



Citizens with the Saints: Discovering Your Sainthood
Virtual One-Day Silent Retreat
Monday, November 1, 2021

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. Ephesians 2:19-20

Clarify your citizenship among the saints and what that means by setting aside a day of prayer and silence sponsored by the Congregational Retreat Society. The terminology of “sainthood” is, of course, part of the vocabulary used in our early Congregational literature. It is fitting that this year, on All Saints’ Day, Monday, November 1, 2021, from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm (EST) there will be a virtual Silent Retreat, held in a modified Quiet Day format, exploring how to recognize one’s own sainthood in the ordinariness of life.

The Rev. Wendy G. Van Tassell, recently retired after 23 years of co-pastoring the First Congregational Church of Spencer, Iowa, with her husband, Tom, will lead us through a series of four sessions over the course of our time “together.” Wendy’s presentations will lead to individual time for meditation, prayer, journaling, and reflection. Worship sessions will bookend the day. She advises all participants: Nurture yourself! Self-care, essential to a balanced life, requires each of us to “get-away” from time to time, just as our Lord did. Sabbath time can be holy time, but in our hurried lives, we often must be deliberate in our planning of it.

In preparation for your participation in this Silent Retreat, the Retreat Society suggests that you find and reserve now a physical place in which to retreat. Explore the option of going to a near-by retreat center or camp. Ask a friend who has a lovely home and garden, if you can retreat for the day in their place. Arrange with your church to dwell in the sanctuary or another cozy spot that will provide a space for your solitude and reflection. Of course, you can remain in your own home, nestled in a comfortable spot. Make sure your location has access to the internet as all sessions will be provided on-line via Zoom!

TO REGISTER: Email Charles Packer by Wednesday, October 20th.

Email address: drcapacker@gmail.com

Include in your email to Charles: Your Name / Address / telephone Number/ email address

There is no charge for this experience, but if you would like to donate to help with expenses, please send a check, made out and addressed to:

The Congregational Retreat Society
c/o Rev. Dr. Charles Packer
1343 Sherwood Forest Court, Waterford, MI 48327