

Welcome to December

It's time to start baking Christmas cookies and dust off our shopping carts as the countdown of shopping days has begun!

December's theme is "Sticking the Landing" and includes these weekly themes:

- *Standing on Solid Air – with Rev. Joe*
- *Hearts Ablaze – with Rev. Joe*
- *Flowing Ground – with Rev. Joe*
- *The Incredible Light of Being – with Rev. Rachael*
- *Expanding at the Top – with Practitioners Plugged-In*



At the end of our year focusing on Living Out Loud, "sticking the landing" is symbolic, like a gymnast at the end of their routine, finishing the exercise with style and flourish and grounded in timeless principles! Using both elements (such as air, fire, water, earth and light) and flow of consciousness (thought, feeling, form, wisdom and Spirit), we'll wrap up 2024 and prepare for the upcoming new year.

But before we rush off to 2025, I invite you to join me in reflecting on some of what has transpired over the past twelve months. It seems like only yesterday that we re-started in-person services, but in fact that was more than a year-and-a-half ago. It has been so heartwarming to see familiar faces on a regular basis. We have also begun our second in-person service each month. I know it will just be a (small) matter of time until we're together as a spiritual community every Sunday!

This year, 2024, also found us rolling out our new Purpose, Vision and Mission, the very blueprint of what CSLSG is and will continually strive to be. These are the culmination of deep introspection and hard work from our Leadership Team. We also had some changes to our governing body, the Core Council. We said goodbye (for now) to some CC members and added another (me!). I am so very grateful and blessed to have the opportunity to serve you all in this capacity and look forward to doing so for the upcoming future.

There are probably many other milestones that I am overlooking, but what may be the most significant change for us is the addition of our new Staff Minister, Rachael Dilling. She demonstrated her beautiful consciousness and value to our community quickly and has impressed me from Day 1!

The 2025 global theme, "Rising Higher, Growing Deeper", embodies the essence of emergence - the idea that intricate systems and patterns evolve from many simple interactions.

In a world filled with diverse lived experiences, understanding and valuing complexity and nuance is essential for CSL as we continue to create a world that works for all. We will spend 2025 moving away from binary thinking, opening ourselves to the 'both/and,' embracing the paradoxes and complexities that exist today. This holistic approach acknowledges that true wholeness requires integrating all aspects of life, moving beyond superficial spirituality towards a more profound and inclusive journey. As Rev. Darrell Jones, CSL Minister and author of *Soul Gym*, reminds us, "There is so much God to consider."

This year, we will consistently move towards greater awareness, recognition, and appreciation of the vastness of the Divine through the multifaceted nature of God found on our planet.

I thank you all for a wonderful 2024 and look forward to sharing a "Higher, Deeper" 2025 together!

Blessings,
Bill Smith, RScP
Practitioner