



Offerings

September - October 2021
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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

The Center will be closed
September 6, Labor Day and
October 11, Columbus Day.
Our hours:
Monday-Thursday 9 am-5 pm
Friday 9 am-4 pm
(resumes September 10)

OUR STAFF

Steve Moore, *Center Director*
Marise May, *OSF*
Programming Associate
Andrea Pollock,
Administrative Assistant
Meg Castellini,
Communications Specialist

OUR BOARD MEMBERS

Ann Derr, *Secretary*
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Bob Talomie

Welcome Our New Director, Rev. Dr. Steve Moore



Dear Friends,

What an honor it is to be chosen as the second director of the Spiritual Renewal Center. I know that I stand on the shoulders of giants who have built and sustained this vibrant ministry over the past 43 years. It is my prayer that we continue this legacy by reading the signs of the times and meeting the challenge of our current moment. I first learned about the Center when I took a class with Jim Krisher as a junior at LeMoyne College. Over the years I had attended some of the programs offered and was happy to become a staff

spiritual director four years ago after running into Jim and Debbie at the meeting of the International Thomas Merton Society at St. Bonaventure's in Olean.

I have been involved in the ministry of spiritual direction as a director for over twenty years. I took my first course in spiritual direction at St. Bernard's in Albany in 2001 and then went on to do the retreat director's workshop at Loyola House in Guelph the same year. I completed my theological studies at Theological College at the Catholic University of America and also at Church Divinity School of the Pacific at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. I completed the certificate in spiritual direction through the Haden Institute at Mount Carmel Spiritual Center in Niagara Falls in 2010. Currently, I am in the process of completing my Doctor of Ministry degree at Colgate Rochester Crozier Divinity School in Rochester.

In addition, I am also a clinical psychologist. I did my graduate studies in psychology at the California School of Professional Psychology in San Francisco and my internship at Hutchings Psychiatric Center here in Syracuse. Most recently I have been working as the staff psychologist on the Adolescent Inpatient Psychiatry unit at Upstate University Hospital. Since coming to Syracuse, I have served St. John's Episcopal Church in Marcellus as their parish priest.

I grew up in Hudson Falls, NY and my parents, my two brothers, as well as most of my extended family still lives in that area. My wife Erin is the chorus and music teacher at Christian Brother's Academy, as well as the music minister at St. John's and the Saturday evening musician at St. Lucy's in Syracuse, where she also serves on the parish council. Yet our most important vocation is to be the parents of James, Miriam and Elizabeth. James is beginning second grade and Miriam is beginning Kindergarten. Our two-year-old Eliza is still in daycare and is learning to make her needs known.

I have been blessed to be part of the Spiritual Renewal Center as a spiritual director and occasional speaker. I am very much looking forward to getting to know many of you in my new role. Coming out of a global pandemic, we are faced with many new opportunities and challenges. The Center's mission and values are needed now more than ever and I look forward to sharing with you all in this exciting ministry.

My best,
Steve



Honoring Our Founder... A Time to Celebrate Open House - Friday, September 17 | 4 - 7 pm at the Center

We hope that you will join us for an open house as we celebrate Jim Krisher's 43 years of ministry as Director of the Spiritual Renewal Center. Light refreshments will be served. And, in Jim's honor, the Board of Trustees has established a Forever Fund that will help the Center flourish well into the future. If Jim's ministry has touched you in some way, we hope that you will consider a contribution to honor his lifelong ministry at the Center. Contributions may be made by check or using the donate button on our website. Please note: "Forever Fund" in the memo line.

Taking Care: Caretaking As Spiritual Practice Thursday, September 23 | 6:30-8:30 pm EDT Presented by Erica Olson-Bang, PhD

Erica's presentation will reflect on the spiritual importance of taking care of others in our day-to-day lives, and receiving care in our turn, whether it be spiritual, physical, emotional or practical caretaking. Giving care to others is rooted in the gospel of Jesus. It is personal and humanizing, and Erica will focus on the spiritual value in this important, and often overlooked, work. Visit spiritualrenewalcenter.com/events to register or call 315-472-6546. Fee: \$20 or whatever you can afford.



Dr. Erica Olson-Bang received her Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from Fordham University in 2012. She taught Religious Studies at the College of New Rochelle for five years before relocating to Syracuse with her family.

Preregistration is required for all of our events. 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.

Miracle in the Making: A Day of Renewal Thursday, October 14 | 9 am - 3 pm EDT Presented by Meg Castellini



You are a miracle! Furthermore, you are part of the greatest miracle of all time. It's true! Why else would you be here at this very moment in time? The Gospels include numerous accounts of Jesus' miracles including healings, resurrection and acts of nature. Just what can we learn from these encounters with Jesus? What insight are we given from the miracles we experience every day? How can we apply this wisdom to our lives right now? Join retreat leader Meg Castellini as we journey toward understanding the concept of everyday miracles, the power of believing in the change we hope for and the mystery of transformation. Fee: \$40 or whatever you can afford. Please bring a bag lunch.

Meg Castellini has been leading retreats in the Central New York area for the past 14 years. Meg has served as a hospital chaplain and is currently using her gifts as communications specialist here at the Center.

Acedia, Melancholia, Anxiety, Depression and the Spiritual Life Thursday, October 21 | 7-9 pm EDT Presented by Rev. Dr. Steve Moore

Emotions, particularly negative emotions, affect our lives and can be roadblocks to both personal and spiritual growth. Join our new director Steve Moore as we look at these difficult emotions and other factors that impact our lives. We will pay particular attention to how to deal with the ongoing pandemic, the ways in which our world seems to be changing, and how we can respond faithfully to the challenges we face today. Fee: \$20 or whatever you can afford.

Rev. Dr. Steve Moore is the Center's new director, a clinical psychologist, staff spiritual director and parish priest at St. John's Episcopal church in Marcellus.



Update on Mask Guidance at the Center

As many of you are aware we are in an ever-changing situation with regards to the coronavirus pandemic. Most recently, the Delta variant of the virus has been found to spread among both the unvaccinated and vaccinated at high rates making it far more contagious than previous strains of the virus. In light of this finding, the Center for Disease Control has issued the guideline that masks be worn by all people regardless of vaccination status, when indoors in areas where there is significant transmission of the virus.

We just learned that the virus is again spreading at a significant rate in Onondaga county and the surrounding regions. In an effort to protect ourselves, our loved ones and our community, the Spiritual Renewal Center will now require that all persons, regardless of vaccination status, wear masks when inside the Center. We do this both for safety reasons and for promotion of the common good in keeping with public health recommendations during these difficult times.

We know that this causes a hardship for those of us who were looking forward to a return to “normal.” The Spiritual Renewal Center remains open as a place of welcome and renewal for all. Thank you for your cooperation and let us continue to hold one another in prayer.

Recurring Groups Gearing Up for Fall

Bible Study is back in person! Tuesday mornings 10:00 to 11:30 am. All are welcome to meet at the Spiritual Renewal Center on Tuesday, September 7, 2021. Free will offering will be accepted. We hope our former Zoom members will now participate in person! The new director of the Spiritual Renewal Center, the Rev. Dr. Steve Moore will facilitate the group.

Women's Faith sharing group facilitated by Kathy Papa will resume meeting beginning in September. We will meet on the third Thursday of the month from 3-4:30pm. The dates for the rest of this calendar year are - September 16, October 21, November 18 and December 16. There is a suggested donation of \$15 per session. Newcomers are always welcome! Please contact Kathy at 315 457-6922 with any questions.

What Does Grace Look Like? is a series of reflections about God's grace. This issue's grace story comes from Steve Moore, newly appointed Center Director and spiritual director.

What Does *Grace* Look Like?

I was about thirteen years old and had just finished serving mass at our small daily mass chapel in my parish. I was sitting there alone and I was angry. My parents were going through a terrible divorce and I felt like my world was falling apart. I was starting to shut down emotionally and push people away. I was also furious at God for letting this happen to me.

Suddenly an image came to my mind of a brick wall. I came to understand that I had to make a choice, here and now about how I was going to live my life. I could try to protect myself by constructing a wall around me or I could go the other way and be vulnerable to being hurt.

I decided that I did not want to have a wall around me and chose to be vulnerable. In that moment I had a sense that God was powerfully present as a parent and guide, which is what I most needed at the time. Looking back, I see this as one of the pivotal decision points in my life where God invited me into a deeper relationship and also gave me the freedom to decide.



That's What *Grace* Looks Like

Are You Interested in Becoming a Spiritual Director?

The Spiritual Renewal Center has been committed to the training of spiritual directors for over thirty years. Have you been sensing God's call to this ministry?

HORIZONS is a two-year practicum-based program for people wanting to develop their gifts as spiritual directors. Monthly sessions focus on the principles and practices of spiritual direction, alongside close supervision of direction practice. Applicants must have substantial knowledge in theology, scripture, and spirituality, and a minimum of one year's experience receiving spiritual direction.


The first year of HORIZONS meets at the Center October 2021 through June 2022, on the first Monday of each month, 1-5:15 pm. During the second year (also October through June on the first Mondays), monthly sessions are 2:45-5:15 pm. Tuition is \$700 per year. Instructors include Jim Krisher, Sr. Marise May, Rev. Dr. Steve Moore, and Rev. John Rose - all experienced staff spiritual directors at the Center. A certificate is awarded at the completion of the program. This fall's cohort is forming; **inquire by September 17** to mail@spiritualrenewalcenter.com for more details or an application. Distance learning may be possible depending on interest.



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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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