

# LIVING TODAY

| DOING TOGETHER WHAT ONE CANNOT DO ALONE |

## Easter Sunday Service April 1

Let's celebrate Christ as a living message in us, from us, and as us in this special Easter season.

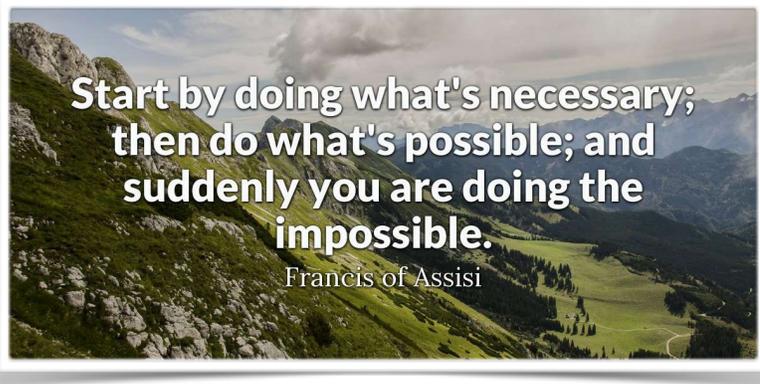
## Mothers Day Service May 13

Come experience the humility of the Divine Feminine as we show the women of our lives how loved and important to us that they are.



## Fathers Day Service June 17

You're invited to appreciate the men in our lives on this special day with a Father's Day breakfast. Bring that special man that you feel needs to know how wonderful he is and share in a great breakfast at our church to honor the men.



## JUST IMAGINE Mar 25th 12:30 - 2 p.m.

Just Imagine becomes our mantra for this year as we each express in our own way envisioning the greatest good for our church. Come be a part of this prayerful opportunity for creating a group consensus for our church growth and determining how Spirit is calling each of us and thus our church to show up. Please make plans on this Palm Sunday to include time to share your insights, faith and hope after services at our visioning meeting.





### Rev. Paula Skiles

Here are just some of the great opportunities we will have to experience the Power of Grace and Holy Spirit in our church.

- Easter Sunday Service Apr. 1 @ 11 a.m. service
- Mother's Day Service May 13 @ 11 a.m. service
- Father's Day Service and Rev. Marygrace Sorensen Ordination June 17 @ 11 a.m. service

**Need Prayer?** A Prayer Box is located at back of Sanctuary. We pray 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 Truth is

Everyone goes through difficult times in their lives where we feel everyone and everything is conspiring against us. Those times when we are at our lowest and experiencing dire distress. The ordeals that seem to crucify us are not a sign that we're doing something wrong. They are an essential part of the spiritual path, and the only efficient response is a state of surrender.

So much of what we believe surrender to be is erroneous. Surrender is not an act of giving up or quitting. Surrender, rather is a state of being in which we turn over the outer picture with a mindset that says, "I will continue to do my best, but will no longer be expecting a specific outcome. Surrender is the state of realizing that Spirit does work in mysterious ways that no one can predict, but you welcome all experiences, knowing that everything will work out so that you are blessed with a deeper sense of Christ in time.

Evelyn Underhill, one of our Unity authors, writing to a friend to embrace the cross as an essential part of one's spiritual transformation during a time of emotional distress put it this way. "I do not think you have ever made the Cross the center of your life really, and you have got to, you know. Nothing else will do. And if you do not accept it





## *THE TRUTH IS...cont.*

deliberately, why then it will be forced on you in some subtle and ingenious way, as it is at the present moment. And by struggling and tiring yourself out, you make it worse. Accept what you are having, quite simply and obediently. Take it as it comes. And do not get into a despairing condition. These experiences are a perfectly normal part of the spiritual life, which is not designed on the lines of a "Pleasant Sunday Afternoon. Surrender yourself altogether and be quite quiet. The thing is not in your hands at present."

To Charles Fillmore, one of our co-founders, the cross was "a symbol of the forces within us adjusted to their right relation," with the vertical bar representing the flow of divine life and the horizontal bar that of the cross current of human limitation. The center point represented the point of heart consciousness where the healing love of the Christ frees us from restricting thoughts, beliefs, and feelings of human limitation."

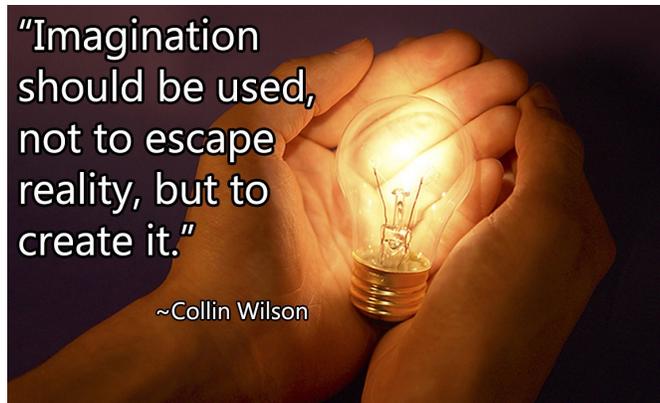
Another view is that the vertical bar of the cross represents the continuum of our evolutionary journey from the material to the spiritual, from the sensate self to the divine self. The horizontal bar symbolizes the duality of our personal world, representing both the error beliefs we acquire and express due to sense consciousness, as well as the knowledge from our true spiritual selves that we proclaim to the world.

The center point represents the conscious mind, the pivotal point where we decide what we will believe or accept, as well as what we will express. It is pivotal in the sense that we can rotate the horizontal bar of our thoughts, beliefs and feelings into alignment with our true spiritual journey at any time...that is surrender. If we couple our mind with Spirit, we can heal our mistakes and free ourselves from the pain of restricting thoughts, beliefs and feelings.

Many times it seems impossible to accept whatever troubles are happening in our lives. Surrender is an act of spiritual maturation and many times surrendering relieves suffering. This is also when doors open to show us the many ways we are loved and supported by God.

The wonderful truth is God hasn't walked with you into something without being there as you emerge from it as well. Regardless of how deeply we are hurting, there is a surcease of despair the more we can turn over the conditions of our circumstances surrendering completely to Spirit.

Think on these things...Blessings, Rev. Paula Skiles



## JUST IMAGINE Easter Services

**Mar 25th, 29th and Apr 1st**

Please join in as we enter into our personal Jerusalem experience. See how the story of Easter is our story as well. Be with us as we celebrate Easter Week, first with our Palm Sunday service, and plan on coming in during the week for our Maundy Thursday Foot Washing ceremony. Then, we share the glory of resurrection on Easter Sunday. This beautiful service is special in Unity of San Marcos, as we offer an elemental communion on Easter Sunday.



## MAUNDY THURSDAY REMEMBRANCE

Thurs. Mar. 29th  
6:00 p.m.

Join Rev. Paula at 6:00 p.m. as we experience our Maundy Thursday Foot Washing Ceremony, which will include a spiritual communion. In it we experience a powerful meditation of receiving inspiration from Spirit to speak to our hopes and aspirations for the regeneration of our souls and spirits.

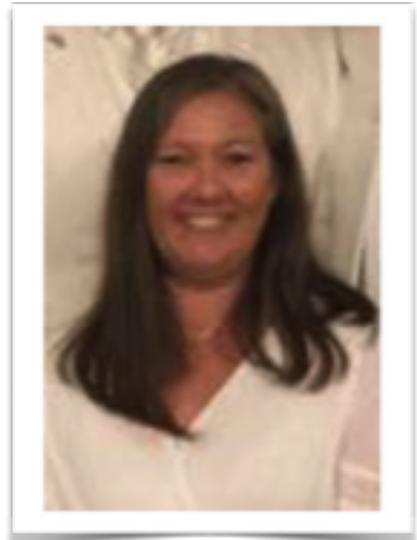


## Inspiration from Rev. Marygrace

### God's Unfolding Plan

It seems that many people pray asking God for a certain thing: a specific job, the sale of a home, finding the car, etc., and then sometimes are disappointed when their prayers seemingly go unanswered. The prayers are answered, but just not how we WANTED them to be answered. As I've mentioned in a Sunday message, it's said that God answers prayers in three ways: yes, no, or not now.

In Jeremiah 29:11 it reads "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.



**Rev. Marygrace Sorensen**

God has only plans for good in our lives, but sometimes what turns up doesn't look like what we thought, what we had planned for our good. So then, we end up feeling disappointed and then resist our good that God has in store! God, always has something good, something better in store for us.

In February, 1990, I broke up with my THIRD fiancé, after discovering that while I had his ring on my finger, he had another girlfriend! I was devastated. I loved him, but was so incredibly hurt. What I had planned for; what I had prayed for; what I thought was my future was gone. I was so disappointed.

Not only had fiancé #3 cheated on me. I realized he had several habits that could have been problematic for me later on. 1) While #3 would occasionally attend church with me, he was also couch-potato, sports-spectator slug, who wouldn't go to church if there was an important game on early. I would have been a sports widow; 2) He was a chain smoker and I was an active asthmatic who was allergic to smoke. (I know, what was I thinking, right?) 3) He drank a dozen or more cans of beer in a week. And 4) he made his transition in 2001 from cancer. Had it worked out the way I had planned, I more than likely would have been a widow left with small children!

My, oh my, did I get something better when I began to regularly pray and meditate again! Five months later, in July, 1990, after following internal guidance, I attended a retreat and met my husband who lived 2,400 miles across the country from me. We'll celebrate our 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary in April.

For almost as long as I can remember, I've known I was going to be a Unity minister. However, for years the only way to do that was attend school in Missouri or Detroit, both of which have very long, very cold winters! Then I advocated for Youth and Family ministers to be ordained while working in the Field through Unity's Field Licensing path to Ordination. The proposal I wrote was accepted and I wanted to apply while the Youth Director at Unity of Houston. However, my husband didn't want me to, as our son was only three years old.



**Bobcat Build April 7**

The Bobcat Build registration has been submitted. We have asked for 12 students to complete gardening, painting and window cleaning tasks on Bobcat Build Day – April 7. We will also need volunteers from the church to coordinate the student’s efforts and to serve lunch.

**Intern to Fully Ordained Minister – A Note from Rev. Marygrace**

As most of you know, I have been serving as your Associate Minister since last July, when my internship with the Unity’s Urban Ministerial School (UUSM) began. According to UUSM, my internship officially ends on March 31. However, I will continue to be present as I am able.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart. The truth is that without Unity Church of San Marcos, I wouldn’t be getting ordained. You, who with arms open wide, have welcomed me as a guest-speaker for five years; opened your hearts even wider when Rev. Paula agreed to serve as my mentor. It’s been a fun, learning journey for me. I hope you feel as I feel, that I’ve made a contribution and a difference to Unity Church of San Marcos. I’m so grateful for each of you and all you’ve contributed to this culminating step.

I will be ordained at Unity Village on Monday, June 11. On Father’s Day, Sunday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Paula will ordain me here at Unity Church of San Marcos. Following, not only will we celebrate Father’s, we will celebrate my ordination and have a pseudo-bon voyage party, as I embark on new path as a Unity Minister. I say pseudo, because the board has invited me to return to guest-speak once a month. So while I won’t attend on a weekly basis, I’ll still be around once a month.

## God's Unfolding Plan...cont.

While both of our fathers were Unity ministers. My dad didn't attend ministerial school until I was in high school, while Scott's dad was already a minister when he was born. Scott didn't want me absorbed in a church while our son was young, so I didn't apply at that time. After eight years as the Children's Ministry Consultant, my husband finally felt our son was old enough, so I applied to the region to support me through Unity's Field Licensing path to Ordination. However, to my surprise, my application was denied. I was shocked and confused!

Had I made up all this in my head? Was this just me wanting to walk down this path? Or was it really what I was being guided toward... or even had been being guided to do? I let it go and just gave it back to God. This or something better is often attached to Unity prayers. I prayed that if I was to become a Unity minister that I needed God to show me the way, as I was out of ideas! Less than six weeks later, I learned that unbeknownst to me, Unity's Urban Ministerial School (UUMS) in Detroit had expanded to an on-line program six years before! As you know, that program has culminated in my internship here at Unity Church of San Marcos: all a part of the Divine unfolding of what I believe is God's plan. I resisted God's good, when I was in my twenties my call, because I knew I was too young and I'd be redirected because I didn't have enough life experience. I resisted in my thirties, because I didn't want to live somewhere with ice and snow! I resisted in my forties, because of my family. Finally, in my fifties, I quit resisting.

Here I am nearing the end of my "becoming" a minister process and about to embark on my path as a minister, with yet another unknown plan laying before me. I'm trusting God's unfolding plan yet again and allowing it to gently unfurl before me, as I give it up to God.

God's plans are always unfolding for us, in what we in Unity like to call Divine Order. And rest assured, Divine Order is always at work, even when it doesn't look like it. We are invited to open ourselves, to expand our faith to know greater good is coming and to trust with our whole hearts that God's right and perfect plans are unfolding for us.

## Mothers Day Tea

May 12 2-4 p.m.



Do you have a woman you would like to honor for Mothers' Day? Then bring her with you to our Friendship Hall the day before Mothers Day and share in an afternoon of music, fun, food and tea.

This High Tea delight is sure to offer your special "Mom" a wonderful sense of being appreciated and loved. Please sign up with Cat Burns, our High Tea Hostess.



**PANCAKES @ 10 A.M.FATHER'S DAY**

Did you hear the fabulous news? There's going to be a Pancake Breakfast for the men on Father's Day...Wow, all you have to do is come at 10 a.m. on Sunday morning. Be sure and bring any of the men that you love to experience this feast. Yeah, and then after service it'll be PARTY, PARTY, PARTY time as we celebrate Rev. Marygrace's ordination.



## Just to Keep It Real!



**BE SURE TO BRING A PICTURE OF YOUR VETERAN(S) FOR OUR MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE SUNDAY, MAY 27TH AS WE REMEMBER AND HONOR OUR VETERANS.**