

Thrive: It's a Standing Invitation

"Power is increased through exalted ideas... There is a universal creative force that urges (mankind) forward to the recognition of the creative power of individual thought." Charles Fillmore

"*The Five Invitations* is a request to show up and be fully present for every aspect of your life. It sheds light on the preciousness of every moment and reminds us that the best preparation for death is forging an authentic and meaningful life, free of regret." Flatiron Books

To my partners on the path,

Each month now for probably twenty years, I pick up *Dancing Moons*, a work-of-art book that I found in Santa Fe, New Mexico in artist Frank Howell's gallery. There are curated photos of his exquisite paintings, one for each month, heading three of Nancy Wood's poems regarding the month's theme. The theme for May is acceptance, with the caveat that we don't have forever so why waste a precious moment worrying or angry—resisting a fact of life. It's a waste of our astounding creative power.

It all reminds me of the times I've taken my life to the edge and jumped for the sake of using my creative power to live full out and stop letting all those fears stop me. No more regrets, I told myself. Like that day I stepped out onto the strut of the sputtering little Cessna as it painfully climbed to 15 thousand feet. As my partner counted down before our leap, I looked at the colorful, checkerboard pattern of the earth below and said a prayer of surrender.

"3,2,1 go," he said and we jumped. I screamed at the top of my lungs as we went into free fall, face down—with the once far away earth looming closer. Then, a sudden jolt as my partner pulled the cord and the chute opened. All I could do then was utter unending "ooooo"s at the beauty all around me and the scintillating exhilaration and blissful peace. I want my whole life—what I have left—to be like that. I want to be awed by things and people and the power and presence of God in me and all around me today and in all my tomorrows. Do you?

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May 2022 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fr	Sat
1 10:30am <i>May Day, May Day!</i> Rev Billie Martini 11:45am Fellowship Noon Choir Practice 12:30pm Prayer Chaplain Meeting	2 4:30pm TOPS	3 10am Circle of Prayer 10am ARE 10:30am A Course of Love via Zoom 10:30am AA 5pm Healing Hands	4 10:00am SW Vly Enlightenment Ctr Metaphysical	5 10:30am AA 6pm OA	6	7 10:30am Women's Group Rising
8 <i>Mother's Day</i> 10:30am <i>Our Mother Myrtle</i> Rev Billie Martini 11:45am Fellowship	9 4:30pm TOPS	10 10am Circle of Prayer 10am ARE 10:30am A Course of Love via Zoom 10:30am AA	11 10:30am The Five Invitations Rev Sharon Connors (in Classroom & via Zoom) 6pm Sound Healing Meditation	12 10:30am AA 1:30pm Outreach Knit & Crochet 6pm OA	13	14
15 10:30am <i>Don't Wait To Thrive</i> Rev Sharon Connors 11:45am Fellowship Noon Townhall Meeting	16 4:30pm TOPS	17 10am Circle of Prayer 10am ARE 10:30am A Course of Love via Zoom 10:30am AA 5pm Healing Hands	18 10:00am SW Vly Enlightenment Ctr Metaphysical 10:30am The Five Invitations Rev Sharon Connors (in Classroom & via Zoom)	19 10am Men's Group @ Bobbie's Restaurant 10:30am AA 6pm OA	20	21
22 10:30am <i>Thrive by Making Peace a Priority</i> Rev Sharon Connors 11:45am Fellowship Noon Choir Practice Noon USC Board of Trustees Meeting	23 4:30pm TOPS	24 10am Circle of Prayer 10am ARE 10:30am A Course of Love via Zoom 10:30am AA	25 10:30am The Five Invitations Rev Sharon Connors (in Classroom & via Zoom) 6pm Group Meditation in Sanctuary	26 10:30am AA 1:30pm Outreach Knit & Crochet 6pm OA	27	28
29 10:30am <i>Thrive by Bringing Your Full Presence</i> Rev Sharon Connors 11:45am Fellowship Noon Choir Practice	30 <i>Memorial Day</i> 4:30pm TOPS	31 10am Circle of Prayer 10am ARE 10:30am A Course of Love via Zoom 10:30am AA 5pm Healing Hands				

May Birthdays

7—Charlie Mannino
8—Judy Phillips
9—Sue Posey

11—Linda Martodam
13—Richard Campbell
13—Judy Moxley

14—Diane Fielding
29—Ann Halvorson

Mission Statement:

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

Vision Statement:

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

The Five Invitations Discussion Group Wednesdays May 11 - June 8, 10:30-Noon

Facilitated by Rev. Sharon Connors

Zoom Meeting ID 577 896 8885

“Whatever we have done with our lives makes us what we are when we die. And everything, absolutely everything, counts.” Sogyal Rinpoche

We will use the book by Frank Ostaseski, *The Five Invitations*, which is available on Amazon.

Join us for a provocative discussion of the Five Invitations as they relate to really living while we live and five ways to do this, five ways that will richly enhance our living. Consider that every moment is precious and our full presence makes it so personally.

Outreach

The Outreach Team reaches out into the community to assist the less fortunate. Over the years we have supported kids in foster care, Justa Center, which serves homeless seniors, and homeless encampments near the State Capitol and elsewhere in the Valley.

At our Spring planning session, in addition to these “hands-on” endeavors, we decided to expand our focus. We will survey services of interest to attendees of this church, e.g., foster children, victims of domestic violence, substance abuse, etc., then work with United Way to identify agencies that provide these programs in our community, and then support those agencies financially through special offerings. Watch for more info to come!

Ambassadors

Our Ambassadors, Howard and Susan Fisher, are ambassadors of welcome and friendship to those who visit us for the first time. They connect with our visitors before and after service and guide them to the bookstore for a gift and then to Fellowship. There in Fellowship, they make sure to seat our visitors and introduce them to others.

If this ministry calls to you, please let one of our Ambassadors know or call the office and we will connect you.

Monthly Meditation and Conversation:

Wednesday, May 27 at 6:00pm

We are reviving our practice of Meditation each month... at 6:00pm on the final Wednesday evening of the month. Whether you are a newcomer to meditation or experienced, this will be an opportunity to practice various meditation traditions and the blessings of group meditation and sharing. Please pre-register in lobby or bookstore or by calling the office during business hours.

Healing Hands

The Healing Hands Team offers distance healing services. We recently heard confirmation from a healing client who had a nasty outbreak of shingles. Two days after a healing session she had completely forgotten she had an outbreak until someone asked her how she was feeling and she suddenly realized her shingles were gone!

The team meets at 5:00pm every other Tuesday, when trained energy healers provide healing attention to people who need healing. Please let the office know if you are a trained healer who can help, or if you or someone you know needs healing.

Hospitality

The team sets up our Fellowship—food and beverages, etc. — on Sundays. They are here before service to set up, and a team stays after Fellowship to clean up.

It is a super important ministry that “feeds our people — spirit, soul and body.

Our Julie McKenna has been leading this team since Moses and is now welcoming new members to the team. Please see Julie during Fellowship or call the office and we will connect you.

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Curious, I researched sky-diving planes today and found an awe-inspiring YouTube of 100 senior citizens over sixty coming from all over the globe on Sunday, April 10 to break a world sky-diving record. After four practice jumps, they all boarded a huge cargo plane that climbed to 18 thousand feet for the jump and then in one minute flat, while free falling, 107 people had to come together to create a lattice-work formation, connecting hands and feet! All are experienced sky-divers who were willing to put it all on the line to do something extraordinary. Take a deep breath and think about that!

This month we consider our power to create a beautiful, meaningful, exhilarating kind of life. *The Five Invitations* by Frank Ostaseski will be central to the exploration.

On Wednesdays at 10:30, you can “dive” into a deeper discussion of the ideas in his book. Until then.....

All My Love,
Rev. Sharon

Women's Group Rising

All women are invited to the Women's Group gathering on Saturday, May 7th at 10:30am in the Activity Center. Margie Beaty and Marla Thomas will be hosting. Bette Ryan will present an inspiring video about the “places and faces” of the Holy Land. Bring a friend!

Men's Group

All men are invited to the Men's Group, which will meet on Thursday, May 19th at 10am at Bobbie's Restaurant at 99th Avenue & Greenway (15472 N 99th Ave., here in Sun City). You don't have to be a member to join. In fact, bring a friend! He'll thank you for it!

Power of the Month — POWER

“The power center in the throat controls all the vibratory energies of the organism. It is the open door between the formless and the formed worlds.” Charles Fillmore, *The Twelve Powers of Man*

Divine Power vibrates purple and the biblical symbol is the disciple Phillip.

Power transforms energy from one plane of existence to another. Thoughts become words. Power is the energy form that turn on all the other powers. Power is energy in action.


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Tuesday through Thursday
8:30am to 5pm
Sunday 9am to 1pm



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