

Hope: Finding Lasting Happiness in a Changing World

"...the very basic core of a person's living spirit is a passion for adventure. The joy of life comes from our encounters with new experiences, and, hence, there is no greater joy than to have an endlessly changing horizon, for each day to have a new and different sun." *Into The Wild*

"For as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead." *James 2: 26*

Dear Partners on the Faith Path,

Reflect for a moment on adventures you've experienced, especially the ones you have chosen to dare. Bear in mind that adventures come in all sizes, shapes, and colors. Some are fun and don't require a big leap in faith. Some, perhaps, have demanded of you a radical leap of faith — a divorce, job change, move to a new state, master a new skill or new way of being, release a life-long unhelpful habit, release of an addiction, initiating a courageous conversation.

Here in this brand-new season — a new Fall — a new season of harvest, are you harvesting a deeper, expanded faith as a result of actions you've taken through the year, changes you've made? It's not too late to start. In fact, it's the perfect time.

When I think of Fall, especially October, I relish vivid pictures of harvest moons, harvest aromas, and Halloween adventures. When my sisters, brother and I were kids, Halloween was the best of adventures. My dad would bring home a gigantic pumpkin that we would help transform

into an internally glowing wonder. Our part was to empty the seeds and yukky stuff from the pumpkin, hollowing it out for carving and the eventual candle that would illuminate its face. The only sounds my parents would hear were "ewooo" and "yuk" as we grabbed hands-full of the slippery stuff.




After dinner on the 31st, we all dressed up — usually as bums or gypsies — selected big brown grocery bags from my mom's collection next to the fridge and began our adventure through the streets of Edison Park. When our bags became too heavy with candy, pennies and even apples, we headed home. The smell of autumn, burning leaves and scary pumpkin faces in every living room window added a certain zest and intrigue to the whole adventure.

October is the month to consider what you are passionate about and fire up your power of zeal! The spirit of God is fiery passion, unstoppable enthusiasm for life, and what lights our fire. The spirit of God in each of us continually seeks to allure us beyond where we are today, beyond what we know, and into new adventures.

In support of that kind of adventure, we launch our 2021 Adventure in Faith on Sunday, October 17. It will be a grand tour of the Eight Pillars of Joy. We will pause before embarking to consider the obstacles to joy and entertain

Continued on Page 4

October 2021 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:30am <i>More M&Ms of Living</i> Rev Billie Martini 11:45am Fellowship 12:30pm Prayer Chaplain Meeting	4 4:30pm TOPS <i>Office Closed</i>	5 10am Circle of Prayer 10am ARE 10:30am A Course of Love via Zoom 10:30am AA 1:30pm Adventure in Faith Team Lead Meeting 5pm Healing Hands	6 1:30pm Adventure in Faith Facilitator Meeting 6pm AA	7 10:30am AA 6pm OA	8 <i>Office Closed</i>	9 <i>Office Closed</i>
10 10:30am <i>You Gotta Have Zeal</i> Rev Sharon Connors 11:45am Fellowship 12:30-3:30pm Prayer Vigil	11 4:30pm TOPS <i>Office Closed</i>	12 10am Circle of Prayer 10am ARE 10:30am A Course of Love via Zoom 10:30am AA	13 6pm AA	14 10:30am AA 1:30pm Outreach Knit & Crochet 6pm OA	15 <i>Office Closed</i>	16 <i>Office Closed</i>
17 10:30am <i>Enlightened Perspective</i> Rev Sharon Connors 11:45am Fellowship	18 4:30pm TOPS <i>Office Closed</i>	19 10am Circle of Prayer 10am ARE 10:30am A Course of Love via Zoom 10:30am AA 2pm Small Group led by Sandie Fish 5pm Healing Hands	20 10:30am Small Group led by Rev Sharon Connors 5pm Small Group led by Jim & LaVonne Rasmusson 6pm AA	21 10:30am AA 1pm Small Group led by Rev Billie Martini 6pm OA	22 <i>Office Closed</i>	23 <i>Office Closed</i>
24 10:30am <i>Evolved Humility</i> Rev Sharon Connors 11:45am Fellowship 12pm USC Board of Trustees Meeting	25 4:30pm TOPS <i>Office Closed</i>	26 10am Circle of Prayer 10am ARE 10:30am A Course of Love via Zoom 10:30am AA 2pm Small Group led by Sandie Fish	27 10:30am Small Group led by Rev Sharon Connors 5pm Small Group led by Jim & LaVonne Rasmusson 6pm AA 6:30pm Group Meditation in Sanctuary	28 10:30am AA 1pm Small Group led by Rev Billie Martini 1:30pm Outreach Knit & Crochet 6pm OA	29 <i>Office Closed</i>	30 <i>Office Closed</i>
31 10:30am <i>Lighten Up</i> Rev Sharon Connors 11:45am Fellowship	<div>  Friday, December 10th for our Victory Celebration: Dinner, Dancing, Live Music! </div>					

October Birthdays

1—Jonathan Ashworth
1—Jdee Birkeland

10—Carol Gates
14—Rev Jim Yeaw
17—Barbara Little
17—Linda Walker

18—Christine Martin
19—Richard Campeau
24—Rosemarie Haight
25—Cecilia Simonelli

Monthly Meditation and Conversation:
Wednesday, October 27 at 6:30pm

Whether you are a newcomer to meditation or experienced, you are invited to practice various meditation traditions and the blessings of group meditation and sharing with us. We meet the final Wednesday evening of every month in our Sanctuary. You can call us during office hours: Tues - Thurs 8:30-5:00 for more information and to pre-register.

ADVENTURE IN FAITH SCHEDULE

When		Color
Oct 10 12:30-3:30	Prayer Vigil: Please sign up for one half-hour slot.	
Oct 10	You Gotta Have Zeal	Gold
Oct 17	Enlightened Perspective	Royal Blue
Oct 24	Evolved Humility	Yellow
Oct 31	Lighten Up	Light Blue
Nov 7	Astonishing Acceptance	Silver
Nov 14	Unstoppable Forgiveness	Light Green
Nov 21	Limitless Gratitude	Emerald Green
Nov 28	Inclusive Compassion	Pink
Dec 5	Brave-hearted Generosity	Red
Dec 10	Gala Celebration	

Mission Statement:

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

Zoom Only Class:

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

ADVENTURE IN FAITH PROGRAM
October 10 through December 10

Adventure in Faith is a seven-week program designed to: grow your faith in God and the greatness in you; deepen your relationship with God and each other; explore spiritual ideas and practices together; pray together and deepen our lives together.

The Adventure in Faith Prayer Vigil, Small Group Discussions, Commitments to a spiritual practice, Decorations and a Gala Celebration at the end of our adventure — are all about deepening our faith and our lives together, as we grow spiritually.

Each week we will focus our Sunday service and our Small Groups on a spiritual principle from the book, *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World*. Each week will have a theme and color, and a commitment to make to a spiritual practice.

There are a number of ways to be a part of this program: the Small Group Discussions (meeting on Tues. afternoons, Wed. mornings and afternoons, or Thurs. afternoons... each small group will have the same Study Guides so sign up for only one group — the group with the time-slot that serves you best), a 3-hour prayer vigil (for the purpose of affirming spiritual growth for individuals and our community), commitments, and a gala celebration.

The program begins with a Prayer Vigil on Sunday, October 10 and closes on December 10 with a Gala Holiday Celebration.

Up your JOY METER permanently by being a part of our *Adventure in Faith*!

Sign-up for teams & Small Groups on October 3 or October 10 after service. Sign-up forms are in the sanctuary lobby or call the office and let us know which group you plan to be part of.

Power of the Month — Zeal

Color: Orange

Location: Nape of the neck

“Zeal is the mighty force that incites the winds, the tides, the storms; it urges the planet on its course...to be without zeal is to be without the zest for living. Zeal and enthusiasm incite to glorious achievement in every aim and ideal that the mind conceives. Zeal is the impulse to go forward. Charles Fillmore quote in *“Adventures in Resilience: Igniting the 12 Powers in You to Create a Radiant Life.”*

Zeal vibrates sparkling orange and is represented by the disciple, Simon. Zeal generates courage, optimism, and enthusiasm. It lifts you from stuck conditions of mind and circumstance. It creates a learner mindset. It is the affirmative impulse of life, ever seeking to move us forward in some way.

Continued from Page 1

the adventure of releasing them little by little through positive action.

The Jesuit priest and philosopher, Teilhard de Chardin, noted that “joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God.” It’s true that the more fear and resistance diminish, the more joy has room to increase.

We live in challenging times. From a Unity perspective; that is a telltale sign that something new is trying to emerge. You can bet it will take faith in action to affect the birth. You can also bet that the birth, should we agree to such an adventure, will open portals to experiencing greater joy than we might have imagined. We came equipped for such adventures. We have the heart, soul, and spiritual tools for them. The question is, are we teachable? Are you willing?

With an adventure on our horizon, please be sure to sign up for a Small Group that will be talking about the ideas in the book, *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World*, and going deeper into the Eight Pillars of Joy. Check out the schedule in this newsletter and the opportunities to serve on Teams: Prayer Vigil, Commitment Cards, Decorations, Gala. Sign-up sheets are in the foyer of the church or call the office.

October is the month of Divine Zeal. Stir up your own by getting involved!

Love Always,
Rev. Sharon



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

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Bill Gasta, Alternate

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



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