

SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS

East Ohio Conference The United Methodist Church

Spiritual direction is an ancient practice of sacred conversation through which we direct our attention to God's presence in our daily lives. Spiritual directors are trained to listen deeply, ask meaningful questions and companion those who seek to develop a life-giving rhythm of prayer and spiritual growth. Any of the spiritual directors listed below would be honored to walk with you on your journey of faith.

Debbie J. Baker graduated in CE-Spiritual Formation from Asbury University and is a certified spiritual director (Pecos School for Spiritual Direction). She is a retreat leader, Veriditas labyrinth facilitator, ATS healing care ministry/formational prayer leader, Haden Institute Dream Work leader, and Reiki master teacher. She has advanced training in Healing & Wholeness Ministries including healing prayers, blessings, and spiritual exercises such as meditations, movements in prayer, mandalas and drum and rhythm play.

Contact: (740) 398-1681



Rev. Bruce Batchelor-Glader is a retired ordained Elder in The United Methodist Church, living in Milford, Ohio. He is a certified spiritual director with the Ignatian Spirituality Institute of John Carroll University and trained to direct eight-day individual silent retreats. He has received advanced training in family systems counseling, healing ministries, and spiritual gifts discernment. He has been the film critic for The UMC in East Ohio for over 26 years. His reviews can be found at www.eocumc.com.

Contact: BruceBG@yahoo.com or (330) 819-3194



Rev. Theresa Carter focuses on seeing God in the day-to-day, ordinary, regular stuff of daily life. She will complete her formal spiritual direction training through the Center for Spiritual Direction in May 2024; however, is available now to talk, Zoom, and meet for Spirit-led conversation. She is the pastor at Henrietta United Methodist Church.

Contact: theresat.1028@gmail.com or (216) 702-6271



Br. Harry N. Finkbone, OSL, OblSB is a retired United Methodist pastor. He has a B.S. in Biology/Chemistry, an M.S. in Toxicology and a Master of Arts-Spiritual Formation (Ashland Theological Seminary). He is a certified spiritual director from the Ignatian Spirituality Institute (John Carroll University), a member of the Order of Saint Luke, and an Oblate of Mt. Saint Benedict Monastery, Erie, PA. He generally meets those he is directing at Fields UMC, North Ridgeville, though other arrangements can be made.

Contact: finkbone1@gmail.com (440) 759-3849



Joyce Gordon holds certificates in Discernment (AnamCara apprenticeship program/Sacred Art of Living and Dying Center) and Spiritual Direction (Ignatian Spirituality Institute, John Carroll University). She is a Stephen Minister leader, trainer, and prayer warrior (Mayfield UMC). Her interests include individual spiritual direction, retreat ministries, spiritual gifts, enneagram, discernment, end-of-life healing practices, and contemplative living. Her ministry "Women at the Well" focuses on finding God in the ordinary days.

Contact: joytgordon@gmail.com or (216) 570-3767



Jenny Gee is director of Christian Education/ Discipleship Ministries at Brecksville UMC. She has a BS in Biology, an MS in Outdoor Education, and is a certified spiritual director (Ignatian Spirituality Institute). Jenny would love to meet with you for individual spiritual direction, small group sessions, or retreats. She especially enjoys helping you or your group to connect spiritually in nature. Jenny enjoys leading groups in lectio divina and imaginative prayer and can facilitate groups interested in walking the labyrinth.

Contact: education@brecksvilleumc.com or (440) 526-8938



Karen Hollingsworth has served as a spiritual director since 2001, receiving her formal training in spiritual direction at the Wellstreams Program of Spiritual Formation and Training in the Art of Spiritual Direction (Columbus, Ohio). She also attended the two-year Academy of Spiritual Formation in Wisconsin.

Contact: karenj.hollingsworth@gmail.com or (440) 225-1085



Rev. Dr. Howard Humphress is a retired United Methodist Elder. He was the executive director of the East Ohio office of Pastoral Care for 28 years. With a certificate in Clinical Spiritual Practice from Smith College (Northampton, MA), he is currently engaged in spiritual life coaching. Howard's gentle, open, and affirming approach has assisted many clients through the years. His personal spiritual practices include meditation, study, walking in the woods, and spending time on his tractor.

Contact: hkhumphress@gmail.com or (330) 265-9242



Rev. Dr. David MacDonald is the chaplain at Ohio Northern University, and offers spiritual direction through his ministry, Glenbogle Spiritual Direction. He is a graduate of the Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary D. Min. program in spiritual direction, and a member of St. Brigid of Kildare Monastery. David offers spiritual direction for people who are discerning their vocational direction, life transitions, and those seeking to deepen their spiritual practice through spiritual disciplines and mindfulness. He provides spiritual direction to people all along the stages of spiritual growth.

Contact: macdonde@gmail.com (nights & weekends are best for appointments)



Rev. Dr. Lisa Morrison is an ordained Elder in The UMC serving under appointment in extension ministry as director of Spiritual Care for the Cleveland Clinic. She received her training in spiritual direction through Garrett Theological School and is currently accepting new persons seeking direction. She specializes in guided imagery, centering prayer, and both individual and group spiritual direction. She is available for retreat ministry for youth and adults. Lisa is also a certified yoga teacher and Reiki master.

Contact: lisazmorrison@gmail.com or (440) 823-3667



Rev. Liz Nau is a retired UMC pastor, spiritual director, retreat leader, and teacher. She has certificates in Spiritual Direction (Ignatian Spirituality Institute, JCU) and Formational Prayer/Inner Healing Small Group Leadership (Institute of Formational Counseling at ATS). Liz has a special interest in pilgrimage, and has walked the Camino de Santiago de Compostela, Celtic pilgrimages in Scotland and Ireland, the Holy Land, and other pilgrimage experiences. Other interests are in Ignatian Spirituality, Celtic Spirituality, art as prayer and worship, body prayer, labyrinth walking (Veriditas certified facilitator), directing silent retreats, the Spiritual Exercises, and ongoing direction. She practices in the Cleveland area, on FaceTime; and Zoom.

Contact: mlnau2002@gmail.com or (216) 789-8148



Rev. Jennifer Olin-Hitt is a retired Elder in the East Ohio Conference. She received her spiritual direction training in 2010 from the Haden Institute. Jennifer specializes in lectio divina (reading the sacred text), grief, life transition, prayer, and meditation. In addition to her work as a spiritual director, Jennifer holds licenses in Ohio in Professional Clinical Counseling and Marriage and Family Therapy.

Contact: jenniferolin-hitt@jenniferolin-hitt.com or (216) 264-3587



Rev. Dr. Hazel Partington is a retired ordained Deacon, currently serving on the staff at Willoughby UMC as minister of Pastoral Care, specializing in formational prayer and Christ-centered spiritual direction. Her degrees include a B.S. in Biology, M.A. in Counseling, M.A. in Marriage and Family Counseling, and D. Min. in Counseling. She was trained as a spiritual director in a three-year program by the Dominican Sisters of Marywood.

Contact: hazelpartington1@gmail.com or (440) 552-4762



Judy Ringler is a member of Faith United Methodist Church near Ashland. She graduated from Ashland Theological Seminary (MAPT) and completed the certification program from the Ignatian Spirituality Institute at John Carroll University in August 2017. Judy is co-director of LifeSpring School of Spiritual Formation. This program offers a series of retreats to help lay and clergy to find and form a rhythm of spiritual practice and soul care. She also offers individual and group spiritual direction.

Contact: jringler77@gmail.com or (419) 522-2325



Rev. Sharon Seyfarth Garner is a UMC pastor, currently appointed to Belly of the Whale Spiritual Direction & Retreat Ministries (bellyofthewhaleministries.net). She has graduate certificates in Spiritual Direction (Ignatian Spirituality Institute, JCU), Diversity Management (Cleveland State) and Ecumenical Studies (World Council of Churches). Sharon is the author of two books on contemplative coloring (*Praying with Mandalas* and *Mandalas, Candles and Prayer: A Simply Centered Advent*). She especially enjoys individual spiritual direction, the Ignatian spiritual exercises, contemplative prayer, and silent retreats.

Contact: sharon@bellyofthewhaleministries.net



Dr. Laura Tradowsky serves as director of Adult Ministries and Spiritual Formation at Willoughby Hills UMC. She specializes in healing prayer, spiritual direction, and Biblical counseling and is a dietitian nutritionist. She received a Master's Degree in Practical Theology and D. Min in Formational Counseling (including spiritual direction) from Ashland Theological Seminary. She holds a Certificate in Formational Prayer and is a published author of group studies (*The Healing Power of Forgiveness*, *Joy of Abundant Living*, and *Road to Reconciliation*).

Contact: ltrad46@gmail.com or (440) 477-7479



Laurie Tucker is a graduate of the Wellstreams Program of Spiritual Formation and Training in the Art of Spiritual Direction in Columbus, Ohio. She has also completed the Wellstreams practicum in facilitating individually directed retreats. Laurie is a member of New Concord United Methodist Church. She meets persons seeking direction on Zoom or at New Concord UMC. Her main interests are spiritual direction with clergy, group spiritual direction, and retreats.

Contact: ltfriendship188@gmail.com or (740) 630-6915



"It is good to renew ourselves, from time to time, by closely examining the state of our souls, as if we had never done it before; for nothing tends more to the full assurance of faith, than to keep ourselves by this means in humility; and the exercise of all good works." –John Wesley