



The Spring Term – 2022

Courses

Discerning Our Calls with Marcelle Martin (Three-week course)

As we seek greater clarity about how the Spirit is calling us to live and work at this time, we will practice methods of spiritual discernment. The class will learn about leadings, the nature of a call, and being attentive to guidance that comes both from within and through others or through outward events. Using Quaker tools of discernment, such as the clearness committee and faithfulness groups, as well as practices from other traditions, we will sort through our various motivations in search of those that are divinely inspired. Experiential exercises are designed to hone our skills in helping each other toward greater clarity and faithfulness. Sessions will include time for sharing with partners and small groups, as well as group discussion. During the course of the three-week term, each person will have the opportunity to be the focus of a faithfulness group session. We will support each other in going forward with renewed clarity and courage.

***Faith in Action* with Eileen Flanagan** (Weekend program)

We are living at a time of overlapping social and ecological crises. Our work to address these issues can be greatly strengthened and deepened by spiritual practices. Through this participatory course, we will explore how to integrate strategic lessons from previous social change movements with discernment about how we are called to act, as well as how to manage our fears and grief over injustice and climate catastrophe. Whether you feel new to activism or consider yourself a veteran, whatever your primary issue, identity, or spiritual tradition, you will be a valued part of a learning community that seeks to practice the values we want to promote in the wider world.

Exploring Nonviolence with Dwight Dunston (Two-week course)

In this course, participants will explore some of the tenants of Kingian Nonviolence (David Jehnsen + Bernard Lafayette) and Emergent Strategy (adrienne maree brown) while exploring their own conflict styles (Jovida Ross + Weyam Ghabbian) and working to integrate them into their own spiritual lives in order to deepen their commitment to the values, experiences, and visions of the world that guide them. Participants can expect experiential activities, creative storytelling, journaling, and silent reflection as practices that will show up to help guide the learning space.

Woodworking with Tom Jenik, Hans Francke, Vibhat Nair, and Lloyd Guindon
(Weekly sessions)

Discover the joy of working with your hands while exploring cooperative problem solving in your spiritual path.

Learn about wood, types, character, grain, and moisture with particular attention to trees on the property and wood from those trees.

Become familiar with the most essential tools

Review Safe operating procedures for use of all tools and machinery and general woodshop safety.

Sacred Creativity with Jesse White (Weekly sessions)

Enjoy the sanctuary of the studio and each other as we invite creativity and spirituality to blossom. Each session will offer participants the opportunity for self-reflection, inspiration, and creative exploration on a different theme (see below). Friends are welcome to choose which mediums they would like to explore writing, painting, collage, sculpture, fiber arts, photography, movement, music, and more! The sessions will open with about one hour of programming, then open-ended creativity from 3-5pm (with some individual check-ins, creative problem-solving as needs arise, and perhaps even a demo or two!) There will be an opportunity each week to gather with a partner or small group for the last half-hour. This program offers gentle risk-taking, imaginative making, and creative community for all. No experience or particular skills needed!

Art, Activism, and Spirituality with Peterson Toscano (Weekend online program)

This program explores the intersectionality between art, activism, and spirituality that we experience as individuals and community. Participants' questions and interests determine the content of the presentation as it evolves providing a safe and nurturing space where anyone can share some of their own story, art, insights, and understandings

Peterson brings his experience as a master storytelling, a Bible scholar, and a human rights activist. He playfully explores the serious worlds of gender, sexuality, religion, and climate change. His on-line presentations are dynamic and use multimedia and other tools to make the experience rich and meaningful for all. This will be a unique, intimate presentation with plenty of room for your own input or simply sit back and watch the discussion unfold.

The Gospel and the Re-Creation of Community with Francisco Burgos (One week course)

- What is your experience/relationship with the Gospel?
- Are you curious about the Gospel's message and its relevancy for you/us today?
- Is the Gospel a fountain for your personal and communal renewal?
- What are the elements (cultural, religious, political, etc.) that frame your vision and understanding of the Gospel?

This week course will provide a friendly environment for exploring the teachings of the Gospel in our challenging time. It is designed to help us discern the Divine in everyday life with special attention given to personal and community growth in our convoluted and complex world. We will have the opportunity to gain new insights about the Gospel based on the New Testament writings associated with the names Mathew, Mark, and Luke, and we may find new meanings that speak to our personal and societal conditions.

Using the Liberation Theology methodology of seeing, judging, acting, and celebrating, this course will explore the practical implications of the Gospel.