

____ 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,
2023 will be returned less a \$25 administrative
fee.
July retreat cancellations by June 17, 2024 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:

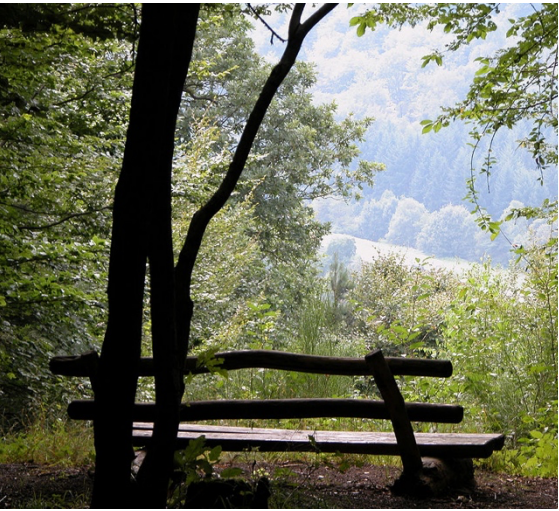
Return this completed form
to the address below.
You will receive a registration confirmation
with any further information necessary
for the program.

The Big Silence Retreat
C/O Rev. Jonathan Brake
104 27th Avenue Dr NW
Hickory, NC 28601

THE BIG SILENCE

A 4~Day Mostly Silent Retreat

January 14 ~17, 2024
July 29 ~ August 1, 2024

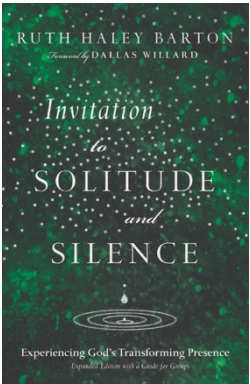


**AN INVITATION TO
“COME APART”
(BEFORE YOU FALL APART)**

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
TheBigSilenceRetreat@gmail.com



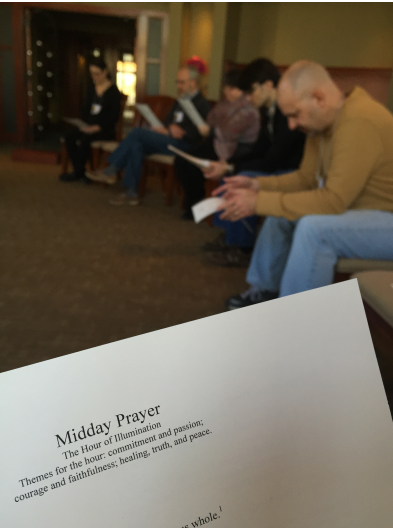
Retreat Details

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

When: Arrive January 14 / July 29
between 3:00 & 3:30 p.m.
Retreat begins at 4:00 p.m. & concludes
January 17 / August 1 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, 2023 /
June 17, 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
TheBigSilenceRetreat@gmail.com



The Big Silence Registration Form

Register Online at
www.TheBigSilence.org

OR

Mail this form with your check
(both sides)

The retreat I will be attending:

- ☐ January 14 - 17, 2024
☐ July 29 - August 1, 2024

Name _____

Email _____

Mailing Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Phone _____

Your Occupation _____

Your Faith Tradition _____

