

*Fruit of a Living Faith:
Anchored in the Center*
25 Years of Contemplative Worship



Neo-Coptic Icon of the Epiphany, Stephane Rene

8:45 a.m. + January 11th + Baptism of the Lord

*A Methodist is therefore Happy in GOD, yea, always Happy, as having in him a Well of Water,
springing up into everlasting Life, and overflowing his Soul with Peace and Joy.*

Perfect Love having now cast out Fear, he rejoices evermore.

He rejoices in the Lord always, even in God his Saviour.

John Wesley (18th century)

Crossing the Threshold

Opening Ourselves

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

“Spirit of the Living God / Love Like a Waterfall”

*Love, like a waterfall, falling on us,
Flooding our hearts with grace and peace.
Healing waters flow, flowing on us.
Flooding our hearts with Love.*

*Every moment of every day God is loving us.
Showers of mercy and waves of forgiveness are covering us.*

Contemplating the Gospel

Mark 1:9-11

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was ascending out of the water, he saw the heavens rending and the Spirit descending like a dove into him. And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Remembering our Belovedness

"I Am Loved"

*I am not who I was, I am not who I will be, I am loved.
I am not what I've done, I am not what I will do, I am loved.
I am beautifully broken, through my darkness shines your light,
I am loved.*

Praying the Psalms

Psalm 16, Psalm 71 (Jerry Webber)

*Hold onto me, God. Tie my heart to You,
with a bond that cannot be undone.*

*You are my True Pole, my Reference Point,
my Grounding Reality, the Source - vine to my branches.
The good that flows out of my life springs up as I conduit Your Spirit-light,
Your gratuitous love, and Your animating energy.*

*You clothe me in Your Presence. You fill me with Your life.
Give me the grace to notice more and more
what You are doing in me and around me.*

*You have infused my heart with Your being,
generous love never withheld,
poured into me that I might
spend it out in the world.*

Song of Response

"I Am Loved"

*I am not who I was, I am not who I will be, I am loved.
I am not what I've done, I am not what I will do, I am loved.
I am beautifully broken, through my darkness shines your light,
I am loved.*

Wrapped in Love

*May God's grace be upon these shawls,
warming, comforting, enfolding and embracing.*

*May these shawls be a safe haven,
a sacred place of security and well-being,
sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones.*

*May the people who wear these shawls
be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace, and wrapped in love.*

Blessed be!

Connecting to Source

"At The Center"

*Hidden deep within, undefiled by sin, is a refuge for the soul.
Filled with sacred light, shining pure and bright,
Where the heart can be made whole.
Universal grace floods this holy place, and can heal the deepest scar.
As the false self dies, underneath the lies,
Is the truth of who we are.*

*At the Center, at the Center, at the Center of my life is You.
At the Center, at the Center, at the Center of my life is You.*

Meditation

Listening to the Wisdom of Nan Merrill, Psalm 137 (with sung response)

"Anchor Your Soul"

Anchor your soul in the Ocean of Love.

*Plunge into the Ocean of Love, where heart meets Heart,
Where sorrows are comforted, and wounds are mended.
Past fears dissolve in deep harmonic tones, the future – pure mystery.
For eternal moments lived in total surrender glide smoothly over troubled waters.
Hide not from Love, O friends, sink not into the sea of despair, the mire of hatred.
Awaken, O my heart, that I drown not in fear!
Too long have I sailed where'er the winds have blown!
Drop anchor!*

Anchor your soul in the Ocean of Love.

Anchoring in the Center

During these minutes of silence, simply rest in God's abiding and loving presence in this moment. You are in God and God is in you. Just be and relax. Focus your attention in your heart – your center – and imagine your breath flowing in and out from your heart area. If it helps you to center, use the heart-focused breath prayer "My God" (inhale) "and my All" (exhale).

Receiving Holy Communion

"The Lord's Prayer"

"The Road Home"

Receiving a Good Word



Our Staff

Haley Brown – Associate Director of The Anchor House

Courtney Garrison – Ministry Assistant

Christian Ibanez – AV Production

Peter Johns – Associate Director of Contemplative Worship

Zachary Montasser – Violinist

Nick Cavazos – AV Production

Rev. Rachel Sciretti – Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. Michael Sciretti, Jr. – Pastor of The Center

Today's Music

"Spirit of the Living God" – Daniel Iverson, *"Love Like a Waterfall"* – Peter Johns,
"I Am Loved" – Peter Johns, *"At The Center"* – Peter Johns, *"Anchor Your Soul"* – Michael Sciretti, Jr.,
"The Lord's Prayer" – Peter Johns (written for the 15th Anniversary), *"The Road Home"* – Stephen Paulus
For information about The Center for Christian Spirituality and upcoming events, visit:

www.TheCenterFCS.org.

Please register your presence in the notebooks in the foyer.

If you have a prayer request or seeking support, please contact Rachel Sciretti, rscoretti@chapelwood.org.

Our Annual Aim & Pledge: Fruit of a Living Faith

A living faith does not remain hidden. It takes root, it grows, and over time it bears fruit. This year, as we continue to explore The Fruit of a Living Faith, we are attending to how God's grace shapes not only our hearts, but our shared life together. Through contemplative practices—prayer, silence, gratitude, and love—we are being formed into a community that reflects Christ's life in the world. Stewardship is one way this living faith becomes visible. Our gifts support the practices that form us, the worship that centers us, and the ministries that extend love beyond ourselves. Giving is not separate from our spirituality; it is one of the fruits that grows when our lives are rooted in God. As you prayerfully consider your estimate of giving, we invite you to do so in a spirit of trust and gratitude—listening for how God may be calling you to participate in the life we share. To make your estimate of giving for 2026, use the QR Code to the right to be taken to a form where you can submit your estimate.



Living Epiphany: Aligning Our Lives with Christ

Wednesday, January 14 | The Anchor House | 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

In this five week course offered by Michael, we will reflect on what the Gospels say Jesus understood to be why he came into the world, how he lived his life in consonance with that vision, and what were the tangible ways he sought to embody his mission in the world. Each class session includes a time of centering, lecture, discussion, and breakout small groups to help you engage with the material alongside fellow “pilgrims on the Way.” This class is appropriate for anyone on the spiritual journey. There is no cost associated with this course, but registration is required.



Where Sound Meets Silence

Thursday, January 15 | The Anchor House | 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Join Peter and Anastasia for a gentle rhythm of silence, Scripture, and improvised music for cello and piano. Within this quiet, gentle space, we reflect on the passage appointed for Sunday's worship, trusting the Spirit to speak anew through word and sound alike. We gather for about thirty minutes of prayer, stillness, and reflection. Those unable to attend in person are warmly invited to join online as the reflection is streamed live. There is no cost to attend but registration is recommended.



SoulCollage Workshop: Flowing into the New Year

Sunday, January 18 | The Anchor House | 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. | \$15 Suggested Donation

Ginny Itz will lead us into the new year with intention as we gather for an afternoon of SoulCollage®. ALL are welcome, regardless of ability to make this donation or previous SoulCollage® experience.



Poetry Circle

Tuesday, January 20 | The Anchor House | 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

For poetry lovers and writers, for the curious and experienced, join Mark Jodon as he leads this time of sharing, of offering feedback, of exploring poetic forms and devices, and trying our hands at writing prompts, all while growing in fellowship and community. For more information, contact Mark at MJodon@littler.com

State of The Center

Sunday, January 25 | The Anchor House | 10:00 a.m.

Come hear The Center staff give a reflection and report of 2025 and what is coming up in 2026. We will share about specific upcoming offerings as well as new ways to get involved at The Center.

February 20-21 – Enneagram Workshops with Sandra Smith

- Friday, February 20 | The Anchor House | 12:30 – 5:00 p.m. | \$25
Attending to Our Inner Lives through Questions that Grow Us and Questions that Challenge Us: Working with the Layers of the Enneagram. Join us for this advanced workshop as we celebrate the 25th Anniversary by exploring 25 questions to deepen self-understanding.
- Saturday, February 21 | The Anchor House | 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | \$25
Discovering the Inside Story of Us: The Enneagram Map as Guide – An Introductory Workshop. Grow in compassion for yourself and others as we explore the Enneagram. You need not know your type to participate. While this workshop is an introduction, it has much to offer to both beginners and knowledgeable participants. Join us for a fun and fascinating day!

