

Welcome June 21, 2010 ~ Summer Solstice
A Celebration of Gratitude for the Labyrinth

Diane Ackerman pens, “summer is a new song everyone is humming.”

This is the time of summer solstice—when the light part of the day is the longest. In our part of the world, light is in her Fullness—she shines, ripens, and reveals greenery and the birds sing.

Yet, as light reaches Her Peak, our closet contact with the sun, the dark part of the cycle begins to emerge as the earth turns. On this day of summer solstice, we stand here together to mark another important turning.

In this sacred space and creative circle, we acknowledge the significant mark of the grandmother/mother of all labyrinths in the Twin Cities. The grooves, ridges, and worn path reveal her welcome of all the joys and hopes, agonies and prayers of thousands of walkers.

Labyrinths have been found world wide for over 5,000 years. Thirteen years ago when this labyrinth was mowed into the grounds of the Carondelet Center—the ancient and yet ever new was introduced to the Twin Cities area.

The labyrinth became an oasis for many because of the generosity of the earth to receive, and the CSJs to welcome her. As a result, over the last thirteen years, many walked, facilitated programs and retreats, and deepened personal and communal knowledge and experience about the labyrinth and the journey it invites.

The mission of the CSJ is to love God and neighbor without distinction and to attend to the urgent needs of the time. A new ‘urgent’ need has arisen for the CSJs—the construction of Carondelet Village—a shared vision of the CSJs and Presbyterian homes and services. The space that now bears this outdoor labyrinth is needed for the construction of a Memory Care Unit as part of Carondelet Village.

It seems fitting that as the labyrinth holds memories and journeys of many, the land will soon support all who will live and work in the Memory Care Unit.

Birthered at Pentecost in 1997, we gather as the labyrinth now returns to the earth to reemerge and transform energy in new ways. On the longest day of the year when light begins to diminish, we give thanks for this labyrinth and express our gratitude for all who have walked her paths. We also let go so a new rhythm may turn and come into fullness again.

Our evening will be filled with singing, readings, and a blessing—join as you wish.

Thank you for being here. Thank you for all who are a part of leading this gathering.

Barbara Lund, director Wisdom Ways