

## A Quest for Meaning & A Beautiful Life

"The mystery of human existence lies not in just staying alive but in finding something to live for." ~Fyodor Dostoyevsky

"The purpose of life is to discover your gifts. The work of life is to develop them. The meaning of life is to give your gifts in the world." ~David Viscott

"Seek first the kingdom of God and His Character and all things will also be given you." ~Matt. 6: 33 (Amplified Bible)

Dear Partners on the Quest,

Report card time produced a good deal of hope as well as anxiety for my sisters, brother and I. Why? Because my dad devised a motivational system regarding our progress in school. All during elementary school the practice entailed laying our report cards, open-faced, on our dining room table after school. When my dad arrived home, he would apply the motivation technique to the open report cards—a quarter for E (excellent) .15 for VG (very good), a dime for G (good), a nickel for C (ok) and zip for anything less.

His bottom-line quest involved tooling us to create a meaningful, beautiful life. We did not


appreciate this at the time but we definitely do now. He worked 2 jobs many years so he could provide college educations for all of us. He did not have that opportunity himself and it gave his life meaning to provide it for us. His home life growing up was very difficult and it has always inspired me that he rose so far above that. Just as important, his legacy included being an example of integrity, generosity, compassion, strength, dedication to worthy endeavors, great courage and consistent, reliable love . Giving his children and my mom a loving, secure home life gave great meaning to his life—and to mine.

As we continue our Adventure in Faith, we continue to explore what gives meaning to your life and what makes your life beautiful. In your prayer and reflection time, look and see what has given meaning and a sense of purpose to your life. What is it that makes life beautiful—are there simple things like putting out Halloween decorations, being with family for Thanksgiving, appreciating a star-filled sky, taking time to call a friend?

My friend, Eileen, created a Halloween wreath with little pumpkins and small skulls

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# November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>November Birthdays:</b>					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
3—Evelyn Leavitt 7—Jeanne Roberts 10—Joanne Sommers		12—Jerry Burt 19—Mollie Kidari 23—Sig McGriff		24—Marlene Messer 26—Jo Kennedy 29—Donna Harlow		10:30am Womens Group
<b>3</b> 10:30am <i>Stay the Course &amp; Travel Light</i> Rev Sharon Connors Birthday/Anniversary Sunday 11:45am Fellowship Noon Prayer Chaplain Mtg 12:30pm Choir rehearsal	<b>4</b> 4:30pm TOPS 5pm ACA	<b>5</b> 10am Circle of Prayer 10:30am A Course Of Love 10:30am AA 1pm Enrichment Billie Shawl	<b>6</b> 10:00am SW Vly Enlightenment Ctr Metaphysical 10:30am Enrichment Rev Sharon	<b>7</b> 10am Enrichment Linda Cogdill 10:30am AA 1pm Enrichment Rev Billie 3pm Men's Group Connection 5:30pm Enrichment Kate Okrongly 6pm OA	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 10:30am <i>Mystery, Wonder &amp; Awe</i> Rev Sharon Connors Recognize Veterans' Day 11:45am Fellowship 1pm Talent Show	<b>11</b> 4:30pm TOPS 5pm ACA	<b>12</b> 10am Circle of Prayer 10:30am A Course Of Love 10:30am AA 1pm Enrichment Billie Shawl	<b>13</b> 10:30am Enrichment Rev Sharon 6pm Sound Healing Meditation	<b>14</b> 10am Enrichment Linda Cogdill 10:30am AA 1pm Enrichment Rev Billie 5:30pm Enrichment Kate Okrongly 6pm OA	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 10:30am <i>Making a Difference</i> Rev Sharon Connors 11:45am Fellowship Arts & Crafts Show 12:30pm Choir rehearsal	<b>18</b> 4:30pm TOPS 5pm ACA	<b>19</b> 10am Circle of Prayer 10:30am A Course Of Love 10:30am AA 1pm Enrichment Billie Shawl	<b>20</b> 10:00am SW Vly Enlightenment Ctr Metaphysical 10:30am Enrichment Rev Sharon	<b>21</b> 9am Men's Group Breakfast 10am Enrichment Linda Cogdill 10:30am AA 1pm Enrichment Rev Billie 5:30pm Enrichment Kate Okrongly 5:30 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at 1st Presbyterian 6pm OA	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 10:30am <i>New Horizons Beckon</i> Rev Sharon Connors 11:45 Fellowship Thanksgiving Lunch	<b>25</b> 4:30pm TOPS 5pm ACA	<b>26</b> 10am Circle of Prayer 10:30am A Course Of Love 10:30am AA 1pm Enrichment Billie Shawl 5pm Healing Hands	<b>27</b> 10:30am Enrichment Rev Sharon	<b>28</b> Office Closed 10:30am AA 6pm OA 	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>



**TALENT SHOW**  
 November 10, 1pm  
 In Sanctuary

Just in time for Christmas shopping



**ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW**  
 November 17<sup>th</sup> During Fellowship

**Mission Statement:**  
 To teach and demonstrate principles that inspire people to live their greatest life through discovering Spirit within.

**Watch For Information on Our Next Membership Class, "Unity Basics" Coming to You On Sunday, December 8**

## Vision 2024/2025

### (Projects over and above our normal operating expenses)

Unity Spiritual Center is a place that brings us together to be one in Spirit. It affords us a place for spiritual nourishment, as well as a place for meaningful fellowship. It is a place where we make lifelong friends and help each other through our Spiritual Journeys. The Annual Appeal gives us an opportunity to support the health and wellbeing of our church. Below are items that are outside of our normal operating budget. We thank you in advance for helping us meet these needs. On December 6<sup>th</sup> we will all celebrate the great victory of meeting our goal of \$12,000.

• Update restrooms in Sanctuary	\$4,100
• Repair 3 air conditioners in Activity Center	2,700
• Replace icemakers that keep breaking with one recommended by repairman	2,200
• Replace 20-year old water heater	2,000
• Landscaping: fix sprinkler system and replace a few dead plants	1,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>

## Save The Date!

### Gala Dinner Dance December 6

Celebrate our successful Adventure in Faith and Fund Drive on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>. We'll be dancing to a DJ (Tito Valentin!), enjoying a delicious catered dinner, including hors d'oeuvres and dessert and beverage: beer, wine, soft drink. Plus, our A/V team will be showing a fun video of our Adventure! Tickets now on sale for \$50 advance price/\$60 at the door.



### Volunteer of the Month: Evelyn Leavitt

Just three months after we welcomed visitor, Evelyn Leavitt, she became a member and immediately jumped in to fill the "Queen of the Kitchen" role that Julie McKenna left vacant when she moved to Colorado. She's so busy Sunday mornings that you may not have had an opportunity to get to know her. And you really should make a point of chatting with this many talented, service-oriented, fascinating lady. She's a seamstress who sold artificial fur coats among other goods at art fairs throughout the state and beyond, is a hairstylist and a food artist! She donates much of the healthier food at Fellowship, and always makes a beautiful presentation. Be sure to stop by her table during the Arts & Crafts Show and pick up a few of her inspired creations.

## A Course of Love Goes Beyond A Course in Miracles Tuesdays @ 10:30am Meets in the Fillmore Classroom

### Interfaith Thanksgiving Service Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30pm

First Presbyterian Church invited Temple Beth Shalom and Unity Spiritual Center to join together in an Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at First Presbyterian Church (12225 N 103rd Ave.) on Thursday, November 21, at 5:30 p.m. Pastor Tom Tripp, Rabbi Dana Kaplan and Rev. Sharon Connors will share in this service. Refreshments will follow, with opportunity to get to know one another better.

### USC Annual Thanksgiving Celebration Sunday, November 24th

We're putting together the menu for this year's Thanksgiving Potluck Luncheon. Plan to join us after our Celebration Service, and bring your family! As usual, the luncheon is reservation only because we'll need a head count. Look for side-dish and RSVP signup sheets in the church lobby on Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>.



**We are so grateful for the veterans in our congregation. Thank you for your service. Please join us during our November 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday Celebration Service for a special Veterans' Day blessing.**

### Vision Statement:

Advance spiritual growth in our community and our world by expressing love for all, acceptance of all and service to all.

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that light up. It's beautiful, especially at night. Creating beauty gives her life meaning .

As we approach the holidays and the close of 2024, consider what has been meaningful and beautiful in your life this year. Let it bless you and be good omen for the holidays and for 2025.

Be sure to join us on Sunday mornings, too, for some inspiration and the joy of our community.

With great love,

Rev. Sharon

### **Men's Group Connections — Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup> @ 3pm**

The men's group meets the first Thursday of every month in the Ken Haynes Memorial Library from 3 to 5pm.

### **Men's Group Breakfast — Thursday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 9am**

On November 21<sup>st</sup> the group will meet at Bobby's Café, 15472 N 99th Avenue in Sun City. That's in the strip mall at the northwest corner of 103rd & 99th Avenues.

All men are invited to both meetings... and bring a friend to introduce him to Unity. Sign up in the sanctuary lobby or bookstore. Contact Ken Weidner with questions: KWeidner2000@yahoo.com.

### **Special Combined Women's & Men's Groups Getting Ready for Christmas Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am**

All women and men — including your friends who don't normally come to church — are invited to join us on December 7<sup>th</sup> for a Deck the Halls Christmas decorating party. Plan to join us at 10:30 to help decorate the church campus, and we'll follow the decorating festivities with a pizza party, including a nice big tossed salad. No love offering requested, but please pre-register on the green form in the church lobby, bookstore or activity center bulletin board so we know how much pizza and salad fixings to get.

### **Power of the Month: Release**

Disciple=Thaddeus; vibration=russet. Divine release clears a path for experiencing the miracles of grace, new clarity, improved outlook, greater sense of freedom and personal spaciousness. It is our spiritual easer and roto-rooter. Honoring it in prayer and meditation and willingness, brings up what we need to release—fears, resentments, life-depleting emotions, attitudes and habits.

### **Crystal Bowl Sound Healing Meditation Wednesday November 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm**

Emily Slonina is back to lead a Crystal Bowl Sound Healing Meditation. This is a public event; no yoga experience required. Bring a blanket or yoga mat and pillow if you like to lay down. And bring WATER! Love Offering \$20.

  
**unity**<sup>®</sup>  
Spiritual Center

**We're on the Web at  
www.unitysc.org**

#### **Ministers**

Rev. Sharon Connors, Sr. Minister  
Rev. Lei Lanni Burt, Assoc Minister  
Rev. Billie Martini, Assoc. Minister

#### **Licensed Unity Teachers**

Linda Cogdill, LUT  
Sandy Walker, LUT

#### **Center Administrator**

Cathy Collins

#### **Music Team Leadership**

Mollie Kidari, Director  
Cathy Mannino, Assistant Director  
Melvin Johnson, Choir Director  
Kate Jackson, Asst Choir Director

#### **Board of Trustees**

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Eileen Barber, Secretary  
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**623-974-6443**

**Office Hours:**

**Tuesday through Thursday  
8:30am to 5pm**



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