



Retreat Details

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

When: Arrive January 21 / July 19
between 3:00 & 3:30 p.m.
Retreat begins at 4:00 p.m. & concludes
January 24 / July 22 at 2:30 p.m.

Cost: **July 2025 Retreat**
\$580 Early Bird (by March 31, 2025)
\$595 Regular Registration
\$610 Late Reg (after June 20, 2025)

January 2026 Retreat
\$580 Early Bird (by Sept 30, 2025)
\$595 Regular Registration
\$610 Late Reg (after Dec 30, 2025)

(Cost includes tuition, private room, and meals. Limited number of rooms available.)

Early registration is HIGHLY recommended. This retreat is often sold out a month prior to the deadline.

**REGISTRATION &
INFORMATION**
WWW.THEBIGSILENCE.ORG



Retreat Leaders:

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

Rev. Dianne Lawhorn,
Senior Pastor at Maggie Valley UMC
Maggie Valley, NC

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INFORMATION**
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The Big Silence

A Four-Day
Mostly Silent Retreat

July 21 -24, 2025
January 19 - 22, 2026
www.TheBigSilence.org



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

Welcome to The Big Silence



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.

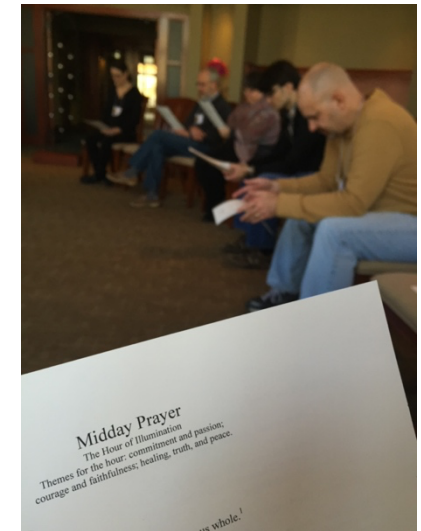
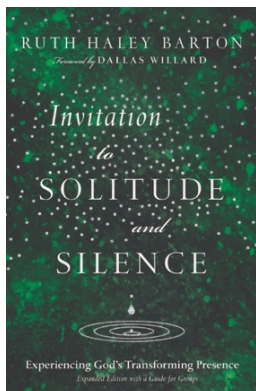
Deepen our contemplative grounding through brief daily teachings/readings to help break through obstacles and surrender to the Spirit's guidance.

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.

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 links *In Preparation*) 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.



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

