

For Immediate Release

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Acclaimed spiritual leader and earth advocate visits Lafayette

An international theologian whose life work is advocating for harmony in the universe will be the guest speaker at Central Presbyterian Church May 11-13.

Dr. John Philip Newell is a scholar, peacemaker, poet and ordained Church of Scotland minister who is acclaimed for his work in the field of Celtic spirituality and care of the earth. He has a Ph.D. from the University of Edinburgh and has authored more than 15 books. His latest book A New Harmony was named one of the “Best Spiritual Books of 2011.” He also has produced four CD’s of meditative prayers and chants.

Newell, who has taught in New Harmony, IN, has formed Salva Terra: A Vision Toward Earth’s Healing as a non-profit organization to “seek transformation by remembering life’s sacredness, addressing life’s brokenness and serving earth’s oneness.”

The schedule of events at the church (31 N. Seventh St., Lafayette) includes having Newell give a community presentation/book signing at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 11, and a two-hour experiential workshop for the community at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 12. He will also preach on Mother’s Day. Newell is the former spiritual leader of Iona Abbey in Scotland and he leads retreats each July at Ghost Ranch Presbyterian retreat center near Santa Fe in addition to traveling across the United States weekly to lead seminars.