

# Take Ownership in Unity!



By John Schroeder  
Executive Director

**M**omentum is an interesting concept. It is a demonstrated fact that professional sports teams win more often playing at home than they do in away games ... Have you ever wondered why? The laws of physics and the players' skill remain the same no matter where the games are played, yet the advantage — or *momentum* — most often favors the home team.

Therein lies an important lesson, not just for people involved in professional sports, but for *everyone*. Our good intentions, encouragement, patience, forgiveness and faith that combine for more "home

## KEEPING UP THE MOMENTUM

team wins" also make us winners at work, with our loved ones and in making the most of our spiritual home.

Keeping the momentum going at Unity of Phoenix requires a personal commitment to our own excellence, as well as a special commitment to support this ministry in ways that science cannot yet measure. We may not be able to scientifically gauge how God's love works in our lives, yet we *do* know that momentum favors the home team whose supporters share a common, positive goal and outcome.

During these challenging economic times, many people feel that their momentum has slowed, or even vanished. However, not much gets accomplished by assuming the fetal position, no matter how safe it seems. The tough part is keeping a positive attitude when little progress is shown for the effort.

I'd like to share a dream I had long ago, because it taught me a better way to view our most challenging times.

I was flying in an airplane and was concerned at how close the plane was tracking the earth below. I did my best to pull the plane away from the ground without success. I became more anxious with each passing moment, because I felt in imminent danger of crashing. Suddenly, the ground fell away beneath me and I realized the truth of my situation. I had been climbing a mountainside that rose at the same rate as my airplane could lift. Once I cleared the mountaintop, I could see how much progress had truly been made, despite my earlier fears.

From that one dream I learned that doubts and fears are of no help in soaring to new heights. If we are doing all we can to manifest God's loving ways in

our lives, we can't *help* but succeed, no matter how desperate our situation may appear. We are told that — with faith — we can move mountains ... and I know from personal experience that is true. Eventually, we come to understand how well God *always* provides for us, no matter how ugly life can appear to be at times.

I invite everyone to assume the perspective of being the "home team," and knowing that God is rooting for and supporting us all. Knowing that God ensures us a winning outcome gives us *endless* momentum. If God is for us, no one can be against us! That's not only comforting: it is a divine promise we can count on forever.

Keeping up the momentum is as easy as we choose to make it. God's promises are *always* sure. It is up to *us* to decide how much joy or fear we prefer to have in our lives.

### Our Vision:

Centered in God, we live in a world of peace, love and abundance.

### Our Mission:

To inspire a greater experience of God in ourselves and each other.

### Our Values:

- God First
- Love
- Diversity
- Service
- Community

### Services:

**Sunday Morning Worship:**  
8, 9:30 and 11:15 a.m.  
Sanctuary

**Wednesday Evening Worship:**  
7 p.m. • Sanctuary

**Communion:**  
1st Sunday/Month  
12:45 p.m. • Chapel

**Guided Meditation Service:**  
Wednesday, 6:15 p.m.  
Chapel

### Youth Programs:

**Sunday Children's Ministry:**  
(Age 0-3 years):  
9:30 and 11:15 a.m.  
Administration Building  
(Age 3-Grade 5)  
9:30 and 11:15 a.m.

**Sunday Teen Ministry:**  
Uniteens (Grades 6-8), R10  
11:15 a.m.  
Y.O.U. (Grades 9-12), R9  
11:15 a.m.

### Church Office:

**Telephone:** 602.978.3200

**Fax:** 602.978.3248

**Website:** [www.unityphx.org](http://www.unityphx.org)

### Staff Email:

First initial, Last name  
(i.e., [rmraj@unityphx.org](mailto:rmraj@unityphx.org))

### Church Office Hours:

Sun.: 8 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Mon.-Thurs.: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Fri.: Closed  
Sat.: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

### Divine Idea Bookstore:

**Telephone:**  
602.978.3337 / 800.853.1372

**Website:**  
[www.shopdivineonline.com](http://www.shopdivineonline.com)

**Email:**  
[bookstore@unityphx.org](mailto:bookstore@unityphx.org)

**Bookstore Hours:**  
Sunday: 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.  
Monday/Friday: Closed  
Tues./Wed.: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.  
Thursday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.  
*Closed Saturdays beginning July 3 ... re-opening for regular Saturday business in September.*

### Ministry:

**Lead Minister:**  
Rev. Richard Maraj, X-237

**Pastoral Care Minister:**  
Rev. Jimmie Scott, X-234

**Ministerial Associate:**  
Chris Kennedy, X-299

**Chaplain Line:** X-256

**Dial-A-Prayer:** X-260

### Staff:

**Executive Director:**  
John Schroeder, X-254

**Youth Ministry Director:**  
Linda Depke, X-334

**Spiritual Education and Volunteer Ministry:**  
Chris Kennedy, X-299

**Grief/Counseling:**  
Joan Bacchus, LUT, RN

**Weddings, Memorials, Christenings and Baptisms:**  
Susan Whiting, X-274

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## BECOME A MEMBER!

*Make a commitment to your spiritual growth and fully support and participate in your spiritual community!*

**T**wo times each year, we offer congregants the opportunity to become members of our spiritual community. You can become a member in three easy steps:

### STEP #1: Complete Unity Basics and Prayer Basics.

The completion of these two inspirational courses is a pre-requisite for becoming a Unity of Phoenix member, prayer chaplain, teen sponsor or board trustee. These classes provide a comprehensive introduction to our Unity principles and emphasize the importance of prayer in deepening our experience of God. (See below for the next offering of these classes.)

### STEP #2: Attend our New Member Orientation.

At this mandatory gathering with our ministers, you'll learn more about our ministry; what it means to be a member; and how to take your next steps as a member. These Orientations are offered only two times each year, so please plan ahead! Our next New Member Orientation will be held on **Sunday, August 15 from 12:30 to 2 p.m.**

### STEP #3: Celebrate with us at our New Member Recognition services.

On the Sunday following Orientation, new members are recognized at all morning worship services and then enjoy a Celebration Gathering with their families and our ministers at 12:30 p.m. (Though this step is optional, it is a wonderful way to celebrate your new member status!) Our next New Member Recognition will be held on **Sunday, August 22**

## MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

If you are interested in becoming a member, please make a note of the last chance you will have to take membership classes before our August 15 Membership Orientation!

### UNITY BASICS

**HURRY! Saturday, June 26 • 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**  
*Suggested Love Offering: \$20 minimum*

**F**ind out what Unity is all about! Explore the history of Unity, learn the five foundational beliefs that are unique to Unity, and find out how using these five spiritual principles can transform your life, and open your heart and soul to a fuller, richer experience of God and life.

### PRAYER BASICS

**Saturday, July 17 • 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**  
*Suggested Love Offering: \$20 minimum*

**P**rayer is a foundational practice that cultivates our relationship with God. Consistency in our prayer life is the pathway to deepening our awareness of our Oneness with God.