



Light On The Path

Unity—An inclusive path for today's spiritual seekers.

Rekindle the Spirit

At the stroke of midnight on December 31st, the herald sounds out to all the land, a New Year begins. And although it is a convention set by humans many years ago, something within the being responds with a breath of relief, the old is complete. While at the same time, there is a feeling of hope that crossing the threshold opens new vistas that could not be seen before. And thus in many cultures, western civilization is no exception, festivities and celebration mark the closure and dawn of an era.

The seasons of the soul are not so anchored to a literal date and yet they follow a similar rhythm which is why ancient peoples, long before calendars and sophisticated time keepers, knew of life transitions, a time of passage as the sun began to shift and the promise of warmth, and light and life would be renewed. It was a time that called for dreaming and hope and the fulfillment of promise, "In the spring when ...," each heart would whisper.

Yet between the actual breaking forth of spring and the New Year's dawn comes what typically is six weeks of nasty, gray, cold weather. What happened to the promise, where did the hopes and excitement of the New Year go? It is generally known that if one continues on a new course of action, past the initial six week mark, lasting results are more assured. But it takes a strength of will to move through the resistance that seems to slow the momentum that changed the New Year magic to discipline and determination.

The wise one understands that soul work is the ability to be comfortable in stillness, darkness, and the uncertainty of change. For during the winter, one morning is warm and bright, shirt sleeve weather and within hours the cruel north wind keeps its blistery appointment with the land, freezing everything in its path.

In ancient times the most important task in the household was to keep the fire burning. To ensure that there was always a spark of warmth and light, for one could ill afford to have the embers in the hearth die out for lack of attention. Each human that inhabited the dwelling depended upon the presence of the fire.



And thus it is with the heart and the will of the true seeker. Spirituality is a slow burning fire in the hearth and depth of each soul. It must be watched and tended with great care for the process of rekindling the fire is long and painstaking.

What is this kindling, if not a re-grounding in the awareness that what is being sought is not outside the self, but rather within, an integral part of each soul. This is love at its highest work. Not the soft emotion of celluloid, rather it is the fierce power to burn, to shine in the dark, to heal at depth, to bring forth new life.

To rekindle the spirit is to renew the quest, to bring fresh wood to the embers and to spend the time in watchful awareness as the fire calls for air, for space, for fuel. What is the wooden fuel that a spiritual fire will call for if not broken dreams, shattered hopes, and grieving hearts? Here at the edge of the heat is the energy to melt the cold and chill of desolation and loneliness. Coming close to the small flicker of light one is invited to get warm, to be embraced and soothed once again. The aches and pains of the journey anointed. This is not the time for deep burning; this is the time for reconnecting to the essence of life.

Love then becomes the clarion call to union. There is no separation between the pulse of the fire and the life force within the heart. "To love God with your whole heart and your whole soul and to love your neighbor as you love yourself" is the great commandment. Matt 22:37 It is almost too simple, and yet, it is almost too hard. The pure act of love is its own reward, and needs nothing in return. The light's inner glow softly awakens the realization that love is who one is and who one is becoming.

Come sit by the fire, rekindle the flame and tell the stories of love.

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Dearly Beloved of God,

I am really excited as we move into this New Year. Partly because I always love the undertaking of planning and dreaming all the exciting things to come while at the same time it is an opportunity to celebrate that which has come to completion, the unprecedented adventures, dreams fulfilled, goals reached and lived. But this year is even more special to me than some others.

For 2017 is what I am calling an "anniversary" year. On Feb. 15th I will celebrate my 20th year of being an ordained Unity minister. I am proud of that accomplishment on oh so many levels. I could not have dreamed all the twists and turns that decision would take when on Sunday, January 8th, 1989 when I stepped into the pulpit for the first time as a spiritual leader of a small ministry in California. What I thought would be a quick two years to seminary at Unity Village, ended up being an 8-year process, which included a 4-year program called Field Licensing until I finally received my ordination. Seriously, 20 years plus 8 ago, seems like yesterday. Curious to note that this year 2017, the Sundays are aligned just as they were in 1989, I find that interesting.

As I said, anniversaries are not only times to reflect upon achievements and the passage of time, but also to pause and remember when and how it all began. That foggy morning as I walked the beach in San Francisco, asking, pleading to know what I was "supposed" to do with my life. Then the denial, "I'm not good enough," to the moment when I truly accepted that this was the path I was to walk, it was my life journey and my heartsong. And I never looked back. How in those early days I thought my studies would take one path, then the trajectory changed and it morphed into something entirely different, for which I can look back on now and see that it was really tailor made for me, even though at the time it sure didn't feel like it!

It is also my 20th anniversary in traveling internationally. My first trip was a long 16-day trip with 70 people to Israel and Egypt. Never in a million years did I think I would venture overseas and I was scared! But I caught the "bug" to travel. Ten years later, March 2007, I suddenly became the leader of a group tour to Turkey when my minister friend, Rev. Bob Wasner became the interim minister here in Tulsa. He called and said, "You wanted to learn to lead tours, so it's all yours!" I was flabbergasted and a little more than frightened and overwhelmed but I wanted to go and I wanted to learn, just thought the landing might be a little cushier! Not only did I learn, but I made it and came back stronger than ever in my commitment to facilitate groups having the experience of different cultures, and lands to enhance their understanding of the world and our unity within it. So consider going on the anniversary tour with us this year. See details on Page 6 and pick up a brochure in the lobby or on the website under the tab TRAVEL.

What about our church? Yes, new things ARE happening! Our website and social media campaigns have been instrumental in making our larger community aware of our presence and activity. I hear all too often that "Unity is the best kept secret in town," and so I have to ask, why are **WE** keeping it a secret? We have a life changing message that we are being **mandated** to share with a hurting world. For far too long we have been living into exactly what we say, for **we have been the keepers of the secret!** No more, my friends, the survival of our message and all that we hold dear is being challenged by a world that is using fear and anger as their marketing tools. The younger generation is "church shy" and do not readily come to our doors. Thus we are being called out, out to the highways and byways of our community to share our message with today's seekers who are looking for inclusion, acceptance, and community rather than dogma and theology. And they are also looking for the essentials to make their everyday life meaningful and with a level of mastery.



Thus, in our creative collaboration we are birthing something new this year, the **Life Skills University!** Once a month we are going to have a 2-hour seminar, free to the public on various topics to help make life a little easier.

Why? Because once upon a time people learned by being part of a family. They learned to cook from mom, repairs from dad, budgeting as part of balancing a checkbook and skills that were taught in school. Today however, with fragmented families, two-parent working adults, and the break down in curriculum in our public schools, young people are adrift of some of this basic knowledge.

At first we had trouble thinking up various topics, then suddenly we asked what about car maintenance, how do you use PayPal, how do you judge a good credit card offer from a better one, investments, taxes and on and on the list went! See page 4 for more details. Suddenly, this University is finding itself with a full curriculum before we even start. Let's talk exciting!!!!

And there are many other ways that we are exploring as to how to get us OUT into the community. I can't encourage you strong enough to share our events through invitation. Studies show that 95% of all church growth happens when a friend invites a friend.

Our task is to get the word OUT and to invite a friend IN. We don't have to keep the secret, secret anymore.

Rev. Mary Anne Harris

Board Report

Treasurer Report



Suzy Jones, President

Happy New Year! Here we go again! There is something really cathartic about wrapping up the holidays and beginning a new year. We can start all over again.

And that is what we will be doing here at church. We'll be starting "Life Skills University" in January. Each month a different subject will be covered that will deal with skills to get you through life. Want to know how to check the oil in your car? Learn how often you need to change the filters on your HVAC? Balance your checkbook and plan a budget? Figure out how much you should be saving for retirement? We've got you covered.

On to other news, remember back when Amazon was just Amazon Books? It's hard to remember that long ago! Now you can buy anything and I mean anything there. But wait, there's more. A portion of all you spend on Amazon can come to our church. Here is how it works. Instead of going to Amazon on the web, go to smile.amazon.com. If you have an existing Amazon account, Amazon Smile will recognize you. On your first visit, you will need to select a charitable organization (Unity Church of Christianity – Tulsa), then just shop as you usually do and .5% will be donated to the church. It's not a great deal, but as a friend of mine likes to say, "Crumbs make a loaf".

I just love the tools we have as students of Unity. We know that our thoughts are powerful and, as we sing, "our thoughts are prayers". That's why I am practicing visualizing our sanctuary full of people like us, seeking a deeper spiritual life. I see our finances strong and thriving. I see lots of activities going on every day at the church. I see joy.

Won't you join me in visualizing all the great things we all want for our church? I'm spending a portion of my meditation time each morning dreaming of a bright new year here at Unity.

Love and Peace



Happy New Year! Another holiday season has come and gone, as well as another year. It seems like it was only a couple weeks ago we were starting 2016 and now we are already in 2017. Life is so busy with so many things that demand our time, the days seem to fly by. It is so easy to miss the subtle changes going on around us. There is a new exciting energy building up within our church. It is still new and delicate, but it is absolutely present and growing. Not only can I feel it, but I see it in our numbers. The Board has been working on many new projects in many different areas all with the single goal of sharing our beliefs and message to as many people as we can.

I believe the reason this new energy is growing is from our members taking action. People are inviting family, friends and co-workers to visit our church and it shows. People are actively promoting our church on social networking sites like Facebook. I know I am personally enjoying seeing our church family members posting and interacting online. I am new to Facebook and still learning how to use it, but it already brings a bright spark to each day when I see what other members of our church family are doing and experiencing. I am quite surprised at how much closer and connected I feel with those members who active on Facebook.

As we move through the new year please don't let this new energy fall by the wayside. Let's keep feeding and nurturing it just as if we would if we were caring for a new plant. Because just as a new plant it will continue to grow and blossom until it becomes a beautiful example of God's work. many times over.

Happy New Year!

Jeff Woods, Treasurer

P&L Actuals	October 2016	November 2016
Income	\$18,758	\$11,981
Expense	\$16,976	\$17,453

Board of Directors

- President: Suzy Jones
- Vice President: Connally Perry
- Secretary: Kim Wiley
- Treasurer: Jeff Woods
- Director: Marleen Reddaway
- Director: Linda Lusk
- Alternate: Cheryl Phelps

Spiritual Connections Newsletter

- Editor & Writer: Rev. Mary Anne Harris
- Office Assistant: Sherry Setters
- Bookkeeper: Mary Portwood
- Contributing Writers: Jeff Woods, Suzy Jones
- Weekly Helpers: Betty Sharp

Our Sunday Team
Carol Horacek
Volunteer Coordinator

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Renny Berry

Julie Davis

Colleen Kirkpatrick

Cheryl Phelps

Louise Rose

USHERS

Renee Anthony

Robert Curnutt

VC Garrett

Shelly Jones

Colleen Kirkpatrick

Pat Nicholson

Marleen Reddaway

Louise Rose

Terry Stewart

HOSPITALITY

Carol & Jerry Horacek

Gail Iadevaia

Dayna Lane

Chris Myers-Baker

John Raney

Marleen Reddaway

Betty Sharp

Sarah Stansell

Beth Stephenson

Kim Wiley

GREETERS

Cindy Bear

Maggie Cunningham

Lorry Dean

Chuck Lange

Lee Lowder

Vicki Roberts

Rae Jean Roller

Louise Rose

Jamie Townsend

SOUND TEAM

Patrick Harris

Colleen Kirkpatrick

Omar Perez

Keith Purtell

Don Rush

Altar Decorations

Colleen Kirkpatrick

Louise Rose

Kim Wiley

LIFE SKILLS UNIVERSITY

THE THINGS THEY DIDN'T TEACH YOU IN SCHOOL!

ONCE A MONTH WE WILL BE OFFERING A SERIES OF PRACTICAL ADVICE AND HELPFUL TOOLS GIVING YOU THE SKILLS TO MAKE YOUR LIFE EASIER!

**EACH 2 HOUR SEMINAR IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
 THEY ARE FREE OF CHARGE - INVITE A FRIEND!**



Session #1 - SPEND LIFE WISELY!

Saturday, January 21 ~ 10am - Noon

A holistic approach to life that encompasses faith, financial well being, wellness and personal development.

Do you often agree with John Barrymore who said, "Why is there so much month left at the end of my money?" **Make the year 2017 the year to turn your financial life around.** A well designed spending plan is a life-long process but there are tools and tips that help to make it a little easier, more informative and therefore successful.

A budget is "telling your money where to go instead of wondering where it went." John Maxwell

Jennifer Henagar is the Vice President and director of financial well being at First United Bank. She graduated with both a bachelor's and Master's degree in finance and business administration. She is a certified financial coach and she is here to help YOU succeed!



LIFE SKILLS UNIVERSITY

Session #2 - ATTENTION: THIS IS YOUR HOUSE SPEAKING!!

Saturday, February 18 ~ 10am - Noon

A house is a living entity and thus it needs regular care to stay in tip top shape.

Your home is your largest asset. Even if you do not own the property the contents in your home are valuable and worth protecting from water and fire damage. A few easy, simple and proactive checks will help you to protect yourself from the cost of major repairs!

Patrick "Tool-Time" Harris has learned general maintenance, home repair and car repairs from the school of hard knocks and bare necessity.

Additional resources: We are also in the process of creating a list of trusted repair people for you to use in the event you do need extra help.



January Highlights

Rekindle the Spirit

"I admire some people for their brilliance and I respect others for their strength. But I am indebted to those who can rekindle my spirit." - Steve Goodier

Sunday, January 8 a new spiritual journey begins

We encourage you to *INVITE A FRIEND*, to be present for this special new program - a month long adventure to the edges of the soul.

 *Jared Tyler*

Special Music! Sunday, January 8

Singer, songwriter, multi-faceted instrumentalist, Jared is a Tulsan who is rising on the international scene. He has two albums to his credit and has worked with an array of well known artists. Jared's music touches the soul deeply.



Make plans to escape the cold!



*Chili Dinner
& Movie Night*

Saturday, January 28 6:00 - 8:30pm

"Letters to Juliet"

Starring Amanda Seyfried and Vanessa Redgrave
Do you love Italy and great scenery? Are you a hopeless romantic? Do you love a happy endings?
Sign up in foyer to reserve your seat.



Sunday, January 29 Communion Sunday

Faith is the way of the heart and communion is an external ritual that recalls the internal step to deeper commitment and connection to the Path of God. All are welcome at the table.



**WEDNESDAY
MORNING**



9:30A—11:30A

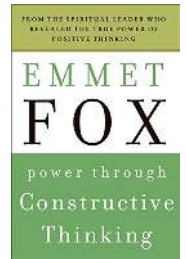
January 11th - February 22nd

Fresh with contemporary relevance, this classic offers insights on self-transformation. Based on Emmet Fox's simple message that "thoughts are things" and all potential rests in their creative and constructive use.

John Bowdle, Facilitator

Please purchase the book in advance

Class on a love offering basis.



Living the Artistic Life

January 5 & February 2

11:00a - 1:00p

The first Thursday of every month - on-going

This class is NOT about "art" rather it IS about creating your life story.

January theme: Dream a Little Dream

February theme: Living Abundantly

Class is on a love offering basis

Bring a lunch or snack if you would like.

Membership Orientation

**Saturday, February 4
9am—Noon**



Join Rev. Mary Anne as we explore together journey of the soul, basic Unity teachings and its history, as well as the story of Unity Church of Christianity.

Membership is a symbol of a desire to deepen your commitment to living from a spiritual point of view. You are not obligated by attending to become a member. However, in order to become a member you are required to attend this session and complete the application.

Membership Sunday—February 26

February Highlights

Annual Membership Meeting

Sunday February 26

12:00-1:30pm

A review of the year by our Board of Directors and Rev. Mary Anne and election of new board members.

Light lunch will be served.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL CARDS ARE DUE

Return by mail or drop in box in foyer.

All members please note that you must return your membership renewal card to the church office **no later than Sunday, February. 12**

New Board Candidates

We say goodbye and heartfelt gratitude to **Connally Perry and Kim Wiley** for their many years of service and welcome **Cheryl Phelps and Pat Nicholson** to serve on the 2017 Board. Biographies are in Neal Hall.



Pat Nicholson



Cheryl Phelps

Wednesday Evening, February 1st



The **ADULT COLORING BOOK CLUB** returns to its weekly gathering 6:30 - 8:00pm

It's fun, it's free, it's relaxing!

Special Musical Guest Sunday, February 26

Olivia Duhon



Love her! Can't wait to enjoy her exquisite voice and jazz vocals once again!

A native Cajun from southwest Louisiana, Olivia moved to Tulsa during her high school years and found her passion for jazz and performance.

Potluck & SPAIN

Everyone Brings Something to the Table.

Sunday, February 5

Pictures of our adventures in Spain and Lisbon will be shown following a delightful sharing of food and fellowship.

Plan to be here! Bring a dish to share with six people.



Evolution Sunday Sunday, February 12

This year marks the 12th annual Evolution Weekend

We join together with faith communities all over the country to work toward a greater understanding that sound science and religious beliefs are not in conflict, nor does the theory of evolution in any way threaten, demean, or diminish our faith in God.

Evolution is good science.



BEST OF CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE

November 1—November 12

Cost from New York (JFK) \$3,089.00* (Includes taxes)

Join Rev. Mary Anne and fellow Unity Travelers for another exciting adventure of a lifetime.

Brochures are now available on the information table and on website.

This trip is open to anyone ~ invite a friend!

Calendar

Unity Church of Christianity

January 2017

Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am	2	3	4	5 The Artistic Life 11:00 - 1:00pm	6	7
8 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am	9	10	11 Book Discussion 9:30-11:30am	12	13	14
15 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am	16	17	18 Book Discussion 9:30-11:30am	19	20	21 Life Skills University 10:00 - Noon
22 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am	23	24	25 Book Discussion 9:30-11:30am	26	27	28 Chili & Movie Night 6:00-8:30pm
29 Sunday Celebration and Communion Sunday 10:30 am	30	31				

February 2017

Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Book Discussion 9:30-11:30am Coloring 6:30-8:00pm	2 The Artistic Life 11:00 - 1:00pm	3	4 Membership Orientation 9:00 - Noon
5 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am	6	7	8 Book Discussion 9:30-11:30am Coloring 6:30-8:00pm	9	10	11
12 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am	13	14	15 Book Discussion 9:30-11:30am Coloring 6:30-8:00pm	16	17	18 Life Skills University 10:00 - Noon
19 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am	20	21	22 Book Discussion 9:30-11:30am Coloring 6:30-8:00pm	23	24	25
26 Sunday Celebration 10:30 am Annual Meeting Noon - 2:00pm	27	28				



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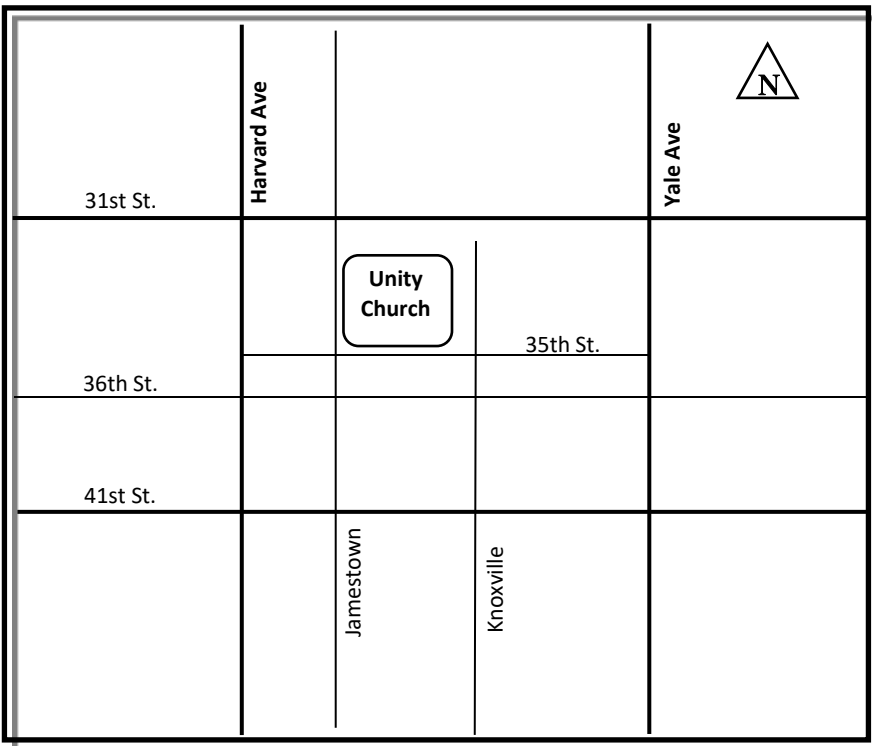
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SUNDAYS
10:30 AM
Worship Service

Reach us online at
tulsaunitymail.com
www.tulsaunity.com

<i>Unity Church of Christianity</i>	Church: 3355 S. Jamestown Ave. - Tulsa, OK. 74135 918-749-8833 E-mail: tulsaunity@gmail.com Website: www.tulsaunity.com Sunday Service 10:30AM
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January Theme: *Rekindle the Fire*

- Jan. 1** - Cold Embers
- Jan. 8** - Tending the Fire
- Jan. 15** - A Winters Glow
- Jan. 22** - The Only Constant
- Jan. 29** - A Gentle Passage

February Theme: *The Kingdom of God*

- Feb. 5** - The Kingdom of God
- Feb. 12** - A Cacophony of Sound
- Feb. 19** - Serving Two Masters
- Feb. 26** - The Only Moment