

\_\_\_\_ Payment Enclosed

\_\_\_\_ Full payment \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ A contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is also enclosed to support this ministry of spiritual transformation through retreat.

\_\_\_\_ Check Enclosed (payable to “Jonathan Brake” - with “The Big Silence” on the memo line).

**Registration is not considered complete until the full payment has been received.**

**January retreat cancellations** by December 1, 2022 will be returned less a \$25 administrative fee.

**July retreat cancellations** by May 24, 2023 will be returned less a \$25 administrative fee.

Cancellations after the stated date will be returned only if your place is filled by another participant (less the \$25 administrative fee).

Please share any mobility or dietary concerns:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Return this completed form to the address below.

You will receive a registration confirmation with any further information necessary for the program.

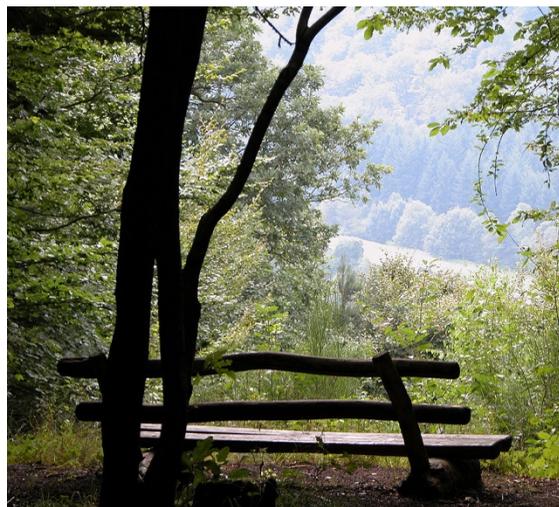
**The Big Silence Retreat  
C/O Rev. Jonathan Brake  
4145 Mt. Pleasant Road  
Sherrills Ford, NC 28673**

# THE BIG SILENCE

## A 4~Day Mostly Silent Retreat

### January 15 ~18, 2023

### July 5 ~ 8, 2023

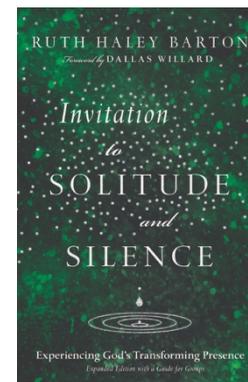


**AN INVITATION TO  
“COME APART”  
(BEFORE YOU FALL APART)**

## Welcome to The Big Silence



You are invited to experience big spaces of solitude and silence in community for the purpose of tending the inner fire of your soul. Inspired by the documentary *The Big Silence* with Abbot Christopher Jamison (please view online-see links next page), and encouraged by several *Clergy School of the Spirit* students, this 4-day mostly silent retreat is being updated for our second decade. Now grounded in Ruth Haley Barton’s *Invitation to Solitude and Silence* with liturgy updates for praying the hours, we have retained the basic rhythm of the week while meeting you where you are in today’s challenges. We invite you to “come apart” for an immersive time with God.



Through Ruth Haley Barton’s guidance, this retreat clears before us a spiritual path consisting of three stepping stones: **Coming Apart** (strategic withdrawal from life’s battles to be alone with God) **Surrender** (“abandonment to divine providence” or “relinquishing control”); and **Discernment** (recognizing and responding to the presence and activity of God).

**We will . . .**

**Experience community and conversation** as we prepare our hearts and minds to enter into The Big Silence.

**Nurture trust** as we seek to *come apart* with God before we *fall apart* from the world’s pressures.

**Deepen our contemplative grounding** through brief daily teachings/readings to help break through obstacles and surrender to the Spirit’s guidance.

**Expand our capacity to listen to God** through prayer, wisdom, presence, and silence.

**Explore optional opportunities** to connect with God in the spaciousness of silence: walking the labyrinth; soaking in the beauty of nature; the sacred art of mandalas; one-on-one and/or small group processing; iconic images; and praying the Divine Hours in community—Morning, Midday, Vespers (evening), and Compline (before bed).

**Receive rich and empowering resources** for re-engaging the busyness of life with renewed strength, vitality, and clarity.

**[www.TheBigSilence.org](http://www.TheBigSilence.org)  
[TheBigSilenceRetreat@gmail.com](mailto:TheBigSilenceRetreat@gmail.com)**



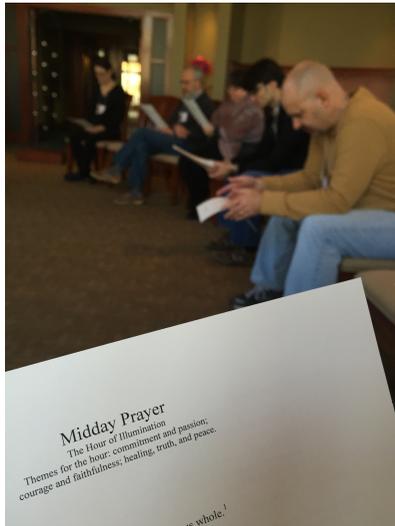
## Retreat Details

**Place:** St. Francis Springs Prayer Center  
477 Grogan Rd, Stoneville, NC 27048  
336-573-3751  
(www.stfrancis.today)

**When:** Arrive January 15 / July 5  
between 3:00 & 3:30 p.m.  
Retreat begins at 4:00 p.m. & concludes  
January 18 / July 8 at 2:30 p.m.

**Cost:** \$545 Regular Registration  
\$560 Late Registration  
(Cost includes tuition, private room, and meals.  
Limited number of rooms available.)

**Registration Deadline:** Monday, Dec. 1, 2022 /  
May 24, 2023. Early registration is HIGHLY  
recommended. This retreat is often sold out a  
month prior to the deadline.



Directions and details will follow your  
registration via e-mail.

## In Preparation:

please READ *Invitation to Solitude and Silence*  
by Ruth Haley Barton

and WATCH "The Big Silence" [all 3 parts]  
1) gloria.tv/video/HaC3Bg1yPX632WhatEWqEnSZS  
2) gloria.tv/video/NiFXukVkiGko41ztkNuZUScXa  
3) gloria.tv/video/4uZFJjxjbcJ6AS9Q7xQmEURko



## Retreat Leaders:

Rev. Jonathan Brake,  
Environmental Sustainability  
Program Manager,  
UMC General Board of Global Ministries

Rev. Dianne Lawhorn,  
Pastor of Faith Formation  
Davidson UMC, Davidson, NC

[www.TheBigSilence.org](http://www.TheBigSilence.org)  
[TheBigSilenceRetreat@gmail.com](mailto:TheBigSilenceRetreat@gmail.com)



## The Big Silence Registration Form

Register Online at  
[www.TheBigSilence.org](http://www.TheBigSilence.org)

OR

Mail this form with your check  
(both sides)

The retreat I will be attending:

- January 15-18, 2023  
 July 5-8, 2023

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Your Occupation \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Your Faith Tradition \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

