

Presentation Prayer Center

Fargo ND

Ponderings

Phone 701-237-4857, ext. 211

Sponsored by the Union of Presentation Sisters

Vol. 20, No.1 Fall 2016

www.presentationprayercenter.org

www.facebook.com/PresentationPrayerCenter

Welcome to the Presentation Prayer Center

We have a new look at the Presentation Prayer Center! New windows were installed and the rooms and hallways have been painted throughout the Prayer Center. Special thanks to all the volunteers who helped with the painting! Please stop by and see the good work for yourself!

Outlaw Christian

Monthly Book Discussion

"Outlaw Christian: Finding Authentic Faith by Breaking the Rules" by Jacqueline A. Bussie.

"Too Many Christians live according to unspoken "Laws" that govern the Christian Life. Living according to these rules is killing real Christian life: *Outlaw Christian* proposes a rebellious, life-giving, authentic alternative. Through captivating stories and with disarming honesty, Bussie gives concrete, practical strategies to help readers cultivate hope, seek joy, practice accompaniment, compost their pain, and rediscover the spiritual practice of lament. Tackling difficult questions without political divisiveness. Bussie speaks to both progressive and conservative Christians in ways that unite rather than divide. And in doing so, she provides a new way to handle the most difficult and troubling questions of life in a broken world that God will never abandon" www.outlawchristianbook.com

Dates: First meeting, Wednesday, September 7. We will meet the first Wednesday of the month, September – December, 6:45 pm - 8:00 pm. Meet in Prayer Center living room.

Suggested fee: Freewill offering. Purchase the book on your own. Study guides are available. Join anytime.

"I don't know a more irreligious attitude, one more utterly bankrupt of any human content, than one which permits children to be destroyed."

Daniel Berrigan, S.J. (1921 – 2016)

People of the Lie

A class led by Pastor Laurie Neill

Satan, the father of lies, loves it when we allow ourselves to believe negative and distorted statements about ourselves. Yet this wrong thinking produces wrong emotions, wrong reactions, and wrong behavior and steals the abundant life Christ came to give us. Learn how to identify these lies and replace them with the truth of who we are in God.

Laurie Neill is a pastor at First Lutheran Church in downtown Fargo. She loves to write, teach and preach the Word of God.

Dates: First Meeting, Monday, September 19. Five Monday night sessions, 7:00-8:30 PM, (9/19, 9/26, 10/10, 10/17,10/24). Meet in Prayer Center living room.

Suggested fee: \$50. **Registration is requested.** Materials provided.

Extended Ignatian:

Looking to discover and to encounter God in your busy and complex life?

The Presentation Prayer Center will offer the 19th Annotated EXTENDED IGNATIAN retreat for all interested men and women of all denominations. The retreat will run September to May. Participants will follow the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, which have been a part of spirituality for over 450 years.

Each participant will meet weekly with a director at a time convenient to both of them. The retreat consists of praying an assigned scripture passage for 45 to 60 minutes each day for thirty weeks. Scripture passages follow the life of Jesus and the liturgical year.

Registration and application is required before the Orientation. You may print the application form at the website: www.presentationprayercenter.org

Dates: Orientation is planned for Tuesday, September 20, 7:00 pm at the Prayer Center.

Suggested fee: \$100/month, which may be paid at convenient intervals during the retreat. Scholarships available - no one turned away due to lack of funds.

Women's Camp 2016-2017

"Just Be Held"

Explore relationships with others and God through conversation, food, and prayer.

When and Where:

Friday, September 23, 3:30 pm – Sunday, September 25, 3:30 pm, Lake Sallie, MN. (Limited to 8 participants.)

Friday, January 13, 3:30 pm – Sunday, January 15, 3:30 pm, Presentation Prayer Center. (Limited to 10 participants.)

Registration: Contact Sr. Shawna, 701-237-4857, ext. 211; presprayerctr@pbvunion.org

Suggested fee: \$150. Scholarships available.

Movie Night for Men

Please join us on at the Prayer Center to view the movie *Concussion*, starring Will Smith. The movie will be followed by discussion about the movie and about the spiritual needs of men.

Date: Tuesday, September 27, 6:30 pm.

Prayer Center living room.

Registration: Please RSVP to Scott at 701-237-4857, or presentationprayercenter@gmail.com

Suggested Fee: Freewill offering.

The Prayer Center - a Place for Men

One of our goals at the Prayer Center is to expand our services to people who have not normally taken part in our offerings. One of these groups is men in general. We want your input on what men want in terms of programs at the Prayer Center.

Some of our basic questions to you include:

What are the needs of men? Would a men's group that meets regularly be a workable and desirable option?

Would events on the lighthearted side be attractive?

How about prayer groups or book studies? What about movie nights?

The Prayer Center wants to be available to meet your needs. We have a desire to be a conduit in building community.

Please get back to me either by phone or email. I would love to visit with you about the future of the Prayer Center!

Contact Scott at 701-237-4857, or presentationprayercenter@gmail.com

Presentation Prayer Center Brunch

"Outlaw Christian: Finding Authentic Faith by Breaking the Rules" with Jacqueline A. Bussie

Thursday, October 13, 2016, 11 am - 1 pm

Ramada Plaza & Suites and Conference Center

Tickets: \$30.00 individual or \$240.00 for a table of 8

For more information: Contact Sr. Shawna, 701-237-4857, ext. 211; presprayerctr@pbvunion.org

Word and Image Exhibit

A Project of

Saint John's School of Theology and Seminary

Come and illuminate your vocational journey through words and images. The *Word and Image* exhibit includes framed collages, along with a booklet of accompanying poems inspired by the experiences of lay ministers.

Dates: October 15 – November 30. Presentation Prayer Center.

Suggested Fee: Freewill offering

A Day of Reflection

Co-Workers in the Vineyard of the Lord

Led by Dr. Barbara Sutton (Director of Field Education and Ministerial Formation at Saint John's School of Theology and Seminary), this day will provide insight into how those living the vocation of a lay ecclesial minister interpret their experience. The *Word and Image* exhibit will provide a starting point for reflection and engagement of lay ecclesial ministers through engaging the imagination by an artistic process of collaging and writing. Participants will practice exploring their experience of ministry through the creative use of words and images.

Dates: Saturday, October 15, 9 am – 3:30 pm, Presentation Prayer Center.

Suggested fee: \$25.

"The critical principle of feminist theology is the promotion of the full humanity of women. Whatever denies, diminishes, or distorts the full humanity of women is, therefore, appraised as not redemptive."

Rosemary Radford Ruether

Give Sorrow Words: The Prose and Poetry of Grief

An Experiential Class with Jill M Johnson

Is grief unspoken? Is it a quiet whisper or a furious roar, buried deep inside? Grief changes our words, sometimes taking them away, sometimes magnifying them. In this experiential class, we will learn to construct a poetry and art journal utilizing basic bookmaking techniques. We will read and ponder poetry and essays about grief and all its many forms, including the ambiguous loss of unresolved grief. Participants will have quiet time at the Prayer Center to write their own poetry and then we will read our shared words aloud together. Work included will be the poetry of Mary Oliver and the essays of Anne Lamott. Please bring any and all books you may have by these two authors.

Dates: Wednesdays, November 2, 9, 16, 23, 1:00 – 3:00 pm. Presentation Prayer Center living room. **Suggested fee:** \$50. **Registration is requested.**

It Runs in the Family

*On Being Raised by Radicals and Growing into
Rebellious Motherhood*

We will be happy to have Frida Berrigan with us at the Prayer Center in April 2017. She is the author of *It Runs in the Family*, and she writes the “*Little Insurrections*” blog for wagingnonviolence.org. **Date:** TBA

ON-GOING OFFERINGS

Private Retreats – Time for yourself and God in a quiet and prayerful atmosphere. \$35-\$70/night and three meals.

Directed Retreats – quiet time with an opportunity to meet with a spiritual director. \$50-\$85/night with three meals.

Centering Prayer – Monday, 9:00 am & Thursday, 6:45 pm for 1 hour except holidays. No fee.

Taize Ecumenical Prayer – Prayer for peace and an end to violence in our world at 7:30 pm the third Friday of each month, Sept – May, in the Sacred Heart Chapel. No fee.

Dream Seekers – Come explore with a group the power of dreams to reveal what God may be saying in them. Second Saturdays, Sept.-May from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Spiritual Direction – in responding to God in our daily life one may need or want a companion, someone to listen and reflect with one about his/her relationship with God, self and others...usually meeting for an hour every few weeks or once a month. \$30-\$55/hour.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS AVAILABLE

*Peter Edwards: 701-630-9214

*Mary Jo Lewis: 701-371-5732 or
lewismaryjoan@gmail.com

*Sr. Juli Caron: 701-361-9232 or
jcaron@csjoseph.org

*Ruth Wirtzfeld, 701-388-7642 or
wirtzfeldruth@gmail.com

*Sr. Andrea Arendt, 701-237-4857 or
saarendt@juno.com

Scholarships may be available for any of our programs. Please **contact the Prayer Center** for scholarship information.

Donations to the Presentation Prayer Center help with operating expenses as well as making programs available to people through scholarships. We humbly ask for any support that you can offer. **Thank you for your prayers and support.**

Looking for a place to volunteer? Share your gifts with others in the following ways: facilitating a group discussion or class, assisting with mailings, writing an article on spirituality, leading a Centering Prayer group, providing hospitality on an as needed basis. **Benefits of volunteering at Presentation Prayer Center:** growth in spiritual life, meet others who are on the journey, use gifts and talents. For more information, contact Sr. Shawna.

Presentation Prayer Center Staff:

Sr. Shawna Foley: Executive Director

701-237-4857; presprayerctr@pbvunion.org

Scott Mathern-Jacobson: Assistant Director

701-237-4857; presentationprayercenter@gmail.com

“True love is both loving and letting oneself be loved. It is harder to let ourselves be loved than it is to love.”

Pope Francis - January 18, 2015

Presentation Prayer Center is a sponsored ministry of the Union of Sisters of the Presentation. Published twice each year.
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The mission of Presentation Prayer Center is to collaborate with individuals and groups in the nurturing of mind, body, and soul to discover ever-deepening relationships with God, self, and others.

Prayer Center Fundraiser Brunch



"Outlaw Christian: Finding Authentic Faith by Breaking the Rules"
with Jacqueline A. Bussie

Thursday, October 13, 2016

Ramada Plaza & Suites and Conference Center, Fargo

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$30.00 or \$240.00 for table of eight.

Contact Sr. Shawna, 701-237-4857, ext. 211; presprayerctr@pbvmunion.org

Dr. Jacqueline Bussie is an author, professor, theologian, public speaker, and student of life in all its messy beauty. A graduate of Davidson College and Yale University, Jacqueline holds a PhD in Theology, Ethics and Culture from the University of Virginia. She teaches religion and theology classes

at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, where she also serves as the Director of the Forum on Faith and Life. Jacqueline's first book The Laughter of the Oppressed (2007) won the national Trinity Prize.