

Columbia Center for Spiritual Living
Senior Minister Report
November 20, 2024 thru December 17, 2024

OPERATIONS ACTIVITIES

- Regular weekly operations “office” hours:
 - Tuesday through Friday 11AM – 4PM: this allots 20 hours to operations activities and leaves the balance of 20 hours for ministerial activities each week.
 - In actuality I am working 9AM – 9PM Tuesday thru Sunday (72 hours) as I work to wrap up 2024 and prepare for 2025.
- Current 2024 Pledged
 - Current Total Amount Pledged is \$78,894.36.
 - As of December 17, 2024, at 11:00AM 99% or \$77,811.34 pledges have been received.
 - 2024 Pledge fulfillment is projected at 98% <\$1,943.02>
 - 26 Members pledged for 2024
 - 17 members have met their 2024 pledges with 7 of these members exceeding their initial pledge.
 - 9 members are projected to give between 26% to 93% of their initial pledges.
 - All pledges are currently registering correctly in Breeze.
- All “2024 In-Kind Giving” is now current to date
 - Total Givers = 9
 - Total Giving Transactions = 142
 - Total Amount = \$11,698.58
- Share Abundance 50/50 Raffle
 - Total Amount Collected: \$2421.96
 - Total Rally Up/Stripe Fees Paid: \$284.46
 - Total Net Raised: \$2070.50 (the Rally Up Experience site rounded this up to \$2071.00)
 - Total Payout to Winner: \$1035.00 (Rally Up rounded this amount down from the actual amount. Technically we owe Marijane an additional \$0.25)

ECCLESIASTICAL ACTIVITIES

- ***Live Streamed Offerings:***
 - “365 Days of Richer Living” Daily Morning Reading and Meditation being live streamed on Facebook, YouTube, & Twitch TV at 6 AM ET
 - Sunday Services being live streamed on Facebook, YouTube, & Twitch TV.
- ***Upcoming Talk Titles and Focus:***
 - December 22nd – The Quest for Peace (I will be announcing the 2025 Theme and more)
 - December 29th – The Quest for Fulfillment (5th Sunday Brunch Service – I am treating the community to my homemade biscuits & gravy)

- *2025 Ecclesiastical Theme: Keeping the First Thing First – Living by Spiritual Principles One Day at a Time*
- January 5th – Understanding Our Relationship with the Law of Cause & Effect Pt. 1
- January 12th – Understanding Our Relationship with the Law of Cause & Effect Pt. 2
- January 19th – The common welfare of Creation must come first; personal wellbeing depends on living spiritual unity Pt. 1
- January 26th – The common welfare of Creation must come first; personal wellbeing depends on living spiritual unity Pt. 2
- **Educational & Spiritual Enrichment Programs – (still in process cuz it IS a process)**
 - Exploring the development of an online based “class on demand” offerings where anyone can purchase an online self-paced curriculum with recorded teaching sessions.
 - I have started developing curriculum and have begun exploring delivery platforms.
 - I have started the recording process of a class titled “Living the Serenity Prayer”. I’m exploring the use of greenscreen technology and how to possibly include a digital whiteboard.
- **Book Study**
 - **SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY EVENINGS BEGINNING ON JANUARY 7, 2025 (5:30-7PM)**
 - *The Numinous Factor: The Spiritual Basis of Science and of Life* by John L. Walker
 - **SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY EVENINGS BEGINNING ON JANUARY 9, 2025 (6:30-8PM)**
 - *Build the Life You Want: The Art and Science of Getting Happier* by Arthur C. Brooks and Oprah Winfrey
 - *Workbook: Build The Life You Want: The Ultimate Guide to Brooks and Winfrey's Book | Chapter Summaries, Exercises, & Action Lists to Take Control of Your Future & Embrace the Four Pillars of Happiness*
- **PRACTITIONERS:**
 - The Practitioners continue to meet monthly, participate in Sunday service, and provide prayer after service in addition to responding to online prayer requests.
 - I’ve invited them to become more engaged by identifying, planning and offering workshops that they feel called to facilitate.
- **TOWN HALL MEETING:**
 - The last gathering was held on December 4, 2024. Only one participant. We explored the idea of planning and facilitating a “Community Home Coming” event in the spring including reaching out to previous community members and personally inviting them to attend the event.

- **OUTSIDE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:**

- Serving as a member of the Howard County Interfaith Advisory Council
 - I am chairing a subcommittee *Addressing Barriers to the Vision of Religious/Faith Equity in Howard County*. Here is a link to the Council's website <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/boards-commissions/interfaith-advisory-council>
- Monthly attendance of Howard County Clergy Alliance Meetings.
 - December - TBA
 - Thursday January 30th
 - Tuesday February 25th
 - Thursday March 27th
 - Tuesday April 29th
 - Thursday May 29th
 - Tuesday June 17th
- I am increasing my engagement in *The Maryland Just Power Alliance* which is a collaboration of AIM – Action in Montgomery, PATH – People Acting Together in Howard, and ACT – Anne Arundel Connecting Together. I am in the process of seeking additional information about how CCSL might become a partner community in PATH.

- **BOARD INDUCTION CEREMONY:**

- In alignment with the consensus of the current Board of Trustees, I will begin planning this for the Sunday immediately following CCSL's 2025 Annual Meeting.

- **CCSL NEW MEMBERSHIP CLASS:**

- One attended the Saturday, December 7th online class – per our records she became a member in 2021.
- Two people were unable to attend due to illness. I am coordinating a new date & time with them to complete the process.

- **ANNUAL PLEDGE PROGRAM:**

- We have received 6 pledges using the 2025 Annual Pledge Program brochure.
- We have received 13 pledges using the 2025 Conscious Giving Commitment form in Breeze.
- The pledge for is accessible on our website.
- Current Total Amount Pledged for 2025 is \$ 73,656.00.
- I am in the process of sending personalized “thank you” cards to everyone who pledged for 2025.
- I am also personally reaching out to the people who pledged last year but not yet this year.

- **CSL ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATE: (Nothing new to report)**

- On Monday, November 18, 2024, during the CSL Connection call
CSL Executive Director, Rev. Michelle Arellano, announced her resignation effective
December 31, 2024.
- The Science of Mind Magazine is experiencing distribution challenges with the in-print
version of the magazine. Subscribership is down, Advertising dollars have decreased.
- Details of all updates are available by listening to the recording of the November 18th CSL
Connection Call.