

Lenten Planning Retreat

“Healing Our World”



This year the Peace with Justice Committee of the Broome County Council of Churches is planning a January retreat for the purpose of helping you plan your Lenten services. We have engaged the Rev. Dr. Bruce Epperly, who has a heart for the church and is a prolific writer and thinker, to facilitate this retreat. Rev. Dr. Bruce Epperly's most recent book, *Tending to the Holy*, is a book that integrates the wisdom and practices of the Christian spiritual tradition with the commonplace practices of pastoral ministry. His passion is to join open spirited, bridge building, progressive, practical theological beliefs with life and health affirming holistic spiritual practices which can bring about personal and congregational healing and wholeness.

Come join us!

Dear Friends,

For many years the Peace with Justice Committee of the Broome County Council of Churches has hosted a Lenten Series from which many have enjoyed and benefited. This year, in response to this trend, we would like to plan something different.

WHAT: A Lenten Planning Retreat entitled “Healing our World” with an emphasis on the world, it’s people and the environment.

WHO: Rev. Dr. Bruce Epperly, Dr. Bruce Epperly: Progressive Theologian, Author, Speaker
Learn more about him at: <http://www.brucepperly.com/>

WHEN: Sunday, January 10 - 9 am to 3pm. January 10

WHERE: Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church 801 Main Street, Vestal.

The day will include lunch for participants, local resources that can be used for Lenten planning, experiential and interactive sessions with our instructor Bruce Epperly, and tools for practical and holistic living. All interested participants are welcome to attend

Currently we are looking for any groups and other organizations in our area to table and possibly co-sponsor this event with the Broome County Council of Churches. As always, I am available for any concerns or questions you might have. My phone number is 607-724-9130 x 310 and my email address is jsellepack@broomecouncil.net. To make a reservation, e-mail Amy Fleming at jpamy5@stny.rr.com or call her at 754-3621. I look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

Joe Sellepack, Coordinator, Peace with Justice Committee

See other side for Program Schedule

HEALING THE WORLD: ONE STEP AT A TIME

There is no denying it – the planet is in trouble. Global climate change threatens coastlines, species, and food and water supplies. Gridlock paralyzes the halls of Congress and polarization characterizes public discourse. The world refugee crisis threatens the well-being of nations, dwarfing the USA's immigration issues. We can easily give up hope, but the loss of hope means giving up on our future and the future of our children and the planet.

Jewish and Christian wisdom, along with the world's great faith traditions, see hope as essential to personal and global transformation. Hope comes with the recognition that our lives make a difference and that we can save the world one act at a time. The Jewish mystical tradition affirmed that the human task is *tikkun 'olam*, healing or mending the world. In the spirit of Jesus parable of the lost sheep, these same mystics believed that when you save one soul, you save the world. This applies to our time. Although the odds often seem against us, the healing the planet is always personal as well as institutional, and we can make a difference. We can be God's companions in healing the world.

Today's workshop joins theology, spiritual practices, and practical applications for personal, community, and global transformation. It provides resources for the long haul to sustain our hopes in times of significant challenge. We will explore our role – and claim it – as God's companions in healing the world one step at a time.

Our speaker is Bruce Epperly, Pastor of South Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, in Centerville, MA, on Cape Cod. Bruce is the author of over thirty books, including A Center in the Cyclone: Clergy Self-care in the Twenty-first Century, Process Theology: Embracing Adventure with God; and Mending the World: Spiritual Hope for Ourselves and the World

Program Schedule

Informal gathering and Welcome 9:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

Morning Prayer 9:30 a.m.-9:55 a.m.

Morning affirmation and prayer of awareness

Creation call to worship

Lectio Divina (holy reading) on Matthew 6:30-46

Sharing

Blessing the day

Healing the World – Theological Reflections 10:00 a.m.-10:45 a.m.

Theology of Creation

Theology of Agency

Theology of Healing

Sharing wisdom in small groups – provocative question

Break 10:45 a.m.

Imagining Shalom – Spiritual Practices for Personal and Global Transformation 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

Rhythms of action and contemplation

Why spiritual practices are so important for local and global transformation?

Acting in the Spirit

Sharing wisdom in small groups – provocative question

Lunch, vendors, groups 12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.

Letting Your Life Speak: Belief, Spirit, Action 1:00 p.m.-1:45 p.m.

“Listen to your children praying”

A boy with five loaves and two fish

Small acts and the butterfly effect

Sharing wisdom in small groups

Break

The Prophetic Vision 2:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.

Is it too late?

The prophetic imagination

Prophetic action

Prophetic hospitality

Blessing the world/healing the world

Closing remarks by leadership 2:50 p.m.-3:00 p.m.