

Wisdom Ways February Program Update

A new season of programming is underway! Wisdom Ways continues to host public events and educational experiences that invite people of all faiths and spiritual traditions into reflection and dialogue around our deepest values and aspirations. In this way, we nurture self-understanding, build mutual appreciation across lines of difference, expand moral imaginations, and inspire purposeful action toward a more just world.

“Stronger Together: Community and Resilience in a Changing Climate”

The Wisdom Ways programming calendar for February-June 2026 is built around this seasonal theme. In a moment marked by environmental stress associated with climate change, as well as tensions in our social and political climate, we’ve chosen to highlight a simple but profound truth: our lives are interconnected, and so too must be our flourishing.

“Stronger Together” explores what ecological models of an interdependent web of life can teach us about living in right relationship with one another. Over the course of the season, participants will engage in spiritual practices in communal settings, deepen theological understanding, and consider questions of ethics in everyday life.

Choosing this theme advances several priorities for Wisdom Ways program development:

- Nature is a site of meaningful spiritual experience and ethical concern for people of diverse faiths and those who identify as spiritual but not religious.
- Our theme invites learning about – and learning from – multiple understandings of our natural world and relationships within it. Accordingly, this program calendar is a product of collaboration with multifaith leaders and partner organizations.
- Engaging participants in place-based, hands-on learning experiences brings Wisdom Ways into new physical venues in neighborhoods across the Twin Cities.

Program Highlights

This season offers several opportunities to experience spiritual centering in community with others. This includes two perennial favorites that engage traditional Christian contemplative practices during the season of Lent:

- **Lenten *Lectio Divina*** (six-part series, February 23rd through March 30th)
- **Holy Saturday Meditation** (April 4th)

We will also offer a contemplative practice rooted in Buddhist tradition. Meditation teacher and Zen priest Marc Anderson will use singing bowls to create a special soundscape as he guides participants through an experience of the embodied self in a lush and plant-filled environment:

- **Grounded: An Immersive Sound Bath for Deep Restoration** (April 16th)

During Ramadan, Muslim community members will practice breaking the fast alongside non-Muslim guests during an eco-friendly, Halal *iftar* meal. This event is planned in partnership with the Islamic Resource Group and features an address that highlights local Muslim initiatives in environmental stewardship:

- **Community Iftar: Creation Care and Community** (March 7th)

Other offerings this season bring theological depth to classroom and community dialogue. The Hedgerow Institute's Spring course explores how our growing scientific understanding of deep time and natural evolution can complement Christian historical narratives and inspire hope-filled, creative action:

- **Hedgerow Institute: The Cosmic Vision of Teilhard de Chardin** (twelve-part series began on February 2nd and concludes on April 20th)

Meanwhile, our Let's Talk event welcomes Prof. Emma Frances Bloomfield, who will share practical insights and help attendees build skills for Christian dialogue around environmental concerns:

- **Let's Talk Series - Climate Change, Christian Communities, and Communication: How We Can Engage People in Productive Environmental Conversations** (March 12th)

Additional experiential learning opportunities will get attendees outdoors. First, we will explore local food systems, food sovereignty, and food justice as we tour a community garden (in partnership with Celeste's Dream and the Food Access Hub) and experience a cooking demo from Healthy Roots Institute:

- **Garden Tour and Cooking Class** (April 25th)

Later, a field experience on local public land will allow for hands-on learning about edible mushrooms. This will be paired with a creative ritual honoring fungi as bearers of wisdom about interspecies communication, symbiotic relationship, and regeneration:

- **Mushroom Foraging Field Trip & Mycelium Ritual** (date TBA)

Soul Conference: June 27th-28th

Our season of programming around the "Stronger Together" theme builds toward – and builds enthusiasm for – a weekend conference open to the public, June 27th-28th (*note change from tentative dates previously shared*) hosted by Wisdom Ways at the Wilder Center in Saint Paul. Aims for Soul Conference include growing brand awareness for Wisdom Ways, connecting with new audiences, nurturing partnerships with values-aligned organizations, and generating revenue as we build toward greater financial sustainability.

Please see the Soul Conference website, linked from the Wisdom Ways main site, for a Sponsorship Prospectus and other information. Board members are encouraged to reach out to Haven Green with ideas about businesses and community organizations that may be interested in connecting with our audience as sponsors, exhibitors, or workshop presenters. Early bird registration opens within the coming month!