

2026 Speaker Series – Guest Speaker Bios

Rev. Becca Stevens (President, Thistle Farms) Bio:

Author, speaker, priest, social entrepreneur, and the founder and president of Thistle Farms. Becca Stevens has served as the chaplain at St. Augustine's for more than 20 years. Her passion is healing communities and she hopes to foster that spirit among the wonderful and diverse folks that gather. Becca Stevens is an author, speaker, priest, social entrepreneur, founder and president of Thistle Farms. Her newest book, "Love Heals," was released in September 2017. Becca lives in Nashville with her husband, Grammy-winning songwriter Marcus Hummon, and their three sons. For Becca's more extensive bio and to learn about her work through Thistle Farms, please click the link in our newsletter.

Rev. Dr. Scott Owings (President, Center for Contemplative Justice) Bio:

Scott is a priest, spiritual director, and professor. In addition to overseeing the CCJ, Scott leads a yearly pilgrimage to Botswana to assist Holy Cross Hospice in their work of relieving suffering from those who have HIV-AIDS. Scott has also worked as a Hospice Chaplain as well as a missionary in Eastern Europe from 1988-2000. Scott was ordained to the priesthood in 2015 and has been serving at St. Augustine's since that time. His areas of involvement include spiritual direction, preaching, pastoral care, leading the contemplative Eucharist, chairing the CCJ, overseeing our graduate interns, and is the point person for our efforts in Botswana. (And anything else Becca doesn't want to do!) Prior to Scott's coming to St. A's, he worked as a Hospice Chaplain, Missionary in Eastern Europe, and Professor of Missions and Ministry at Lipscomb University. He is married to Lisa and they have three adult children: Alex, Eric, and Joy. For fun, Scott loves to explore the mystery of dreams, drink coffee, and talk football and contemplation.

About the Center for Contemplative Justice (CCJ):

The Center for Contemplative Justice grows and sustains corporal acts of justice arising from contemplation. We support one another's common life of prayer and service. We build community and deeper conversation through events, pilgrimages, publications, and services. We nurture the contemplative life and support visions for social and structural change. Visit www.tcfcj.org or click the links in our newsletter to learn more.