

Unconquerable Hope & Wisdom of Years

“The fact that every life is simply a series of lives, each one with its own task, its own flavor, its own brand of errors, its own glories... all designed to lead us to the same end — happiness and a sense of fulfillment.” *Life Launch: A Passionate Guide to the Rest of Your Life*

In 2006 I made a decision that had been lurking in the back of my mind for maybe more than ten years. I decided to leave my awesome job at Unity Village Chapel to move to San Diego to be near my two adult children and grandsons. I kept that dream alive with a huge poster of The Cove in La Jolla, just north of downtown San Diego. It was my treasure map with gnarled Torrey Pines flanking the walking path along the ocean.

One fine day it was as if sun broke through the clouds of all the reasons not to do it. I was finally left with no good reason not to leave the well-anchored boat of my life and walk into the unknown. My heart finally arrived at, “if not now, when?”

Life is like that, I think. Stages, phases, eras and epochs! Hopes and dreams that lived for so long on the back burners of your life leap into the forefront. The stars line up and a door opens — always on the inside first. Each stage brings its challenges, its hope, disappointments and, if you tend well to fire in your heart, new opportunities, and even new adventures.

Wisdom grows well in this soil and you come to see that hope really is unconquerable. In fact, we came hardwired with hope. Wisdom dawns when dancing with our hopes not our fears and worries. Acting on our hopes develops our inherent resilience. Wisdom lights up along the way as we learn from our experiences — the good and not so good.

Recently, professional soccer player, Cristian Ronaldo, said, “When I was young, I told my dad that we are going to be rich and have a big house. He told me that it was impossible. Today I have what I said but I don’t have my father.” Something clouded his father’s unconquerable hope. I don’t want that to happen to me or you. Life is meant to be lived while we’re living — full out, wizened by overcoming life’s challenges.

When I left Unity Village for a new phase in my life, everyone thought that since I didn’t have a job lined up, I was “retiring”. My friend in the Unity Book Store on campus, Alisha, gave me a going away present — a book, naturally — *Life Launch: A Passionate Guide to the Rest of Your Life*. That was perfect because I was launching a whole new life. Not everyone saw it that way.

More than once, friends and colleagues asked what I planned to do in my “retirement”. My emphatic response: I’m not interested in “retiring”. I’m recreating my life.

Continued on Page 4

May 2021 Calendar

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|---|--|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 10:30am <i>Living Without Regrets</i> Rev Sharon Connors 11:45am Fellowship 12:30pm Prayer Chaplain Meeting | 3 Office Closed — Office | 4 10am Circle of Prayer 10am ARE 10:30am A Course in Love via Zoom 10:30am AA 5pm Healing Hands | 5 10:30am The Gift of Years Rev Sharon Connors (in Classroom & via Zoom) 6pm AA | 6 10:30am AA 7pm OA | 7 Office Closed — Office | 8 |
| 9 <i>Mother's Day</i> 10:30am <i>Our Search for Meaning</i> Rev Sharon Connors 11:45am Fellowship 11:45am Betsy & Norma's Jams & Jellies sale to fund Outreach Project | 10 Office Closed — Office | 11 10am Circle of Prayer 10am ARE 10:30am A Course in Love via Zoom 10:30am AA | 12 10:30am The Gift of Years Rev Sharon Connors (in Classroom & via Zoom) 6pm AA | 13 10:30am AA 1:30pm Outreach Committee Meeting 7pm OA | 14 Office Closed — Office | 15 |
| 16 <i>Outreach Sunday</i> 10:30am <i>Meeting Life's Changes with Grace & Wisdom</i> Rev Sharon Connors 11:45am Fellowship | 17 Office Closed — Office | 18 10am Circle of Prayer 10am ARE 10:30am A Course in Love via Zoom 10:30am AA 5pm Healing Hands | 19 10:30am The Gift of Years Rev Sharon Connors (in Classroom & via Zoom) 6pm AA | 20 10:30am AA 7pm OA | 21 Office Closed — Office | 22 |
| 23 10:30am <i>Life's Best Lessons</i> Rev Sharon Connors 11:45am Fellowship 12pm USC Board of Trustees Meeting | 24 Office Closed — Office | 25 10am Circle of Prayer 10am ARE 10:30am A Course in Love via Zoom 10:30am AA | 26 10:30am The Gift of Years Rev Sharon Connors (in Classroom & via Zoom) 6pm Group Meditation in Sanctuary 6pm AA | 27 10:30am AA 1:30pm Outreach Knit & Crochet 7pm OA | 28 Office Closed — Office | 29 |
| 30 10:30am <i>Sweet Memories of Life</i> Rev Billie Martini 11:45am Fellowship | 31 <i>Memorial Day</i> | | | | Office Closed — Office | |

May Birthdays

9—Marti Barnard
11—Linda Martodam

13—Richard Campbell
14—Diane Fielding
17—Jo Sybenga

19—George Fry
29—Ann Halvorson
29—William Shaw

Mission Statement:

A spiritual campus dedicated to teaching and demonstrating principles that inspire people to live their greatest life through discovering Spirit within.

The Gift of Years Discussion Group
Wednesdays in May at 10:30
Facilitated by Rev. Sharon Connors
Zoom Meeting ID 577 896 8885

Author, Joan Chittister's book, *The Gift of Years*, will be the foundation of our sharing ideas on such topics as meaning, ageism, newness, possibility, mystery, letting go...

Join us for a rich exploration of such topics in the context of where you are today in your life, where you have been and where you want to go.

Unity SC Outreach Ministry Team
PLARN???

The latest buzzword around Unity Spiritual Center is PLARN! What is plarn? You fold your plastic grocery bags in fourths, cut into 1 ½" bands, slip stitch them together, roll them in a ball and you have plastic yarn (or plarn). What to do with it? If you are a crafty person, you crochet 3'x6' mats out of this plarn and donate it to the American Legion. The Legion then adds your mat to a backpack, along with some snacks and sanitary items, and gives them to homeless Vets. Thanks to information from Jody Swank who started this great project, about 87 of these mats have been given away to vets and we at Unity Spiritual Center are invited to help in the project. So you cannot crochet? We will be happy to show you how to turn your plastic bags into plarn.

The plarn group meets every 4th Thursday at the church. You are welcome to come and learn how to make plarn and/or turn it into mats. A great perk to this is that the Beth Shalom Temple next door will also join us in our mat making project and we can meet and socialize with these great ladies. Hope to see you soon!

~ LaVonne Rasmusson

**Please remember to continue wearing your mask when you come to our campus...
 ...Even if you have had both of your COVID-19 vaccinations.**



Zoom-Only Class:

A Course of Love
Tuesdays @ 10:30am
 Facilitated by Renee Falkowski
 Zoom Meeting ID 577 896 8885.

Monthly Meditation and Conversation:

Wednesday, May 26 at 6:00pm

We are expanding our practice of Meditation each month... at 6:00pm on the final Wednesday evening of the month. Whether you are a newcomer to meditation experienced, this will be an opportunity to practice various meditation traditions and the blessings of group meditation and sharing. Please pre-register.

Special Memorial Day Service

Please join Reverend Billie and our Music Team for a special Memorial Day Service on Sunday, May30, 2021.

This inspirational candle lighting service will honor the men and women who have lost their lives in service to our country. We will also remember and honor family and friends who have come into our earthly lives and then have exited this plane of existence to another adventure of life and living.

You are asked to bring pictures and/or sacred objects of those you would like to honor and remember for our memory table set up in the Sanctuary on this special day.

Prayer Chaplain Team

Each month every member of Unity Spiritual Center receives a call from their prayer chaplain to support the member in prayer. Did you know prayer chaplains are also available to any congregant who needs prayer support? Just complete a prayer request card and leave it in the Prayer Box in the church narthex. A chaplain will pray with you that Sunday afternoon.

Continued from Page 1

Like all things, hope requires nourishment. Faithfully nourishing small hopes empowers big hopes. Looking back over the years of life's lessons, I have come to see that wisdom dawns as we muster the courage to take action to live a meaningful life — no matter what the stage or phase.

Join us this month for our exploration of what we hope for; what lessons we've learned; what matters. What matters is "Carpe Diem"!

With Love & Gratitude,
Rev. Sharon

Unity Development Team

The Development Committee is new to Unity Spiritual Center and is designed to assist in continued funding for all our ministries. The Development Committee has the following Charges:

- Assures funding for the mission and operation of the ministry.
- Supports revenue sources and seeks new avenues and sources for funding.
- Initiates funding programs and events.

We are currently working on several suggested revenue streams and had a successful year-end fund drive. The committee put together the Golf Scramble as a fun event. Our next major event is in November. This soon-to-be named Fall Event is scheduled for November 13th. We are looking for someone who would like to put together a golf tournament for next spring. Please contact Frank Dias if you have any questions. 623-229-5105

Power of the Month

May is the month when we put a focus on the function and work of Divine Power.

The disciple who is the exemplar of Divine Power is Phillip. We might look at Paul's letter to the Philippians to learn more about Power.

Power drives all of the other powers. The center is located in our throat. Here we transform energy from one dimension of existence to another. Thoughts become words, for example. Power empowers wisdom into right action; love into a kind word; strength into perseverance.

"Power is increased through exalted ideas." Charles Fillmore
Here's to exalted ideas guiding our lives!



unity[®]
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

Center Administrator

Cathy Collins

Director of Music

Mollie Kidari
Melvin Johnson, Choir Director

Board of Trustees

Mack Essary, President
Sandra Hurlbut, Vice President
Suzanne Lombard, Secretary
Mort Rykiss, Treasurer
Cate Campeau
Karen Haag
LaVonne Rasmusson
Bill Gasta, Alternate

10101 West Coggins Drive
Sun City Arizona 85351

623-974-6443

Office Hours:

Tuesday through Thursday
8:30am to 5pm

Sunday 9am to 1pm