**APCE 2021 – “Anything But Ordinary Time”**

**Workshop Outline with References Jeannie Ford**

***“These Are a Few of My Favorite Things”***

**Welcome/Introduction/Workshop Overview**

**A Favorite Get-Acquainted Game: Three-On-A-Couch (Carl Horton)**

\*see handout

**A Favorite Scripture Passage: Ephesians 1:15-19 (NRSV)**

**A Favorite Children’s Book:**

 ***Jesus the Word* by Francisco Buzzuti-Jones (Augsburg Fortress Press, 2005)**

Notes:

**A Favorite Prayer Practice: Visio-Divina (Lynn Turnage, “Playing with Prayer” workshop)**

Introduction: Visio Divina and Spiritual Vision

-From *Henri Nouwen & The Return of the Prodigal Son: The Making of a Spiritual Classic*

By Gabrielle Earnshaw (Paraclete Press, 2020)

“*What you carry in your heart is what you see.”* (Henri Nouwen) Nouwen used visual art as a means of understanding his life and the world Art was always an important part of his life. In chapter two of her book, Earnshaw describes his understanding this way: “*Visio Divina,* or “divine seeing,” is an ancient contemplative practice that invites the practitioner to encounter the divine through images. Sharing roots with the practice of *lectio divina*…..*visio divina* is an interaction with an image to create a powerful experience of the divine. Practitioners of both use the imagination to become each person in the story or image, to feel what they are feeling, to think what they are thinking, and to experience what they are experiencing. Nouwen saw with a kind of spiritual vision. He could look at the world through the eyes of his heart and perhaps even sometimes with the eyes of God.

Practicing Visio-Divina:

1. Choose a picture or image (in our case I am choosing one for you)

*Man on the Moon* from *13 Photos Children Should Know* by Brad Finger, Prestel Publishing 2011)

1. List 10 – 15 things you notice about the image

(Lynn suggests that if you have an appropriate scripture to use, read it several times during steps 2-4) I will repeat Ephesians 1:17-19, also read the text that accompanies the photo, and the text of *God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens, verses 1,3,&4* (Glory to God, #24)

1. What draws you to the picture? What repels you from the picture?
2. What is God saying to you?
3. What do you want to say to God?

Settings/Formats for using Visio Divina?

Notes:

**A Favorite Adult Bible Study (especially for Zoom Bible Study):**

 ***The Forgotten Books of the Bible: Recovering the Five Scrolls for Today***

**By Robert Williamson Jr. (Fortress Press, 2018)**

* Bobby introduced the book at APCE 2020 and has since added videos and podcasts
* Introductory Video Presentation
* See attachment for links to website and all videos

Notes:

**Another Favorite Children’s Book: *Jesus’ Day Off* by Nicholas Allan (Red Fox Books/Random**

 **House, 1998)**

An invitation to the practice of keeping Sabbath.

Matthew 11:28-30

Notes:

**Closing Prayer**