

CONTEMPLATIVE RETREAT

pilgrimage of the heart: wisdom from christian contemplatives and hermits

Presenters: Tessa Bielecki and Fr. David Denny - www.sandandsky.org

Location: First Congregational Church

Date: Saturday, November 22, 2014

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Cost: \$35 (to include light refreshments)

RSVP: Siri Everett, *FCC Council Member for Worship & Spiritual Life*
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Session 1: Living the Questions:

Silent Meditation. Reflections on living a more contemplative life with down-to-earth practical suggestions on overcoming obstacles and living a natural, balanced and whole life.

Session 2: Season of Glad Songs:

Silent Meditation. How to celebrate a festive, sane and contemplative Advent and Christmas, a "Season of Glad Songs."

Final Session:

Q & A, Final Reflections, Silent Meditation

The contemplative is not a special kind of person, but every person is a special kind of contemplative. What does this mean for you? Is the contemplative life realistic in the busy hurly-burly of today's world, especially as we approach the holiday season? Tessa Bielecki and Fr. David Denny will share reflections from the Christian contemplative tradition as well as the joys and struggles of their own lives as modern-day hermits in Crestone, Colorado. The second session will focus on celebrating a festive, sane and contemplative Advent in preparation for the Twelve Days of Christmas.

About Tess and Dave:

Tessa Bielecki and Fr. Dave Denny have worked together for over forty years. They began as Carmelite monks in the Spiritual Life Institute where they co-edited *Desert Call* and gave retreats and workshops. At Colorado College they taught a history of Christian Mysticism and *Desert Spirituality: from the Middle East to the American Southwest*. They left monastic life in 2005 and created the Desert Foundation (see www.desertfound.org) and now live in neighboring hermitages on San Isabel



Creek in Crestone, Colorado. Tessa is the author of three books on St. Teresa of Avila and recorded *Wild at Heart: Radical Teachings of the Christian Mystics* for Sounds True. Fr. Dave serves as chaplain for *Image Journal's* Glen Workshops and Seattle Pacific University's MFA writing residencies. He raises funds for Cross Catholic Outreach, a relief ministry for the poorest of the poor. He is writing a memoir titled *First Love, Afghanistan, and How I Became a Buddhist Heretic*.

