

## Radiance

“Within you is the light of 1,000 suns.”

Recently I celebrated Diwali, a festival of lights, with my son, daughter-in-law, and her family. Hindus from all over San Diego came to the Temple Square to celebrate the spiritual “victory of light over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance.” We were dancing, chanting, and spreading the light of love and fellowship. Of course, the aroma of tantalizing Indian delicacies filled the square. The festival of Diwali is linked with Lakshmi, goddess of prosperity. During the 5-day festival, people clean, renovate, and decorate their homes and wear their finest clothes. They illuminate the interior and exterior of their home and enjoy family feasts. Sound familiar?

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. Christians celebrate a time to rekindle the lights of soaring hope, a consciousness that can sustain peace, a heart cleansed and healed into the fullest kind of love, and a joy that sparkles in eyes, words and personal warmth.

Whenever I think of Christmas and the Holiday Season, I think of radiance. It’s everywhere to be seen — in joyous smiles and laughter, on sparkling Christmas trees, and dazzling light displays in homes and on buildings. Light is being emitted everywhere. Darkness is ablaze with light. The air is infused with heartwarming, joy-

producing carols and carolers.

In your handy Webster, you will find *radiance* described as *brightness, dazzle, luminosity, splendor, illumination, glowing*. That sounds like Christmas. Does it sound like you? Christmas time touches us so deeply and actually lights us up in an astonishing way because our soul resonates with light. The divine light recognizes Its nature.

Martin Luther King, Jr. said, “Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate. Only love can do that.” That is a mission worth living from with all the passion that stirs our better angels. Take my son, Eddie.

Each Christmas my son celebrates an honored tradition he inherited from spending many Christmas times with my dad. He finds a giant live Christmas tree that he and Namita fill with hundreds of lights. He, like my dad did each year, sets up a little Christmas Village in front of their fireplace. The little electric train circles the village, and we all watch in joyful awe. The scent of pine fills the house as does radiant happiness.

May your holiday season be filled with awe and wonder for the beauty within and the beauty outside. We are the radiance of God shining to light up our world with hope, peace, love, and joy.

With Great Love,  
Rev. Sharon





# December 2020 Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 10am ARE 10am Circle of Prayer 10:30am A Course of Love via Zoom 10:30am AA	<b>2</b> 10:30am <i>Adventures in Resilience</i> Rev Sharon Live in classroom or via Zoom <b>Noon Christmas Decorating &amp; Pizza Party</b>	<b>3</b> 10:30am AA Noon Book Study with Rev. Jim - via Zoom	<b>4</b> Office Closed	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 2nd Sunday of Advent 10:30am <i>Soulful Peace</i> Rev Sharon Connors 11:45am Fellowship 1pm Concert & Talent Showcase	Office Closed	<b>8</b> 10am ARE 10am Circle of Prayer 10:30am A Course of Love via Zoom 10:30am AA	<b>9</b> <b>Noon Church-sponsored Prayer Chaplain Christmas Luncheon</b> 6pm AA	<b>10</b> 10:30am AA Noon Book Study with Rev. Jim - via Zoom	<b>11</b> Office Closed	<b>12</b> Office Closed
<b>13</b> 3rd Sunday of Advent 10:30am <i>Transforming Love</i> Rev Sharon Connors 11:45am Fellowship & Jam/Jelly Sale to fund Homeless Project 12:30pm Prayer Chaplain Meeting 5:30pm <b>Dinner Board of Trustees</b>	Office Closed	<b>15</b> 10am ARE 10am Circle of Prayer 10:30am A Course of Love via Zoom 10:30am AA	<b>16</b> 6pm AA	<b>17</b> 10:30am AA Noon Book Study with Rev. Jim - via Zoom	<b>18</b> Office Closed	<b>19</b> Office Closed
<b>20</b> 4th Sunday of Advent 10:30am <i>Unconquerable Joy</i> Rev Sharon Connors 11:45am Fellowship Noon USC Board of Trustees Meeting	Office Closed	<b>22</b> 10am ARE 10am Circle of Prayer 10:30am A Course of Love via Zoom 10:30am AA	<b>23</b> 6pm AA	<b>24</b> 10:30am AA Noon Book Study with Rev. Jim - via Zoom 6pm <b>Unforgettable Christmas Eve Service</b>	<b>25</b> 	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 10:30am <i>Living the Christ Life</i> Rev Billie Martini 11:45pm Fellowship	Office Closed	<b>29</b> 10am ARE 10am Circle of Prayer 10:30am A Course of Love via Zoom 10:30am AA Office Closed	<b>30</b> 6pm AA	<b>31</b> 6pm <b>New Year's Eve Burning Bowl Service</b>	Office Closed	

## December Birthdays

1—Mackey Essary  
 10—Paula Warren  
 11—Susan Fisher  
 13—Cathleen Collins

15—Carol Bryan  
 15—Harold Compau  
 16—Maria Ferran  
 17—Diane Denton  
 22—Rev Lei Lanni Burt  
 23—Lois Hanson

25—Mort Rykiss  
 26—Lori Cole  
 26—Betsy Dreyfus  
 28—Gail Bliss  
 29—Marylou Lovato  
 29—Julie McKenna



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Please plan to join us at Noon on  
Wednesday, December 2, to decorate the  
Spiritual Center for Christmas. And make time to  
hang around afterward as we kick off the season  
with a Pizza Party!



## Unforgettable Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

DECEMBER 24 · 6:00 P.M.

## New Year's Eve Ceremony Burning Bowl release and let go

December 31 @ 6:00 PM



Unity Spiritual Center, Sun City Presents

# CONCERT & TALENT SHOWCASE

📅 Sunday, December 6, 2020

🕒 1:00pm to 2:30pm

📍 Unity Spiritual Center  
10101 West Coggins Dr.  
Sun City, AZ 85351

**Fundraising for  
Music Program of  
Unity Spiritual Center**

Suggested Love Offering



**Special Guest**  
**Ken Koshio**

Taiko Drumming  
Folk music artist  
Singer/Songwriter

[kenkoshio.com](http://kenkoshio.com)



  
**unity**<sup>®</sup>  
Spiritual Center

We are observing preventative social distancing, and masks.  
You can also watch ONLINE! [unitysc.org](http://unitysc.org)



# December Classes

## **Adventures in Resilience:**

**Igniting the 12 Powers in You to Create a Radiant Life**

**Wednesday, December 2 @10:30am**

**Facilitated by Rev. Sharon Connors**

The discussion will be offered via Zoom Meeting ID 577 896 8885, and in the Fillmore Classroom, practicing social distancing.

And after the study, please plan to stick around to help decorate the church for Christmas, capped off by a Pizza Party!

## **Zoom-Only Classes:**

### **A Course of Love**

**Tuesdays @ 10:30am**

**Facilitated by Renee Falkowski**

**Zoom Meeting ID 577 896 8885.**

### **Spiritual Book Study**

**Deepak Chopra's Seven Spiritual Laws of Success**

**Thursdays @ Noon**

**Facilitated by Rev. James Yeaw**

**Zoom Meeting ID 623 974 6443.**

## **OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM**

Our Outreach Ministry is expanding! In addition to supporting the Justice Center with sandwiches and personal hygiene items, we are planning to make plastic bag mats for the homeless as well as knitted hats, scarves and lap blankets for those in Care Units and shelters.

Thanks to Sandie Fish for agreeing to lead this team. She is currently joined by Betsy Dreyfus, Norma Dickson, and LaVonne Rasmusson. Please let Sandie or the office know if you are interested in being part of this awesome team.

On Sunday, December 13, Betsy and Norma will be selling their now-famous jams, jellies and marmalades in the Activity Center.

## **PRAYER CHAPLAIN TESTIMONIAL**

*by Rosemarie Haight*

To be a Prayer Chaplain is a gift to oneself. To pray is the highest conception of the infinite living mind and the real essence of God.

Prayer is a central part of my life. I was an orphan at age six. I was moved around to various shelters without a committed guardian.

During World War II in Europe life was threatening and dreadful. I sought refuge; the church was locked. I sat on the steps of the church and prayed the Lord's Prayer. Faith in prayer was my protection, sustainment, and survival.

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## **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 force 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 the worthy that we pursue; in the kindness and generosity that we express.



## 2021 SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION

### “A YEAR OF TRANSFORMATIVE HOPE: PROSPERED AND RESILIENT IN EVERY WAY”

Cultural anthropologist and author, Margaret Mead observed, “Never underestimate the power of a small group of committed people to change the world. In fact, it is the only thing that ever has.”

Hope is a transforming mindset that ignites our highest flights of imagination. We dream of great possibilities and take the necessary steps to make our dreams—our highest hopes—a reality. In that we are richly prospered and powerfully resilient.

That is the exploration for 2021. Be here and you’ll have lots to cheer.

#### **Prayer Chaplain Testimonial** *Continued from Page 3*

As an adult I attended mostly Lutheran Churches. Then a coworker invited me to the Unity Church. It was like coming home to a loving family. I experienced my divinity and spiritual unfoldment.

Curiosity lead me to Rev. Lei Lanni Burt’s Prayer Chaplain Ministry. I was inspired! Her *Light and Love Ministries* teaches prayer leaders in churches worldwide how to teach and lead prayer chaplain teams within their own churches. I learned so much during her chaplain training workshops; and during our monthly meetings, Rev. Lei Lanni always gives the team something to ponder, and ideas to expand our own spiritual maturity.

You are encouraged to speak with Rev. Lei Lanni to see whether the Prayer Chaplain Ministry is a good path for you to grow your spiritual strengths and serve your community.

God’s blessings are awesome! I am truly grateful to be part of this team. Peace be with you.

## HEALING HANDS AND HEARTS

Unity Spiritual Center has a number of trained healers willing to support your physical healing. Healers meet every other Wednesday at 5:30 PM. Contact the office if you or someone you love need healing energy and prayers. Your information will be held in confidence.

## **Mission Statement**

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



**We're on the Web at**  
[www.unitysc.org](http://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  
Jo Kennedy, Secretary  
Julie McKenna, Treasurer  
Karen Haag  
Sig McGriff  
Lavonne Rasmusson

**10101 West Coggins Drive**  
**Sun City Arizona 85351**  
**623-974-6443**

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