

Personal and Spiritual
Transformation Journey Year:
Focusing on Ancient Practices in
the Christian Tradition



Grant Park Church

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God calls people together to be the church of Jesus Christ that is led by the Spirit. That Spirit works in the hearts of all people in the church if allowed. So often, our lives with Christ are privatized and we do not really talk about how God is working in us. As we start a new kind of church here at Grant Park Church, I would like to invite you on a journey that would involve ancient and future practices of being the church. This journey is not about getting more people in our church or on boards, it's about being the body of Christ together and having it ripple out of our lives into our neighborhoods.

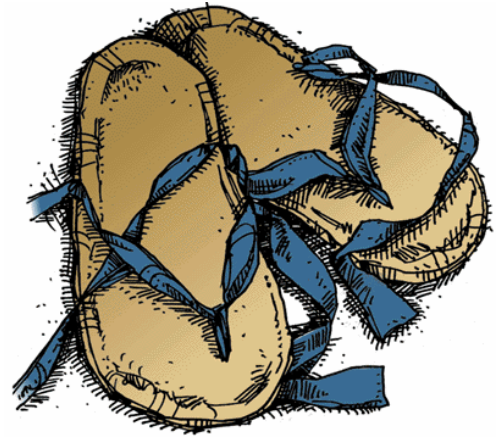
Through the year, we commit to meeting together at least once a month for an extended period of time. Also, we will commit to reading scripture, journaling and prayer that we all will grow with Christ. A reading and prayer journal will be provided.

It's my deep belief that God wants to connect to our hearts and lives in significant manners. By trying some of these ancient practices through the upcoming months, my prayer is that your love for Christ, for your neighbor and yourself will deepen.

In the bonds of the Master's love,

Pastor Gregg

Gathering 1 in January would be an opportunity to get to know each other, to hear one another's stories and to enter into the Holy Ground of each other's lives. The spiritual discipline learned would be



Take off
your sandals,
for the place where
you are
standing is
holy ground.

Exodus 3:5



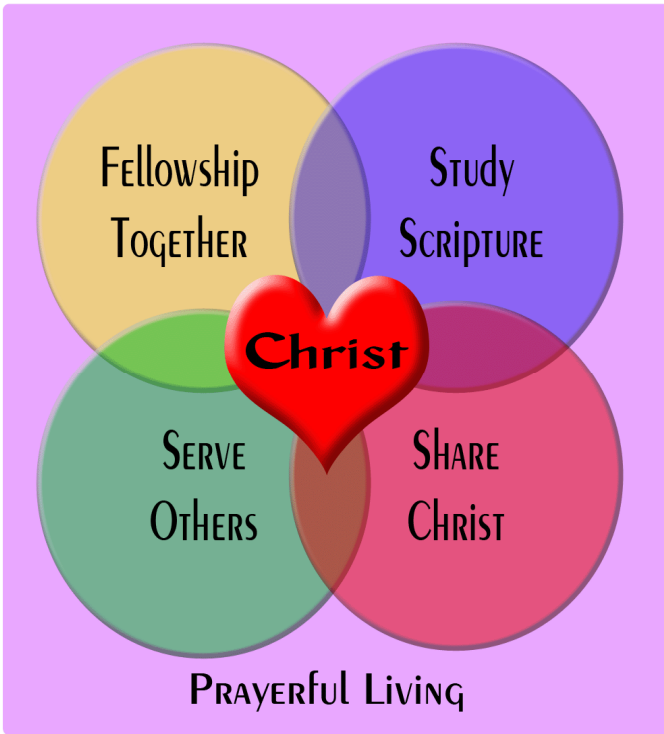
Gathering 2 in February would involve spending day learning about the Labyrinth: Walking a Sacred Path. This journey would possibly be with Sister Mary Jo Chaves, who is a certified Veriditas



Gathering 3 in March
would involve walking
The Grotto Stations of the
Cross during Holy Week
listening to how that
impacted each of the
.. . .

Gathering 4 in April would involve prayer in the Celtic Tradition drawing on both the pre-Christian past and the fullness of the Christian gospel. This event would probably be at the Franciscan Renewal Center.

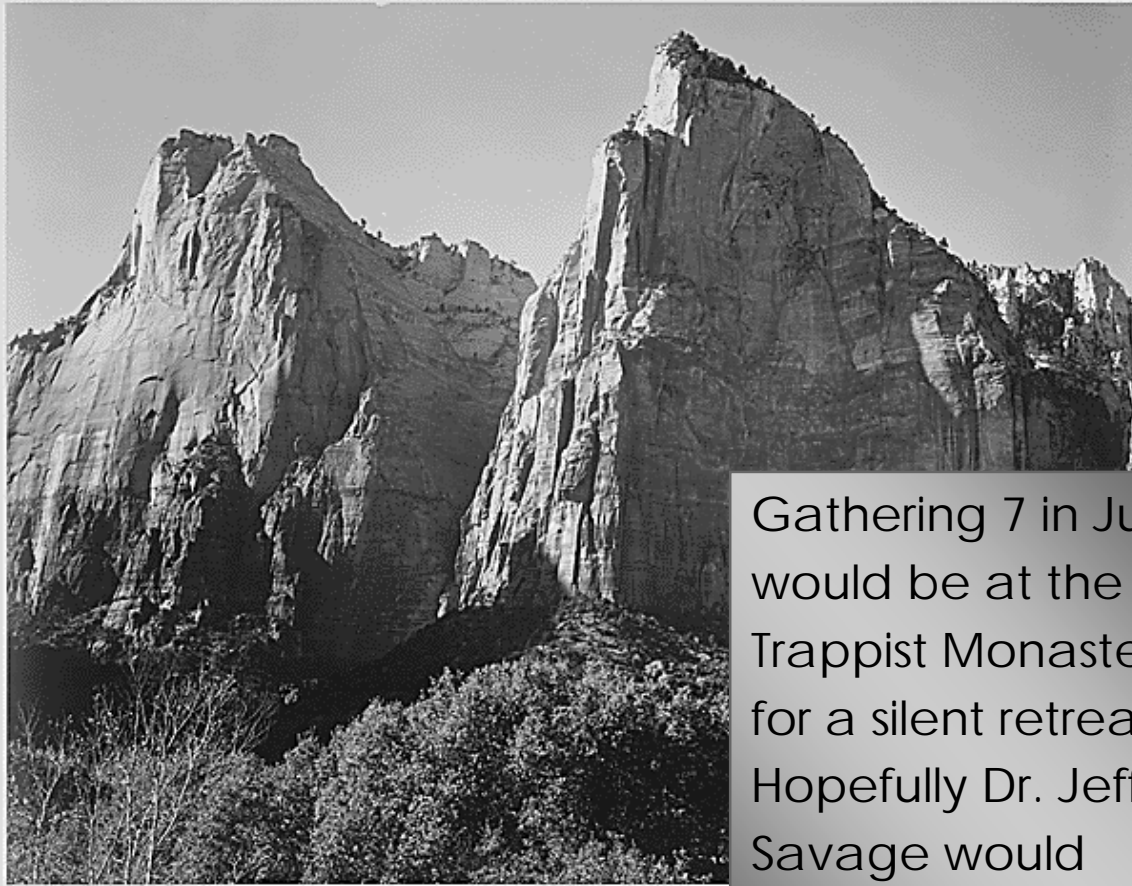




Gathering 5 in May would involve looking at healthy church systems as a means to encourage healthy Christians. In this process we would look at how our total health



Gathering 6 in June would be an outward focused event for our community. We would dream together and put together an opportunity for our church and community to walk: "The Prayer Path: A Christ Centered Labyrinth Experience." The prayer path commentary says, "Participants will 'journey' through the labyrinth guided by a CD that soars with provocative, devotional narration set against a worshipful music backdrop. Eleven stations on their journey will lead them to "let go" of busyness, hurt and distractions that can spoil relationships,



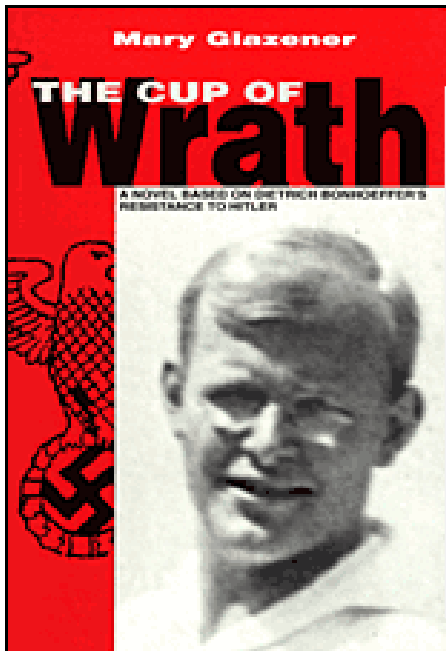
Gathering 7 in July would be at the Trappist Monastery for a silent retreat. Hopefully Dr. Jeff Savage would lead that time together.

Gathering 8 in August would focus on fasting as a spiritual discipline. We could possibly make a commitment in August to fast once a week and then come together to break the fast and



Gathering 9 in
September would
focus on the theme
of Spiritual Guides in
the Christian





Gathering 10 in October may push the envelope for some but we would consider the theme: Dissidents for Christ by reading a book entitled: The Cup of Wrath by Mary Glazener

Gathering 11 in November will center on the theme: Joy and Gratitude as a way of Being in Christ.



God's LOVE has
been poured
into our
HEARTS
through
the
HOLY SPIRIT
that has been
given to us.



Romans 5:5, NRSV

Gathering 12 in
December would
center on the theme:
Listening to the
Heartbeat of the Trinity:

All of the events would be flexible and open to Spirit led change. The primary intent is to grow healthier in Christ through learning about spiritual disciplines as pastor and people. Through this process, it would be my hope that we could offer in June and December the prayer path to our neighborhood as an opportunity for them to grow in their understandings of how much God loves them. May God bless you as you consider this opportunity for spiritual renewal and transformation in your life.