

2023

August Newsletter
REST & DISCERNMENT

August 2

The Practice of Embracing
the Unknown

* Picnic at the circle

August 9

The Practice of Coming Home

August 16, 23, 30

Summer Hiatus



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





TABLE

Centerpiece

Where The Table's News Rests

Dearly Beloved,

In many ways your spiritual community called The Table is at a crossroads of discernment around the next steps we are being called into. This crossroads is being effected by the capacity of our operating budget (financial resources) and the capacity of our staff and volunteers (energetic resources).

As a result, we are taking a small hiatus the final three weeks of August to prepare for a Board retreat that will be hosted August 25-27. During this retreat, The Table's Board is preparing to look with great care at the future of our organization, along with the work and mission of the Red Clay Abbey.

Discernment has always been a top value and posture of our work together around The Table: a posture of deep listening, deep questioning, and deep responding to stewardship of mission, finances and energy. We have trusted this process over and over, many times. We have never been led astray by our good and loving God who helps us to perceive healthy ways forward.

Be on the look out in your emails and social media: we will be surveying you for your input! Pastor Libby is always available for conversation over coffee or tea, or by telephone. Don't hesitate to share your input with her!

With love,
Pastor Libby



Reflections

“When the safety net split, when the resources are gone, when the way ahead is not clear, the sudden exposure can be both frightening and revealing.

We spend so much of our time protecting ourselves from this exposure that a weird and of relief can result when we fail. To lie flat on the ground with the breath knocked out of you is to find a solid resting place. This is as low as you can go. You told yourself you would die if it ever came to this, but here you are. You cannot help yourself and yet you live.”

~ **Barbara Brown Taylor, An Alter in the World**

“Leave the familiar for a while... change rooms in your mind for a day.”

~ **Hafiz, All the Hemispheres**

“To get to an unknown land by unknown roads, a travel cannot allow himself to be guided by his old experience. He has to doubt himself and seek the guidance of others. There is no way he can reach the new territory and know it truly unless he abandons familiar roads.”

~ **John of the Cross, Dark Night of the Soul**



WEEKLY *Events*

The Table

Wednesdays — 5:30pm shared food; 6:30pm shared reflection, dialogue & meditation

* First Wednesdays picnic on the Bart Rea Learning Circle
Bring something to share & join us for outdoor discovery.

Dearly Beloved Podcast: on hiatus this month.

Red Clay Abbey: Is on hiatus this month, seeking discerning & directions about next steps.

EVENT HIGHLIGHT

Board Retreat

Since the beginning of The Table's existence, retreats have been a way for our Board to deeply listen to the wisdom of each other's experience and the wisdom of God's story found in scripture and the wisdom of elders and facilitators beyond our community. The Board will be taking a retreat August 25-27 to do so and we invite you to help us in this process. What matters to you about the mission of The Table and Red Clay Abbey? Share with us!