

**Center for Mission & Ministry at Christ United Church
1000 W. Webb Rd. Dewitt, Michigan**

presents

Spiritual Formation Program 2011-2012

Foundations of Christian Spirituality – Entering the Narrow Gate

A reflective study of the Wisdom Tradition over the centuries

Explore the classic elements of monastic & contemplative life to discover how this ancient wisdom, learning and spiritual practice might be understood and lived in new settings & life today. The program offers a reflective personal & transformative process for all who desire deeper life in the Holy Spirit and more intentional living of the Christian life in Christ. The rich and inspiring teaching is centered on the saints, mystics and spiritual teachers of the Christian centuries, personal contemplative prayer practice and the writing and living of a personal *Rule of Life*.

Foundations of Christian Spirituality - Year-long program

- Ten Saturdays, 9:30am-4:30pm; one Saturday per month, September 2011 —June 2012 (lunch included)
- Tuition: \$400 (50% due in October and 50% due in February)
- Three required books (can be purchased on Amazon.com at reduced cost) Required editions: The Rule of Benedict. Ed., Timothy Fry Liturgical Press, 1982; The Cloud of Unknowing Eds., Johnston & Smith, Image Books 1996; The Holy Longing: The Search for a Christian Spirituality by Ronald Rolheiser-hardcover-used books available.
- A reflective study of the great spiritual teachers of the Christian tradition from early church to present day.
- Each Saturday consists of two three-hour sessions with each session a separate topic
- Each session has required readings (short background and/or readings from the original writings of each spiritual teacher) and journal questions.
- Introduction to and invitation for the practice of contemplative prayer and spiritual discernment is offered.
- Suggestions given for the writing and living of an individual Rule of Life.
- A silent directed retreat of 4 or 6 days is strongly recommended during the year
- Presenters for some sessions, other than staff, are local and regional professional Christian ministers and educators.

Program Schedule

September 10, 2011

The Christian Journey
Biblical Spirituality

October 1

St. Anthony and Desert Spirituality
Prayer and Spiritual Journey

November 19

Rule of St. Benedict
St. Hildegard of Bingen

December 17

St. Francis of Assisi & St. Clare
St. Bonaventure

January 21, 2012

St. Catherine of Siena
Meister Eckhart

February 11

The Cloud of Unknowing
St. Ignatius of Loyola

March 24

St. John of the Cross
St. Teresa of Avila

April 21

Martin Luther, Dietrich Bonhoeffer

May 12

John Calvin, John Wesley

June 2

Evelyn Underhill, Thomas Merton