



# *A Spiritual Community on a Positive Path of Personal Growth*

Founded November 1999

May 2025

## **Stewardship: Creating a Culture of Gratitude and Generosity**

After the church's March planning meeting, the board decided to create a Stewardship Committee, which is currently made up of Jeanne Surber, Art Westerfield, and Pastor Brian. Why Stewardship and not Prosperity? Over time, the term "prosperity" has become predominantly associated with financial gain and material wealth. This narrow interpretation risks overshadowing the richer, more holistic view that New Thought originally encouraged—one where prosperity encompasses health, community, intellect, creativity, service, and transformation of consciousness. By emphasizing stewardship, we are invited to expand our understanding of prosperity beyond mere monetary success. Stewardship is thus recognized as a diverse tapestry woven with threads of abundance, purpose, and using our blessings to make a better world.

Stewardship rests on the belief that we live in an abundant world, that God has blessed us with all we have, and that we are temporary stewards of those blessings. Stewardship is rooted in gratitude for all of God's gifts. In stewardship, we facilitate the discovery of God's blessings and the prayerful discernment of

how to share those blessings. Being grateful and reflecting on life's abundance can be life changing! With a stewardship orientation, looking at everything we have, instead of what we don't, the natural response is "what am I supposed to do with this abundance?"

Adopting a stewardship mindset transforms how we engage with the world. It prompts us to reflect on our actions: Are they sustainable? Do they contribute to the well-being of others? Are we cultivating positive change? These are questions that call us to action, inspiring mindful living and a commitment to contribute positively to our communities and the world at large.



## **Accessing Creativity Through Humor**

On Sunday, April 27th, Richard Inman did yeoman service for our spiritual community by delivering an inspiring sermon and beautifully performing the music with



Sheila Cochran (assisted by Linda Drake). In addition,



Richard invited everyone to experience their creative selves by an unusual demonstration of spontaneous humor in an afternoon workshop. Making the point that humor commonly comes from what is most mundane and ordinary, Richard led the group into a series of improvisational role plays and spontaneous sharing that provoked a lot of laughter. There's no doubt that, whether participating or observing, everyone there touched a new nerve of their creative selves.

## **Prayer Workshop**

On Saturday, April 4th, at Unity Santa Maria, Rev Linda Martella-Whitsett - author, Unity minister, and former director of Silent Unity - led a prayer workshop



about "praying with others." Our chaplains attended and reported that it was a rich experience in which they came away with a greater insight about prayer in general and how to pray with others more specifically. One of the key insights from Rev Linda was that our prayer work deepens as we deepen our spiritual practice and that we realize we are here to be the light of the world. Our dedicated chaplains are available for

prayer seven days a week.

Ultimately, stewardship is about aligning our actions with our values—ensuring that our contributions, whether through time, talent, or treasure, leave behind a legacy of good. This approach naturally leads to a more fulfilling sense of prosperity that transcends financial metrics.

In embracing stewardship within New Thought, we reaffirm our dedication to a worldview that embraces all life as interconnected and valued. Stewardship invites us to act with love, responsibility, and wisdom, ensuring that as we pursue abundance, we are stewards of all that we've been entrusted with, for the collective good of humanity and our planet. If you are interested in cultivating a greater sense of gratitude and generosity in your own life and within our spiritual community, consider joining the Stewardship Committee. For details, contact Pastor Brian, [revbrian.walker@gmail.com](mailto:revbrian.walker@gmail.com).



### Power of Eight Intention in May

The Power of Eight is available on Zoom, 6:30 pm on Thursday, May 1st, with an email reminder and Zoom



link going out the morning of the session. The in-person session at the Victorian will be after the Sunday service May 18th. If you would like to be on the mailing list, to

participate, or be a recipient of an intention, contact: Chris Garey [chris@peacefulpoint.com](mailto:chris@peacefulpoint.com)

### The Unity Ukulele Group

Unity Ukes are practicing a new set of songs for the July 28th concert at the Victorian so there is still time to join! The group is open to Unity and non-Unity beginners and more advanced players. We have songs



sheets to practice so all you need to bring is your ukulele, music stand and be prepared to have fun! We perform at Unity events.

Days and times may vary.

Contact Richard Long for detailed information. [richardlong1@gmail.com](mailto:richardlong1@gmail.com)

### Unity Five Cities Women's Gatherings

The Women's Group had a lovely gathering and potluck on April 10th at the home of Kathy Bornino.



The theme of the day was "Spring, Fling, Flower, Bling," all about flowers.

There were many different expressions of the importance of flowers - edible flowers, flowers on clothing, stunning photos of flowers, stories of flowers. There was a wonderful display of flowers in Kathy's garden. Everyone had a lovely afternoon.

The Spiritual Spa, the Women's Group meeting on Zoom, facilitated by Rita Conrad, LUT, will meet Thursday, May 8th, at 6:30pm. Contact Rita for the Zoom link, [rmconrad99@gmail.com](mailto:rmconrad99@gmail.com). *Come as you are.*

### Trip to Santa Barbara Botanical Gardens

On Wednesday, April 21st, a hardy group of our community members went to Santa Barbara to visit the Botanical Gardens on a senior day (free admission). Unfortunately, the weather didn't cooperate and we dealt with a light rain most of the time that we were there.

The pleasant surprise was that Kathy Bornino's Santa Barbara friend is a trustee of the non-profit garden and took us on a personal tour that was most informative - in addition to hearing about the plants and explanations of the various parts of the garden, we were told about future plans for the garden.



Instead of the planned picnic, we met and ate at The Natural Cafe, which has tasty, nutritious food. All in all, it was a day well spent.

#### March 2025

Income	\$6,166
Expense	\$4,878
Net Income	\$1,288

#### Year to Date

YTD Income	\$14,862
YTD Expense	\$13,373
YTD Net Income	\$1,489

**"A mother's love liberates." — Maya Angelou**



# **What is Your “North Star” in Life?**



## **Clarifying Life Purpose and Passion Workshop**

People of all ages, particularly Seniors, can lose track of their sense of purpose and joy in life. The goal of this workshop is to refresh each participant's joyful energy by remembering we each have unique wisdom, skills, experience, and interests that are of immense value for ourselves and others. Together we literally reclaim our purpose and “come alive” again. Life is not a straight smooth path, and practicing a refreshed perspective is life affirming and enhancing.



**Bring a Friend!**

**Sunday, May 25th, noon-1:30 pm**

**Presented by Unity Five Cities • Facilitated by Chris Garey**

**At the Victorian, 789 Valley Rd., Arroyo Grande**

**No charge, love offering accepted. RSVP not required.**

**For additional info or questions contact [chris@peacefulpoint.com](mailto:chris@peacefulpoint.com)**

# **Come Celebrate World Labyrinth Day!**

## **Long's Labyrinth Open House**

**Sunday, May 4th, 1:00-5:00 pm**  
**154 Walnut St., Arroyo Grande**



### **What is a Labyrinth?**

It is not a maze, there are no dead ends, or wrong ways. In fact the Labyrinth is the opposite, a sacred, safe, single path, that lead you to the center, the same path takes you back out to the entrance. It is a spiritual tool meant to center yourself and find clarity and peace. You might think of it as a meditative walk, going on a symbolic journey, creating your own sacred path.



Our design is a Chartres style 7 circuit pattern called the "Chartres Essence" a smaller version of the the 800 year old Chartres Cathedral Labyrinth in France.

## **Everyone is Welcome!**



# Self-Love Healing Circle

## Women's Group May Meeting



A gentle healing and  
heart-centered circle

This is about remembering love—  
especially the love we give  
(or are learning to give) ourselves.

We'll come together in a safe, sacred space  
to reflect, share, and reconnect with the  
heart. The theme for this circle is:

"When did you first start loving yourself?"  
...or, "What might it look like to love yourself  
more today?"

There will be light sharing, a short guided  
practice based on Ho'oponopono, and time  
to simply be.

Whether you're feeling open, tender,  
uncertain, or curious—you're welcome just  
as you are. Please bring a journal.

*Friday, May 16th, 12-3pm*

*Peaceful Point*

*Potluck, Bring your favorite  
nourishing dish made with love*

*Facilitator, Marilyn Mercado*

*Register*

*Nalaniweb@yahoo.com*

*Bring a Journal*

## Board of Trustees & Staff

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Ruth Jackson, Secretary	805-451-1313
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Prayer Chaplain - Martha Aivaz	805-458-1792
Prayer Chaplain - Ethel Landers	805-550-0348
Prayer Chaplain - Sheila Cochran	619-540-0665
Prayer Chaplain - Deborah Hall	805-788-4777
Prayer Chaplain - Lisa Leonard	916-765-1846
Prayer Chaplain – Jill Roberts	805-451-2886
Prayer Chaplain – Ruth Jackson	805-451-1313

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## Schedule

<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Music</u>
May 4 Rev Jan Limberg Morgan	Jan Grigsby and Nina Ryne
May 11 Mark Stanton Welch	Mark Stanton Welch
May 18 Timber Hawkeye	Steve Kindel & Karen Wilkins
May 25 chris Garey, LUT	One Mighty Light Choir

## Vision Statement

Aligned in peaceful Oneness, we co-create a world of love, harmony, and abundance through shared spiritual awakening.

## Mission Statement

We are a heart-centered spiritual community dedi-cated to empowering personal growth and living the unlimited possibilities of Spirit.

## Belief Statement

- We believe that prayer works.
- We assist in discovering and living spiritual purpose and potential.
- We facilitate a stronger connection to our highest potential.

We feel we are:

- Empowered Grateful
- Peaceful Inspired
- Accepting Connected
- Loving Affirming

## Unity Five Cities

Sunday Celebration 10:00 am  
Meeting at The Victorian  
789 Valley Road, Arroyo Grande, CA  
805-788-4777  
P.O. Box 1005  
Arroyo Grande, CA 93421  
Email: [info@unity5cities.org](mailto:info@unity5cities.org)  
Website: [www.unity5cities.org](http://www.unity5cities.org)