

Interfaith Coalition of Washington County Annual Winter Retreat – February 3, 2018

Shepherd’s Spring Outdoor Ministry Center
16869 Taylor’s Landing Road, Sharpsburg, MD 21782



8:30 am to 4:00 pm

Theme: *“Interfaith Sacred Listening Circles”* How do we build community across religious and cultural traditions? Reading about other religions and attending workshops on diversity can be helpful. But the best way is getting to know people personally by listening to their stories, especially their deeper experiences of faith, and by our own sharing. Having soul conversations is a rare and precious thing. Parker Palmer suggests that the soul is shy like a wild animal. It needs to feel safe and only exists in a relationship of trust. A sacred listening circle is a small-group experience where participants are invited to listen to one another’s deeper stories in an atmosphere of trust and confidentiality. And one of the important ingredients in this process is shared silence. When participants are from different religious or cultural traditions, the bonds of friendship that are developed help build a greater sense of community. Retreat participants will be introduced to sacred listening circles and invited to participate in this process together. Be prepared to slow down and relax with others as they and you together share our varied faith journeys in this beautiful setting.

Retreat Leader: Ed Poling is an ordained minister in the Church of the Brethren. Trained as a spiritual director by the Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation in Washington DC, he works with individuals and has been facilitating sacred listening circles for over two decades. He is also the current coordinator of the Interfaith Coalition of Washington County, which has been encouraging interfaith dialogue in our community since 2002.

Cost: \$38.00 Early-bird special until January 27, 2018. \$42.00 after January 27.

----- Registration Form -----

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Request scholarship support _____

Cost: _____ \$38.00 Early Bird Special until January 27
_____ \$42.00 After January 27

Dietary requests: _____

Return to Ed Poling, 161 Stanford Road, Hagerstown, MD 21742 with payment. Make checks out to “Interfaith Coalition of Washington County.”