



# Building the Fire

Coracle 2026



The whole meaning of the Christian community lies in offering a space in which we wait for that which we have already seen. Christian community is the place where we keep the flame alive among us and take it seriously, so that it can grow and become stronger in us. In this way we can live with courage, trusting that there is a spiritual power in us that allows us to live in this world without being seduced constantly by despair, lostness, and darkness. That is how we dare to say that God is a God of love even when we see hatred all around us. That is why we can claim that God is a God of life even when we see death and destruction and agony all around us. We say it together. We affirm it in one another. Waiting together, nurturing what has already begun, expecting its fulfillment—that is the meaning of marriage, friendship, community, and the Christian life.

—Henri Nouwen

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# Looking Back, Looking Forward

## From the Executive Director

Friends, I write this early in Advent, the first season in a new Church year. Together all of us are preparing to celebrate the Incarnation of God in Jesus Christ.

The Incarnation of God...this is stunning, overwhelming, it leaves me struggling for words. The Love that created the universe 13.8 billion years ago, the Love that created our planet 4.5 billion years ago, the Love that holds it all together and sustains it all moment by moment...this Love became a man 2,000 years ago. This changes *everything*.

**The Incarnation is why Coracle exists, Jesus is why we do what we do.** We recognize the love of God revealed in Christ, and we want to be that love in the world in no less way than being Christ. We receive this invitation with great joy and, with all other Christians, get the privilege to incarnate the Incarnation. **This is what Coracle is all about—helping as many people as we can go deeper into Jesus and encounter God so that individually and together we get to be the presence of Jesus in a broken world that desperately needs expressions of God’s redemptive love and encounters with God.**

2025 gave us many opportunities to do that with many people. What a gift! Something we heard over and over again throughout this year, as we have over the years, is that **Coracle is a place where people feel safe** to bring their true selves and honest questions. We’ve become a place and community where people can show up with their longings and desires, their questions, disorientations, and hurts, and find those things seen, heard, honored, and accompanied. In a year when many find themselves disillusioned by what’s happening in the culture and the church in America, it is a sacred thing to be a safe place. In such a year as this it’s a sacred thing to bear witness to and transmit the blazing Love of God.

Doing these sacred things and more of them will only deepen in 2026 and beyond.

After much discernment amidst many changes and some important pruning, we have consolidated and integrated our vision and resources. As you’ll read about in the following pages, we are focused on building the **Coracle Community** and growing **The Coracle Center of Formation for Action**. We are focused on living into our long-held values of contemplation, formation, and Kingdom action and doing that together as a community that is open and accessible to all people reflecting the wide spectrum of the great Christian tradition. Our door is wide open to anyone who wants to pursue union with God and go deeper into Jesus together for Love’s sake in the world. Our door is wide open to the hurting. We are excited to offer this, we’re excited to do this.

As I've written before, we are incarnating even more what Coracle has always been about since 2012—inspiring and enabling people to be the presence of God in the brokenness of the world through Spiritual Formation for Kingdom Action. Now we get to incarnate that in community like never before, enjoy it, and offer it with great generosity and hospitality.

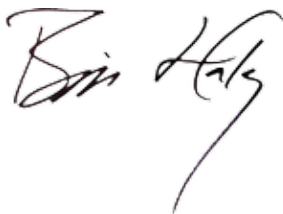
Thank you, friends, for being on the journey with us all these years. **JOURNEY**—that's been a word that has served us well for well over a decade, and shall for as long as Coracle exists.

Of equal weight with that word has been given another in the past two years, and it will also serve us well in the decade to come—**FIRE**. By God's grace and according to God's wisdom and provision, we are longing for and focused on burning with the Fire of Divine Love in us and shining with the light of our Jesus through us in a dark moment and darkening world, by the Holy Spirit, the Living Flame of Love.

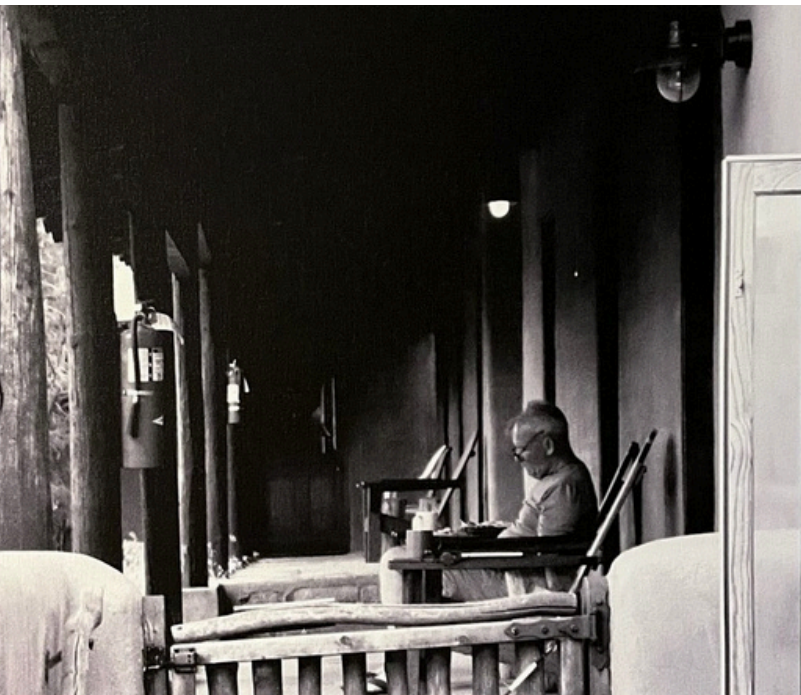
In Advent, we remember what John the Baptist said of Jesus: "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." Amen, may it be so.

Thanks for being a part of this, thanks for making it possible. Friends and fellow travelers, let's shine together this year and in the years to come. Let's build a fire, while (wait for it....)

On the Journey,



5 December 2025, Falls Church, VA



# Why Coracle Matters Now From the Board Co-Chairs

Dear friends,

Coracle offers a prophetic voice in our troubled times by demonstrating true discipleship, which combines the pursuit of Jesus with thoughtful and helpful acts of service that demonstrate the love of God. This ministry plays a vital role in educating, challenging and forming Christians who are engaged in issues that divide our country and our churches. What follows in this prospectus describes a number of opportunities that reflect Coracle's commitment to "spiritual formation for Kingdom action", two crucial Christian convictions that are all too often separated or even pitted against each other. Coracle holds these tightly together, and that matters.

Undergirding Coracle's approach to Christian formation is the conviction that the Bible is true, beautiful and full of wonder and that God calls us to engage the Scriptures with expectation and humility. God's word transforms us as we seek to love Him more deeply and our neighbors in specific ways. This approach enables us, as followers of Christ, to learn what Jesus cares about and to discern how Jesus is leading us to contribute to the building of His kingdom on earth.

"My discovery over the last couple of decades through Coracle that God is passionate about justice deepened my long-standing interest in the civil rights movement. Through Coracle's Repentance Project and related programs I have had the opportunity to increase my understanding of the strong Biblical basis for us to care about justice - because God does - and my conviction that my "kingdom action" in our country includes advocating for racial justice."

-Rich Dean, Board Co-Chair

*Kendrick Curry, Rich Dean, Bill Haley*



Our country, especially our churches, struggles to have civil and constructive conversations about racial justice, Israel and Palestine, Christian Nationalism, immigration, and creation stewardship, among many other issues. Based on a commitment to the Scriptures, Coracle works to present Biblical perspectives on such issues and encourage engagement shaped by the love of God in Christ. This matters in this time when opponents are demonized, truth is disputed, and compromise is hard to reach.

Coracle has and will keep creating opportunities for those conversations to take place in person at the Center of Formation *for* Action and online. We have and will keep creating opportunities for study and engagement and encounters with God. We have and will do what we have always done...spiritual formation *for* Kingdom action.

We invite you to join us!

*Rich Dean and Rev. Dr. Kendrick Curry*

# Mission, Vision, Values

## Our Mission

Coracle exists to inspire and enable people to be the presence of God in the brokenness of the world through Spiritual Formation FOR Kingdom Action.

## Our Vision

Our vision is for people to come fully alive through Christ for the sake of the world.

## Our Values

Inspired by and wanting to be like Jesus, as a ministry and as individuals, Coracle values:

- **Contemplation** - living in touch with God and with the day-to-day realities of our worlds; praying together and listening for God's voice and responding.
- **Formation** - living as new persons in Jesus Christ, as our true selves in God and in the world.
- **Kingdom Action** - living in and bringing Shalom more fully into the world for the sake of others and all creation, presenting the Gospel, and pursuing beauty, diversity, and justice as hallmarks of the Kingdom of God.
- **Community** - living connected, authentic and meaningful lives with each other; offering hospitality and sharing life with others, especially those whom God leads to us.

# Coracle's Why

Since we started our journey in 2012, Coracle has been constantly motivated by two inescapable truths - that the world is broken and that Jesus is real. In light of these truths, over the years we have worked hard to enable people to significantly deepen their relationships to God so that they might find new life in Jesus, and powerfully engage places of brokenness in the world with God's redemptive love.

As we look around us now, we see Christians tired, worn out and in need of renewal, and in response **we create spaces that encourage them to draw close to Jesus**. We grieve as we see an expression of the church that too often obscures Jesus instead of making him real and known to all, and in response **we create safe spaces for dialogue and renewal**. We see a world of the seeking and the broken, and in response **we create spaces for belonging, vulnerability, honesty, and encounters with God**.

As from the beginning,

- We help the mature mature.
- We help those longing for More find it.
- We help those looking for God to find God and be found.
- We help those engaging the brokenness of the world find connection and strength to keep engaging.

- We bring God's Kingdom with so many others, working for justice, reconciliation, and shalom for all people.
- We help people be who God has made them to be for the good of all people, the common good, and the good of the world.

We help others live more deeply into **the deepest invitation of the Christian faith**. Since the first centuries of the Christian church and across the Catholic, Orthodox, and Protestant spectrum, noteworthy leaders have made the same, stunning assertion. C.S. Lewis puts it this way: *"Every Christian is to become a little Christ. The whole purpose of becoming a Christian is simply nothing else."* He continues, *"This is the whole of Christianity. There is nothing else. The Church exists for nothing else but to draw people into Christ, to make them little Christs...God became man for no other purpose."*

That's what Coracle is about most fundamentally: helping each other say a loud **"Yes!"** to the invitation to share in the life of Jesus while we're in the world – **to incarnate the Incarnation** – and share the love of Jesus to this beautiful and broken world, for the glory of God, empowered by the Holy Spirit. To this end, we desire to be and to build community, particularly **creating spaces for encounters with God that encourage contemplation (for spiritual formation) and action (for justice and shalom)**. We do this through our various expressions of **The Coracle Community** and through **The Coracle Center of Formation for Action**.



— ” —

I have come to set fire to  
the earth and how I  
wish it were already  
kindled.

-Jesus, Luke 12.49

— ” —

Go forth and set the world on  
fire.

-attr. to St. Ignatius of Loyola

— ” —

Be who God meant you to be and  
you will set the world on fire.

-St. Catherine of Siena

# The Coracle Community

Coracle is an ecumenical community committed to contemplation, formation, and Kingdom action. We are fellow pilgrims pursuing union with God and deeper life in Jesus together for Love's sake in the world. All are welcome to be part of our community to the extent they desire to engage, online or in person, through our various offerings.

- **The Coracle Community in Northern Virginia** gathers regularly on Sunday nights at the Coracle Center in Arlington, VA, for companionship, personal deepening, worship, Gospel reading, prayer, and Eucharist.
- We are working to form an ecumenical, short to mid-term residential community guided by the Benedictine tradition with rhythms of work, study, and prayer. **This Coracle Community at Corhaven** welcomes those seeking rest and renewal through the spiritual discipline of retreat. As Coracle's retreat center in the Shenandoah Valley, Corhaven focuses on ministries of hospitality and spiritual retreat, creation care and spirituality, and racial justice and reconciliation.
- **The Coracle Community Online** provides spaces for gathering regularly for conversation, companionship, retreat, and prayer for people across the country and around the world.
- Some among the Coracle Community choose to practice **A Common Way**, our version of a way of life together that makes the wisdom and practices of the monastic tradition accessible to normal people in the modern world in the concrete circumstances and constraints of our daily lives to which God has called us.



Thus says YHWH: Stand at the crossroads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths,  
where the good way lies; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.

—Jeremiah 6:16

”

I am grateful for this space, I've  
been looking for a space like this.  
Thank you.

-Coracle Participant

”

If a community is to be ablaze  
with visible power and love, it  
will be because some of us are  
personally aflame.

-Gordon Cosby

”

The world is cold. Someone must be on fire so that  
people can come and put their cold hands and feet  
against that fire...The English word 'zeal' usually  
means intensity of action. But real zeal is standing  
still and letting God be a bonfire in you.

-Catherine Doherty, *Poustinia*

# The Coracle Center of Formation *for Action*

In 2025, Coracle launched an ecumenical Center of Formation *for Action* in the Washington, DC metro area. At the Coracle Center, we create opportunities for encounters with God and provide ministries of formation, healing, and action.

We consider Coracle's offerings even more crucial for this moment in which American culture is increasingly divided and Christian witness in America greatly damaged, as again and again, we see:

- many people suffering wounding and disillusionment by the church in America;
- many people feeling disturbed, anxious, exhausted, and disoriented; and
- many lovers of God like "sheep without a shepherd" (Mk 6.34).

*One of the ways Coracle seeks to shine lights into this moment is to lean into our vision of helping people come fully alive through Christ for the sake of the world.*

To create space for this, the Center's offerings occur in a variety of forms, both in person and online, including:

- The Coracle Spiritual Formation Fellowship Program
- Weekly prayer and Eucharist services
- Dedicated spaces for spiritual direction and personal retreat
- Topically themed group retreats and cohorts
- Learning and reflection opportunities, including seminars, lectures, and crucial conversations
- Justice offerings and advocacy, including the Repentance Project
- Local and global pilgrimages
- Publishing written works and digital resources that encourage spiritual formation for Kingdom action, including: the "For The Journey" podcast, the Coracle online "Journal," the Center's YouTube channel, Coracle's "Essential Christianity" course, and Bill Haley's "Thoughts Along the Way" Substack
- Supporting our network of Spiritual Directors, Coracle Associates, and Coracle Chapters

***For current offerings and descriptions, visit our website at [inthecoracle.org](http://inthecoracle.org)***

**The Coracle Fellowship Spiritual Formation Program** leads participants through a series of 12 retreats to go deeper in their relationships with God in order to be a redemptive presence in the world.



**The “Essential Christianity” course** is a book, video, and audio course designed to help participants recover the awe of Jesus and Christianity, available for individual, small group, and church use.

**The Repentance Project** pursues racial healing and reconciliation among all peoples by offering programs to encourage Christians to recognize, repent, and respond to America’s history of racial injustice for the sake of repair and in the context of relationships.





**Space for God** creates space online for encounters with God through a variety of ancient and modern contemplative prayer practices, with weekly virtual offerings in different time zones.

**Coracle's Spiritual Direction** network of 45 directors offers the classic Christian ministry of spiritual accompaniment for a wide variety of people, with scholarships available to broaden accessibility.

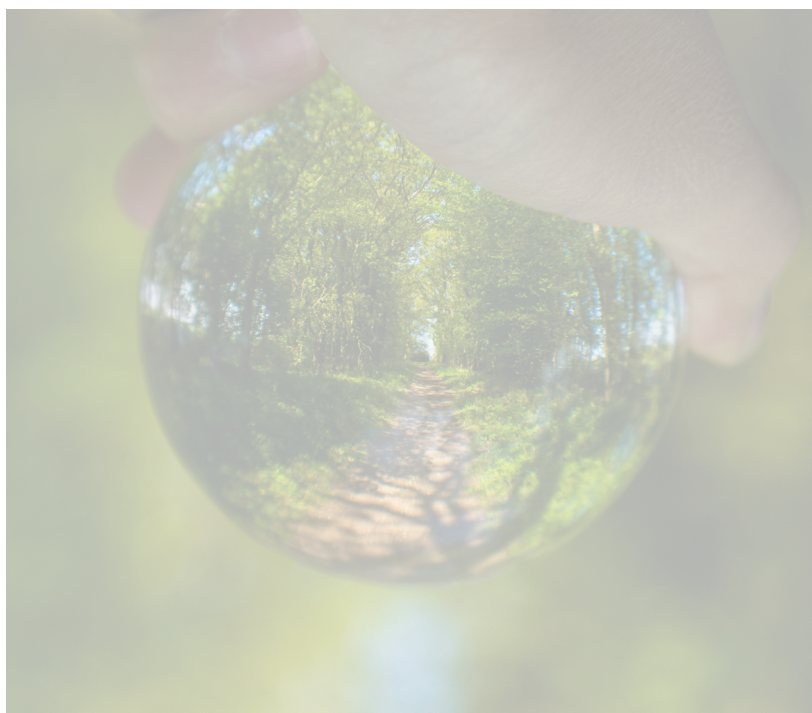


**Pilgrimages and Mission trips** provide transformative travel experiences including Maryland and Virginia slavery history sites, Guatemala and the US/ Mexico Border, the Camino de Santiago in Spain, Celtic Christianity in the UK, Israel/Palestine, and Rome and Assisi.



**Food for the Journey:** Weekly prayer and Eucharist services; topically themed group retreats and cohorts; urban and rural retreat spaces and opportunities.

**Encouragement for the Journey:** written works and digital resources that encourage spiritual formation for Kingdom action, including our “For The Journey” podcast, the Coracle online “Journal,” the Center’s YouTube channel, Coracle’s “Essential Christianity” course, and the “Thoughts Along the Way” Substack.



**Friends for the Journey:** opportunities to gather in-person and online with like-hearted souls on the pilgrimage of this life.

# Expanding the Mission

## Coracle Chapters

Since 2016, Coracle has had a vibrant ministry presence in Baltimore with many offerings and an engaged community. To enable even more ministry and give greater flexibility to discern and respond to God's invitations there, "Coracle Baltimore" will launch as the very first "Coracle Chapter" in 2026. While still closely connected, Coracle Baltimore will forward the mission, vision, and values of Coracle distinctly in that city for the sake of many more people.

We remain curious to see if there are other places that would benefit from being a Coracle Chapter - a local, unique expression of this ministry.

## Coracle Spiritual Directors and Associates

Since the beginning, Coracle has supported a network of trained **Spiritual Directors**, those called to companion others on the journey by offering a listening, prayerful presence. We began with two spiritual directors and now have over 45 offering this particular form of ministry.

For over 10 years, Coracle has enabled those with other unique ministry expressions and vocations to offer those in a way that is supported by our non-profit infrastructure and status, joining us as **Coracle Associates**. In this way Coracle functions as "a mission agency for spiritual entrepreneurs". We anticipate enabling even more people's vocations as Coracle Associates, and by virtue of that provide even more ministries of formation and action.

— ” —

The ministry of Coracle has been such a gift to my life. I have no doubt that the Lord allowed me to 'stumble' upon it for a reason. Thank you for all you are as an organization and what you're offering to a broken and suffering people!

—Coracle Participant

# Why We are Leaning In This Year

Expanding the Coracle Community, establishing the Coracle Center, and furthering Coracle's mission is a way to do what we have always done with conviction:

- promote and incarnate the Christian message together with others to bear witness to the beauty of Jesus;
- help many deepen in their intimacy with God through Jesus; and
- work together to see God's Kingdom come into the world more fully, empowered by Jesus, all for Love's sake.

## Join Us!

If you join us in seeing the real need and value of good spiritual formation, please consider making an investment today in the work of Coracle. Your support will provide spaces for people to encounter Jesus and enable us to make our posture of hospitality sustainable: to welcome anyone to our offerings regardless of their financial situation.

Donations in support of Coracle may be made online or by check made out to "Coracle" and mailed to Coracle, 5401 7th Road South, Arlington, VA 22204.

*Coracle is a U.S. tax-exempt 501 (c) (3) organization.*



**Scan to make a donation**



**Scan to join us at one of  
our upcoming offerings**

## New Initiatives

- Resilience, Response, and Rest 2025
- The Coracle Center of Formation *for* Action
- The Coracle Community

## By the Numbers

- 1,000+ volunteer hours
- 335 individual and group retreatants at Corhaven
- 75+ community gatherings, retreats, and conversations
- 75+ Eucharist services
- 60+ participants engaging with our OT Bible Study
- 52 sessions of Space for God
- 47 spiritual directors companioning 500+ directees
- 45 fellows completing their Coracle Fellowship Program
- 35+ participants engaging with our Repentance Project book study
- 30-40 weekly participants in Space for God
- 22 pilgrims on 2 guided Celtic pilgrimages
- 5 spiritual director apprentices



The Spirit is not content with burning only  
in the center of your being. He longs to  
illumine and inflame your whole being so  
that you not only *have* a fire within you,  
but you *become* entirely a living flame of  
love.

—Wilfrid Stinessen

# From Coracle Participants and Retreatants



Corhaven is a wonderful place to get away from the busy life of the city. It became a sanctuary of peace and I was able to focus and spend time with God. The tranquil setting was perfect for my space and being in solitude with God.

*I am so grateful to engage with fellow believers who are seeking to live justly, mercifully, and courageously!*

We are all needing encouragement from the Lord and through one another in these chaotic times. Pentecost needs to become more of a reality in our lives and Christian communities. Thanks for your pioneering work through Coracle. It is an oasis for us.

*I'm very grateful for the Shepherd's Sabbaths [retreats for pastors] I've been able to receive from Corhaven. They have strengthened and refreshed me. Thank you for your generosity in offering these to pastors.*

God met me where I needed to be met by filling me back up with hope and the Holy Spirit!



[inthecoracle.org](http://inthecoracle.org) | [@inthecoracle](https://twitter.com/inthecoracle)