

We embrace the process of transformation in Christ both in ourselves and in others, through the practice of Centering Prayer.
Contemplative Outreach is a network of communities and individuals seeking the inspiration and guidance of the Holy Spirit and to contribute to the renewal of the Christian contemplative tradition through the practice of Centering Prayer. Vision Theological Principal 1

Dear Fellow Mystics,

Beloved fellow contemplatives! Greetings of love and peace from Two Thomases' Hermitage, now day 554. I am filled with gratitude for you, our magnificent contemplative community. Our faithful practice of Centering Prayer has been a source of strength and solace to all of us during the challenges we have been facing. We have grown beyond our previous pandemic group sizes and territories. Our mutual gathering to center has been a sign of love in our fractured world. Check out what Centering Prayer has meant to some of our members on page two.



We are excited to welcome Hee Soon Kwon, who has moved to Atlanta from the San Francisco Bay area. Among her many gifts, she is a retired United Methodist minister and a commissioned presenter of Centering Prayer Introductory Workshops, Lectio Divina, and the Welcoming Prayer. She has translated two of Fr. Thomas' books: *Open Mind*, *Open Heart* and *Manifesting God* into Korean. She will be on our new presenter formation team.

Plan to join us for inspiring future events on page three. Two important ones will be this week and next:

- ❖ **Our free International Contemplative Outreach conference starts TOMORROW: "The Global Embrace: Our Widening Reach, Our Deepening Connection only on Zoom September 16-19, 2021.** To get your link, [register and find more information here](#).
- ❖ **LAST EVER Sept 24-26 Conspire Center for Action and Contemplation Zoom Conference** with Richard Rohr and friends. Registration closing soon. [Registration here](#)

Our Praise and Protect Our Earth Big Sit on October 9th team is putting together an inspiring program that we know you will love. If you are interested in serving on one of our teams for our future Big Sits or retreats, [contact me here](#). Find many inspiring experiences on our website's [events page here](#).

Our next **Coordinating Team Meeting will be Tuesday, October 12th at 10 am**. We will look at survey results from past activities and plan future ones in an hour. [Join us on Zoom here](#). Everyone is considered a member of the Coordinating Team. Your input is important.

Our next formation class to commission presenters of introductory Centering Prayer workshops is starting. If you are interested in becoming a commissioned presenter, basic requirements are a minimum of three years' Centering Prayer practice and intimate knowledge of *Open Mind*, *Open Heart*. We will conduct our meetings by Zoom. If you are interested, [contact me here](#).

May you and your loved ones be safe. May you be well. May you know Love surrounds you. Love draws us closer,

Maggie



What is your Centering Prayer story? What does Centering Prayer mean to you? We gathered them at our CO Ltd. administrator Mary Jane Yates' request. Some are below.

- When I live my life now, I'm able to trust, even when I'm not in control. Centering Prayer is teaching me to go with the flow.
- This practice has helped me let go and receive from God more. It shows up in everyday life.
- During COVID, without church, this practice has helped me stay in touch with God and I even feel closer to him. And this group has helped fill the hole that the loss of church attendance created.
- Centering Prayer has become central to my spiritual life. It has gone from being an important piece to a core piece of my spiritual life. It isn't just another kind of prayer or religious practice, it is foundational.
- Centering Prayer helps me reset the rest of my life and I'm always grateful I made the time to attend the group meeting.
- This Centering Prayer group has become a grounding piece that I needed in my life. It's more than just the practice of CP, it's the sense of community and education that results from the books and videos we explore together in our meetings.
- I can't think of a better way to be healed of loss, sorrow, grief, confusion, doubt, despair, anger, fear, than through Centering Prayer. It is my go-to for any tough situation, and it always brings me through. I am so thankful for this direct way to reach God as Beloved in silence. The rewards are essential for any happy life.
- It's kind of cool to discover Centering Prayer at my age as an octogenarian. My driving has slowed down literally and figuratively. I am more patient and let drivers in. I am not in a hurry and do not want to be. In group meetings, letting go of my ideas, listening and being inspired by others is wonderful.
- In my time with my husband in the hospital, I took time to meditate. Then I could be present and take in information that was upsetting without blocking it. Now that I am a widow, practicing Centering Prayer is a pathway to becoming a new person. I am inspired to practice Centering Prayer by my husband, who loved meditation, as a way of honoring him.

We have more stories. Find them in next month's issue.





Coming Events

International Contemplative Outreach conference “The Global Embrace: Our Widening Reach, Our Deepening Connection on Zoom only, September 16-19, 2021. You can [register and find more information here](#). that will be free! Donations accepted. I hope to see you there.

Sept. 21st - 4-5:30 pm ET A Zoom Conversation with **Ilia Delio and Cynthia Bourgeault** “Seeing the World from Another Center: Teilhard and Contemplation through the Energies of Love” – [Register here](#).

Sept 24-26 LAST EVER Conspire Center for Action and Contemplation Zoom Conference with Richard Rohr and friends. Registration closing soon. [Registration here](#)

October 9th - We Gather Together Zoom Big Sit for Praise and Protect Our Earth. [Sign up here](#).

October 9th - 8:30 – Noon ET -Annual Centering Prayer Zoom Retreat "Rooted in the Word" with **Father Bill Sheehan** sponsored by Contemplative Outreach Tampa Bay. [Zoom link here](#).

Tuesdays Oct 12 – Nov 16, 6:30 – 8:30 pm “Whole-Making: Spirituality, Science, and Social Change” an Introduction to **Howard Thurman’s Commitment to Community** with **Dr. Ridgeway Addison**, through Center for Christogenesis. [Register here](#).

October 16th – Contemplative Outreach Tallahassee Area sponsors **Brian McLaren** presenting “Faith After Doubt” – to be livestreamed [on this page](#).

October 30th - At the Edge of Waiting, a one-day Zoom retreat by Carl McColman has prepared a wonderful one-day retreat merging Celtic spirituality with Centering Prayer. [Sign up here](#).

November 20th - We Gather Together Big Sit on Forgiveness – We will experience healing using **Mary Mrozowski’s** prayers. [Sign up here](#).

December 1-5th - Five-Day Intensive Retreat on Zoom. **Fr. Thomas Keating** and others will guide us. This fulfills one requirement for presenter commissioning. [Sign up here](#).

December 11th - The Path of Illumination: The Transfiguration and the Reality of Awareness and Spaciousness- One-day zoom retreat by **Rev. Dr. Stuart Higginbotham**. [Sign up here](#).

January 8, 2022 - Big Sit on Welcoming January 8, 2022. We need team members. Contact me here to join us. Sign up details forthcoming.

Sophronia Scott will be giving the **Thomas Merton Annual Black History Month lecture on February 22nd 2022 @ 7 pm** - <http://merton.org/Events/#SScott>

Sign up for COA events on our website [here](#).



On-Line Opportunities

Monastery of the Holy Spirit Zoom Retreats

The Monastery has cancelled in-person retreats indefinitely due to the present Covid wave. All retreats will be on Zoom.

The Self in Light and Shadow – Saturday September 18 – Alison Umminger

Encountering Jesus in the Eucharist – Saturday September 25 – Fr. Gerard

To register, please call the retreat house office at 770-760-0959 Mon-Fri 8:00 – 1:00. Donation \$45. Visit us at www.trappist.net.

Virtual Resources

Center for Action and Contemplation presents [Wisdom in Times of Crisis](#), a free series of videos featuring all five of our core faculty and **New Season of Learning How to See: Podcast Series**-Brian McLaren, Jacqui Lewis and Richard Rohr- six-episode podcast series [Learning How to See](#). Brian McLaren, Barbara Holmes, Richard Rohr, Cynthia Bourgeault, James Finley speaking [here](#).



Center for Christogenesis:

Ilia Delio Webinar “The Entangled Planet” [access link here](#) (Password: *planet*)

Ilia's interview on "Buddha at the Gas Pump" [here](#).

Ilia interviews millennials how they redefine religion in terms of an evolutionary world [here](#).

Ilia's video “Why have hope for the future” [here](#)



[Encountering Silence](#) Podcast by Carl McColman, Cassidy Hall, and Kevin Johnson



Ignatius House is open for socially-distanced retreats – [info here](#).



[Tuesdays with Merton YouTube Channel](#).

- [Volume 33 of The Merton Annual](#) - now available.
- [Thomas Merton Society of Great Britain & Ireland](#) - 2022 Conference - Final Call for Papers.
- [Recent Publications](#)



Br. Elias Marechal OCSO is on YouTube. [Find him here](#).



Find **Fr. William Meninger** on YouTube! [click here](#) to find his many videos.



Group Meetings and Coordinating Team Gatherings

We are beginning to have socially distanced in-person Centering Prayer meetings with the option of joining by Zoom. We recommend that participants receive the Covid-19 vaccination. Check with Centering Prayer group facilitators to find out their meeting access [here](#).

"There is no other when you have become the other, and the other is you. It is compassion: one and yet distinct from everything. The Ultimate Reality is the capacity for infinite relationship. In this becoming, everything comes into being. Only Ultimate Reality matters, and for that reason, everything matters ... Above all, we must serve God's love and plan for the new creation."

- Thomas Keating, [*Reflections on the Unknowable*](#)

Be still and know that I am over of the
God. Ps 46:10

Silence Solitude Solidarity Service

Join the online Meditation Chapel at Contemplative Outreach Ltd. [here](#).



Contemplative
Outreach

Contemplative Outreach Atlanta

is a chapter of

[Contemplative Outreach Ltd.](#)

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Contemplative Outreach Ltd.'s monthly e-bulletin is
available [subscribe here](#).



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