



PATHWAYS

spirit vibes

insights, events
and inspiration
for the spiritual
journey

JAN
2025

Spirit Vibes is PATHWAYS' quarterly newsletter designed to inform, inspire, and publicize the ways it is working to deepen relationships with humanity, creation, and the Divine. Let's journey!



PATHWAYS
A CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

Longings

Greetings to you this January! As you may know, PATHWAYS is a ministry of Christ Lutheran Church in Belvidere. We are grateful for the many connections we have made over the past several years.

As I was reflecting on our direction for the future, I picked up *The Great Search* by John Philip Newell. In the introduction, the author speaks of the longings in us all. "Some of us are searching from within the four walls of our religious inheritance, and others are seeking ... beyond the bounds of tradition." He writes of the creative tension between the temple (those who attend church) and the wilderness (those not in church). There is commonality between the two; we are yearning for community and a deeper relationship with each other and the natural world.



John Philip Newell outlines the teachings of Thomas Berry, a catholic priest and theologian who identified with nature as a source of spirituality. Berry understood how to expand upon the creative tension by offering a pathway to those in the temple and the wilderness. "We can gain a sense of spirituality through the revelation of scripture and through the revelation of nature. Every life form is an expression of the Divine."

I realized that Newell's writings reflected the discussions our committee has been having as we plan for 2025!

Newell concludes his introduction with the words of Jesus:

"Seek and you will find."

This is the promise that can lead us in our searching. It is a promise filled with hope for the urgent challenges of this moment in time as we open to the quest of the Spirit within us for healing and home. In this age of division and conflict, PATHWAYS will continue to live out our mission and provide opportunities to be present to one another, our communities and the earth.

PATHWAYS, committed to Christ's call, encourages seekers of all faiths and all walks of life to deepen their relationship with humanity, creation, and the Divine.

We look forward to seeing you as we explore new opportunities in the coming year!

Peace,
Karen Glavin, PATHWAYS Chair

In the beginning, O God,
your Spirit swept over the chaotic deep like a wild wind
and creation was born.

In the turbulence of my own life
and the unsettled waters of the world today
let there be new birthings of your Spirit.

In the currents of my own heart
and the upheavals of the world today
let there be new birthings of your mighty Spirit.



— John Philip Newell
(Celtic Benediction)

Personal Reflections

Testimonies received from recent PATHWAYS attendees:

World Drumming Workshop (November 2024)

"The drumming workshop was a wonderful experience! I enjoyed learning about Native American and African drumming traditions, trying out different kinds of drums, and especially making my own drum, personalized with drawings and quotes. I learned new things about different cultures and enjoyed the hands-on nature of the workshop!"

– Veronica Campbell, CLC member



upcoming offerings

Taizé Worship
JANUARY 6

Praying for the World
MARCH 14-15

All events will be held at
Christ Lutheran Church
(Belvidere, IL)
unless otherwise noted.
Visit seekthepath.org
for more details.

Send Love – It Matters

by Carrie Newcomer

*Somewhere someone needs help.
Send love.
It matters.*

*If you can't get there yourself,
Then take a deep breath.
Breathe in the weight of their troubles,
Breathe out and send all those burdens
into the Light
Where sorrows can be held
With the most tender and infinite grace.*

*Breathe in what you can do.
Breathe out what you can't change.
Spool out a thread of connection.
Send courage and calm.
For the nights can be long
And filled with shadows
And sometimes terrible
Unexpected waters will rise.*

*Somewhere someone needs help.
Send love.
It matters.*



2024 Snapshot

- PATHWAYS facilitated 24 offerings, including two offsite
- 321 people journeyed with us
- 37% of participants were outside the Christ Lutheran congregation (compared to 33% in 2023)

Special thank you to Judith Loudin and her card making donations which brought in over \$300 in 2024.

PATHWAYS TEAM

Karen Glavin, Chair
Bill Blackburn
Lee Blackburn
Anna Borchers
Jenny Campbell,
Kris Campbell
Deacon Laura Gorton
Jan Hedrick

PATHWAYS

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