SACRED LIFE LIVING EARTH CENTER

DUNAMIS PEACE
INSTITUTE
GREAT LAKES

AN ANCHOR IN UNSTABLE TIMES

N ARK WHERE THE RIVER BEGINS



NATURE-RICH COMMUNITY





NATURAL WONDER N





PRIMAVERA



Way Forward

Just after the snow recedes, last spring, while walking through the "marigold marsh," barren, brown, and grey, a short hidden tributary takes me by surprise. In sixteen years of exploration, this narrow, deep fork, never stumbled upon, has been hidden by the marsh marigolds. Following it uphill, a tree blocks the passage. Going around, the source of the rivulet oozes out of the bank from between layers of clay. A question about our future and the *way forward* travels with me. Perhaps this hiddenness, in the midst of the known, can help in the carrying of such a weighty question. Returning, nearly three weeks later, the marsh marigolds are bedecked in golden buttercup hats, the tributary covered by their large-lobed green kidneyshaped leaves. Perhaps *way forward* like the forked passage has always been here. In the words of Carrie Newcomer, singer and poet, "*Life is always lived between then and soon, right here and now, in the beautiful not yet.*"

During the year it becomes clear that way forward means refocussing on holding the world in love. This requires letting go of "doing" certain programming, while remaining open to the possibilities of hidden tributaries. A time of intense prayer, waiting, and trust is leading us beyond blockages both within and without. In this year, we begin to see new partners who want to receive the gift of land that is Primavera to extend their own environmental education. Out of a "yearning" we have, a group of four organizations form Kalkaska Environmental Educational Network (KEEN), bringing groups with differing missions working in the county and for the people of this bioregion together to share and support. Four of these groups are receiving the gift of this good land and our experience of loving it through the years. During such a hard time to be alive, we have been led to explore a tributary that was always right here and now, but hidden. The beautiful not yet is breaking through in small ways as we put our hearts into living in service to Life.

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Primavera is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, charitable organization 4.8 miles east of Kalkaska, MI that teaches the art of Sacred living & the responsibility of Living Earth & dwells in a manner to restore Earth for humans & all living things, especially those ones suffering & on the margins. This Community of the Heart in these changing & troubling times provides a stable, sacred, unhurried, contemplative presence at the Head of the Boardman Watershed, in Kalkaska County, Great Lakes bioregion between Lake Michigan, Lake Superior, & Lake Huron.



Programs: April 2017 - May 2018

* Hospitality * Partnering Environmental Education * Hillside Chemical-free Gardens

* Talking Waters Monthly (online newsletter)
* Sacred Ceremony: All-Saints, Winter Solstice, Earth Day

Our Story

Primavera, a work of Dunamis Peace Institute

(DPI), has been located at the head of the Boardman Watershed in northwest Michigan since 2001. DPI grew out of Church of the Saviour in Washington DC in 1987 modeling a way of peace through sustainable agriculture, health, & education aligned with the indigenous of Central America.

Primavera's commitment to peace has transitioned into God's call to:

- Holding the world in Love & Prayer modeling how to be human
- Being an Ark & an Anchor, a stabilizing presence in these unsettled times
- Magnifying through ceremony, contemplation & teaching the sacred dimension of life
- Living in service as if all life matters
- Networking & partnering with other local environmental educators
- Honoring our covenant with the land to be a protective presence that does no harm

Focus Areas

Nature Rich Community

Holding the World in love & prayer
Partnering with educational organizations,
soil, plants, animals & humans
Celebrating Great Round of Seasons:
Earth Church, Human
Mentoring interns in spiritual journey
Building nature-rich relationships

Natural Wonder

Simple living
Leading from within
Deepening & grounding in service to life
Awakening & nurturing awareness

Being a quiet place to gaze into the face of

Sacred liturgies beholding & magnifying

Nature-Rich Education

Environmental responsibility
Ecological restoration
Teaching & Eldering skills & tools,
experience

Play & fun out-of-doors Sharing experiences, learnings through speaking & writing

Partnering local environmental groups

BLOSSOMING 2018-2019

Partnering

Au Sable Environment Institute: Wendell Berry Days, Integrative Day,

Wendell Berry Days, Integrative Day, Student Volunteer Days.

Kalkaska Public Library: Great Start Parents & Children , 5 to One site

Sierra Club: hospitality, conciliation KEEN (Kalkaska Environmental Education Network) partnering & resourcing together







Women Leading from Within

Children & junior leaders growing together

Youngers & elders celebrating the dance of life

"Envision the beauty that Love brings forth!" Ps 119

Psalms for Praying, Nan Merrill

Staffing

Co-Directors: Susan Morley & Don Russell (Voluntary Service Workers) **Nature Education:** Carrie Crigier (2017) **Volunteers** as needed and available **Seasonal Assistance** James Stickney

DPI Board - Officers & Directors

Susan Morley (Pres), Susan Reid Lewis (V-Pres), Todd Lewis (Sec), Don Russell (Treas), Mary McKay & Paul McKay (Officers)