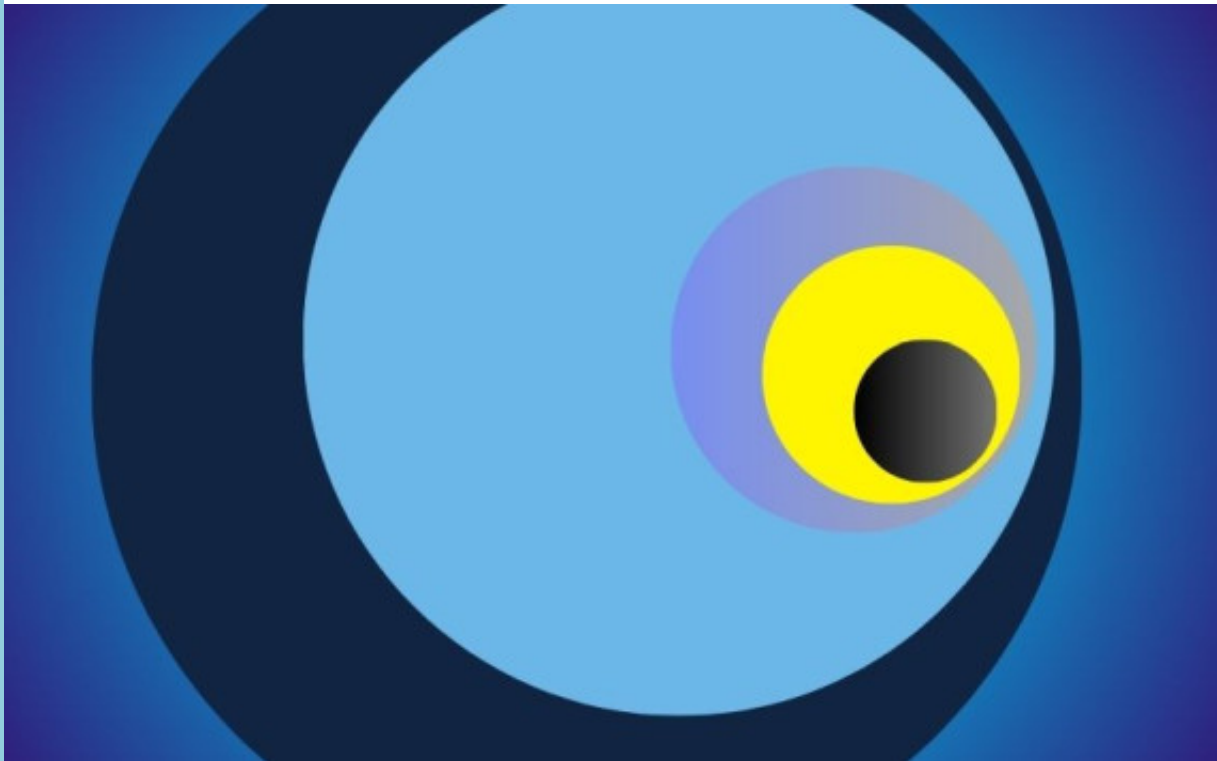


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The Spark, March 9, 2026, Edition 72



Or Have We Lost Our Center?

Across continents, cultures, and political systems, a similar question is surfacing:

What has happened to us?

Why does public discourse feel sharper, thinner, more brittle?

Why does disagreement escalate so quickly into contempt?
 Why does listening feel rare?
 Why does kindness seem fragile in the face of power, fear, and speed?

From North America to Europe, from parts of Africa to South Asia, from democracies to fragile states, citizens are voicing a quiet grief. It is not simply about policy disagreements or geopolitical tensions. It is about something deeper — the erosion of our shared civic temperament. Have we lost our common sense? Our civility? Our ability to listen across differences? Or have we lost our center?

The Age of Acceleration

We are living in the most neurologically overstimulated period in human history.

News travels instantly. Crisis is globalized. Algorithms amplify outrage because outrage keeps us engaged. Political actors — in many nations — understand that fear mobilizes more quickly than reflection. Media systems monetize attention, not depth.

Human nervous systems were not designed to absorb a global emergency every hour.

When we live in a near-constant stress response, listening becomes harder. Nuance feels exhausting. Certainty becomes seductive. Quick judgment feels safer than patient inquiry. What appears to be the loss of common sense may, in part, be the exhaustion of it...

Continue Reading Here



New episode of our podcast "WITH COMPASSION" The Power of Empathy in Politics with Dr. Claire Yorke

Discover how empathy can transform leadership, diplomacy, and political systems. Dr. Claire Yorke shares insights on the role of empathy in conflict reduction, effective governance, and building meaningful international relationships, all backed by her extensive research and experience in international relations.

[Watch/listen to the latest episode with Dr. Claire Yorke](#)

News, Programs, and Webinars



Harmony of Humanity: Exploring Common Ground Through Music with Marilyn Turkovich

Every Wednesday

8am PDT / 9am MDT / 10am CDT / 11am EDT / 3pm GMT / 4pm CET / 5pm SAST / 8:30pm IST

Music has been an integral part of every culture throughout history, reflecting the unique characteristics and traditions of different societies. From the rhythmic beats of African drums to the intricate melodies of Indian ragas, music provides insight into the lives, histories, and identities of people around the world.

By studying various musical traditions, we gain a deeper appreciation for the diversity and richness of global cultures.

[Register For Series 4 Here!](#)



Talk. Listen. Connect. Upcoming TLC Trainings!

TLC: Training for Local Bridge Builders, developed by **Compassionate Communities UK**, is a 90-minute interactive workshop designed to equip everyday citizens with practical tools to become **connectors, bridge builders, and catalysts for kindness** in their communities.

This training recognizes a simple truth: communities thrive when people know how to find one another, listen well, and act with compassion—especially in times of challenge.

Upcoming sessions:

March 11 - [Introduction to Local Bridge Builders TLC with Julian Abel](#)

March 18 - [Introduction to Local Bridge Builders TLC with Mary Ann Boe](#)

March 26 - [Train the Trainer session for Local Bridge Builders TLC with Mary Ann Boe](#)

April 8 - [Introduction to Local Bridge Builders TLC with Mary Ann Boe](#)

April 13 - [Introduction to Local Bridge Builders TLC with Marilyn Turkovich](#)

[Learn more and Register here](#)



Allies in Action: Community & Partner Chat

At this gathering, we aim to foster meaningful conversations, exchange innovative ideas, and address any concerns that you may have.

Together, we can harness the power of collaboration to create tangible change at the local, national, and global levels.

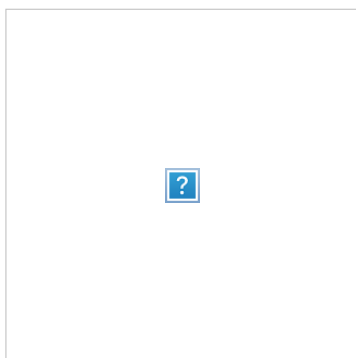
March 9 - US Chat

3pm PDT / 6pm EDT

March 11 - CANADA Chat

4.30pm PDT / 7.30pm EDT

[Learn more and Register here](#)



EdNet Forum: Peace Tracks with Sandra Rizkallah

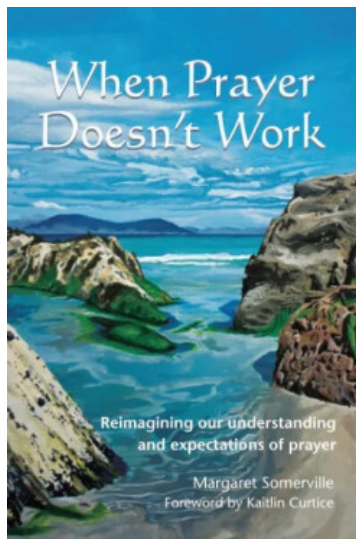
Thursday, March 19

**7:30am PDT / 8:30am MDT / 9:30am CDT /
10:30am EDT / 2:30pm GMT / 3:30pm CET
/ 4:30pm SAST / 8pm IST**

Peace Tracks is a cross-cultural, music-focused online exchange amplifying global voices for peace through music, empathy, and creative collaboration.

In this workshop, attendees will participate in a mini-Peace Tracks session by selecting themes, such as equity, inclusion, climate change, human rights, social justice, and peace for their song, collaboratively writing lyrics for a short song, and creating a beat and vocals for their song using Soundtrap, a digital audio workstation.

[Learn More & Register Here](#)



Global Read: When Prayer Doesn't Work by Margaret Somerville

Wednesday, March 25

**9:30am PDT / 10:30am MDT / 11:30am CDT
/ 12:30am EDT / 4:30pm GMT / 5:30pm
CET / 6:30pm SAST / 10pm IST**

What if prayer is not about having the right words, but about noticing the sacred in washing dishes, the rhythm of breath, or the quiet sharing of tea with a friend?

Margaret Somerville invites us to rediscover prayer as a way of living, not a formula to get right. With wisdom drawn from her Celtic roots, lifelong pilgrimage to the Isle of Iona, and deep engagement with Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim and Jewish traditions, she reimagines prayer as presence in the ordinary.

[Learn More & Register Here](#)



Compassionate Global Women: A month of reflection and conversation

Wednesday, March 25

**10am PDT / 11am MDT / 12pm CDT / 1pm
EDT / 5pm GMT / 6pm CET / 7pm SAST /
10.30pm IST**

Throughout March, we invite you — women and men alike — to spend time with the women featured in our [Compassionate Global Women Padlet Slideshow](#). Then, join us at the end of March, for this conversation.

This will not be a lecture.
It will not be a panel.
It will be a shared reflection.

[Learn More & Register Here](#)



Compassion Circle: The Charter Sangha

Saturday, March 28

**9am PDT / 10am MDT / 11am CDT / 12pm
EDT / 4pm GMT / 5pm CET / 6pm SAST /
9.30pm IST**

On the last Saturday of every month, the Charter for Compassion offers a 90-minute practice of people coming together to be in a Circle, a Sangha.

[Learn More & Register Here](#)



Embodied Presence Course with Eckhart Tolle and Kim Eng

Embodied Presence is a **self-paced online video course** offering an introduction to Eckhart Tolle's timeless teachings—presented in a way that is accessible, practical, and deeply relevant to modern life.

This course invites you to step into the power of presence—living with greater awareness, compassion, and inner strength. You may choose to engage individually or within small groups, making it ideal for personal growth, community circles, or study gatherings.

The program unfolds over eight modules. While you can move at your own pace, we recommend completing one module per week for the most enriching experience.

This program is offered by the Charter for Compassion in partnership with the Eckhart Tolle Foundation, a global coalition working to build a just, compassionate, and sustainable world.

[Learn More & Register Here](#)

From our Partners



URI Intro Workshop Series 2026

URI is launching the 2026 Intro Workshop Series, a global online learning program for interfaith peacebuilders.

Across seven interactive workshops, participants gain practical tools to prevent violence, interrupt hate speech, navigate difficult conversations, strengthen interfaith collaboration, and support earth restoration.

Participants can attend individual sessions or complete pathways to earn certificates.

**Learn More About Upcoming Offerings
with URI Here**



**Voices for a World Free of Nuclear Weapons
Announces Call for Nominations for the 2026 Mikhail
Gorbachev / George Shultz Youth Award**

Nominations are now open and will close on June 30, 2026. The selection committee will announce its decision prior to August 6, 2026.

Voices for a World Free of Nuclear Weapons, a Cooperation Circle of the United Religions Initiative (URI), proudly announces the opening of nominations for the Mikhail Gorbachev / George Shultz Youth Award, given each year on August 6, the anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

The award honors the courage of young people (ages 18–35) who are working to eliminate nuclear weapons and shape a safer, more compassionate world.

[Learn More About the Nomination Process Here](#)



GoldenRuleism Resources

Head to their website to download a free digital e-book, learn how to become an ambassador, and add yourself to the location map!

[Visit GoldenRuleismCan Here](#)



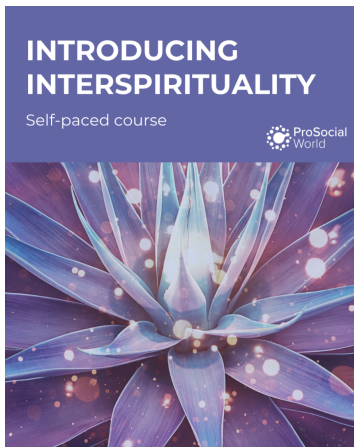
One Million Acts of Kindness

Looking for something that brings hope and connection?

One Million Acts of Kindness is a free, guided 30-day journey where participants commit to one intentional act of kindness each day and reflect on those actions alongside others around the world.

This community-supported experience turns small moments of care into meaningful collective impact.

[Start Your Journey Here](#)



New Virtual, Self-Paced Course: Introducing Interspirituality with ProSocial Spirituality

Are you seeking a deeper spiritual connection?

ProSocial Spirituality blends scientific wisdom with spiritual traditions to create meaningful transformation. Start your journey on your own time with our introductory self-paced course. This course explores Wayne Teasdale's Nine Elements of Universal Spirituality, providing a self-paced journey for personal growth and inner transformation.

[Learn More and Register Here](#)

If you are a Partner organization, or belong to a registered Compassionate City/Community with us, and want to promote your events in The Spark, the Charter for Compassion's newsletter, email contact@charterforcompassion.org



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email felipe@charterforcompassion.org*

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Ripples of Compassion Sticker

US\$4

These stickers are printed on durable, high opacity adhesive vinyl which makes them perfect for regular use, as well as for covering other stickers or paint.

[Shop Stickers](#)



Ripples of Compassion Mug

US\$20-22

Whether you're drinking your morning coffee, evening tea, or something in between – this mug's for you! It's sturdy and glossy with a vivid print that'll withstand the microwave and dishwasher.

[Shop Mugs](#)



Charter for Compassion, 2025



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