

# LIVING TODAY

| DOING TOGETHER WHAT ONE ALONE CANNOT DO |

## Lenten Observance Service Feb. 21

You're invited to an intimate journey in the Way of Christ—sharing our own losses and hopes on our spiritual journey.

## Palm Sunday Service Mar. 20

Palms are symbols for many things, even Solomon carved palms into the walls and the doors of the temple.



## Easter Sunday Service Mar. 27

We are celebrating Christ's message to us in this special service culminating our Easter season.



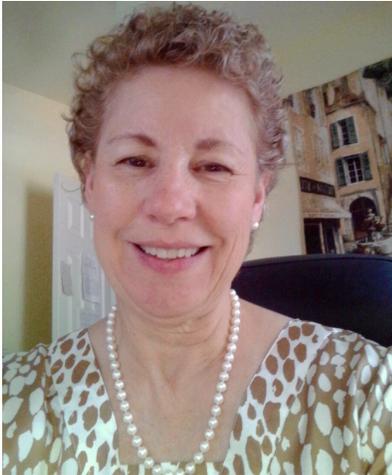
## Easter Services Mar 27

Come be a part of our special Easter Services which will be a powerful, celebration of the of the Christ to resurrect. Unity—the Light that shines for you becomes our mantra this year. As we each express in our own way honoring the Christ within us.

Holy Week kicks off with waving palm fronds in many Christian churches. What's in a Palm? They were symbols of high esteem and victory; ancient Egyptians carried palms in funeral processions as a symbol of eternal life. See how they are applicable to us today.

Then, we celebrate Unity style the power of the Christ with a spiritual communion. For those of us who experience meaning in ritual, a voluntary elemental communion will also be offered.





### Rev. Paula Skiles

Be sure to be present for Easter Services. Here are just some of the great opportunities we will have to experience the power of Grace and Holy Spirit in our church.

- **Lenten Sunday Service**  
Feb. 21 @ 11 am
- **Palm Sunday Service**  
Mar. 20 @ 11 am
- **Easter Sunday Service**  
Mar. 27 @ 11 am

**Need a Prayer?** A Prayer Box is located at back of our Sanctuary. We pray with you 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....

***“Then he showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations..” (Rev.22:1-2)***

Where is this place that is mentioned in John’s vision? Is it really about some far past or future event? For me, and in Unity teachings, it is neither, but it is a depiction of the pure life of God that flows into each of us through our spiritual body, what we call our aura, and is sensed by the our physical body in our cerebrospinal systems. All the interesting and enigmatic things that John saw and wrote of were first an out-picturing of his spiritualized, inspired, soul thoughts, and this wonderful garden is the depiction of our auric body, the substance (temple) of God. Our soul inhabits our body; its emanation is called the aura.

So does this vision have any meaning for us today? Let me offer an interpretation based on Truth teachings.

The throne denotes the establishment of the spiritual word with the soul, through which authority is given us to exercise power and dominion (good stewardship). There is that in us that comprehends and knows in wisdom. There are two ways of building our spiritual faculties. One is by following the guidance of Spirit, the direct power of the Word, the I AM, (the



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

of the twelve apostles of Jesus), that dwells within, and the other is to learn by the evolutionary law of experience and trial (the school of the twelve sons of Jacob). Charles Fillmore said, "The Law of Moses and the experiences of the Children of Israel under the dispensation represent the second; and the transforming power of the true Word, or gospel of Jesus Christ, as set forth in the New Testament, is the first." Here I am referring to more than just literal, written words, but the embodiment of what those written words convey; the very energy of Spirit in them. For example, living, knowing, and expressing as peace, beauty, power, love, courage, etc.

There are two ways of building our spiritual faculties. One is by following the guidance of Spirit, the direct power of the Word, the I AM, (the purifying of the twelve apostles of Jesus), that dwells within, and the other is to go blindly ahead and learn by the evolutionary law of experience and trial (the school of the twelve sons of Jacob). Charles Fillmore said, "The Law of Moses and the experiences of the Children of Israel under the dispensation represent the second; and the transforming power of the true Word, or gospel of Jesus Christ, as set forth in the New Testament, is the first." Here I am referring to more than just literal, written words, but the embodiment of what those written words convey; the very energy of Spirit in them. For example, living, knowing, and expressing AS peace, beauty, power, love, courage, etc.

The Lamb symbolizes the indwelling divine life, whose nature is to vivify, with perpetual life, all things that it touches. It knows only to give, to give unceasingly and eternally without restraint.

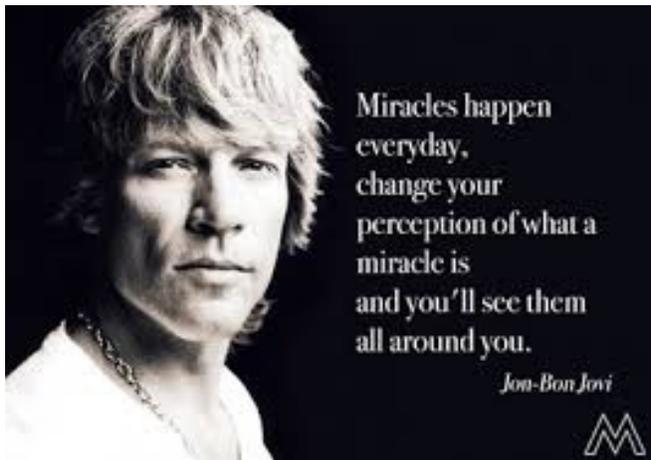
This river of living water is the expression of spiritual thoughts through the soul. The movement of spiritual thinking produces an effect upon the body...a vital energy, a fine essence of life (and of the lamb), which flows through the nerves and courses through the blood. It carries with it the enjoyment for life and the desire to be about living well. Depression is the result of telling ourselves and hearing reinforced only error beliefs, based in unworthiness, unloveable, etc. The more we think and feel from Truth, the more we are physically and mentally uplifted.



The tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruits are ideas of divine life experienced in the body through the nervous system as health, well being, longevity, good humor, etc. As we express and incorporate into our lives the activity of divine ideas, (peace, strength, faith, love, compassion, generosity, etc.), the leaves of the tree that were for healing become the spiritualized thoughts that heal our physical, mental, psychic, and emotional bodies, (the nations) and guide us in our everyday lives and bring forth choices that heal erroneous beliefs and attitudes. When we aren't listening to or following Spirit, the fruit of Spirit falls fallow on the ground, and the leaves, our experience of joy, peace, love, wither and we are left with a yearning for God that we feel, move from or exist in our life solely from duty, obligation or rigid adherence to a set of false appearances and usually find martyrdom, intolerance, and or self-righteousness to be our fruits.

Trees, as a rule bend with the wind and are flexible as well as strong. As you and I listen to the guidance of Spirit and follow it or bend with the wind in faith, we grow up strong toward the light of wisdom and understanding. Faith is a deep inner knowing that that which is sought is already ours. It is the perceiving power of the mind linked with the power to shape substance. St. Augustine said, "*Understanding is the reward of faith. Therefore seek not to understand that you may believe, but believe that you may understand.*" Spiritual Understanding gives clear insight into everything; it remolds mentality, and inspires the will to direct, to act, and to control.

Think on this...blessings, Rev Paula



**Monday Night Discussion Group  
7 p.m. Each Monday  
Facilitated by Larry Stock**

Want to change your life? If you are not seeing what you want in life, see what happens if you change your perception. Join Larry as we discover ways to change how we see, refine what you want, so you can absolutely get it. Change these perceptions and the outcome might surprise you.

So, how do you change your perception? Sheer willpower? No. You cannot change your life personally or professionally through willpower alone.

**Choose how you will act to determine the way you feel. Refuse to let how you feel determine the way you act.**

**RADICAL  
FORGIVENESS  
BOOK STUDY**

**Begins Jan. 6, 2016**

**Wed. 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

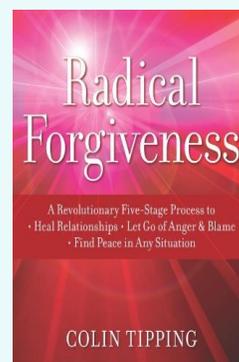
**FACILITATED BY: Frank Grimsley  
and John Bergmann**

Join us for a study of Colin Tipping's updated book, *Radical Forgiveness*.

Could there be a divine purpose behind everything that happens? If you're willing to embrace this possibility, Colin says, "every aspect of your life can change." This is the theory behind *Radical Forgiveness*. Join Frank and John for step-by-step instruction in what begins as a healing process, and culminates in a paradigm-shifting path to awakening. Discover Colin's Five-Stage Process to:

- Heal Relationships
- Let Go of Anger and Blame
- Find Peace in Any Situation

Call Randal Wood to purchase book prior to class. 512-590-5465



## L.E.A.P. into the Future.

Listening

Evolving

Appreciating

Participating



### We can LEAP into the future of Unity Church of San Marcos.

The year 2016 is a leap year. Let it be a L.E.A.P. into the Future year. Have you wondered what our church will be like in 5 years? Join Rev. Paula after church on Sundays in January to discuss and share your hopes, gifts, and ideas.

We have some opportunities as a spiritual community ahead of us. The following ideas have been contributed so far, and are a good start for us in the year ahead to reclaim a wonderful future for ourselves. Perhaps you have some other thoughts of what is ours to do today...

*“I fairly sizzle with zeal and enthusiasm as I spring forth with a mighty faith to be about that which is mine to do today.”*

Charles Fillmore

#### *One issue, need, goal, at a time*

- ◆ Make prosperous opportunities out of unfortunate circumstances
- ◆ Develop long term, sustainable goals for next 5 years
- ◆ Improved maintenance of our church property- parking, lighting, landscaping, etc.
- ◆ Provide training for more youth ministry leadership preparing for them
- ◆ Improve relationships with area organizations that support our values



***Just To Keep  
It Real***

## **UNITY - THE LIGHT THAT SHINES FOR YOU**

**Ever wanted someone to just be there for you? With all the various issues currently immersing our country in discord, perhaps you or your friends and family are feeling a bit overwhelmed and helpless in the face of countrywide problems? You are not alone in feeling that way, if you are.**



**SO HERE IS THE QUESTION TO ASK...Do I just have to live with a sense of helplessness? The Answer is...there is yet more in you and there is something you can do. The resurrection of Jesus takes place in each of us every time one of us rises to the realization of the perpetual in-dwelling life that connects us to Spirit. In Truth, Christ in us is always saying: "I am your center of peace and healing. I am that in you which is strong and steadfast. I am the overcoming power in you. I show you the path of life. I am the way, the truth, and the life. You can meet changing conditions and circumstances, you can rise up with courage and faith, you can go forward with confidence and joy. In me you can do all things."**

**There is something that you can do to uplift this country that will aid in releasing feelings of helplessness, anger, anxiety or fear, etc. It is participating in a healing prayer treatment.**

**Here is an invitation to overcome and help our country to heal. Be the Light that shines. Join with other members of our spiritual community in prayer. Sign up to hold prayer for two days of the month. This can be done from the privacy of your home, with or without other people, for minutes or hourly as your schedule permits.**

**There is yet more in you.**