

Primavera

Home of the Talking Waters

Talking Waters Monthly

December 2018



Education Center/ Garage Has New Legs

Nine "new legs" - helical piers - were bored beneath three side of the building which was sinking into the wet hillside. DFR Services, out of Bellaire, twisted the sturdy steel piers over twenty feet down until they reached a solid footing. On the first day as they were securing the suspended backside of the building, a worker leaned against the building only to find it moving beneath him. Because the footings had sunk on that side, only the gable trusses were holding the building up. Lord have Mercy! Gratitude floods over us as we sigh in relief! Thanks to all who contributed towards this effort!

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People often ask us, "What is Primavera?". This is a difficult question to answer because Primavera is so many things to so many different people. We hope you enjoy as some friends of Primavera share what Primavera means to them.

By Troy Stobert,
Primaverean

[See the Video Here](#)

There are wild things
just beyond the creche.
Pry Loose an Advent
candle from its round
wreath and walk straight
past the doe-eyed virgin,
deeper into the world
he was born to save.

..... listen for the carol
of the trees as the wind
repeats its sounding joy
You'll feel more lost than
saved but that's how the
prophets say it will feel
the closer your journey to
the coming arrival.

*from Walk straight, John
Blasé*



Voices from the Edge

Soften what's hard Inside

A hard reality comes hurtling at us out of light-absorbing blackness, a stationary deer stands in the headlights. On a moon-covered Black Friday night, our car comes off the on-ramp and merges into freeway traffic. In front of us a hefty deer remains motionless in our lane. A car is passing on the left. Hitting the brakes slows the head-on collision that propels the deer up, up, up - all four feet in the air - and over to the side of the road in sure death.

Stunned, but unharmed, the car drivable, grief and gratitude surge alternatively through us. But why this kamikaze act? Going on, the *spirit wind* of the deer clings to us. Is it just another wake-up call forgotten when the car is repaired? Or can we wrestle this sacrifice of life down deeper through into a place of peace?

Its Advent. Edward Hays in *A Pilgrim's Almanac* calls advent "...a winter training camp for those who desire peace." With the accumulated claims of such a busy season, a strong conviction is needed to soften our hearts, so that a blessing of peace will desire to abide within. Its a crazy cultural and religious mix that finds us going through elaborate acts to celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace, while being braced and tense within. A-h-h! So this is it! This is the medicine the deer wants to speak, that insists on being heard! Doe eyes are gentle eyes, ones that stare down obstacles. The theme of winter training camp strikes a *pure* note within: gentle down.

A hardened pit in the stomach, a tenseness of shoulders, a state of internal brace sneaks in uninvited under constraints and rushing from one thing to another. Cynthia Bourgeault, *Wisdom Jesus*, says "*Never do anything in a state of internal brace - that is, in a state of physical tightness and resistance: you'll discover its never worth the cost.*"


Internal brace- readying for collision, defending a position, endless preparations, over-committing - lodges in the body triggering a survival response...*Just get through this!*" Yet, The Prince of Peace cannot be birthed in such a small shrunken self and hardened womb. *Soften what's hard inside.*

Soften that flight or fight self before speaking. *Soften what's hard within* when the children break another precious ornament or the dog drags your computer across the floor. *Soften what's hard within* when answering your spouse or calling your mother. Bourgeault encourages those who want to abide in peace to focus on the felt body sensation, the one in the pit of the stomach. Instead of trying to change an attitude towards something, a mind act, practice training the inner eye on how it feels within. Focus on the place where tension is lodged in the body. Don't be in a hurry to get on with it. Rather, hold it like Mary and Joseph surely held baby Jesus giving him loving

attention. Give this inner knot a doe-eyed welcome. A catchy tool that seems to be rememberable and easing is in mantra-fashion to inwardly repeat, the words: *"Soften what's hard inside."*

A few years ago, son Bob painted a piece called, The Kamikaze Deer. His ideas, always outside the box, linger, take meaning later. Remembering the piece of art soon after hitting the deer, I discovered that the root for the Japanese word kamikaze means "divine or spirit wind". I may not go as far as to say, *"God put that deer there,"* but in the great field of knowing into which the larger mind of our Creator beckons us, the wind of the Spirit speaks to the heart in many languages. This wake-up call at the sacrifice of a life, deserves to last far beyond the repaired car hood. It warrants a conviction for a lifetime. Sacrifice and surrender of life are acts Jesus embodies to the end. This year, as we choose the stream that leads us to the birthing of the Prince of Peace, may we remember one simple act: *Soften what's hard Inside.*

Susan Morley
Primavera is
An Anchor in unstable times
An Ark of Prayer and Love



OWL PROWL

Monday, December 10, 2018
5:30 pm - 7:00pm

Primavera of Dunamis Peace Institute
4651 CO Rd 612, Kalkaska, MI 49646

All ages and skills welcome, 3/4 mile of uneven trail.

Register online at www.kalkaskaconservation.org

To learn more about the hike, call Renee at
(231)258-3307.

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PRIMAVERA
Where the River Begins

Winter Solstice

December 21, 2018
6:30pm
Council of All Beings



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