

A Passion for The Possible

"Hope is a passion for the possible."
– Soren Kierkegaard

"I came that you may have life and have it abundantly." – John 10:10



Julie Andrews sang her passion for life and its beauty in "The Sound of Music." "Girls in white dresses with blue satin sashes. Snowflakes that stay on my nose and eyelashes. Silver white winters that melt into springs. These are a few of my favorite things." What are your favorite things?

To my esteemed Partners on the Path,

The most magical time of the year is here! My neighbors in Pebble Creek began coaxing the magic into the neighborhood last week. Palm trees and Serissa shrubs along with roofs and doorways sparkle and shine now with thousands of Christmas lights. Such celebratory energy. And that's the point. We are made to celebrate life as well as find and express the God-joy that is part of our DNA. We are made to embody a passion for the possible.

Winters in Phoenix blow mostly mild. Winters in Chicago, where I grew up, were long and anything but mild—snow, ice and days of "burr". Still, joyful sounds echoed in the air. The ground sparkled with a blanket of trillions of snowflakes. Hearts smiled in the magical energy of eons of generosity, joy, kindness and love expressed around the world at this time of year.

Life seems to light up in December—a symbol for the gift of life lighting up in you once again. Senses are ignited to the sounds of Holiday Music, the aromas of fresh-baked, colorfully-decorated sugar cookies, the touch of kisses under the mistletoe and hugs from family and friends. Love is in the air and there's beauty everywhere.

Advent, the four Sundays preceding Christmas, remind us to keep our hearts aligned with the gifts of a spiritually-founded life—hope, where there seems none; peace in the midst of what isn't, joy in all the little things, and love, the greatest of gifts. Here's to a totally gifted Christmas Season for you and all of us.

We could light up the whole world ourselves by expressing a passion for life and all things bright and beautiful. As author, Jack Kornfield, observed "there is no time like

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December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 10:30am Women's & Men's Groups Decorate Christmas
3 1st Sunday of Advent 10:30am <i>Always Equipped</i> Rev Sharon Connors 11:45 Fellowship Arts & Crafts Exhibit & Sale 12:30 Prayer Chaplain Meeting 12:30 Choir rehearsal 1:30 Celebration of Flo Essary's Life	4 4:30pm TOPS 5pm ACA	5 10am Circle of Prayer 10:30am A Course of Love 10:30am AA	6 10:00am SW Vly Enlightenment Ctr Metaphysical	7 9am Outreach Knit & Crochet 10:30am AA 6pm OA	8 5:30pm AIF Gala Celebration Dinner Dance!	9
10 2nd Sunday of Advent 10:30am <i>I am Peace</i> Rev Billie Martini 11:45am Fellowship	11 4:30pm TOPS 5pm ACA	12 10am Circle of Prayer 10:30am A Course of Love 10:30am AA 5pm Healing Hands	13	14 10am Men's Group Breakfast 10:30am AA 6pm OA	15 <hr/> Saturday—16 1pm Outreach Sound Healing & Labyrinth Walk Fund Raiser for Phillipian Schools	
17 3rd Sunday of Advent 10:30am <i>The Purpose of Passion</i> Rev Sharon Connors 11:45 Fellowship Noon Quilling Workshop 12:30 Choir rehearsal	18 4:30pm TOPS 5pm ACA	19 10am Circle of Prayer 10:30am A Course of Love 10:30am AA	20 10:00am SW Vly Enlightenment Ctr Metaphysical	21 9am Outreach Knit & Crochet 10:30am AA 6pm OA	22	23
24 4th Sunday of Advent 10:30am <i>Empowered, Equipped & Enlightened</i> Rev Sharon Connors 11:45am Fellowship 6pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Musical Extravaganza!	25 	26 10:30am AA 5pm Healing Hands	27 Office Closed	28 10:30am AA 6pm OA	29	30
31 10:30am <i>How to Make Room for Heaven</i> Rev Sharon Connors Burning Bowl Ceremony 11:45am Fellowship Noon Board Meeting	December Birthdays: 01—Mackey Essary 13—Kate Okrongly 26—Lori Cole 05—Sandy Walker 16—Maria Ferran 26—Betsy Dreyfus 11—Susan Fisher 17—Della Garfield 26—Ken Weidner 13—Cathy Collins 22—Rev Lei Lanni Burt 29—Julie McKenna 13—Carole Danhires 23—Lois Hanson 31—Darlene Paterson					

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.

Two Services This Christmas Eve Sunday December 24th

10:30am: 12-Power Candle Lighting Service

Across Faith traditions, people celebrate the power of light to drive out darkness and light up something ineffable in themselves. It is none other than the Spirit of God, the Light that lights hearts and souls with hope, love, peace and joy.

The 12-Power Candle Lighting honors and, so to speak, ignites the power of the 12 Ways that the Light of God in you can express. The Powers have life, substance and intelligence. They know what to do and will do it when you call on them.

6:00pm: Candlelight Musical Extravaganza

Our Christmas Eve Evening Service will surely lift your spirits and inspire you with the Christmas Story as Reader's Theatre, and its personal meaning for you — what does it mean to have the Divine Spark in you born anew? Your heart will be warmed not only in the story but in the most beautiful Christmas music. The evening is crowned with our Candle-lighting Ceremony, a symbol of once again lighting the Divine spark in you in new and expanded ways.

Start the New Year Powerfully! Burning Bowl Ceremony



December 31st @ 10:30am
Rev Sharon Connors

Coming in January — Stay Tuned for Details

“2024 - A Year to Explore the Keys of the Kingdom: Living a Grace-filled Life”

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens to Me, I will come in and dine with him and be with him.” – Rev. 3:20

- Prayer Chaplain Intro & Orientation - **Jan. 7 & 21**
- Sacred Cinema - Midmonth Wednesdays at 6pm
- Unity Basics Workshop - Required for Membership **Jan. 14**
- New Member Sunday - Introduce new members & New Member/Board Member Party at Rev Sharon's home **Jan. 28**

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

Gala Dinner Dance Celebration Friday, December 8th Doors Open 5:30pm

Get ready for big fun! Plan to join us Friday, December 8th for dancing to Tito the DJ's Classic Rock, a delicious smoked brisket dinner with all the fixings, and a cash bar. Buy your tickets for only \$20 each pre-sale, or \$25 at the door. Tickets on sale in church lobby and activity center after service, and in the book-store during business hours and Sundays after service.

No Wednesday Meditation Services in Dec.

We will not be holding either of our Wednesday evening meditation services this month. But plan to come back in January — January 10th for Emily Slonina's Sound Healing Meditation and January 31st for our 12-Power Meditation and Sound Healing Service. Both events begin at 6pm in January.

But plan to join Emily and Sher Dano at 1pm on December 16th for a Saturday afternoon of Labyrinth Walking and Sound Healing as an Outreach Fundraiser for schools in the Philippines. See flyers in bookstore and on bulletin board for more information.

Arts & Crafts Exhibit & Sale December 3rd

The artists and crafters in our community will be exhibiting and selling their spectacular creations at our Arts & Crafts Exhibit & Sale after service on December 3, just in time for Christmas shopping. Invite friends and neighbors to come enjoy the divine artistry displayed by your church family!

Volunteers of the Month Bill & Linda Cogdill

New members, Bill and Linda Cogdill, have jumped right in, serving our church with their time, talents and tithes ever since joining our family. Linda, our Licensed Unity Teacher Candidate, has been leading classes and platforming on Sundays. And she and Bill have been hard at work as co-chairs of our Gala, coordinating a team of 28 to handle ticket design and sales, food preparation and service, set up, clean up, and decorating.

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the present to celebrate all that brings you alive, all that fills your heart with joy, all of the ways to express love and all the ways to feel the freedom of spirit.

Let's just do it.

With love and gratitude for you,

Rev. Sharon

Power of the Month: Divine Life

Divine Life is pure creative energy that propels all forms into action. Given that all thought is creative, our creations will out-picture what we hold in our thoughts. Divine life expresses in life-enhancing ways rather than life-depleting ways. It shows up as vitality, zest, optimism, peace, love, wisdom, strength, understanding and joy. It utilizes the powers of release and rests in willingness to seek and express divine ideas—nothing more, nothing less, nothing else. It is fed and grows in the good that we love; in noble character qualities and pursuits; in the kindness and generosity that we express. It synthesizes all of the other 12 Powers into expression.

Women's & Men's Groups Combined Saturday, December 2nd at 10:30am

All women and men — including your friends who don't normally come to church — are invited to join us on December 2nd 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.

Men's Group Breakfast Thursday, December 14th at 10:00am

Even though the men are joining the Women's Group this month, they have decided to meet for breakfast as well on December 14 at Coco's Bakery Restaurant, 9801 W. Bell Rd in Sun City. The men have been having a great time learning about one another and supporting each other. Come see for yourself. Contact Ken Weidner with questions: KWeidner2000@yahoo.com.

Paper Quilling Workshop Sunday, Dec 17th at Noon

Paper Quilling, also called paper filigree, is a simple artform that became popular in Victorian times. Michelle Tissot will teach us basic quilling techniques to create beautiful hand-quilled gifts with a Christmas theme. Workshop is limited to ten participants. Supplies provided. Sign up in sanctuary lobby begins 12/3.


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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 Teacher

Sandy Walker, LUT
Linda Cogdill, LUT Candidate

Center Administrator

Cathy Collins

Director of Music

Mollie Kidari
Cathy Mannino, Assistant Director
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Office Hours:

Tuesday through Thursday
8:30am to 5pm

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