



eNewsletter of the Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual

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## September 2010

### Welcome to WATER's Fall Programs

*Bienvenido! Willkommen! Karibu! Huānyíng guānglín!*

### WATER Teleconference with Traci West

Wednesday, September 15, 2010, 1-2PM EDT

RSVP to [waterstaff@hers.com](mailto:waterstaff@hers.com) or call 301-589-2509 to receive dial-in information by September 14, 2010.

Dr. Traci West is Professor of Ethics and African American Studies at Drew University Theological School (Madison, NJ). She is a highly respected scholar, preacher, and ordained elder in the United Methodist Church (New York Annual Conference) with both parish and campus ministry experience. She is a member of United Methodists of Color for a Fully Inclusive Church.

Dr. West will talk with us about her chapter "What Does Antiracist Feminist Christian Social Ethics Look Like?" in *New Feminist Christianity: Many Voices, Many Views* (edited by Mary E. Hunt and Diann L. Neu, SkyLight Paths, 2010). Traci is a longtime WATER friend and colleague whose insights into the centrality of anti-violence work resonate widely.

Traci is the author of *Disruptive Christian Ethics: When Racism and Women's Lives Matter* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2006), *Wounds of the Spirit: Black Women, Violence, and Resistance Ethics* (New York University Press, 1999), and the editor of *Our Family Values: Same-sex Marriage and Religion* (Praeger, 2006).

Please feel free to join us on the call for an important discussion with Traci West. Gather some friends, have lunch, and join in the conversation!

RSVP to [waterstaff@hers.com](mailto:waterstaff@hers.com) or call 301-589-2509 to receive dial-in information by September 14, 2010.

For more information on our monthly teleconference series, click [here](#).

### Contemplative Prayer at WATER

*On the second Tuesday of the month*

Join us at the WATER office at 7:30pm or gather a group in your area

WATER offers a regular contemplative prayer opportunity each month. Join us on Tuesday, October 12, 2010 at 7:30 PM. This will be a

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### A Prayer for September

*Beginning Again as the Seasons Change*



As the nights of autumn grew longer, the Druids, priests of the Celtic people of Ireland and the British Isles, feared that the sun might cease to shine, leaving the earth to forces of evil.

They believed fire re-energized the sun and drove away evil spirits.

Let us bring the energy of balancing into our lives by lighting candles. *(Light a candle.)*

A Wish for Balance

**"May the breath of autumn**

time for communal meditation, a time of silence and reflection followed by a short discussion.

The office will be open at 7 PM for a cup of tea. Silence will commence promptly at 7:30 PM so please be here by then. We will finish and be on our way by 8:30 PM.

### Upcoming dates for contemplative prayer

November 9, 2010

December 14, 2010

Please RSVP to [water@hers.com](mailto:water@hers.com) by the day before so that we can expect you or notify you of any changes.

Parking is free in the garage behind the office after 7 PM. The front door of the building has a phone entry system; find "WATER" and dial the office to be buzzed in.

All are welcome. Some of us have been involved in the Engaging Impasse process ([www.engagingimpasse.org](http://www.engagingimpasse.org)) which combines meditation with community dialogue. No experience required! Just come with a contemplative spirit. Your presence will enrich us all. Click [here](#) to donate online.

## WATERWomen Gather for Ritual

On the third Thursday of the month

Join us at the WATER office at 7pm or gather a group in your area

### September 16, 2010: The Autumn Equinox

Welcome to another season of gathering for monthly rituals. The Autumn Equinox, September 21, marks the official beginning of autumn when both night and day are balanced by being the same length. The Autumnal Equinox occurs once a year when the sun crosses the equator and shines equally on the northern and southern hemispheres.

Ancient people celebrated each change of the seasons, knowing that nature's changes outside corresponded to inner changes as well. This is the time to give thanks for the harvest, all that we have gained—and yet, to express grief for all that is lost. This is a time to balance our lives: to begin again as the seasons change, to reflect on the bounty of our hard work, to give thanks for the blessings we have, and to clean out our clutter to prepare for the coming of winter.

Now is the time to remember that we have what we need to give us strength and nourishment during barren, fallow times.

### Upcoming Dates for WATERWomen Rituals

October 21, 2010

November 18, 2010

December 16, 2010

Please RSVP to [waterstaff@hers.com](mailto:waterstaff@hers.com) by the day before so that we can expect you or notify you of any changes.

Click [here](#) to donate online.

## Introducing Our New Intern, Emily Cohen

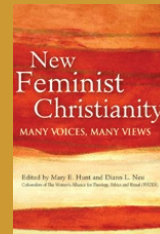
lead you into deeper balance."

-Diann L. Neu, [dneu@hers.com](mailto:dneu@hers.com)

## New Feminist Christianity: Many Voices, Many Views

Edited by Mary E. Hunt and Diann L.

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The twenty-eight contributors to this book are the thought leaders of the future who are shaping, and being shaped by, the emerging directions of feminist Christianity. A must-read for anyone in Christian ministry, as well as religious feminists in and beyond the Christian tradition, and church-based study groups.

Click [here](#) to order now.

## We Count on You!

Your financial support will assist WATER in its important work of actualizing feminist values for religious and social change.

We just had to purchase new computers. They were expensive! Can you help by making a special donation for WATER technology? YOU will benefit! Thanks.

Make checks payable to **WATER** and send to:

WATER  
8121 Georgia Avenue, Suite 310  
Silver Spring MD 20910

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Greetings, WATERmark readers! A recent graduate of Seattle University, I am enjoying the adventure of a new landscape and the opportunity to share a one-year internship with both WATER and Women's Ordination Conference (WOC). I am living in community with four other women, each of whom are working at a different non-profit in the DC area, through the Loretto Volunteer Program. I completed a double major in Theology/Religious Studies and Liberal Studies at SU, where I frequently found myself at the academic and personal confluence of religion and gender. I spent much of my time deep in feminist theology, gender studies, women's literature, and Buddhism. My favorite places to be are those which combine creativity, activism, spirituality, and coffee. To be at WATER and WOC is exciting to say the least! I look forward to the unfolding.



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