

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,

Join us this Sunday for our Annual Contemplative Outreach Atlanta Coordinating Team PotLuck Meeting 2:00 -5:00 pm Sun July 19th, now virtual!

You are all members of our coordinating team. We work together to support Centering Prayer in Atlanta and northern Georgia. We need to gather to share ideas how to go forward during the pandemic. Your input is important, especially now! You have your picnic at home and meet with everyone virtually. [Let me know](#) if plan to attend. Zoom [Invitation here](#).

Greetings from my hermitage, day 130. I hope you are well and safe as the Covid cases in Georgia continue to rise. We will not support physical gatherings until further notice. Recent openings and get-togethers have caused much higher rates of Covid to emerge. Health experts advise to socially distance, wear masks and gloves, and wash hands. Let us all be considerate and compassionate to work together to stop the spread and support those in harm's way.

Growing up in the Panama Canal Zone I spent most of my time in the swimming pool training as a competitive swimmer. Lessons I learned then now support my practice of Centering Prayer:

1) It is important to keep at it even when we think we are going nowhere. 2) We will find a strength, a source within that is always with us. 3) When we put our whole heart and self into the effort, it makes all the difference.

Our goals in Centering Prayer are not to win trophies or set new records. The more we practice Centering Prayer, the nearer to God we come as our relationship deepens. I invite you to embrace the opportunity the pandemic is presenting to increase your practice. I have welcomed my self-isolation, increasing my CP time to at least two hours a day. The gifts are flowing! I am committed to continue this after the quarantine lifts. I am not proposing a hermitage for you, but new, freer schedules can open up opportunities for increased Centering Prayer. The closer we get to God, the clearer are our priorities, and the more we are able live Christ's way.

We can draw from these valuable gifts to help in the pandemic. We can be a guiding light of peace and wisdom for those ill, their caregivers, and all who are under stress. May we bring healing and harmony to the pain, suffering and disorder happening now through our prayers and compassion.

A recent upsurge of many meaningful Zoom conferences by outstanding guides in contemplative spirituality is summarized below. I will notify you when new recordings become available that are not already posted. You can access several transcripts and notes on our [website](#) in the green ribbon "Conference Notes."

Right after the potluck on **Sunday July 19 from 5:30-7:00 pm EDT Fr. William Meninger will present "Julian of Norwich: A Mystic for Today"** hosted by Dominican Republic Contemplative Outreach. Access it by opening Zoom on your computer and entering the ID number 305 673 6206. If you do not already have a Zoom account, it is easy create one with your own password.





Last Saturday on July 11th, our first Zoom Contemplative Outreach Ltd. Introduction to Centering Prayer workshop wowed 275 of us from eight countries. Carol Alevizos and four presenters Keith Kristich, Pat Clough, Adam Gordon, and Irene Chang gave the best Introduction to Centering Prayer workshop I have ever seen. Their personal stories illuminated the aspects of Centering Prayer clearly and personally inspired us. We will be following up for the next four Saturdays: July 18, 25, August 1 and 8 at 2-3:30pm EDT. If you wish to join, email Carol Alevizos [here](#). We are excited for the many possibilities we will have in bringing Introduction to Centering Prayer Workshops to the Atlanta/northern Georgia area because the entire workshop will be posted on YouTube later.

On the same last Saturday, **Fr. William Meninger**, our beloved surviving co-creator of the method of Centering Prayer, presented to 131 participants his last in a series of **Julian of Norwich**, hosted by Tallahassee Contemplative Outreach. His loving presentation of the incredibly valuable insights from Julian inspired us all. He reminded us we need humility as the key to dealing with the false self. Fr. William's video collection is on his own YouTube site [here](#).

On **Sunday, June 28th** our **Revolutionary Contemplatives group presented on Zoom through Mary and Martha's Place "Contemplative Way Stations"** - A conversation with Lerita Coleman Brown, Stuart Higginbotham, and Carl McColman, moderated by Rebecca Parker with musical interludes by Caroline Herring. Carl observed that Julian of Norwich has been a guiding light during this time. Lerita recommended Howard Thurman's work can facilitate our contemplative response to two pandemics: racism and Covid. Stuart observed we are in a crucial time where inessentials are being burned away. He drew on Brother Roger's *Essential Writings* whose grounding vocation was to reconcile all people through Taizé.



On **Saturday, June 27th** **Fr. William Meninger** spoke to over 190 people all over the country in his second Zoom conference hosted by Tallahassee Contemplative Outreach. He described deep meanings for us today are found in **Julian of Norwich's** *Revelations of Divine Love*, revealing that God has created: infinite compassion, mercy, and love for us. He called Thomas Merton, Raimon Panikkar, and Teilhard de Chardin present-day living manifestations of Julian.



On **Friday, June 26th** **Ilia Delio** presented to over 1600 people from all over the world **"The God Revolution: Beyond Racism and the Remaking of Religion."** Despite a bike accident that caused a serious concussion, Ilia communicated her message clearly. She explained how the Adam myth that developed from the Genesis story is wrong. She encouraged us to create a new myth in a new direction that binds us together as Teilhard suggested, "Love is the core energy of the universe." Hopefully, we will soon see the recorded video, notes and slides.

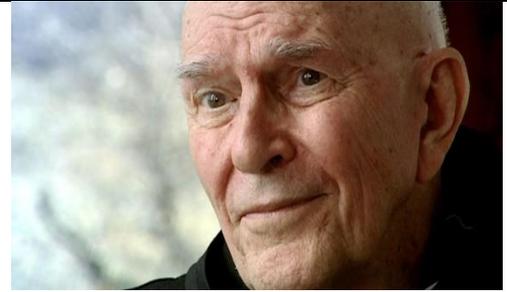
Beloved merciful Source of Life, protect us from harm, heal our illness, change our hearts, and strengthen us to give your love away as you love us,

I pray that you and your loved ones keep safe and healthy,

Maggie

On-Line and Virtual Opportunities

The Call to Unite Videos & recordings from Unite event of religious leaders & artists around the world calling the human population to unite & find a new vision for our world, Richard Rohr et.al.



CAC: free 20-video series featuring our five faculty speaking on the pandemic. Watch as Richard Rohr, Cynthia Bourgeault, Brian McLaren, Barbara Holmes, and James Finley share what this moment has to teach us, relevant practices, and the contemplative wisdom to be found in death.

Aug 31 to Sept 25 Cynthia Bourgeault offers a course here on Thomas Keating's Secret Embrace Book of Poetry- Unitive Theology in Haiku Form

Cynthia Bourgeault YouTube video "[Cultivating an Attitude of Entrusting](#)"

Encountering Silence Podcast by Carl McColman, Cassidy Hall, and Kevin Johnson

James Finley Podcasts: "[Sink into the Taproot of Your Heart](#)" & "[Turning to the Mystics](#)"

Fr. Laurence Freeman, OSB, Interfaith event video

"Nothing more human for us to open our hearts to those in need... The deep work of contemplation is as natural as the natural act of compassion and generosity."

Gratefulness video "A Grateful Day" by Br. David Steindl-Rast featured on their website.

Br. Elias Marechal OCSO presented by Zoom "Our Inner Beauty" June 24, 2020, hosted by Tallahassee Contemplative Outreach, now posted on YouTube. [Click here](#) for the recording.

Fr. William Meninger on YouTube including "Julian of Norwich" and "What Is a Mystic?"

The International Contemplative Outreach April 30th - May 2nd Conference with Cynthia Bourgeault featuring "**Oneness: The Secret Embrace, Fr. Thomas Keating's Final Gift to the World**" video recordings are now public for all to enjoy. [Session 1:](#) [Session 2:](#) [Session 3:](#)
The book, *The Secret Embrace* [You may order it here in our store.](#)

"The Shepherd Song (In Fast and Feasting)" by Paul Reeves

The Work of the People – breathtaking films for spirituality and transformation with significant work about the pandemic- <https://www.theworkofthepeople.com/>

Find a Centering Prayer Group meeting online [here](#).

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

Calendar of Events

We will continue to suspend physical gatherings indefinitely. Details will be developed as we receive more information.

Quarterly Coordinating Team Gatherings for 2020 will be on Zoom until further notice.

Sundays – 1-3 pm July 19, Sept 6, Dec 6.

Everyone is a member of our Coordinating Team. You are all part of our leadership.

The July 19th Pot Luck invitation is on page 1.

We plan to hold Introduction to Centering Prayer Workshops on Zoom in the future. We will advise you when the schedule is in place.

Physical Retreats are currently on hold until further determination.

- ❖ **October 28 to Nov 1, 2020** - 5 Day Intensive/Post-Intensive Retreat Monastery of the Holy Spirit – To register contact Patti Wilson at (770) 760-0959 or retreat@trappist.net **TBD**
- ❖ **May 12-16, 2021** – 5 Day Intensive/Post-Intensive Retreat at the Monastery of the Holy Spirit, Conyers, GA. To register Patti Wilson at 770) 760-0959 or retreat@trappist.net **TBD**
- ❖ **November 7-12, 2021** – 5 Day Intensive/Post-Intensive Retreat at Ignatius House. **TBD**

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

Silence Solitude Solidarity Service

...we're invited to realize it's you who are a missionary in your inmost being in the degree that you enshrine the presence of God. That presence doesn't necessarily have to go anywhere, but to go there is a powerful witness. But it's who you are: it's your being that invisibly is pouring positive energy into the universe, overcoming the negativity of generations of false selves to put it in that terminology. You have no idea of what empowerment is communicated to you in contemplative prayer, except that, little by little, you can't help but do good and love other people. You can't sit on divine love... it'll begin to spread and will expand appropriately in your circumstances according to your vocation. "Living in the Presence of God Day after Day" Video Fr. Thomas Keating on [YouTube here](#)



Contemplative
Outreach

Contemplative Outreach

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Find a Centering Prayer group, read our newsletters, and see what is coming soon.