



Present With One Another: A Fall One-Day Silent Retreat

The silence provides meaningful space and time not only for individual reflection, but also for figuring out how to connect more intentionally with God and with one another. During the fall one-day Silent Retreat facilitated by the Congregational Retreat Society on Thursday, October 30, 2025, from 9:00 am-3:30 pm, the recent written works by Rabbi Sharon Brous (*The Amen Effect*) and David Brooks (*How to Know a Person*), will offer suggestions for how to bridge the distances and the divides that have increasingly separated us from each other. Spiritual resources will be shared in order to be present with others in support and compassion.

The site will for a second year be the North Congregational Church, 36520 West 12 Mile Road, in Farmington Hills, Michigan 48331, in the Plymouth-Bradford Room. The spacious grounds include a large sanctuary, a courtyard, and, this year, the Pine Hill Congregational Church will make available a cloth labyrinth that may be walked during the hours of silence. Lunch is included in the registration fee of \$15.00. The Rev. Dr. Charles Packer, Senior Minister of the Pine Hill Congregational Church and Assistant Professor at the Ecumenical Theological Seminary, will be the Retreat Guide.

There will again be a virtual option for engaging, although as many as possible are encouraged to attend in person. For those coming to North Congregational Church, please bring whatever you need in order to pray, contemplate, and meditate in ways that are effective for you. You may want to have paper and pen, a journal, a Bible, or other devotional materials to read, perhaps even some creative outlet (drawing, knitting, coloring, etc.). If you are joining online, it might be helpful to find a retreat center, a church, or someone's quiet home to be for the day to fully immerse yourself in an atmosphere of silence.

This experience is sponsored by the Congregational Retreat Society. Our organization has promoted spiritual work in the quiet for over 30 years among churches of the Congregational Way. We host an annual fall Silent Retreat and a Quiet Day at a site conducive to silence on a day before or after the start of the Annual Meeting and Conference of the National Association of Congregational Christian Churches somewhere near where that gathering is held each year. Our offerings are available to all clergy and non-clergy supportive of Congregationalism who wish to enter into the silence.

To register for this event, please email drcapacker@gmail.com by Thursday, October 23, 2025. Preregistration is required. Email this form to drcapacker@gmail.com or send it by postal mail to the Congregational Retreat Society, c/o Rev. Dr. Charles Packer, 1343 Sherwood Forest Court, Waterford, Michigan 48327. A link will be sent to everyone registered on the week of the retreat. For those attending in person, there is a \$15.00 registration cost, which will include lunch and some materials, and checks may be made out to the Congregational Retreat Society.

Name _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____ City _____

State/Zip Code _____ Email _____

Dietary Concerns _____