

# LIVING TODAY

| DOING TOGETHER WHAT ONE CANNOT DO ALONE |

## Rev. Paula vacation

Our minister, Rev. Paula, will be taking her accrued vacation time in February this year. She will be going to Australia and New Zealand. Hopefully, there will be pictures for all to enjoy upon her return. Let's see her having a safe and wonderful journey.



## Time Change Sunday, March 12

No one wants to miss even one of our wonderful services. So here's just a reminder. Let's be sure and set our clocks ahead one hour on March 11.



## Let's have a heart to heart...

It is so wonderful to be a part of the spiritual community of Unity Church of San Marcos. We had some wonderful projects that we accomplished together last year, a new roof, new carpet for platform in the sanctuary and repairing the leak in the annex, etc. Perhaps, that's enough, right? Well, it's more than enough, however, I have great news. There is more. More for us do together and see the wonders of Spirit's miracle at work in our church. So join in the fun and see where this new year can be about improving our spiritual home even more. New sign? Repair the parking lot? Noise barrier for sanctuary? Be sure and let our board know of your thoughts on priorities.

*Wishing you peace, joy, and happiness  
throughout the New Year.*



### Rev. Paula Skiles

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**Need a Prayer?** A Prayer Box is located at back of Sanctuary. We pray with on your request for 30 days and then forward to Silent Unity, who also pray on the request for 30 days.

Unity of San Marcos  
Recorded Prayer Line  
512-396-5433

24/7 Silent Unity Prayer  
Partner Line 800-669-7729

## THE HOLY WAY..

*“Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those of a fearful heart, ‘Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God...He will come and save you.’ ... For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there and it shall be called the Holy Way...no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.”*  
(Isaiah 35:7-8)

We are at the beginning of our new year and wondering what this new year will be like for ourselves and those we know and love. Isaiah, chapter 35 is a wonderful example of an exhortation about when life brings us to our knees, and we are desperate for one reason or another, to hold on because God is coming. By using a wilderness and desert to describe that experience it relates to us the concept that if we will just trust God, and be strong in heart, then Spirit brings forth what we need to water the desert times of our lives. We will no longer be lost in the wilderness. Instead, there will be clear direction and sense of peace.

There is a great saying, “It’s hard to fall when you are on your knees.” The truth is that every circumstance of restriction and difficult times will offer us the chance to create a new and different way of thinking and living in life. These difficult times act like a fertilizer for our creativity and freedom to think of new ideas for receiving our good. Following is a paraphrase from





Daniel Nahmod that speaks to this.

“One of the most amazing aspects of Albert Einstein’s’ life was his absolute commitment to freedom of thought and it got him into a great deal of trouble as a young man.”

When he was in school in Switzerland, he actually made more intellectual 'enemies' than friends -- simply because, to him, there was no untouchable idea or icon. He questioned everything and everyone until the answer made sense to him, no matter who he angered in the process.

Not surprisingly, when he finished studying at the Zurich Polytechnic, he couldn't even get a job! No one would hire the brash, presumptuous, exceedingly independent young thinker. And after years of looking for university work all over Europe, after pulling every string he could pull and calling in every favor he could muster, he finally got a low-paying, low-status government job reviewing patent applications in Switzerland.

It was while he was doing that job, barely making ends meet, entirely unknown and unheeded, sitting in the 1900's version of a cubicle that he formulated -- and published to the world's astonishment -- four ideas so new and profound that they revolutionized humanity's perception of the universe forever.

Clearly, this was a desert experience for him, but he did this work without a master's degree, without a mentor, without a nest egg or financial security, without even an office in a university... in the midst of what could have been the most discouraging, most FRUSTRATED, time of his life.

It didn't take him many years, though, to recognize the blessing that had been hidden in those circumstances, exactly as they had unfolded. He soon realized that the greatest gift his creative mind could have received in that moment was the time and solitude to do his great body of work -- outside of the realm of conventional thinking, far from the pressure to conform to university standards or a supervisor's expectations.

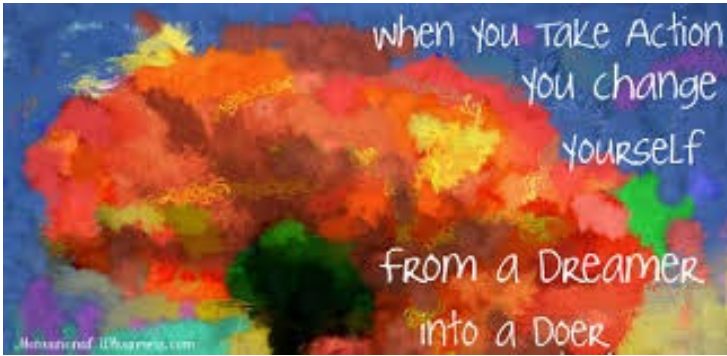
What felt like a desperate time to him at the time (again, he couldn't get a job in physics or mathematics no matter what he tried!) turned out to be not only the greatest possible gift to his life, but to all of our lives by extension. It's important to remember, no matter what our own dreams, histories, plans, and circumstances may be that good can come from any situation and occur for us in them.

In retrospect, we can see blessings for our lives even during those desperate days... isn't there, then, a wonderful opportunity in this very moment to appreciate and trust THIS day, THIS moment, THIS experience. The truth is we are able to bring forth God's perfection into our lives perhaps especially when we are on our knees. Each of us, I believe, is continually birthing our own Greatness body of work, just as Einstein was during those long hours in the Swiss Patent Office.”

So, take a deep breath, and when times are hard, as they sometimes are, then trust the Spirit of God within you to bring forth what you need to get off your knees and see the desert experiences bloom.

Think on this...blessings, Rev Paula





**Wednesday Night Book Discussion**  
**6:30 p.m.**  
**Facilitated by Billy Grimsley**

Want to improve your life? Be with us as explore this interesting book by Dr. William Glasser.

Dr. Glasser offers a new psychology that, if practiced, could reverse our widespread inability to get along with one another, an inability that he says is the source of almost all unhappiness.

For progress in human relationships, he explains that we must give up the punishing, relationship-destroying external control psychology. For example, if you are in an unhappy relationship right now, he proposes that one or both of you could be using external control psychology on the other. He goes further. And suggests that misery is always related to a current unsatisfying relationship.

**Let how you act determine the way you feel. Don't let how you feel determine the way you act.**



**Keeping it Real!**

**FEBUARY  
EXTRAVAGANZA**

While Rev. Skiles is on vacation for the month of February, we will be enjoying some wonderful speakers and musicians.

Plan on seeing some of your loved speakers like Lucille and Marygrace Sorensen, along with our fabulous speaker/musicians, Barbara and Abraham.

