



NEWSLETTER



Fall/ Winter 2023

Reflections from the 2023 Banquet

On September 12 th about 200 people gathered for our 11 th Annual Banquet at a new location, the beautiful Birchwood Venue just above GuideSpring's offices. The evening was filled with delicious food (many thanks to our food coordinator, Salina Beachy and many volunteers), warm conversations, inspiring stories, and generous support. Our theme was centered around the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). This story told by Jesus connected to us as we reflect on the ministry of GuideSpring and all those who help support our ongoing work.

Like the story of the wounded man and the one who helped him (The Good Samaritan) – in our life journey, we may be wounded or we may have someone in our lives that is wounded. Our wounds are not always physical ones, but also emotional, mental and spiritual wounds as well.

There are times in our life where we need an "INN" - where we can be taken care of and have some time to be "looked after" so our wounds can begin to heal. GuideSpring is like this INN - a stop along people's journey, where they can find some rest, healing and restoration.

There are many Good Samaritans in the ministry of GuideSpring. Many people have brought a friend or family member to GuideSpring to support them on their journey. Others have given finances to help cover expenses for their loved one. Many have volunteered their time and served those who are wounded. All those involved in GuideSpring's work - from the Board, the Staff, Journey Group Leaders, Auction Committee Members, Pure Desire Ministry Leaders, Volunteers in many capacities - all have been Good Samaritans to those who are hurting. Each one who joined us at the banquet was truly "a neighbor" to those we serve at GuideSpring. We were honored to have Miriam Esh as our speaker on the evening of the banquet. Miriam courageously shared her story of wounding and the ongoing healing journey she has been on. She recognized those who were her Good Samaritan's along the way and how GuideSpring has been an Inn for her. She also invited us to let our light shine and we shared in a special "candle lighting" together. We are so grateful for Miriam and all that she gifted us with as she shared deeply about her journey. As our banquet evening came to a close, many people gave financially to the ministry of GuideSpring to help us continue moving forward. We are grateful for all those who pulled together before the banquet to create a \$13,000 matching fund. With these funds, along with the generous donations at the banquet – we are delighted to share that a total of \$27,000 was raised to support the ongoing work of GuideSpring! Thank you to each of you who gave your time, talents, stories, and finances to make this year's banquet so special. We are filled with hope that GuideSpring's mission - working to guide those disconnected from themselves, from others, and from God toward renewal - will continue to be fulfilled.

Katrina Shenk-Finance Manager



Childbirth Conversations at GuideSpring



"Conflicts happen for a reason" and many times we can discover these reasons and respond to these conflicts in ways we find helpful. Sometimes we experience conflicts that disorient, break, and keep us stuck.

In the late 80's I found myself in a deeply stuck and devastating conflict with my church that I trusted and felt deeply connected to. In my undergraduate classes I was placed in a class with John Paul Lederach who was practicing and developing a field of expertise around doing conflict in a transformative way. I along with coworkers have been facilitating hard conversations and conflict in an intentional and transformative way. For the last 2 years we have been intentionally and with care processing conflicts and struggles that can happen for moms, babies, and those who provide care.

Through much courage and investment we have been having deliberate and trusting conversations, processing our experiences of childbirth in our communities.

Dorcas Miller and Elizabeth Beachy, related and lifetime friends, found themselves holding some hard conversations around their lenses and experiences of homebirth and certified medical approaches to birth. Both experiencing the devastation of bad

who were experiencing some of the same struggles. We are creating opportunities for relationships and conversations.

We have had 8 meetings with various lenses of the Amish, Old Order Mennonite, Beachy Amish, Catholic, Midwives, Doctors, Nurses, Administrators, and Directors of Clinics. This has been a

rich and at times challenging time of discovery and vulnerability. We have seen courage, persistence, grace and intelligence in our times together. This is a slow process believing that building trust and relationship is our best way forward.

We are holding and deeply grieve the times of misunderstanding, malpractice, negligence, silence, and tragedies in our communities. We believe that it is worth our time and resources to name and move towards underlying and systemic issues. We treasure your prayers and support. We intend to create an open meeting for the larger community as the timing allows. If you would like to give financially or receive our updates, please contact GuideSpring at (570) 428-2077 or info@guidespring.org.

Mike Yoder- Clinical Director



the Homebirth and the Medical community. This at times, can be difficult between the Conservative Anabaptist families and midwives and hospital based care. In this process we have also heard beautiful stories of connection and togetherness.

As we grew in our ability to hold the differences we invited others

Current Participants:

Daniel Beachy	Jon Fisher
Katie Bomberger	Samuel & Barbara Fisher
Jay Bringman	John Nolt
Karen Conley	Lamar Martin
Elissa Concini	Tim & Linda Stoltzfus

Restorative Justice Team

Salina Beachy
Kathy Shelly Mike Yoder



All Staff Enrichment Day

The GuideSpring Staff Enrichment Day on September 25, 2023, was a surprising day. Justin Fry presented Rest, Silence, Solitude, and Sabbath wonderfully. He gently helped us envision these disciplines as invitations and gifts. It was helpful to hear him explain how we live out of the gift of rest by following the pattern of creation in which each day begins with evening and then followed by morning. He said, rest isn't owed to us, and we don't work for rest, but instead rest comes first to build us up for work. He graciously explained that we need to give ourselves time to ease into this way of living. And that it takes a while to move out of our fast pace before we can have space for stillness which may begin to reveal grief in our lives. He also explained that deep rest will come as we have compassion on ourselves through the transition and to be realistic and creative in how to find what gives us rest. He pointed out that love has everything to do with rest because the deepest truth is that we are loved by God, our Creator, so we can live from this place of rest.

As I walked away from the day, I felt refreshed and freed from the demand that created stress over the topics of Rest, Silence, Solitude, and Sabbath. Thank you, Justin, for giving clarity and kindness to this topic that was so difficult for me.



Gayle Boyer- Journey Group Leader



Have you heard about our
new series?



Enneagram Panels

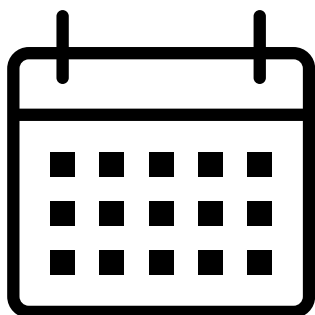
Come learn about yourself and others in your life. Each gathering will be facilitated by GuideSpring's Enneagram Coach, Katie Bomberger, and will feature four persons with the specific personality type we are focusing on that evening.

Would you consider joining us for these interactive & informative gatherings?

In the GuideSpring Conference Room

571 Industrial Park Road Milton PA 17847

Featured Tuesday evenings from 6:30- 8:30pm.



December 5, 2023 -**Type 2**

January 2, 2024- **Type 3**

February 6, 2024- **Type 4**

March 5, 2024- **Type 5**

April 2, 2024- **Type 6**

May 7th, 2024 - **Type 7**

Don't forget to mark your calendar and register!

Registration is REQUIRED due to limited space.

This event is being offered "by donation" (cash or checks made payable to GuideSpring) We appreciate you helping to cover GuideSpring's costs as you are able.

Please call 570-428-2077 or email info@guidespring.org. You can also sign up via our website guidespring.org. Be sure to check it out!



Enneagram Panel Reflections

I tossed around the idea of hosting enneagram panels in my mind for at least a year or so before I finally took action. I am so happy I went for it! My vision for this was to create a space where I would have 4 people of one type and we would dedicate a whole 2 hours to teach and learn about that type. It very quickly has become a highlight of the month for me. I have absolutely loved listening to the panelists share stories and examples of themselves as that type, they have been willing to get out of their comfort zone and be vulnerable in front of a large crowd. We have done type 8, 9 and 1 so far and each time they have all exceeded my expectations! My feelings coming away from each one has been a sense of joy and happiness at what the Enneagram continues to offer and how it gives language around our different lenses and how we see. I am deeply grateful for this opportunity and thankful to everyone for their participation and support.

Katie Bomberger- Enneagram Coach

Musings of a Type 8 Panel Member

As one of four panel members in the first Enneagram Panel gathering, led by GuideSpring staff member, Katie Bomberger, I was uncertain as to what the experience would be like. I found it to be a positive experience for several reasons. First, I was able to interact with and feel connected to three other panelists who shared their life experiences, along with mine, as Katie facilitated our sharing of stories related to the characteristics of Type 8. All of this occurred in a very relaxed and at times humorous atmosphere. Secondly, I was able to better understand how those of other types might perceive things differently and could be put off by the forcefulness that I felt was a normal response for everyone, when feeling strongly about something. Hopefully through a deeper understanding of differences, I can become a better listener by being more curious about how others feel and perceive things, as a balance to my own viewpoint. Finally, closing questions from the attendees to the panel members and our responses, helped me feel better understood, as we interacted together with lots of laughter and aha moments.

Ron Musselman

Learning about the Enneagram has helped to unlock a friendship I have wished for a long time to develop. I have a type 9 friend who seemed hard to get to know. She was quiet and reserved and it felt like I had to put forth more effort to keep a conversation with her going. Then I attended the type 9 Enneagram panel discussion. One key point that stood out to me is that 9's need time to think and process. When talking with them, you need to be patient and give them time to respond.

A few weeks ago, my 9 friend and I went on a day trip together and had a few hours of drive time. This time when I asked her questions, I waited and held back from moving on in the conversation because of awkward silences. I was so amazed at how she opened up and shared! I realized she actually had answers, good answers, I just needed to wait for them. I got to know her in a way I never had before. She asked questions in return and helped keep the conversation going - because I gave her space to. I am so grateful for all of Katie's teaching on the Enneagram and for what I've learned at the panel discussions.

Anonymous

My husband and I attended the Enneagram One panel discussion at GuideSpring on November 7th. As a One on the enneagram, it was reassuring to hear that there are others in the world who think and feel similarly to me and that I am not the only "One." Haha. It was also helpful for my husband to hear other One's express how it is best to communicate with them personally. The insights from the panel brought up some thoughtful communication. We thank the panel members who are willing to be open and honest with the group, GuideSpring for organizing such a wonderful event and Katie for being a great facilitator.

Keith & Meg Phelps



Mark Your Calendars

Journey Group



Intensive Journey Group

December 7, 8 & 9

Trained leaders guide a small group of 6 people through 9 confidential sessions where participants share their childhood stories, learn to respond with grace to each other's stories and begin the journey of healing in a safe, loving environment.

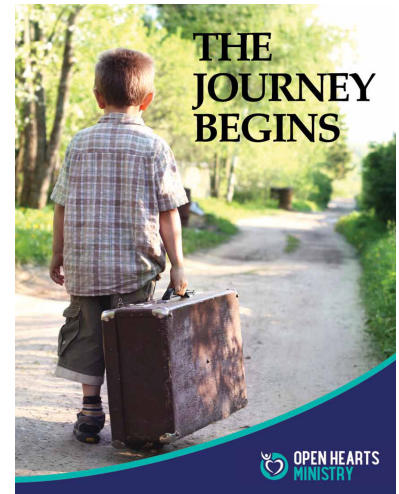
Marriage Journey Group

Lead by Jim & Esther Lapp.

Next Group will be offered Winter 2024

For those who want to grow in their connection to each other and understand how their childhood story is showing up in their marriage.

If you would like to more information for either of the Journey Groups please contact LaVonne: lavonne.yoder@guidespring.org.



A Spiritual Soul Care Retreat

Grand Examen

Saturday, January 13, 2024

9am – 3pm at GuideSpring

571 Industrial Park Rd. Milton, PA 17847

Cost: \$60/person (includes lunch)

LaVonne Yoder will lead participants into a practice called Grand Examen, which is the process of looking closely at your past year to see what has happened and to notice where you sensed God's Divine Presence...and perhaps where you didn't. The retreat will include teaching, times of silence & solitude where participants can review journals, calendars and photos from the past year, and times of reflection with the large group.



Register for the
Grand Examen Retreat
before Jan 8th by calling
the GuideSpring Office at
570-428-2077 or by email
info@guidespring.org

GuideSpring BENEFIT AUCTION



Saturday, February 10, 2024 at 9am

Preview Items on Friday, February 9th

**The Indoor Soccer Complex
ON THE GUIDESPRING CAMPUS**

571 Industrial Park Rd. Milton, PA 17847

Join us for our annual benefit auction to help raise funds to support GuideSpring's ongoing work to serve our community with hope and helpful resources.

**MANY NEW ITEMS AND
SELECT VINTAGE ITEMS**

**FEATURY JOHNNY REIFF
POTTERY AND OTHER LOCAL
CRAFTSMAN**

**NEW BUILD GARAGE ON
YOUR LOCATION**

**ANTIQUE IH TRACTOR WITH
MATCHING PEDAL TRACTOR**

**NEW AND CUSTOM-MADE
FURNITURE**

**NEW TOOLS FEATURING:
DEWALT, MILWAUKEE, STIHL**

**LARGE ASSORTMENT OF
GIFT BASKETS
AND MUCH MORE!**

**A SILENT AUCTION
(Ends at 1pm)**

**FOOD STAND WITH MANY
DELICIOUS OPTIONS**

**MORE INFORMATION
COMING SOON!
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU
THERE!**

HELP US PREPARE FOR THE AUCTION!

We appreciate MONETARY DONATIONS to help purchase items for the auction!

Mail your donation to GuideSpring at 571 Industrial Park Road, Milton, PA 17847 or
Donate online at www.guidespring.org/donations

Do you have ITEMS TO DONATE? Do you have TIME TO VOLUNTEER?

Contact Ken Martin at 570-412-0691 or GuideSpring at 570-428-2077