MICHAEL DOWD and CONNIE BARLOW will reflect on the meaning of The Great Story from a host of different perspectives while in Madison. In a very diverse set of venues, they will share their passion for a spiritual sensibility grounded in a contemporary cosmological understanding of the Universe as intrinsically creative.

Michael Dowd is the author of *EarthSpirit: A Handbook for Nurturing an Ecological Christianity*—the first major work to popularize the epic of evolution for Christians and to look appreciatively at the core tenets of New Testament faith from the perspective of the new cosmology.

Connie Barlow is a correspondent for *Wild Earth* magazine and a contributing editor for *EarthLight* magazine. She is the author of several popular science books that explore the intersection of evolutionary and ecological sciences with philosophy and religion, including:


Connie’s great joy in life is sharing ways in which an understanding of the evolutionary and ecological sciences can enhance our communion with the natural world and with one another.

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE OF CHARGE

HUMANITY’S COMMON CREATION STORY

The Great Story is also known as the Universe Story or Epic of Evolution. It is the 13 billion year scientific epic of cosmic genesis, from the formation of the galaxies and the origin of Earth life to the emergence of self-reflective consciousness and development of human technology. The Great Story is the story that honors and embraces all other stories. It is the sacred epic of an evolving Universe of emergent complexity and breathtaking creativity, a story that offers each of us the opportunity to find meaning and purpose in our lives and our time in history.

Michael Dowd is a gifted preacher and story teller who served as a congregational minister for ten years, pastoring United Church of Christ (UCC) churches in Massachusetts, Ohio, and Michigan.

In 1995, Michael began working with interfaith partners across the country on religious and environmental issues. He is a charismatic preacher and teacher on the sacred and psychological implications of a science-based cosmology.

Michael’s great joy in life is telling the 13 billion year epic of divine creativity in ways that evoke awe, gratitude, and trust in the emergent cosmic process, strengthen faith, and empower people to follow the path where their great joy and the world’s great need intersect.

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Connie Barlow’s most recent book, *The Ghosts of Evolution*, was Amazon.com’s top recommended science book for several months in 2001.
**Saturday, September 7**

**UW Arboretum Visitor Center, 263-7888**

1:00-4:00 p.m. – “North America Story/Coming Native to Place”

Using a slide talk, Connie presents the marvelous story that begins 65 million years ago, when a meteor put an end to the Age of Dinosaurs. Time outside will be integrated in.

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**Sunday, September 8**

The MinGei Center for Creation Spirituality

1:00-4:00 p.m. – “Great Story Beads/Coming Home to North America”

Great Story Beads are a delightful way to celebrate the all-embracing story of cosmos, Earth, life, and humanities/learn the 70 million year story of your continent through a dramatic and participatory story-telling ritual. Call Penny Andrews at 839-4509 or pandrews@chorus.net

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**Monday, September 9**

Canterbury Books with Connie Barlow

315 W. Gorham

7:00 p.m. – Discussion of Wild Earth, a collection of essays celebrating the 10th anniversary of the magazine Wild Earth, and of The Eternal Frontier – An Ecological History of North America and its Peoples.

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**Tuesday, September 10**

Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ

1501 Gilbert Road

5:00-7:00 p.m. – Potluck Dinner Book Discussion with Michael Dowd on his book, “EarthSpirit: A handbook for Nurturing an Ecological Christianity”

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**Wednesday, September 11**

St. Benedicts Center

4299 County Trk M, Middleton, WI

7:00-8:30 p.m. – “Finding Hope in Challenging Times”

Michael interprets widely accepted scientific and historical understandings that can support each of us in creating our own hopeful visions for the future.

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**Saturday, September 14**

Vermont Valley Farm (CSA)

4628 Cty. Hwy. FF, Vermont Township

10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. – “Bioregionalism/North America Story”

How our North American story teaches us to celebrate and care for the region, and how bioregionalism teaches us to do the same for our local area. Bring a picnic lunch.

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**Monday, September 16**

St. Paul’s Catholic University Catholic Center

723 State Street

7:00-9:00 p.m. – “Christianity in an Evolving Universe”

How can an up-to-date scientific understanding of the universe deepen one’s Christian faith? This talk is intended to provide Christian Students with the guidance they need to reconcile their science learning with their faith tradition.

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**Friday, September 13**

Canterbury Books

315 W. Gorham

7:00-9:00 p.m. – Book discussion with Connie Barlow on her book, The Ghosts of Evolution/The Universe Began with a Bang by Jennifer Morgan

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**Saturday, September 15**

Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ

1501 Gilbert Road

10:00 a.m. worship – “Great News for a New Millennium” with Michael Dowd

Why is the emergence of a globally created, scientifically sound, and deeply meaningful creation story “Great News” for humanity? How can this story empower us as individuals and communities to further the Great Work of ensuring a just, healthy, beautiful and sustainably life giving world for the future?

11:15 a.m. forum – “The Marriage of Science and Religion” with Connie Barlow and Michael Dowd together

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**Sunday, September 21**

UW Arboretum Visitor Center, 263-7888

10:30-11:30 a.m. – “Wildlands Project”

Michael interprets widely accepted scientific and historical understandings that can support each of us in creating our own hopeful visions for the future.

1:00-2:00 p.m. – “Science, Spirituality, and Passion for Life/America’s Great Awakening/Celebrants of the Great Story”

A discussion of our personal faith journeys and a vision of America playing an indispensable role in moving humanity into a glorious and life giving future.

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**Wednesday, September 18**

Madison Campus Ministry

1127 University Ave.

7:00-8:30 p.m. – “Finding Your Own Great Work”

What is the Great Work of our time and how do we each find and respond to our callings at the growing edge of evolution? Participants will be invited to reflect on the key facets of our own great joy, and to notice where their hearts are touched by Earth’s great need.

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**Saturday, September 19**

Edgewood College, Anderson Auditorium

1000 Edgewood College Drive

7:00 p.m. – “A Cosmic Creation Story” with Connie and Michael

Experience a science based walk through time which honors nature and spiritual meaning, and celebrates the human role in the universe story. Refreshments follow.

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**Monday, September 23**

Edgewood College Chapel

1000 Edgewood College Drive

Music at 7:00, celebration at 7:30 p.m.

“Songs of the Soul: an Interfaith celebration of the fall equinox with chants, meditation, and dances of universal peace”

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**For more information on these events, contact:**

David Creswell: 274-8938 (dcres0@hotmail.com)

Winton Boyd: 271-7212 (winton@orucc.org)

For more information about Michael Dowd and Connie Barlow please visit their website: www.thegreatstory.org