

I hold Ordination credentials in Disciples of Christ, United Church of Christ, Creation Spirituality, Independent Catholic.

When I was first ordained in 1985, my husband, Frank, after hearing me preach for the second or third time, informed me that no one knew what I was talking about. He said I sounded like a seminary professor giving a lecture and it was boring. He said the church members were simply being nice when they greeted me after worship, telling me how much they enjoyed my message. Frank suggested I tell stories the way Jesus did. He thought this would give folks something to take home; something they could remember and share with others. In less than a minute, Frank taught me more about preaching than the entire seminary course. This is your guarantee that sermons will have at least one story.

Frank and I shared our lives for over 32 years. He died in 2009 one week before he completed his 90<sup>th</sup> year. His memorial service was on his birthday and we celebrated his life by eating all of his favorite foods. People came from four states to say good-bye to him.

My life shifted when I met the Rev. Dr. Matthew Fox at a weekend seminar where I experienced my first Techno Cosmic Mass. Matt invited me to visit the University of Creation Spirituality (UCS) in Oakland, California. He offered me a position as Co-Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program. I accepted, but truth be told, the reason that I accepted his invitation to relocate to California was the Techno Cosmic Mass. Matt explained the Mass was a reinvention of the Catholic Mass and in Inter Spiritual gathering. Matt was the presiding priest; he was looking for a woman to co-preside as Priestess.

I could not pass up that invitation.

Matt and I continue our friendship. We teach together whenever the opportunity presents.

At the University, along with others, I helped revamp the Creation Spirituality program, taking it on the road around the United States, Canada, Europe, and South America. I accompanied and guided students toward opportunities of engaging spiritually powerful places around the world.

While working at UCS in California I was given the challenge and opportunity to minister with extremely dysfunctional congregations. The Regional Minister referred to me as a Pastor-Healer because in addition to being pastor and educator, I was a Licensed Professional Counselor, a unique skill set needed to be helpful in unique situations.

Frank gradually became disabled by Alzheimer's disease. We returned home to Ohio so that he could be with family during his final days.

UCC in Ohio needed someone with Pastor-Healer skills. I was put to work. It is usual for me to pastor two congregations at the same time. I am eager and excited to accept God's Call to Community Church in Chesterland as I continue to pastor Heart Space Spiritual Community, a ministry of 89 Hartford UCC, which is a house church, meeting in my home or nowadays, through Zoom.

The spirituality in which I am grounded is Creation Spirituality. I work with Native Americans and enjoy doing Earth Based Rituals. Heart Space Spiritual Community gathers weekly with a variety of programming including: Medicine Wheel (Native American Treasury of Earth based spiritual teachings), Sacred Space, Relevant and Current Studies, Still Point Prayer of the Heart, and more.

I authored, *The Lion of God: Archangel Ari'El....personal encounters*, 2016. I compose heart chants, lead circle dancing. As a public speaker, I tell true stories about my Pilgrim experiences. I am a plant whisperer, and a spiritual life coach. I serve on the Prayer Team at Mount Saint Benedict's Monastery in Erie, PA, teaching Still Point prayer of the heart.

I am excited about partnering in ministry with all of you, here at Community Church. Every one of us is called. Every one of us is selected for an important work that is ours to do. When we come together, we can do amazing things that alone simply can't be accomplished. I am eagerly getting to know you through small group gatherings and committee meetings.

Thank you all for this opportunity to continue the sacred Life Pilgrimage of Becoming.

If you have any questions or would simply like to chat, it is best to contact me through Email: [snowswan12@gmail.com](mailto:snowswan12@gmail.com) to schedule a time we are both available to share. You are certainly welcome to call, however, often my phone is silenced while I am in meetings or counseling someone. Be sure to leave a message. 330.242.3811.