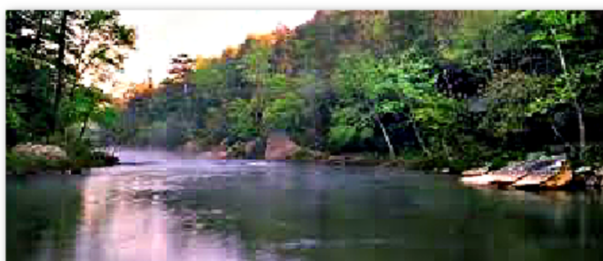
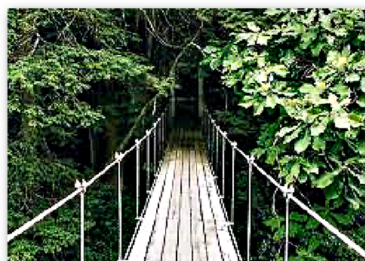


# HEALING A BROKEN HEART

## A FOUR-DAY ACADEMY FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION

FEATURING MARY EARLE AND JERRY WEBBER  
SEPTEMBER 25-29, 2023 CAMP MCDOWELL



**HEALING A BROKEN HEART** is an ecumenical retreat for laity and clergy who want to deepen their relationship with God through an intentional daily rhythm of prayer, worship, study, and reflection. Each day includes teachings by gifted spiritual leaders, rest and relaxation, periods of silence, morning and evening prayer, Eucharist, and small group discussion. Held at Camp McDowell, an Episcopal conference center, nestled in the Bankhead National Forest, an hour northwest of Birmingham. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**MARY EARLE** is an Episcopal priest, poet, author, spiritual director, and retreat leader. Mary has taught classes in spirituality, authored ten books; including books on the spirituality of living with illness, rule of life, Celtic Christian spirituality, the Desert Mothers, and Julian of Norwich.



The title of Mary's course is **IN THE COMPANY OF MYRRH BEARING WOMEN** - Sometimes, the ache and throb of a broken heart stymies our imaginations and leaves us in the detritus of dashed hopes. At these moments--whether personal, familial, social or ecclesial--we find ourselves in the company of the women who stood at the foot of the cross. They beheld their dear friend in agony. They watched as his life ebbed. They knew in their very cells that everything they had dreamed of was utterly shattered. The next day, following prescribed ritual, they headed to the tomb, bearing ointments for his body. In that moment their lives were transformed. These women give us a way forward. With their hearts broken, they attend to known ways of being with loss. With their spirits low, they lean on one another. They make their way to that tomb, never expecting that Love would call them back to life again. In our time together, we will get to know these women, walk with them, and let their example beckon us toward the hope that life will again quicken within us, our families, our communities, our world.

**JERRY WEBBER** is a retreat leader, teacher, writer, and spiritual companion who explores the soul as part of his vocation in the world. For 18 years Jerry led a contemplative community at Chapelwood UMC in Houston. For several decades he has prayed psalms as part of his soul-exploration. He has written three volumes of "psalm-prayers in contemplative voice" based on the Hebrew Psalms.



Jerry will offer talks on **ENGAGING THE PSALMS FOR WHOLENESS** - Rainer Maria Rilke, in a poem about things that shape us, wrote: "The terrain, like a line from the Psalms, is severe and weighty and never ends" ("The Man Watching"). Our journey of becoming takes us through a life-terrain that is severe and weighty and never ends. For centuries, those making this journey have found the Hebrew Psalms to be faithful companions. On retreat, we will engage with these Psalms, finding that they function as spiritual guides for our path . . . and we will experience how they uncover within us an inner resilience on our life-long journey to wholeness.

Your team for this retreat includes Pat Luna, Steve West, Cory Smith, Brian Erickson, Ashley Davis, Noel Forlini Burt, Kathy Norberg, and Bunny Cox. The cost for the week is \$725 which includes tuition, single room with private bath and 3 nutritious meals per day. Camp McDowell is a fully accessible camp. Because we expect this event to sell out quickly, a \$100 non-refundable deposit is required to reserve your space. Space is limited and will be filled on a first come, first served basis so register today. Limited scholarships are available.

Sponsored by The Alabama-West Florida and North Alabama Conferences of The United Methodist Church, The Episcopal Diocese of AL, and The Academy for Spiritual Formation, an ecumenical ministry of The Upper Room. For more information and to register, email Kathy at [kathy.norberg@gmail.com](mailto:kathy.norberg@gmail.com)



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