**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 windows  or locks on the doors. Do not close up  the chimney flue. Duct tape and plastic  sheeting will not keep visitors at bay.  They’ll pound on the doors, they’ll break  your windows, they’ll breach the barricades  they’ll storm the beach, swarm in like ants  through cracks. They’ll leak like water through  the walls, and creep like mice, and curl like smoke  and 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 kinds  of 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 drunk  and lock themselves in the bathroom.  No one will break furniture, grind chips  into the rug, throw anyone else in the pool  or lose an earring in the couch.  I do not have to run a guest house, either.  There will be no crackling fire  and no easy chairs. I will not serve  tea to the visitors. I will not dispense  ginger snaps and ask my guests  about 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 way  I’ll be kind, extend my hand,  and gently show them out again. |