**Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction - MBSR**

Northern Michigan Psychiatric Services, PC

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Recordings: [www.nmpspc.com](http://www.nmpspc.com) Classes – Free Adult Meditations

**Week 2 Home Practice Assignment**

* Practice the Body Scan Meditation with the recording at least 6 times this week
* Practice Attentional Focus Meditation each day for 10-15 minutes – no recording
* Choose an everyday activity each day to bring full awareness to: (brushing teeth, showering, cooking, walking, exercise, writing etc.)
* Fill out one entry per day in the Pleasant Events Calendar
* Continue your practice of Mindful Eating - optional

***The Guest House***by Rumi

This being human is a guest house.
Every morning a new arrival.

A joy, a depression, a meanness,
some momentary awareness comes
as an unexpected visitor.

Welcome and entertain them all!
Even if they're a crowd of sorrows,
who violently sweep your house
empty of its furniture,
still, treat each guest honorably.
He may be clearing you out
for some new delight.

The dark thought, the shame, the malice,
meet them at the door laughing,
and invite them in.

Be grateful for whoever comes,
because each has been sent
as a guide from beyond.

\*See the next page for ***“A Response to The Guest House”*** by Amy Newells

***A Response to The Guest House*** by Amy Newells

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| Welcome all the visitors, you say.Do not put bars on the windowsor locks on the doors. Do not close upthe chimney flue. Duct tape and plasticsheeting will not keep visitors at bay.They’ll pound on the doors, they’ll breakyour windows, they’ll breach the barricadesthey’ll storm the beach, swarm in like antsthrough cracks. They’ll leak like water throughthe walls, and creep like mice, and curl like smokeand crack like ice against the window glass.Keep them out? It can’t be done, don’t try.Welcome all the visitors.Fine. There’s all kindsof welcoming, however.I do not have to throw a house party.I will not post flyers.There will be no open bar.No one will get drunkand lock themselves in the bathroom.No one will break furniture, grind chipsinto the rug, throw anyone else in the poolor lose an earring in the couch.I do not have to run a guest house, either.There will be no crackling fireand no easy chairs. I will not servetea to the visitors. I will not dispenseginger snaps and ask my guestsabout themselves:“Did my mother send you?”“Why must you plague me?”“Why not stay awhile longer?”“Who are you, really?”If I must welcome – and I am convinced I must –Let me build a great hall to receive my guests.Like a Greek temple, let it be open on all sides.Let it be wide, and bright, and empty.Let it have a marble floor:Beautiful – and cold, and hard.Let there be no sofas, no benches, no dark corners,no anterooms and no coat closets.No walls, not even a ledge to lean against.I’ll welcome anyone who comes,I’ll show them my enormous empty hall.Come in, come in, I’ll say. I’ll even smile,perhaps make a conversation for awhile.And if someone settles on the floor, as if to stay,or circles round and round, as if they’ve lost their wayI’ll be kind, extend my hand,and gently show them out again. |