



Fruit of a Living Faith

8:45 a.m. + January 18th

And he who hath his *Hope* thus *full of Immortality, in every thing giveth Thanks:*
As knowing that *this* (whatsoever it is) *is the Will of GOD in CHRIST JESUS concerning him.*
From Him therefore he cheerfully receives All, saying, *Good is the Will of the Lord....*

For he hath *learned, in whatsoever State he is, therewith to be content....*

he giveth Thanks from the Ground of the Heart to Him who orders it for Good:
Knowing that as *every Good Gift cometh from above*, so none but Good can come *from the Father of Lights*,
into whose Hands he has wholly committed his Body and Soul, *as into the Hands of a faithful Creator.*
John Wesley (18th century)

Crossing the Threshold

Singing our Expectation

"Dwell"

Dwell in the midst of us, come and dwell in this place.
Dwell in the midst of us, come and have Your way.
Dwell in the midst of us, wipe all the tears from our faces.
Dwell in the midst of us, You can have your way.

Not our will but Yours be done, come and change us.
Not our will but Yours be done, come sustain us.
Not our will but Yours be done, come and change us.
Not our will but Yours be done, come sustain us.

Sitting with a Psalm (With sung response)

Psalm 141 Nan Merrill, with 'Be At Peace.'

I call to You, O Blessed One, suffuse me with your Love!
Give ear to my prayer when I call to You!
May my supplication be heard as I surrender before You, as I abandon myself into your Heart!

Be at peace my child, I am closer than you know.
Be at peace my child, I am here.
Be at peace my child, for I never will forsake you.
Let fears and longings cease, be at peace.

Set a guard over my mouth, O Holy One.
Keep watch over the door of my lips.
May I speak only what is of good intent, and not busy myself with rumor and gossip;
Incline my heart to what is beneficial and holy.

Be at peace my child, I am closer than you know...

Lead me to words of wisdom and truth, seeds to be planted in my heart-soil;
Guide me to times of solitude and silence that nurture new growth,
so the Word may ripen into abundant fruit.
Cultivate in me a heart great with compassion and mercy,
that radiates out to all your creation.

*Be at peace my child, I am closer than you know.
Be at peace my child, I am here.
Be at peace my child, for I never will forsake you.
Let fears and longings cease, be at peace.*

*My inner being yearns for You, O Beloved,
in You do I find refuge and strength!
May your Light so shine in me
that others are attracted to your peace and harmony.
In the company of your friends, may I, too,
walk the pilgrim road to wholeness and holiness, O Heart of all hearts
Be at peace my child, I am closer than you know...*

Contemplating Scripture

1 Thessalonians 5:18

In everything give thanks, for this is the Will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

Meditation

Gathering Ourselves Together

"Everything Belongs"

*Everything belongs.
All the broken pieces,
The hurts that will not heal,
The scars that will not fade.
God will hold them all.
Cherish them and love them,
Nurture and restore them,
Until we are complete.*

*Everything belongs, for God is in all things.
We abide in him and he in us.
Goodness, wisdom, love, enfolding all we are.
Every hurt is held by him for everything belongs.*

The Method of the Theologia Germanica

from Chapter 44

If you are content in God, you also find rest in nothing but the Oneness and the All, which is never this or that particularity....

He who has his contentment in God is satisfied with and in the One and only in the One as One. And unless a person can see all things as part of the One and one as all things and experience a something and a nothing as the same, he cannot rest content in God. But where a person does have such a vision, there comes this satisfaction – and in no other way. Moreover, he who surrenders wholly to God and becomes obedient to God must have that serene resignation and obedience in compassionate sufferance, which means that he does not resist or defend or evade.

If you are not resigned and submissive to all around you within the One as the only One, you have really not surrendered to and begun to obey God. We can study Christ in this regard.

Meditation

Song of Response

"My Grateful Heart"

My grateful heart, connects to Source and calms me.

Offering Ourselves

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. Center your attention in the "Temple" of your heart 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).

Gathering Ourselves Together

"Everything Belongs"

*Everything belongs, for God is in all things.
We abide in him and he in us.
Goodness, wisdom, love, enfolding all we are.
Every hurt is held by him for everything belongs.*

Receiving Holy Communion

"In The Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful"

*In the Lord I'll be ever thankful, in the Lord I will rejoice!
Look to God, do not be afraid;
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near, lift up your voices, the Lord is near.*

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

"Dwell" – Casey Corum, *"Be at Peace my Child"* – Peter Johns,
"Everything Belongs" – Peter Johns, *"My Grateful Heart"* – Sandra Smith & Peter Johns,
"In The Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful" – Jaques Berthier.

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 – Anchored in the Center

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. Each January at The Center and at Chapelwood, you are invited to make an intentional growth and giving plan for the upcoming year. We also introduce an "aim" or "intention" for the year. For 2026 in celebration of our 25th anniversary, it is Anchored in The Center. Evelyn Underhill, the great writer on Christian mysticism, said: "A spiritual life is simply a life in which all that we do comes from the center, where we are anchored in God: a life soaked through and through by a sense of God's reality and claim, and self-given to the great movement of God's will." This was clearly true in the life of Jesus. And at The Center, we are stewards of this Way of Christ, this contemplative dimension of the spiritual journey. 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, please use the QR Code to the right to be taken to a form where you can submit your estimate.



SoulCollage Workshop: Flowing into the New Year

Today | 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

Where Sound Meets Silence

Thursday, January 22 | The Anchor House | 10:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Join Peter and Zach for a gentle rhythm of silence, Scripture, and improvised music for violin 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.



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.

The Seven Principles for Making Marriage Work

Friday & Saturday, January 30 & 31 | The Upper Room | \$100 per couple

In this engaging workshop on The 7 Principles for Making Marriage Work, developed by [Drs. John and Julie Gottman](#), you and your partner will discover practical, research-backed tools to deepen connection, navigate conflict with respect, and strengthen the friendship at the heart of your relationship. Whether you're considering marriage or decades into one or anything in between, this experience is designed to give you fresh insights and real-life skills that can transform the way you live and love together. Please register before January 23rd. If you are in need of a scholarship for this workshop, please contact Rev. Rachel Sciretti at rsciretti@chapelwood.org



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!



Holding One Another in the Light

As our commitment to one another deepens, we want to be able to pray for one another – bearing burdens and joining in celebrations. Here is how to participate:

1. *Make a request for prayer or thanksgiving using the QR link or go to thecenterfcs.org*
2. *Opt in to receive the weekly prayer list by emailing Rachel at rsciretti@chapelwood.org.*

