



January 2023

NEWSLETTER



Life of the Beloved

EXPLORING THE BOOK BY HENRI NOUWEN

Jan. 4

BEING THE BELOVED

Jan. 18

TAKEN

Jan. 11

BECOMING THE BELOVED

Jan. 25

BLESSED

The Table is set every Wednesday at 5:30 or 6:30pm gathering in Person. Join us at The Lyric for shared food at 5:30 pm {230 W. Yellowstone HWY} or join us for conversation at 6:30 pm





THE **TABLE**
Centerpiece

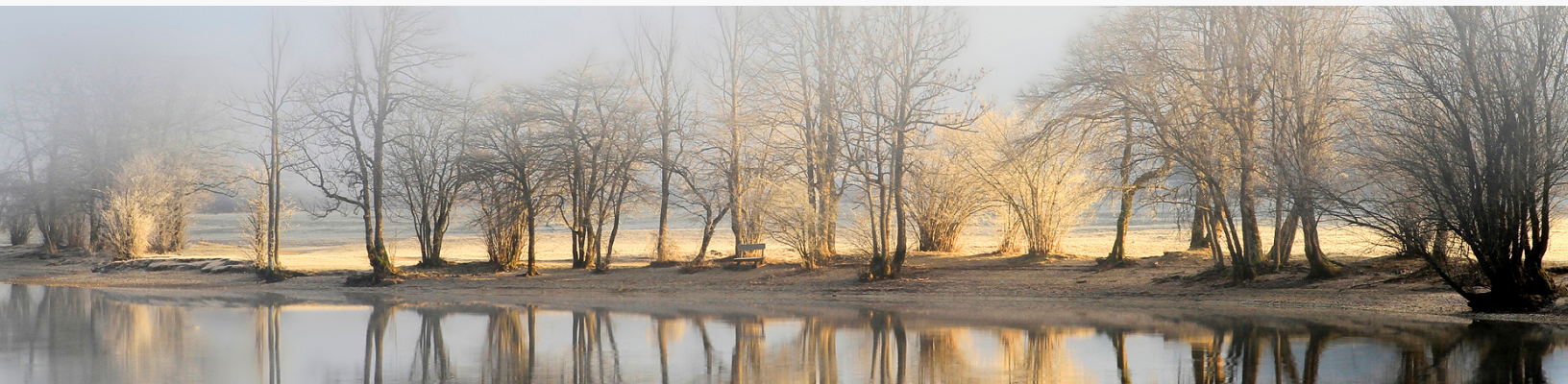
Where The Table's News Rests

The gate of another year is yawning open to us. Perhaps, like me: you can find yourself sucked into the vortex of existential dread? Time of course, is a human construct and when compounded by the influences of culture & philosophy on what makes time or life valuable, can lead to unimaginable constraints and pressures and anxieties around production and meaning and peace... WHEW. Y'all: may I talk straight with you for a moment: You. Are. Beloved. Not because of your production value, or ability to check off the to-do list, or prove your worth in any other time-bound sort of way. You're loved. That's it.

So, when you're tempted to beg God for a flood-light into the future, find yourself being invited to hold your loving Parent's hand and to head into the unknown, foggy night: for it is better to you than a light and safer than a known way.

As we enter 2023, I invite you to breathe, place your hand into God's tender, warm & safe hand and head eastward, where light is breaking into the long, cold night. This poem was my Granny T's favorite. She oft quoted it at the change of the year, and I find comforting again as we cross the threshold of one calendar year into another. Rest, beloved, until you can trust God's gaze upon us as nothing but dear, true love. Gentle usher the existential crisis to make an exit. Love is with us, even now.

With Love,
Pastor Libby



The Gate of the Year

MINNIE LOUISE HASKINS

"And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'
And God replied:
'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand
of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a
known way."

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly
into the night.

And God led me towards the hills and the breaking of
day in the lone East.

So heart be still:

What need our little life
Our human life to know,
If God hath comprehension?
In all the dizzy strife
Of things both high and low,
God hideth their intention.

God knows. Their will
Is best. The stretch of years
Which wind ahead, so dim
To our imperfect vision,
Are clear to God. Our fears
Are premature; In God,
All time hath full provision.

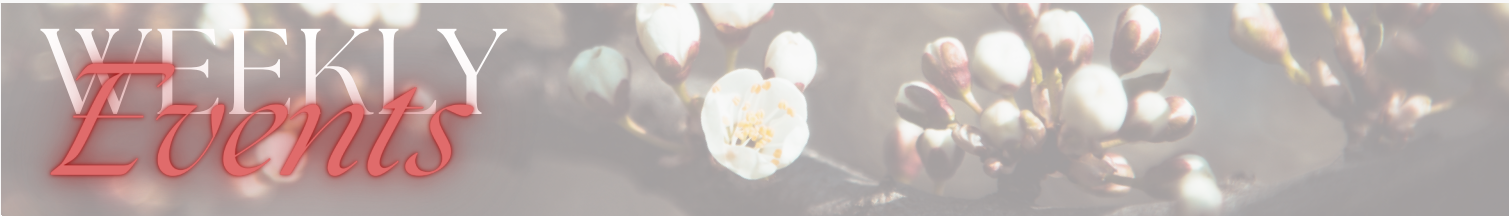
Then rest: until

God moves to lift the veil
From our impatient eyes,
When, as the sweeter features
Of Life's stern face we hail,
Fair beyond all surmise
God's thought around God's creatures
Our mind shall fill.



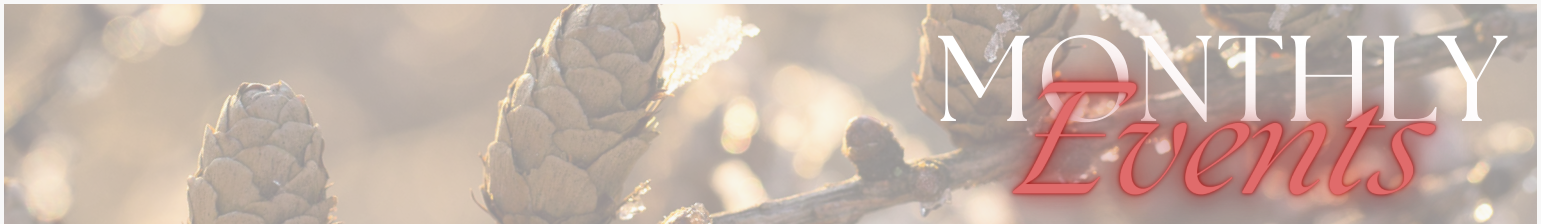


The Table & *Red Clay Abbey* Events



The Table: Join us every Wednesday night downtown at The Lyric for shared food, compassion teachings, exploration, embodied spiritual practice, and community conversation. All are welcome! We share food at 5.30, and a hybrid reflective action at 6.30pm. Our Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81694859096> or scan the QR code.

Red Clay Abbey: 40 Day Sadhana, begins _____



Circles of Trust: Monthly group of women in professional ministry coming together for support and spiritual nurture. We meet the third Friday of the month at 1 pm .

3 Spaces: is joining forces with Wednesday evening gatherings at The Table this month to present their format for gathering & the content of the month! Join us!

EVENT HIGHLIGHT

We honor the legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr this month whose birthday is celebrated January 16th. “Agape [Love] does not begin by discriminating between worthy and unworthy people...It begins by loving others for their sakes” and “makes no distinction between a friend and enemy; it is directed toward both... Agape is love seeking to preserve and create community.” ~ Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Have you visited the Rev. James Reeb Memorial Mural recently? Visit the east facing wall of the 225 S David St building. There, Rev. Reeb marches with other Civil Rights Hero, linking arms with Dr. King — understanding that belovedness preserves and creates community.