**CENTERING SPACE: A SPACE FOR CENTERED CARE**

**CONTEMPLATION, ACTION, RENEWAL AND EXPRESSION**

Good Morning. I am Teresa Harris and I’m here to re-call the Centering Space Marks Group. Centering Space completed its first year as a Marks Group ministry offering a variety of approaches to nurturing self and others through Contemplation, Action, Renewal and Expression. In the past year we offered in-person yoga classes, a hybrid contemplative book study, a Lenten meditation walk through the labyrinth, and both a presentation and discussion of the War in Ukraine and expression stations.

As we look ahead to the coming year, we turn to Jesus’s conversation with the Samaritan Woman at the Well as both a guide and prompt. Jesus moves through alien territory, stopping for a rest. The woman, ostracized by her community, goes to draw water in the heat of the day. A request for water and the ensuing dialog between two people who break the rules of convention and social norms of the time in ways that bring together the whole community give us pause to consider more deeply and more clearly, where a place like Centering Space can be a gathering spot at a well for spiritual refreshment and renewal, for community engagement through our shared contemplation and expression.

As you consider your place in this story we, the members of the Centering Space Marks Group invite you to join us as we consider how this space can be both a source of renewal and a resource for us all. For example,

* We support individuals through our offerings of contemplative book study and discussion groups, lectio divina, and individual/small group retreat guides.
* We offer the use of the rooms upstairs to host gatherings for individuals and groups in search of a peaceful space to gather or to retreat in person and through hybrid technologies.
* We also offer our spaces and our services to support the work of house churches, marks groups, seasonal teams, and individuals who have particular interests or goals through planned programs or guides such as the Lenten Labyrinth walk as well as short term or pop-up issues like our responses to the War in Ukraine.
* We provide online access to a variety of resources and information such as readings on anti-racism, past presentations such as Ellie Cale’s Coming out of CoVid, and current activities to engage people in supporting Open Doors and Village to Village.
* We are looking ahead to a January pilgrimage along the Camino de Santiago led by Mark Dewey. Mark is currently inviting interested participants to contact him directly. As Mark and the pilgrims prepare and then travel, they will share their experiences through the Centering Space site with those who wish to participate in the spiritual journey from home.
* Finally, we are looking at people who are at the margins, who may not be easily seen, and seeking to reach out with justice, kindness and humility through deeper understanding and compassionate action. As we have explored the impact of the war in Ukraine through discussions and expression stations, we look ahead to examining the issues confronting trans youth and their families in light of recent actions taken by the governor through dialogue, contemplation, action and expression, renewing hope and extending God’s well-spring of living water to all.

We welcome anyone interesting in joining with us as we continue to seek and to serve through nurturing opportunities. We will meet upstairs on Tuesday, October 18 at 4:00 in Centering Space following Trinity’s CoVid protocols and will offer a zoom option for those who cannot join us in person.