



LIVING IN UNITY WITH SPIRIT,
EARTH AND ONE ANOTHER

NEWSLETTER November 2021

Welcome Forward!

As we prepare to open The Well to in-person gatherings, we intentionally welcome you forward instead of back.

I also offer this greeting as we tentatively hold out hope that the pandemic is waning. We have been in this liminal time for much too long and are anxious to “get back to normal.” However, in an evolutionary universe, is it really possible to go backwards?

Our Universe moves always toward more life. It evolves through a process of transcending and including. In other words, it improves on what works and lets go what doesn't. We, as universe beings, go through the same process. You are not the same person you were as a child or even who you were pre-pandemic. Of course you retain some earlier characteristics, but you also grow, change, transform. We at The Well are very conscious of how The Well has evolved during our time of lockdown:

- We instituted a morning prayer that built community and offered support.
- We found out that most programming could be adapted to Zoom- even yoga and painting.
- Employees successfully worked from home.
- In response to many major speakers telling us they no longer see a need to travel, we will be inviting them in the future to present online only.
- Most importantly, however, the “walls” of The Well expanded across our country and across our planet AND THERE IS NO GOING BACK!

So welcome forward! We have a hard-working committee who is exploring options for technology that will allow us to successfully host hybrid programs. In this format people can choose to gather in person with others who are attending online. This is a complicated process that requires a significant financial investment. We will launch it when “we get it right” so that we can all have a positive experience. Additionally, we will host some ZOOM ONLY programs and some IN-PERSON ONLY programs.

What has allowed The Well to move forward- to continue to be a thriving community during this time of pandemic- is YOU! We exist because of and for you. Together we have woven a strong community of learning, spiritual growth and support. We are so very grateful for each of you. As an expression of our gratitude we invite you to a special Epiphany celebration on January 6th at 7pm on Zoom. We will celebrate the feast of the manifestation of love and our deep gratitude for who you are to us. There will be no cost as this is our gift to you for your support and fidelity.

It is with great joy that we move forward together.

Bridget Spurduto, Executive Director



Illumination by Mary Southard, CSJ

COVID UPDATE

We are excited to share with you that beginning in March, some of our programs will once again be in-person!

Following the guidelines of the LaGrange Center, where we are located, all visitors will need to be fully vaccinated and to wear a mask.

Please see our website for details about entry and check-in protocol.

As always, our best-laid plans are subject to change, depending on the Covid numbers, so please stay tuned via our eblasts and website.

We look forward to welcoming you to The Well!

WINTER-SPRING-SUMMER PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE



EPIPHANY CELEBRATION

Thursday, Jan 6, 7—8 PM

Facilitators: Kathy Sherman CSJ, Well Staff

On this feast of the Epiphany we celebrate the manifestation of God's presence and profound love among us. In gratitude for who you are we will be offering this program of music and expressions of thanksgiving as a gift to you. Please join us for this free gathering.

REVISITING AND EXTENDING *BRIDGING THE DIVIDES, TENDING THE GAP* CONFERENCE

Five Tuesdays, Jan 11—Feb 8, 12:30—2 PM

Facilitators: Pat Bergen CSJ, Leslie Ritter-Jenkins

Do the divisions in this country cause your heart to ache, your blood pressure to rise, or leave you feeling helpless? Did you attend our *Bridging the Divides, Tending the Gaps* Conference and want to enter more deeply into the content of our presenters? Did you miss the event, but are drawn to experience some part of it? All are welcome to join! \$15/session.

FLOURISHING: JOURNEYING INTO WHOLENESS WITH POETS IN THEIR WISDOM YEARS

One-day Retreat, Saturday, Jan 15, 8AM—2 PM

Facilitator: Mark S. Burrows

This retreat draws on poems that invite us to live into a healthier wholeness and cultivate the deep longings of our hearts. Together we will explore the wisdom found in the later poems of Mary Oliver, Stanley Kunitz, Denise Levertov, William Stafford, and W. S. Merwin, among others. \$60.

THE EVOLUTIONARY EDGE

Five Tuesdays, Jan 18—May 17, 10—11:30 AM

Facilitator: Bridget Spurduto

We live in an evolutionary Universe where the new is arriving in every moment. As systems are collapsing it is more essential than ever for us to stand on the evolutionary edge and co-create with God the future that our hearts know is possible. \$20/session.

SEE NO STRANGER

Ten Mondays, Jan 24—Apr 4, 10—11:30 AM

Facilitators: Colleen Gorman and Bridget Spurduto

Book series based on Valarie Kaur's *See No Stranger: A Memoir and Manifesto of Revolutionary Love*. We will explore Valarie's ideas of revolutionary love as "a call for our time, a radical, joyful practice that extends in three directions--to others, to opponents and to ourselves." \$150.

STILLNESS OF WINTER: ALMOST FEBRUARY...

Thursday, Jan 27, 7—8:15 PM

Facilitator: Barbara Mahany

February tries its darndest to turn us into doubters. But now is the time when we're wise to pay closest attention: Listen close for the first stirrings of winter loosening its grip, making room for the light to seep in. \$15

WILD BELONGINGS

Feast of St. Brigid, Tuesday, Feb 1, 10AM—12 PM

Spring Equinox, Sunday, Mar 20, 2—4 PM

Summer Solstice, Tuesday, Jun 21, 10AM—12 PM

Facilitators: Bridget Spurduto and Ellen Wiggins

Our Sacred Earth is seeded with Divine revelation. Wild Belongings invites us into a deeper experience of the revelation through relationship with the land and creatures near us. \$20 per session/\$50 series.

RE-EMERGING IN A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD

First Thursdays, Feb 3—May 5, 10—11:30 AM  

Facilitator: Bridget Spurduto

The pandemic has lasted far longer than we ever imagined. Let us gather, process and unpack how the pandemic has affected us and how we want to consciously move forward, considering "which parts of normal are worth rushing back to." \$15/session.

THE INTEGRAL COMMUNITY

Tuesday, Feb 22, 10 AM—12 PM

Facilitator: Pat Bombard, BVM, PhD

Has your life journey brought you to a place where your heart breaks at the pain of our world? We will gather lessons from those who walked before us and created intentional communities that were counter-cultural (think Jesus, Gandhi, Dorothy Day). \$25.

csjthewell.org/offerings/ for details and registration

ASH WEDNESDAY PRAYER SERVICE 

Wednesday, Mar 2, 7—8PM

In the chapel, with distribution of ashes and reflection by Bridget Sperduto. Free will offering.

AT HOME LENTEN RETREAT  

Wednesday, Mar 2, 7PM—Wednesday, Mar 16, 7PM

Spiritual Directors: Pat Bergen, CSJ, Maria Hill, CSJ, Diane Pfahler, SND, and Bridget Sperduto

Gather on the first and last evenings, spend 1/2 hour daily in prayer, meet 5 times with a spiritual director. \$125.



JOURNAL YOUR LIFE 

Two Thursdays, Mar 10 and 24, 10-11:30 AM

Facilitator: Diane Pfahler, SND

Ever wonder what benefit journalers get from putting pen to paper? This class may be just what you need to be propelled into the company of Anne Frank, Marie Curie, Thomas Merton, and Lady Gaga. \$30 series.

2-HEMISPHERE SPRING (FALL) EQUINOX 

Thursday, Mar 17, 4:30—5:30 PM (CDT)

Friday, Mar 18, 7:30—8:30 AM (AEST)

Facilitators from The Well and Australia

Free will offering.

LINES, SPIRALS, AND NEUROGRAPHIC ART 

Three Wednesdays, Mar 23—Apr 6, 1—2:30 PM

Facilitator: Carol Cummins

Focus on giving your whole self to God during Lent, exploring internal wisdom in form and color! The emphasis will be on the experience of creating and how it makes you feel, rather than the end product. \$50 series.

KEY TO PROGRAM SYMBOLS:



On Zoom



In-Person



Hybrid



Bridging the Divides conference was a hit

Last September over two days, The Congregation of St. Joseph and its Spirituality Centers (including The Well), in partnership with the Fetzer Institute, took a major gamble in hosting a national conference to help heal divides across political, religious, economic, and racial lines. Two hundred and fifty attendees proved by their enthusiasm and their reviews that it was a risk well worth taking:

This was a superior presentation of issues that I think I need to work on. I have a ways to go ...and now, I feel as though I have support to do so.

My takeaway commitment post-conference is to....care for people around me, especially those I disagree with.

You have filled two days with powerful seeds that need to be scattered further and wider.

I felt like I needed a snack however was treated to a banquet. Filled to overflowing.

But wait, there's a follow-up...

The conference was a lot to take in, and many expressed a desire to plumb the presentations together and see where the Spirit leads us. Please join us for the conference follow-up series (whether you attended the conference or not): REVISITING AND EXTENDING THE BRIDGING THE GAP CONFERENCE, Jan 11—Feb 8. See description on facing page.

WINTER-SPRING-SUMMER PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE



WALKING WITH JESUS THESE DAYS 🌈

Monday, Apr 11, 9:30—11 AM,
repeated 6:30—8 PM

Facilitator: Sallie Latkovich, CSJ, DMin

This presentation offers a “tour” of the places in Jerusalem that we recall during the Triduum, with photos, commentary, and pauses for reflection. \$15.

TRIDUUM SERVICES 🌈

Holy Thursday Mass, Apr 14, 6:30 PM
Good Friday service, Apr 15, 3:30 PM
Saturday evening service, Apr 16, 7:30 PM

CHURCH OF THE WILD

Thursday, Apr 21, 7 PM, book launch talk 🗣️🌈

Friday, Apr 22, 9 AM—3 PM, retreat 🌈

Facilitator and Author: Victoria Loorz

Wild spirituality is a remembering of our place in the whole alive Earth system, a place of intimacy. It is a sacred conversation with the whole beloved community beyond even our own species. Through new and ancient practices, learn to connect to a love that literally holds the world together. Thurs only \$15, Fri \$75 (includes Thurs).

JOURNEY OF THE UNIVERSE MOVIE DAY 🌈

Wednesday, Apr 27, 1—2:30 PM

Facilitator: Well Staff

Watch the film/eat popcorn with us, in preparation for the John Grim/Sam King program May 12th! Free will.

BOUNDLESS COMPASSION RETREAT 🌈

Sun, May 1, 7 PM—Thurs, May 5, 4 PM

Facilitator: Mary Dean Pfahler, SND

Based on Joyce Rupp’s *Boundless Compassion: Creating a Way of Life*, presentations, small group discussions, media resources, reflection time, and guided prayer will be used as catalysts for a renewed

commitment to be a compassionate presence in a troubled world. \$500, \$420 commuter.

BOUNDLESS COMPASSION FACILITATORS TRAINING WORKSHOP 🌈

Fri, May 6, 9 AM—4 PM

Facilitator and Author: Joyce Rupp in person!

For those who have completed a 4-day Boundless Compassion Retreat, this workshop offers the opportunity to become a certified facilitator. The training prepares participants to use their individual talents and experiences to incorporate the *Boundless Compassion* program into their sphere of influence and to share the content in a variety of ways. \$175/\$80 commuter.

PAINT YOUR SOUL RETREAT 🌈

Thursday, May 12, 2 PM—Sunday, May 15, 3 PM

Facilitator: Gillian Romano

Engage with the energies of an unfolding, magnificent, creative Universe, a gorgeous and living Earth in which we participate, and with images already within us, through painting and story-telling. For artists and non-artists alike. \$475/\$415 commuter.

Love Your Region field trips return



Volo Bog, late October, 2021

Last spring we were able to recommence our outdoor field trips to experience the various ecosystems of our beautiful Great Lakes region, and they continued in the fall.. We appreciate your participation and promise there will be more next spring and summer. Stay tuned.



Uluru at Solstice Sunrise by Mary Southard, CSJ

ENGAGING THE LEGACY, EXPLORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF TEILHARD AND THOMAS 

Thursday, May 12, 6:30—8:30 PM

Facilitators: John Grim and Sam King

This workshop will trace the legacies of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin and Thomas Berry. Topics will include: Teilhard's notions of matter and spirit, zest for life, noosphere, omega point, and cosmogenesis; as well as Berry's ideas of a "New Story," differentiation-subjectivity-communion, the universe as a "communion of subjects" and the Great Work. \$25.

SAVE THE DATE FOR BLOOM ITALIANO! 

Sunday, June 5

Experience the joy of this gathering which includes a liturgy, cocktail hour, silent auction, delicious meal, games, and so much more! We cannot wait to be back in person with you at our big annual fundraiser.

2-HEMISPHERE SUMMER (WINTER) SOLSTICE 

Tuesday, Jun 21, 4:30—5:30 PM (CDT)

Wednesday, Jun 22, 7:30—8:30 AM (AEST)

Facilitators from The Well and Australia

Free will offering.

EMBRACING THE CHALLENGES OF ADULT FAITH IN THE 21ST CENTURY 

Wednesday, Jun 22, 7—8:30 PM

Facilitator: Diarmuid O'Murchu in person!

As more people grow into an adult sense of faith, major challenges arise for religions and churches in our time, the implications of which will be explored in this public lecture. \$15.

KATHY SHERMAN, CSJ

CONCERT TO BENEFIT THE WELL 

Date to be determined.

Ongoing Programs

PRAYERFUL PAUSE

Mondays and Wednesdays

9—9:15 AM

Thursdays 4:30—5PM

Drop in anytime. Free will.

YOGA

Wednesdays, 6:30—7:30 PM

For all levels. \$10/class.

REIKI CIRCLE

Second Tuesdays,

Jan 11—May 10, 10—11 AM

Free will.

COME AND PAINT

First Saturdays, Feb 5—Aug 6

9:30 AM—12 PM

Open to Come and Paint retreat participants. \$10 per session.

VIBRATIONAL SINGING BOWLS

On the Full Moon

A new recording each month. \$15.





SUMMER RETREATS AT THE WELL

DIRECTED RETREAT  

Sunday, Jun 12, 7 PM—Friday, Jun 17, 4 PM

Spiritual Directors: Pat Bergen, CSJ, Maria Hill, CSJ, Diane Pfahler, SND, and Bridget Sperduto

The summer directed retreatants will gather for an opening and closing session together and meet with a spiritual director one-on-one each day. \$600/\$500 commuter. Participate in the daily morning session of “Remembering the Challenges...Journey Forward” (see below) for an additional \$100.

REMEMBERING THE CHALLENGES, GATHERING THE GRACES, BLESSING THE JOURNEY FORWARD  

Sunday, Jun 12, 7 PM—Friday, Jun 17, 4 PM

Facilitator: Kathy Sherman, CSJ

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” C. Dickens
Come as you are and gather with community to embrace the quiet, to ponder music composed on the pandemic journey and to share stories of how God’s Word, with its myriad expressions, has been revealed and celebrated through your life and living. \$600/\$500 commuter. Participate in Silent Directed Retreat (see above) for an additional \$100.

ECO-SPIRITUALITY AFTER COVID-19 RETREAT  

Sunday, Jun 19, 7 PM—Friday, Jun 24, 12 PM

Facilitator: Diarmuid O’Murchu in person!

The virus which shook the world throughout 2020-21 created much social, political, and economic turmoil. Far greater, however, are the theological and spiritual implications. This participative retreat-workshop is open to all who are striving to discern the spiritual significance of this post-pandemic time. \$600/ \$500 commuter.



An audacious and vitally important undertaking:

Laudato Si’ Action Plan

As we position ourselves for a post-pandemic world, the Well Board and staff are undertaking a new strategic plan. Our first step is to do our part to implement the goals of the Laudato Si Action Platform (LSAP).

Flowing from Pope Francis’ encyclical on caring for our common home that invites all people to hear the cry of Earth and the cry of the poor, the LSAP is being embraced by Catholic organizations around the world with the goal of being carbon zero in 7 years.

The Well already is and will continue to grow into a community that acknowledges our interconnectedness with all. Through this lens we recognize that our gospel call is for eco-social justice. The two cannot be separated.

More information will be forthcoming on our plan to implement the goals of the LSAP and how you can participate.

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