the incarnation and savor the meaning and blessings of Emmanuel—"God with us."

Participants receive suggestions for daily prayer and optional weekly readings and commit to praying 30-45 minutes each day. They will also participate in four weekly group gatherings which include sharing, and brief input from the presenters. *Fee: \$50, or whatever you can afford.*

### Bringing Forth Christ: The 5 Feasts of the Infant Jesus

Presented by: Marise May, OSF, Kathleen Osbelt, OSF, and Rose Raymond Wagner, OSF

Thursday, December 5, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

For St. Bonaventure, a 13th Century Franciscan theologian and mystic, the events of Jesus' early life are analogous to the steps of our spiritual growth. Using his reflections on five events in Christ's infancy, this session will help you to bring Jesus to birth in your own heart. This Advent evening of prayer and reflection will be offered by three Franciscans on the Spiritual Renewal Center direction staff: Sisters Marise May, Kathleen Osbelt and Rose Raymond Wagner. This will be great way to stay rooted in the meaning of Advent in the midst of a busy season! *Fee \$20, or whatever you can afford.*



### Glory to the Newborn King: A Holy Night of Prayer, Praise, and Worship

Presented by: Trevor Kelly, nSJ

Tuesday, December 17, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Join Jesuit novice Trevor Kelly and his brother novices for a celebration of Christmas music, readings and reflections. Glory to the Newborn King will trace the arrival of the King of Glory through story and song, ranging from traditional to contemporary. Whether you want to sing along or would rather sit back and relax, this Holy Night will not be a night you want to miss! There is no fee for this worship event, but we'd be glad if you would register if you're planning to attend.

## We Give Thanks for You!

In this season of Thanksgiving, the Board would like to thank the many faithful people who carry out and support the Spiritual Renewal Center's ministry. The Center is flourishing, providing spiritual direction, programs for Christian growth, and training for new spiritual directors. Our efforts go beyond our lovely building on Lancaster Avenue, to regional churches and prisons.


We are grateful for the staff's expertise and hard work, the wisdom of our spiritual directors, and the faithfulness of volunteers who staff our reception area, manage our library, and help in countless other ways. We so appreciate all who pray regularly for our Director, Jim Krisher, and for others who carry out our ministry. The faithfulness of many who donate financially, in amounts large and small, make it possible for us to continue to minister to all who come through our doors.

As a free-standing, ecumenical Christian ministry, our work is only possible because of the ongoing efforts of our staff and volunteers, and the faithful support of you, our readers. We give thanks to God for you all!

*Kathy Faber-Langendoen*  
Chair, Board of Trustees



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## 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.

 [facebook.com/spiritualrenewalcenter](https://facebook.com/spiritualrenewalcenter)

 [instagram.com/spiritualsyracuse](https://instagram.com/spiritualsyracuse)

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Syracuse, NY 13210

