

Hope: Real Freedom

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing so that by the power of the Holy Spirit, you may abound in hope." Romans 15:23

"To believe that hope changes everything, we must first know what hope is."

"Come now, noble souls, and take a look at the splendor you are carrying within yourselves."
 Meister Eckhart

Treasured Friends on the Path,

Being born and raised on the rich Midwest soil, I could always look forward to fresh-out-of-the-garden juicy sweet corn on the cob, flavorful, sweet Wisconsin cherries, and lots of watermelon. My family would stop on the way home from our day frolicking the waters of Lake Wauconda at the gigantic apple orchard just outside Wauconda, Illinois (an hour car-ride north of our home in Chicago) so we could pick our own apples from the flourishing trees in the orchard. Corn fields abounded also once outside of the city. Our mantra for the corn was "knee-high by July!" Fresh fruit and veggie stands came alive again, too. Flourishing life!

So many hopes are realized from opulent Mother Earth. So many farmers' hopes are realized as the corn plants push through the dirt, and apple and cherry blossoms transform themselves into succulent fruit.

The same is true for the rich earth of our creative, visionary minds. There are seeds of hope that live in the fields of our mind, planted there by our Creator.

However, like the earth we walk on and plant in, our mind-soil needs careful attention and often amending in order to nurture the seeds of hope into blossom and then yummy fruit. Like Mother Earth, our hopes need regular watering and fertilizing in order to blossom and turn to delicious fruit in our experience. Let's do some gardening in July as we celebrate the power of divine understanding!

The seed of divine understanding is nourished through spiritual study and practice. Step by step, thought by thought, spiritual emotion added to spiritual emotion, our understanding is spiritualized, and we come to believe before we see; we rightly apply the law of mind action to the circumstances of our lives — all of them!

Mid-summer — fertile, fragrant, and flourishing. Would you describe your life that way? Are there hopes peeking through the earth of your mind that call for your careful attention and action? Let there be mid-summer magic!



With Love
 Rev. Sharon

July 2021 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10:30am AA 7pm OA	2	3
4 Independence Day 10:30am <i>The Hope: True Freedom</i> Rev Sharon Connors 11:45am Fellowship	5 4:30pm TOPS	6 10am Circle of Prayer 10am ARE 10:30am A Course in Love via Zoom 10:30am AA	7 10:30am The Gift of Years Rev Sharon Connors (in Classroom & via Zoom) 6pm AA	8 10:30am AA 1:30pm Outreach Knit & Crochet 7pm OA	9	10
11 Outreach Sunday 10:30am <i>Your Hope of Glory</i> Rev Charli Tupper 11:45am Fellowship 12:30pm Prayer Chaplain Meeting	12 4:30pm TOPS	13 10am Circle of Prayer 10am ARE 10:30am A Course in Love via Zoom 10:30am AA 5pm Healing Hands	14 6pm AA	15 10:30am AA 7pm OA	16	17
18 10:30am <i>The Watermelon Credo</i> Rev Billie Martini 11:45am Fellowship	19 4:30pm TOPS	20 10am Circle of Prayer 10am ARE 10:30am A Course in Love via Zoom 10:30am AA	21 6pm AA	22 10:30am AA 1:30pm Outreach Knit & Crochet 7pm OA	23	24
25 10:30am <i>The Hope: Healed & Flourishing</i> Rev Sharon Connors 11:45am Fellowship 12pm USC Board of Trustees Meeting	26 4:30pm TOPS	27 10am Circle of Prayer 10am ARE 10:30am A Course in Love via Zoom 10:30am AA 5pm Healing Hands	28 6pm Group Meditation in Sanctuary 6pm AA	29 10:30am AA 7pm OA	30	31

July Birthdays

2—Kathleen Renner
6—Pamela Barker
8—Debbie Ashworth
24—Marilyn Moore
28—Bette Ryan
30—Beverly Hall

Save
the Date

- ♦ Game Night: August 11
- ♦ Welcome Team Orientation Meeting: August 15
- ♦ Monthly Meditation & Conversation: July 28, August 25
- ♦ Unity Basics — Required class for membership at Unity Spiritual Center: Wednesdays in September at 10:30am
- ♦ Prayer Chaplain Recruitment begins: October

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 Winds Up
Wednesday July 7 at 10:30am
Facilitated by Rev. Sharon Connors
Zoom Meeting ID 577 896 8885**

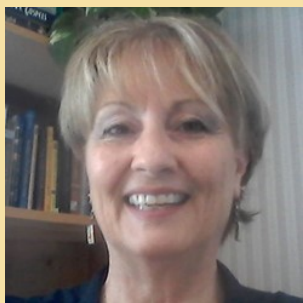
Author Joan Chittister's book, *The Gift of Years*, has been the foundation of our sharing ideas on such topics as meaning, ageism, newness, possibility, mystery, letting go...

Join us this final Wednesday 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.

July 11th Guest Speaker

Rev. Charli Tupper

Rev. Charli Tupper is an ordained Unity Minister who has served in the SW Region for over 14 years. Ordained in 2009, she served at Unity of Prescott, AZ until 2018. She is currently serving as Senior Foundational Minister to Unity of Verde Valley, in Cottonwood, AZ, serves the Southwest Region as President of the Board, is a UWM Certified Ministry Consultant, and is completing her training to be a UWM Certified Interim Minister.



Rev Charli's mission is Creatively Empowering Wholehearted Living. Her passion is using spiritual principles to assist individuals and groups through processes of growth and change. She does this by teaching classes, workshops, and writing.

You can check out her website and blog at www.revcharlitupper.com.

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, July 28 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 or experienced, this will be an opportunity to practice various meditation traditions and the blessings of group meditation and sharing. Please pre-register.

**Unity SC Healing Hands Team
Meet Our New Team Members!**

The Healing Hands & Hearts team is expanding. We have two new members, Peggy Thornton and Joe Sposito. Both are Reiki Masters. Peggy recently returned to Unity Spiritual Center and Joe is a newcomer. We welcome them to the team!

If you or a loved one need physical healing support, please text Sandra Hurlbut at 928-273-8500. For immediate support, text Rev. Billie Martini at 602-410-7175.

Power of the Month — Divine Understanding

Divine Understanding is developed through spiritual study and practice. It is our ever-increasing capacity to see through the circumstances of our lives to the spiritual Truth. This is how difficult circumstances yield their lesson and how transformation happens.

Divine Understanding is located behind our forehead and vibrates golden. (For more information see the chapter on Understanding in *Adventures in Resilience*.)

Unity SC Outreach Ministry Team Collaboration With Caring Angels

by Diane Weber

Great news! Our Unity Spiritual Center Outreach is collaborating with Caring Angels to create sleep mats for homeless veterans. Mats are made out of recycled plastic bags. These bags are cut and assembled to make Plarn, which is then crocheted into sleep mats.

Caring Angels was started by Jody Swank. They have been working on mats for two years and have made new friends and enjoyed great fellowship.

Unity SC Outreach learned about Caring Angels through LaVonne Rasmusson. We are now all working together. We meet the second and fourth Thursdays of the month here in the office building at 1:30. Come join us... You'll have fun while you serve — and you don't even need to know how to knit or crochet! No experience needed. Make new friends and share in great fellowship, while keeping bags out of the landfill and helping our less fortunate veterans.

When mats are completed, we pack them with essential items for the homeless vets.

Unity Library Team

by Sharon Rodriguez

The Unity SC Library book shelves have been organized and the books are ready for checking out! An updated Library Holdings Book will be available this month. Questions about a book not addressed in the current Library Holdings Book can be left in the church office. Should you discover a past-due book in your possession, please let the church office know.

Fillmore Festival 2021: Living the Teachings *

August 19–22, 2021

The deep spiritual teachings of Charles and Myrtle Fillmore come to life during this powerful weekend. You will explore the teachings, share stories, and celebrate our Oneness on the sacred grounds of Unity Village. *The Essential Charles Fillmore: A Guide to Practical Mysticism and Metaphysics*, by Rev. James Gaither, and *Adventures in Resilience: Ignite the 12 Powers in You to Create a Radiant Life*, by Rev. Sharon Connors, will be the foundation of this year's festival.

More information/register at:
www.unityvillage.org/fillmorefestival



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

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Karen Haag
LaVonne Rasmusson
Bill Gasta, Alternate

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