

TAU CENTER

FINDING PRESENCE IN COMMUNITY

AWAKEN YOUR SPIRIT

A photograph of a person's hands holding a dandelion seed head. The person's hair is visible on the left side. The background is a bright, golden sunset with many dandelion seeds floating in the air, creating a bokeh effect. The overall color palette is warm, with shades of yellow, orange, and brown.



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A spirituality ministry of the
Wheaton Franciscans
www.taucenter.org

WELCOME

"Let us endeavor to integrate the contemplative life and the active life, so that the active life is nourished and strengthened and supported through the contemplative and thus itself becomes rich in blessings."

— Mother Clara Pfaender

Established in 2008 by the Wheaton Franciscans, who live intentionally as a presence of blessing in our world, the Tau Center is committed to the transformation of our world by helping individuals awaken to the sacredness of life.

In the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi, Tau Center provides a peaceful and reflective environment for people seeking a deeper relationship with God, self, others and all of Creation. Through the integration of body, mind and spirit, Tau Center is committed to offering diverse experiences where individuals can nourish their spirit, find companions on their journey, and connect what they discover to meaning in their life and the world around them.





"Tau Center signs the work we do as belonging to the HEART, not to a specific place; wherever the mission of Tau Center is carried out, there is the CENTER."

— Sr Jane Madejczyk, OS



VISION

TAU CENTER IS COMMITTED to the transformation of our world by helping individuals awaken to the sacredness of Life and reveal the unique gifts each person contributes to the hope and healing of all.

MISSION

IN THE SPIRIT OF ST FRANCIS and St Clare of Assisi, Tau Center provides a peaceful and reflective environment for people seeking a deeper relationship with God, self, others and all of Creation. Through the integration of body, mind and spirit, Tau Center is committed to offering diverse experiences where individuals can nourish their spirit, find companions on their journey, and connect what they discover to meaning in their life and the world around them.

*Tau Center offers
diverse experiences where
individuals can nourish their spirit.*

ECO-SPIRITUALITY

is more than ecology and theology.
It calls us to reconnect.

"Human beings are capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, making a new start, embarking on new paths to authentic freedom."

— (LS205)

ECO-SPIRITUALITY brings together religion and environmental activism. It represents the spiritual connection between human beings and the environment, in response to the ecological crisis through embodied awareness and a relational view of person to planet, inner to outer and soul to soil. The essence of eco-spirituality is tending, dwelling, reverence and connectedness.

— Sage Journal

SPIRITUAL ECOLOGY is a spiritual response to our present ecological crisis. It is a developing field that joins ecology and environmentalism with the awareness of the sacred within creation. It calls for responses to environmental issues that include spiritual awareness and/or practice. The principles of spiritual ecology are simple: In order to resolve such environmental issues as depletion of species, global warming, and over-consumption, humanity must examine and reassess our underlying attitudes and beliefs about the earth and our spiritual as well as physical responsibilities toward the planet. Thus,

ecological renewal and sustainability necessarily depends upon spiritual awareness and an attitude of responsibility.

Central to Spiritual Ecology is an understanding of the interdependence and living unity of the ecosystem. Real sustainability refers to the sustainability of the whole ecosystem rather than our energy-intensive, consumer-driven culture.

This will require a re-evaluation of the central aspects of our materialistic culture as we move towards a way of life that is in harmony with the earth as a living whole, a culture that cares for the soul as well as the soil. Spiritual Ecology is not based on any single religion or spiritual path, rather the primary recognition of the sacred nature of all of creation.

— Emergence Magazine

"We are part of an interrelated, interconnected, evolving web...
**ECO-SPIRITUALITY CALL US TO LIVE
IN RIGHT RELATIONSHIP WITH ALL OF CREATION."**



PEACE PATH AND
PRAIRIE GRASSES
AT OUR LADY OF
ANGELS CAMPUS



COMMUNION WITH NATURE

Integral Ecology challenges us to broaden our focus.



INTEGRAL ECOLOGY offers us a spiritual conversion built on a ‘culture of encounter’ as humanity faces a complex crisis that manifests in different way. It underlines how relationships should be based on an attitude of caring for ones common home; ones brothers and sisters; and one’s relationship with God, the creator. ‘A sense of deep communion with the rest of nature cannot be real if our hearts lack tenderness, compassion and concern for our fellow human beings.’

Integral Ecology challenges us to broaden our focus of concern and daily behavior... through contact with nature... highlighting the interconnectedness that exists among God, humanity and all of creation.

— *Catholic Reporter*

“**Integral Ecology** includes taking time to recover a serene harmony with creation, reflecting on our lifestyle and our ideals, and contemplating the Creator...”

— *Laudato Si’* [225]





PROGRAMS & OFFERINGS

Sometimes in our life, we find ourselves drawn to explore our spirituality...

Come share in a community of like-minded seekers who are discovering their individual spiritual journeys and reveling in the supportive atmosphere of Tau Center.

Tau Center's core offerings in contemplative practices, meditation and creative spirituality are augmented by seasonal programs and Franciscan teachings. In addition, we invite national and regional presenters to offer half-day or full-day experiential programming on a variety of spiritual practices.

Our open and diverse approaches to spiritual programs provide a comfortable space for people on different spiritual paths. We offer many perspectives to spiritual enrichment, including:

- CONTEMPLATION AND PRAYER
- CREATIVE SPIRITUALITY
- ART STUDIO SPACE
- ECO SPIRITUALITY
- PRIVATE GROUP PROGRAM
- SELF-REFLECTION
- SPIRITUAL JOURNEY OFFERINGS
- PERSONAL RETREAT OPTIONS
- ONE ON ONE DAY RETREATS
- CONTEMPLATIVE READING

The Tau Center is located near our retreat rooms. The library contains books on spirituality, including such areas as spirituality and psychology practices, holistic healing and bodywork, women's spirituality, Franciscan Spirituality, Creativity, and more. In addition, the Tau Center has an art space for your creative projects.

All are welcome to come and browse the library or art space during a personal retreat day.

*“This was a GOOD RETREAT DAY FOR ME TO PRACTICE SPIRITUALITY in community with other practitioners. The presenter was excellent, responsive to the group's input and questions, yet kept us on track.
An outstanding powerful experience.”*



INDIVIDUAL & PRIVATE GROUP RETREATS

"The rhythm of the day was perfect."

"The **connectedness we already shared was forged at a deeper level** during the day retreat that Tau Center provided for my companions and me. The entire experience, from planning our theme all the way through the parting moments of our retreat, was created to meet our specific needs and desires."

The **rhythm of the day was perfect**, cycling between guided group inspiration and rich time alone for contemplation. Even in the solitude we craved in our lovely rooms, filled with enriching resources for all of the senses, we felt the sweet comfort of the closeness of our friends and guide.

The **Tau Center is an incredible gift** both indoors and outdoors allowing for inspiring encounters with art and nature that offered countless opportunities to fill our spiritual well. We hope to make this a regular event for all of us. **We are so fortunate that this treasure, Tau Center, so close to home which allows us to escape our ordinary routines.**"



"Thank you for continuing to offer the wide variety of spiritual programs and bringing people of like minds together."

"I am thrilled with the offerings of the Tau Center and the liberal aspects of spirituality it provides. It is enriching, refreshing and exciting to have a place to gather that is so spiritually open."

"The beautiful online reflection pieces, will give me hours of quiet depth in the day ahead of seeing, hearing and knowing God."



"Absolutely wonderful group! Thank you! I really appreciate the special and personal attention given. I am motivated by everyone who was present as I began my personal practice this morning."

CUSTOM PROGRAMS & RETREATS FOR YOUR GROUP OR ORGANIZATION



Group Program Experiences

"NWSRA has partnered with the Tau Center through a variety of trainings including team building, communication and contemplative writing. Through a full day retreat utilizing the Enneagram, staff were empowered to become more self-aware while developing tools to embrace differences.

In addition, the contemplative writing session provided an opportunity for staff to address stress and anxiety while opening a creative outlet to express their true

feelings. The warm, inviting atmosphere and highly engaging presenters created an open environment of inner-discovery, reflection and a renewed sense of self. NWSRA staff are grateful for the experience provided by the Tau Center, and look forward to future partnership opportunities!"

"...the program exceeded my expectations. The presenter and time for quiet reflection followed by sharing in the circle led me to a very deep place in my soul."

GUIDED RETREATS

Spiritual Direction Experiences

"I wondered for years what spiritual direction was all about. In 2018 I took the plunge and scheduled my first session, arriving slightly nervous but ready to talk about my faith and what God wanted from me.

I have moved away from some rigid legacy thinking that was holding me back and am now exploring how to be mindful and in love with my God in my 60s. I look forward to my monthly spiritual direction sessions

"During this past year my mind, heart and soul have opened up to new and refreshing ways to connect to God."

as a time to take a breath, reflect, pose questions, share insights, laugh and reimagine my faith in a way I never felt free to do before. I have learned to worry less about a specific destination and focus more on a journey that feels right and full of meaning."



"I love every workshop I've attended so far. The PEOPLE IN EVERY GROUP HAVE BEEN SO APPROACHABLE, kind and wonderful. Thank you!"

"I LOVE YOUR CENTER and am looking forward to participating in more upcoming events."



MULTI-MEDIA OFFERINGS

"THANK YOU. Blessings during this time where you keep seeing beauty in spite of the sparseness of the home of Tau Center."

Tau Center is pleased to offer new and expanding areas of our multi-media platforms for individuals on their spiritual journey. In fact, our on-line offerings opens the work of Tau Center to a wider, more diverse audience, thus expanding our presence within the community.

Multi-media Offerings refer to content made available online or via electronic communication formats that can be accessed by individuals 'on-demand'.

Such formats include video reflections, e-news and homepage reflections, supplemental video and recorded zoom instruction to compliment program offerings available via our website, social media and our print or e-print publications.

"I'm enjoying the Heart of Stillness reflections, and have been using as my daily journal prompts. So enriching!"

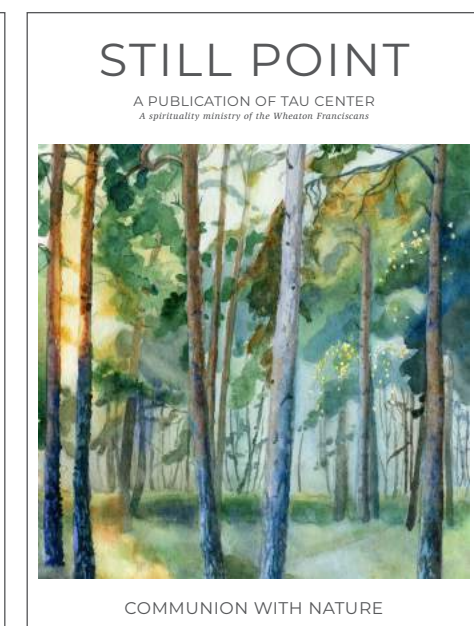
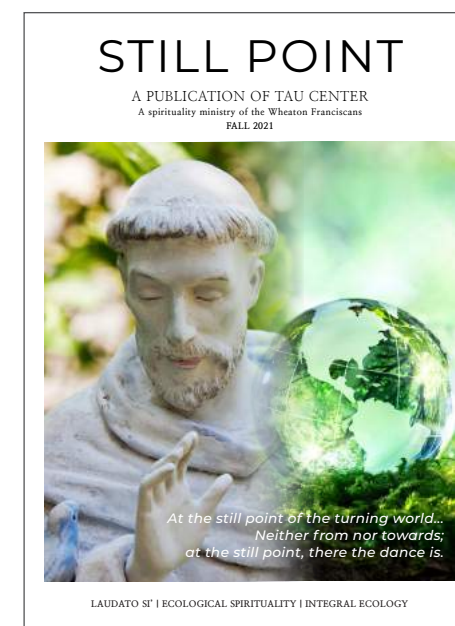
"All I can say is "WOW"! It is well presented and beautiful. Thank you for the beautiful and thoughtful work on Still Point, both the e-publication and YouTube video. Keep up the inspirational work!"

STILL POINT JOURNAL

Still Point Journal is a topic driven bi-monthly publication that launched in October 2021. Currently it is distributed as an electronic-journal with a companion reflection video to the general public and in hardcopy format to the extended Wheaton Franciscan Community.

Still Point journal formed the foundation for multi-week online programming distributed at no charge via email and featured on our website. The journal continues it's content driven platform to meet the needs of the season and the community. We continue to add new topics to assist you on your spiritual journey. Enjoy!

"Stillpoint, **IT TOOK MY BREATH AWAY!**
It is so **BEAUTIFUL AND INVITING!**
I'm looking forward to reading and reflecting on what is there!
CONGRATULATIONS! THANK YOU!."



TAU CENTER STAFF

Together, Sharon and Christine, serve our public audience and enliven Sr Janes words "Tau Center signs the work we do as belonging to the heart."

We offer a sacred space to assist individuals on their own spiritual journey – whether it is to reconnect with their inner-spirit or whether they are seeking a deeper relationship with God and the world around them.

Our programs encourage an awakening of the spirit that leads to hope, healing, peace and transformation.

Tau Center is currently staffed by two full-time Associates, Sharon Devo, Director and Christine Cianciosi, Retreat & Communications Coordinator.

Sharon collaborates with presenters to bring offerings in contemplation, creative spirituality, expressive arts, healing through nature, and more. Sharon's intention is to be fully present with you in the space and silence, and to allow your inner wisdom and the still small voice of the divine to emerge and be heard.

Christine welcomes retreatants to the Tau Center. She also designs the Still Point Journals, Videos, & more.



TAU CENTER PRESENTERS

"The PRESENTERS WERE RESPECTFUL to different perspectives, thoughts and backgrounds and WERE VERY ATTENTIVE to our hearts and tending to each accordingly."



"The spirit of the staff, the welcoming hospitality, the timely topics all contribute to a positive spiritual experience. **YOU ARE DOING A WONDERFUL MINISTRY** as you are. The handout was very helpful! For me it was a wonderful blend of social, educational, and private time."



"I fully enjoyed all 3 parts of this program and all 3 facilitators were excellent. I loved it. The three presenters provided a good mix of practices and experiences. I would like to see them do more of the same types of programs."



"FABULOUS - well done! Everyone seemed to enjoy the breakout sessions and were talkative and expressive of how they were being challenged to think in new ways about Miriam."



BLESSINGS ON YOUR JOURNEY



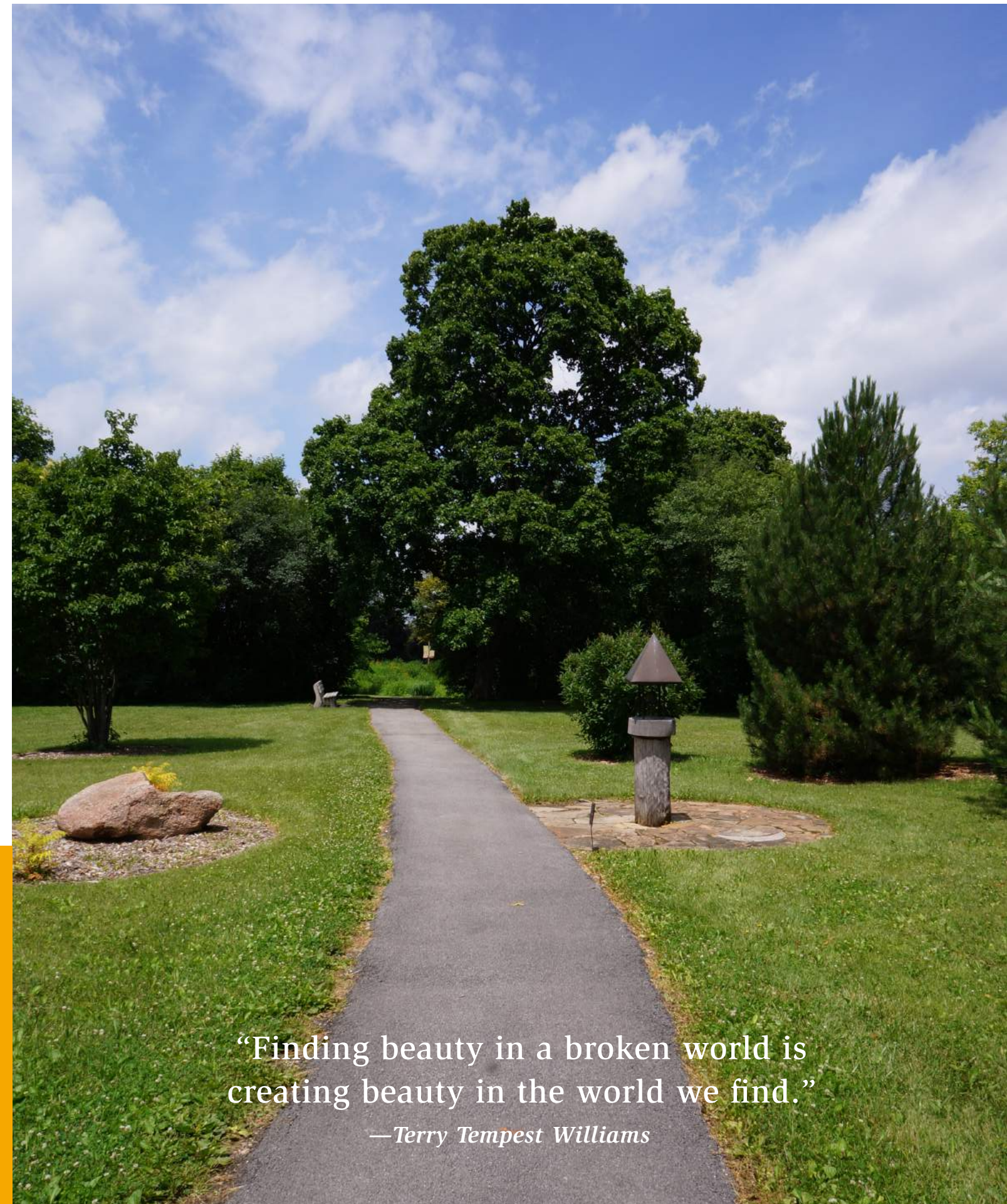
At Tau Center we offer a sacred space to assist individuals on their own spiritual journey – whether it is to reconnect with their inner-spirit or whether they are seeking a deeper relationship with God and the world around them.

In the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare of Assisi, Tau Center provides a peaceful and reflective environment for people seeking a deeper relationship with God, self, others and all of Creation. We are committed to the transformation of our world by helping individuals awaken to the sacredness of Life and reveal the unique gifts each person contributes to the hope and healing of all.

No matter where you are on your spiritual journey, you will find a comfortable atmosphere for further spiritual exploration and enrichment at Tau Center

Many blessings and we look forward to seeing you soon.

“Tau Center is a hidden treasure...
program's are excellent with a calm,
inviting and relaxing atmosphere.”



“Finding beauty in a broken world is
creating beauty in the world we find.”

—Terry Tempest Williams



*A spirituality ministry of the
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Tau Center

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*Offering diverse experiences
where individuals can nourish
their spirit.*

