

SEPTEMBER 2026



DECEMBER 2026

Weber

RETREAT &
CONFERENCE CENTER

Located on the campus of the Adrian Dominican Sisters



DEAR FRIENDS,

I am honored to be the new Director of Weber Retreat and Conference Center. After serving for 14 years next door at Siena Heights University, I am excited to continue stewarding the Mission of the Adrian Dominican Sisters and advancing the Dominican values of study, prayer, service, community, and hospitality. I am sincerely grateful to Sister Janet Doyle, OP, for sharing her wisdom and guidance during this transition.

At Siena Heights, I was an English Professor and held several leadership positions, including Director of the Ethnic and Gender Studies Institute, Assistant Dean of Academics, and, for this final year of honorable closure, Provost and Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs. During my time there, I deeply valued the Adrian Dominican commitment to seeking truth, fostering inclusion and equity, and accompanying others on their journeys of learning and growth. It is a privilege to continue this ministry at Weber Center.

We welcome the glorious fall season with a rich tapestry of programming to engage your mind, spirit, and imagination. Author and designer Anne Kertz Kernion will spark conversations about neuroscience, spirituality, and wellness. Kim Daniels, an expert on Catholic social thought, will highlight the intersections of poverty, human dignity, and artificial intelligence. We also offer inspiring opportunities through our Lunch and Learn, Mindfulness, and Creative Writing series.

Whether you are a longtime friend or new visitor, welcome to Weber Center. We look forward to exploring and growing together. Please stop by to say hello – I would love to meet you!

Julie M. Barst
Director



WEBER CENTER FALL BROCHURE | SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2026

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PROGRAM REGISTRATION

Visit www.webercenter.org and click on "Programs." Find the program you're registering for and click on the blue "Register" button in the bottom right corner. Enter all information and then click "Add to Cart" to proceed to payment.

517-266-4000 | webercenter@adriandominicans.org

LUNCH & *Learn* SERIES

12:15 - 1:00 P.M.



Bring your lunch (drinks and dessert provided) or purchase lunch from Weber Center for \$8 (choice of egg salad, turkey and cheese, or chicken salad croissant sandwich with chips) by registering at least two days in advance of the event.

SISTER MIRIAM MICHAEL STIMSON: **THE SOUL OF DNA** WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Dr. Jun Tsuji, author of *The Soul of DNA*, presents Adrian Dominican Sister Miriam Michael Stimson's groundbreaking discoveries that led to important medical treatments.

HIDDEN HAVEN ADRIAN WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

The owner of the Hidden Haven Adrian Outdoor Adventure Park shares what's available for family fun and team-building adventures at its 12-acre countryside retreat.

WEBER CENTER SHOP **CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE PREVIEW**

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11

It's not too early to begin shopping for Christmas! Katherine Dusseau, Weber Center Shop Manager, shares this season's Christmas cards, nativities, ornaments, and many other treasures available during this special season. Come to participate in special raffles, discounts, and giveaways.

SELF-CARE FOR THE HOLIDAYS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9

The busy holiday season can take a toll on our mind, body, and spirit. Join us for a presentation and discussion with Elizabeth Davis, Professor of Social Work, who shares tips to help you handle the stress that often comes with the holidays.

Free and open to all. Registration not required.

SPIRITUALITY & NEUROSCIENCE:

Nourishing Our Well-Being

6:30 P.M. FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 -
10:00 A.M. SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Our spiritual habits affect our physical and emotional health in a variety of ways. Fascinating neuroscience insights inform our awareness of how these practices slow aging in our cells; keep our brains healthy and nimble; reduce stress; and bring more health, happiness, and compassion into our lives. Beautifully crafted multimedia presentations include the Breath, Meditation, Gratitude, Nature, and Self-Compassion. Contemplative time and optional creative art projects are offered; no skills required.

Anne Kertz Kernion encourages people to connect with others through her beautiful



hand-designed cards (cardsbyanne.com) with inspiring and uplifting messages. A former adjunct professor at Carlow University, she is an award-winning author of three books, including her latest, *The Four Connections: How to Flourish by Aligning Our Beliefs, Body, Brain, and Bonds* (Loyola Press). Anne is a popular speaker who combines insights from science, positive psychology, and theology (culled from her academic background) to cultivate and encourage our daily spiritual practices. She is married to Jack, and they have three grown children and six grandchildren.

Cost (meals included): Commuter: \$130 | Double occupancy: \$250 | Single occupancy: \$350
Registration required.

Days of MINDFULNESS

SATURDAYS | 10:00 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.

Join our mindfulness community as we deepen our understanding of and commitment to daily meditation practice. Reflecting upon our relationships with honesty and courage, we amplify our capacity to be love within family, neighborhood, city, and world.

THE WANDERING MIND **SEPTEMBER 12**

Consider this teaching of the Buddha, “Mind is the forerunner of all things.” Mind here is more than our thoughts, more than our concepts, more than our intellect. It is with the mind that one comes to know, to be aware of the qualities we have cultivated in the course of our lives, knowingly or unknowingly. What we think, what we say, how we feel, our regrets, our resentments are all expressions of mind. Our practice is to notice how easily the mind takes us for a ride into the past or the future with its memories, judgments, emotions, feelings, and desires.

BECOMING A ZONE OF PEACE **OCTOBER 10**

Those of us awakening with eyes to see, ears to hear, and hearts to feel know that we are in the midst of great change. Along with scientists and spiritual writers attending to the signs of the times, we are beginning to hear the call to participate in the evolution of humanity. We’re awakening to the reality that along with all life, we humans are ever in the process of becoming. May we learn to discern the voices of the ancestors. They instruct us to seed the blessings of interdependence, community, and loving awareness with compassion, kindness, and mutual respect: essential for a wise society.



STEADINESS IN CHALLENGING TIMES **NOVEMBER 7**

Breath and conscious breathing are a portal into the ease of body, mind, and heart. Sensing the expansion of the abdomen, the movement of the chest, the in and out of the nostrils, one may begin to experience an inner rhythm of calm. Let the awareness deepen and become soft and relaxed. At times the breath may be long or short, flowing or tense, soft or rigid. Just notice. Gently be with the breath as it reveals itself. Remember you are not the breather.

OPEN TO ONE'S VULNERABILITY **DECEMBER 5**

When we share thoughts and feelings with others, we allow ourselves to be vulnerable and are birthing courage and resilience. Brené Brown reminds us that vulnerability surely implies uncertainty, risk, and emotional exposure which fuels our lives in many ways. Intimacy deepens when we are willing to share from the heart those scary feelings of insecurity, shame, forgiveness, loneliness, and even love itself.



Esther Kennedy, OP, an Adrian Dominican Sister, is a retreat leader and spiritual director. She conducts a monthly Day of Mindfulness at Weber Center.

***Cost: \$35/session, includes lunch. Registration required.
Each session is limited to 30 participants.***

IN PERSON

Autumn Equinox

RITUAL CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

3:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.

*"And The Sun
took a step back,
the leaves lulled
themselves to sleep
and Autumn
was awakened."*

- RAQUEL FRANCO

Come for this third turning of Earth's Seasons.

Time of great gratitude. Time for story and song.

COME ENJOY THE COMPANY OF ONE ANOTHER.

Free. Registration not required.

Writing WORKSHOPS



As Leaves are Falling

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Just like the leaves on trees every autumn, a natural step in life is leaving and moving on to the next season or period of growth. Reflecting on these periodic times in our lives, we'll write about the leavings we remember and share our just-written work with others. A Zoom link will be sent prior to the workshop. Beginning and experienced writers are welcome.



Tarianne DeYonker, OP, MSW, is an Adrian Dominican Sister and a certified leader of Amherst Writers and Artists workshops.

Cost: \$35 | *Registration required.*



Winter's Invitation

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.

We enter the quieter season when animals, birds, plants, and humans tend to hibernate. We'll look at what encourages our inner pondering and steps that invite us into a quieter way of being. We'll write together, share our just-written work, and learn what's naturally strong and memorable in our writing. Be ready for surprise. A Zoom link will be sent prior to the workshop. Beginning and experienced writers are welcome.

ADVENT RETREAT:

Come, Let Us Rejoice and Be Glad

6:30 P.M. **SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 29–**
 10:00 A.M. **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3**

At the beginning of this holy season, you are invited to join with others who also long for a world where God's love radiates among all people. The first reading of this new liturgical year makes clear that you are not alone in this desire. Together, we explore some of the readings of the season and pray that we become living signs of God's dwelling in us and among us.

Sister Maribeth Howell, OP, is a Dominican Sister of Adrian, Michigan. Her ministry



has primarily involved teaching the Hebrew Scriptures at the graduate level. She has also given workshops and retreats in various dioceses, translated the Psalms and other Old Testament texts in *Dominican Praise*, and been engaged as a spiritual companion.

Cost (meals included): Commuter: \$125
Double occupancy: \$225
Single occupancy: \$325

Registration required.

Winter Solstice

RITUAL CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

3:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.

*"Tis the solstice, the still point of the sun,
its cusp and midnight,
the year's threshold and unlocking,
where the past lets go of
and becomes the future;
the place of caught breath..."*

- MARGARET ATWOOD

Come with friends, with family and enter the circle with joy and enthusiasm
as we light the fire on this darkest night of the year!

Free. Registration not required.

LIVESTREAM

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE,
HUMAN DIGNITY, AND
“*The Least of These*”

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10 | 7:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

This workshop explores the intersection of artificial intelligence and Catholic social teaching, focusing on how the moral vocabulary of the Catholic tradition offers a practical framework to help ensure that AI development serves everyone. Drawing on Catholic social teaching around AI, including Pope Leo XIV’s recent encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas*, we examine how AI systems are currently affecting the most vulnerable among us, and explore how this technology can be used to support human flourishing, empower workers, and advance the common good rather than simply prioritizing efficiency.



Kim Daniels is the Director of the Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life at Georgetown University. She served from 2016 to 2026 as a member of the Vatican Dicastery for Communication and in the 2021-24 Synod on Synodality as an expert participant and as the coordinator of one of the 10 major synod study groups, which focused on the Church’s mission in the digital environment.

Cost: \$35

Registration required.

For the latest program information,
VISIT WEBERCENTER.ORG

Christmas Open House

KICK-OFF & PREVIEW

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 12:15 P.M.

Join us for this Lunch and Learn event with special raffles, discounts, and giveaways.



Weber Shop

AT WEBER RETREAT & CONFERENCE CENTER

CHRISTMAS

Open House

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11 - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Beautiful Nativities • Christmas Cards • Unique Gifts
Original Ornaments • Christmas Books • Special Discounts



Weber Center

HOSTED GROUPS

Weber Retreat and Conference Center is thrilled to be hosting the following private group events:

SEPTEMBER

The School of the Spirit Ministry

Lake Erie Yearly Meeting
Spiritual Formation

Church of the Cross

St. John's Lutheran Church

OCTOBER

St. Joan of Arc Parish
Men's ACTS Retreat

Leadership Conference for
Women Religious Region VII

Lenawee Lifelong Learning
Fall Classes

Christ the King Parish
Women's ACTS Retreat

Little Flower Parish
Men's ACTS Retreat

The Synod of the Covenant
Meetings and Retreat

Broadmead Friends Retreat

NOVEMBER

RockPointe Community Church
Men's Retreat

The School of the Spirit Ministry

St. Mary's Student Parish

Sacred Heart Parish
Men's ACTS Retreat

Weber Center spaces are available for rent to all non-profit organizations who align with the values of the Adrian Dominican Sisters and who have liability insurance. Whether you have five people or 130 people to accommodate, we have meeting rooms to fit your needs.

For more information, contact Beverly Woodbury at 517-266-4005,
bwoodbury@adriandominicans.org, or visit www.webercenter.org.



Meet Our Team

CO-WORKERS AT WEBER CENTER



JULIE BARST
Director



BEVERLY WOODBURY
Assistant Director



KRYSTAL BAKER
Facility Coordinator



KATHERINE DUSSEAU
*Weber Center Shop
Manager*



STARLA FICK
*Weber Center Shop
Assistant*



MICHELE STENSON
*Lead Guest Services/
Administrative Assistant*



SUSAN STODDARD
*Guest Services/
Receptionist*



PAULA SOTO
*Guest Services/
Receptionist*



KRIS COOPER
*On-call Guest Services/
Receptionist*



MARILYN PAUS
*On-call Guest Services/
Receptionist*

Weber

Weber Retreat & Conference Center
1257 East Siena Heights Drive
Adrian, MI 49221-1793

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

