



A not-for-profit ministry sponsored by  
the Sisters of the Holy Cross

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*A Place for Women to Gather provides a welcoming place, programs and services to foster spiritual and human growth development for women. While we endeavor to keep fees at a minimum to support our ministry, cost need not be a hindrance for anyone. Unless otherwise noted, events take place at our center.*

— Sister Mary Margaret Weber, CSC, and Sister Judith Hallock, CSC

## Programs for October 2018 — January 2019

### *There Comes a Time...*

Dear Friends of The Place,

With this program brochure, we begin our 20th year of offering programs that nourish the spiritualities of women. We have decided that this 20th year will be our last one. We will be closing our ministry in October, 2019.

This reflection articulates some of what led to our decision:

“There comes a time  
when everything you  
have become grows  
too heavy to bear  
and in order to  
thrive it must  
be laid down  
as gracefully as  
trees shed the  
burden of summer’s  
growth standing  
stark and bare  
in a lifetime  
of smiles and tears,  
knowing that to hang on means  
to break and die  
and lying down  
gives another  
dream  
a chance to grow.

Patricia Rourke, IHM

*Letters from the Edge*

Our Consulting Circle is exploring various options of how the spiritual needs of women might continue to be met once we close. That’s a question for all who have come to A Place for Women to Gather and been nourished. So stay tuned!

As we enter into this last year, we look forward to the same kind of nourishing programs and sharing we’ve experienced in the last nineteen! We look forward to seeing you soon!

Blessings,

Sister Mary Margaret and Sister Judy

## WEEKLY SERIES: MONDAY MORNING PAUSE

This program, continued from the last cycle, is designed for those who would like to begin the work week with a pause that refreshes before they take on their “to do” lists for the week. Each participant will be invited to use a reflective resource during the week, provided either by APFWTG or by the participant. On Monday mornings we will share how those resources have been nourishing during the week or, perhaps, not. Participants can then choose another resource or continue with the one they are using. By beginning the work week with this focus, it is hoped that it will be much more difficult to have a difficult week! Since this is a weekly program, it is understood that participants might not be able to be present every Monday morning. But registering for this program implies a commitment to be present more often than not, as well as a commitment to the community that will form as a result of the sharing.

**Presenter:** Sister Mary Margaret Weber

**Date/Time:** Monday mornings, 10:30-11:30am - October 1 thru January 28 (excluding December 24 and 31!)

**Free will donation**

## October

### “Revolutionary Love in a Time of Rage”

... is what Valarie Kaur says is the call of our time. It is a love that delivers us. No, this is not the soft fluffy put on the rose-colored glasses type of love. Valarie reminds us that love is sweet labor, fierce, bloody, imperfect, life-giving and a choice we make over and over again. Revolutionary love is an eco-feminist response to the adverse political, social and environmental challenges of our time. During this program, we will be inspired and guided through experiences that are rooted in eco-feminism and that will lead us toward our own sense of revolutionary love. We must, as Joanna Macy instructs, “link arms” and move together through our communal suffering into a new era of eco-responsiveness. If you would like to be inspired by revolutionary love in a circle of women, and if you would like to increase your capacity to love actively as a response to the systemic changes that are upon us, come and step into this love circle!

**Presenter:** Sherylyn Pitt

**Dates/Times:** Thursday, October 4, 1-3:30pm OR  
Tuesday, October 23, 7-9:30pm

**Suggested Donation:** \$20

### Are You Doing the Dissident Daughter Dance?

If you are searching for a more meaningful spirituality than the faith tradition in which you were raised is able to provide; if you notice discomfort with theology, ritual, and/or doctrine where once there was comfort, then you may be engaged in the Dissident Daughter Dance that is inviting you to new understandings of your spiritual life and a deeper relationship with the Holy One. Using as a mirror the experience of Sue Monk Kidd as she describes her spiritual journey in *The Dance of the Dissident Daughter*, participants will have the opportunity to share their perceptions and questions regarding their own journeys with others doing “the Dance,” and find strength and solidarity as we each learn new steps. (Familiarity with her book will enhance your experience of this program.)

**Presenter:** Sister Mary Margaret Weber

**Dates/Times:** Monday, October 8, 7-8:30 OR  
Tuesday, October 16, 1:30-3pm

**Free will donation**

## Retreat Day: The New Elder Journey

In this moment of transformation on earth, what is being asked of us as elders in today’s world? In this Day Away retreat we will consider the transitions from age-ing to Sage-ing and the shifts in our relationships to time, to the natural world, to grandparenting, and to our role in the development of spiritual evolution. How can we use our years of life experiences, our perspectives, wisdom, and resources to contribute to the healing of our times?

**Presenter:** Carolyn Toben

**Date/Time:** Tuesday, October 30, 9:30am-2:30pm

**Site:** Home of Margaret Thurston,  
6405 Lakeland Dr., Raleigh, 27612

**Suggested Donation:** \$35

**(Bring your lunch. Dessert and drinks provided.)**

## November

### Our Women Friends: Unique Resources for Growth, Insight, and So Much More!

What is it about our “girlfriends” that adds color and texture to our lives? What is it about a close woman friend that makes the difficult more bearable and the fun times more enjoyable? This program will look at women’s friendships through the lens of women in the Judeo Christian Scriptures and their relationships. So, please come and bring a friend!

**Presenter:** Sister Mary Margaret Weber

**Dates/Times:** Tuesday, November 6, 10:30-noon OR  
Monday, November 12, 7-8:30

**Free will donation**

### The Power of Hope

Difficulties, misfortune and loss can bring bitterness and despair. On the other hand, there are those who move beyond the overwhelming loss and come to embrace hope in their hearts. Whether our loss of hope is from personal or societal realities, our faith challenges us to the necessity of having hope. Our God gives us lessons in God’s creation to demonstrate the power of the

human spirit. Let us claim together that hope and resiliency is rooted in the human heart.

**Presenter:** Sister Judy Hallock

**Dates/Times:** Wednesday, November 7, 1:30-3pm OR  
Thursday, November 15, 7-8:30pm

**Free will donation**

## Who Are You and How Do You Fit into This World?

How would you respond to the question, Who Are You? What words would you use to describe yourself and your place in this world? Do you live as a separate being on an island of solitude or do you see yourself as part of a community? How do you walk through your day? Are you aware of your surroundings or are you completely in your head? These are questions we will reflect upon as I offer you a new way to see yourself, as a Divine Being, more powerful than you think. We will discuss how you are connected to all of life and what that means as you move through your day.

**Presenter:** Celine Koropchak

**Dates/Times:** Thursday, November 8, 7-8:30pm

**Suggested Donation:** \$20

## December

### Women Who Run With the Wolves – and Have Read the Book

This program is designed to be a reunion for those who have read this classic by Clarissa Pinkola Estes and found it to be nourishing, even transformative. Some women have read it several times; some keep it on their nightstand for quick referral; some say it's the most important book they have ever read. If this book had that kind of impact on you, please come and share with others who have had a similar experience.

**Presenter:** Sister Mary Margaret Weber

**Dates/Times:** Tuesday, December 4, 10:30-noon OR  
7-8:30pm

**Free will donation**

### Keeping the Soul Nourished

Because we live in a culture that increasingly leans toward commercialism and materialism, it is not always easy to keep the soul nourished. The challenge of these days, when times are not hospitable to spiritual growth, is how to nurture, feed, heal, restore and renew our spirit. Let us, together, explore suggestions for deepening our spiritual life.

**Presenter:** Sister Judy Hallock

**Dates/Times:** Thursday, December 6, 7-8:30pm OR  
Wednesday, December 12, 10:30-Noon

**Free will donation**

### Leaning In To Darkness

December is the month when darkness noticeably increases, culminating in the Winter Solstice, the longest night of the year. This program offers the opportunity to experience a prayer-full darkness during which to explore the gifts darkness holds for us, especially when contrasted with the light. Without darkness

there would be no contrast! December is also one of the busiest months of the year for many. Give yourself this opportunity to step out of that hectic rhythm and enjoy an hour of peaceful quiet.

**Presenter:** Sister Mary Margaret Weber

**Dates/Times:** Monday evenings, Dec. 3, 10, 17, 7-8pm

**Free will donation**

## WINTER SOLSTICE LABYRINTH WALK

**Friday, Dec. 21, 7pm**

**Millbrook Baptist Church**

**1519 East Millbrook Rd., North Raleigh**

The Winter Solstice marks the beginning of the season of Winter, the universe's sleep mode, a time to lie fallow and await regeneration. Perhaps this season offers us humans a wonderful invitation to do the same! The gentle prayer of walking the labyrinth is a meaningful way to begin this season and say "yes" to this invitation.

**Call if you plan to attend: 919-846-3601**

## January

### Change the Routine and See What Happens!

What is the value of routine? Does it ground you and add some needed stability to your life? Or does it imprison you and keep you from discovering new aspects to yourself and your life? When was the last time you looked at your routine instead of taking it for granted? If you come to this program, you can answer that question!

**Presenter:** Sister Mary Margaret Weber

**Dates/Times:** Thursday, January 3, 10:30-noon OR  
Monday, January 7, 7-8:30pm

**Free will donation**

### Mandala Journaling: Launch Your Journey of Self Discovery

Delve into the mysteries of the mandala! Have fun while uncovering sparkling facets of your inner world! Like dreams, drawn mandalas reveal hidden truth and guidance. This is an invitation to begin your *soul journey* using mandalas as your map. This program will be 4 weekly meetings, starting with an introduction to drawing mandalas. In subsequent meetings, we will practice, share and explore our own Mandala Journaling process. No experience is needed, just some curiosity and willingness to explore your own wisdom. All materials are provided, but you're welcome to bring your favorite blank (unlined) journal and coloring utensils.

**Presenter:** Amy Allen

**Dates/Times:** Thursday mornings, January 10, 17,  
24, 31 – 10-11:30am

**Suggested donation:** \$40

## Five Habits of the Heart

“Habits of the Heart”, a phrase coined by Tocqueville, are deeply ingrained ways of seeing, being and responding to life. Our society is plagued with divisiveness and polarization. Relationships among families and friends become strained. This program, adapted from Parker Palmer, will suggest a tool to help build bridges. As spiritual persons, we need to form and cultivate “Habits of the Heart” as we engage in civil dialogue. We will not discuss issues but explore the Five Habits of the Heart whose goal is respectful listening and understanding. We hope to recognize that overcoming our polarization is fundamentally a heart-level challenge.

**Presenter:** Sister Judy Hallock

**Dates/Times:** Tuesday, January 15, 10:30-Noon OR  
7-8:30pm

**Free will donation**



## Guest Presenters

**Amy Allen** describes herself as an Artist/Soul Explorer/Counselor. She has been a Licensed Professional Counselor since 1996, and has worked with children and adults as a Counselor, Play Therapist, Prayer Chaplain and Youth Ministry Director. Her spiritual path has most recently zig-zagged through the challenges of chronic illness, associated limitations and identity confusion. As Grace would have it, “another door opened” for her, leading to fresh and surprising soul growth and creative expressions. SolArts and Mandala Journaling are among these new experiences. She delights in sharing these and other questions, wisdom, and spiritual food with others!

**Celine Koropchak** A retired Duke University medical researcher, Celine is currently a blueberry farmer and author of the book ‘One With All of Thee: Growing Your Sacred Connection.’ She speaks and teaches locally sharing practical tools to help guide others on their personal journeys. Celine has been a repeat guest on BlogTalkRadio and writes a weekly blog, TheTovaryshConnection.

**Sherylyn Pitt** MSW LCSW LCAS holds a Master of Social Work from UNC Chapel Hill and is a licensed clinical social worker who has a private therapy practice in Garner, NC. She is a poet, artist, health rhythms facilitator, hasya yoga instructor, reiki practitioner and founder of Feather Path Circles. With extensive training in mindfulness,

trauma, grief, addictions, compassion, women’s issues, energy medicine and Eco contemplative practices she has provided services to a wide variety of organizations ranging from governmental to non-profit. Sherylyn is dedicated to manifesting interfaith and intergenerational opportunities for people to gather in Sacred Soul Circles where they can enhance experiences of their innate value, place and purpose in relation to the natural world. She is a creative, playful and spiritual leader who invites each of us to Be Love, Cause Love, Because Love Heals!

**Carolyn Toben** is an educator, counselor and creator of new social forms with a spiritual dimension. In 2000 she founded the Center for Education, Imagination, and the Natural World, a work inspired by cultural historian and author, Thomas Berry, which offers children and teachers a new understanding of the human-earth relationship. She currently creates programs, retreats, and events for individuals and groups seeking spiritual renewal and reconnection with the natural world at her family-owned land, Timberlake Earth Sanctuary, between Greensboro and Burlington. Carolyn’s background includes degrees from UNC-G, postgraduate studies in spirituality, world religions, and depth psychology, and teaching in both secondary and college settings with an emphasis on alternative and interdisciplinary education.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation to support this ministry, please make checks payable to Sisters of the Holy Cross and mail to  
8380 Six Forks Road, Suite 203, Raleigh, NC 27615.

**All donations are greatly appreciated and gratefully received.**