



December 2018



Upcoming Events and Classes at Unity of Fox Valley

Sunday Service and Youth Education
Come join us at 10:00 am

Ministerial Musings

Dear Spiritual Family,

Have you ever wondered – If I had been living at the time Jesus was born, would I have been aware, like the shepherds and the Wise Men, of the remarkable event that was taking place in the town of Bethlehem? If I had gone to Bethlehem then, would I have noticed, in the midst of the hustle and bustle of the crowd and in the urgency of my own needs, anything unusual happening?

People who lived then are no different then people who live now in dealing with urgent needs and everyday demands - we're in a rush, we're hurrying here and hurrying there, and don't forget our ever present "to do" list.

Recently I heard a powerful statement by a spiritual teacher on how to stay centered in our spiritual power and awareness. This teacher was speaking about the importance of truly living in the present moment because only then can we learn all the lessons and growth open to us. Her statement was this:

"You'll know you're not in the present moment if you're hurrying." Think about it. When we're in a rush we don't notice people and places because we're trying to get to somewhere else.

The greatest gift we can give ourselves this Christmas is to slow down, to be in the "now" where we will open to the gifts of the present moment and the joys of the season.

I admit that if I had been in Bethlehem back then I probably would have missed the momentous event of Jesus' birth because I was dealing with getting one more thing done on my ever growing list. My intention for this season and the coming year is to slow down so that I don't miss what could be a learning moment or a life changing event.

Wishing you the peace, love, hope, and joy that is the promise of the Christmas season,
Rev Jan



A Little Something to Keep in Mind

We have always been a congregation of “Huggers.” However, not everyone is as outgoing – some of us are a little more shy.

To those in the “Hugger” camp – please be mindful, to those in the “Shy” camp. If you are someone who isn't up to a hug, when you see a potential hugger bearing down on you – just hold out your hand for a shake.

Everyone is different and isn't that a wonderful thing?

Here Comes Santa Claus

When I was a young boy, I vaguely recall when I first questioned whether Santa Claus was real. I tested it out by telling my mother that I knew Santa wasn't really real, and that she and my older siblings had eaten the cookies and milk left out. My mother, probably motivated by not wanting me to grow up all that soon and trying to buy another year, had this answer: “I don't know. Maybe he does and maybe he doesn't. What I do know though is that if you don't believe in him, you don't get any presents from him.”

Needless to say I recanted, and added that I was just kidding. I swore that I believed in Santa more than ever.

It is a small trauma for a child when he or she stops believing in Santa. But what happens next is really the key moment. Santa represents an awful lot that is wondrous, mystical and miraculous. There are bags of gifts, flying reindeer, the North Pole, Mrs. Claus, and a forgiving system of justice symbolized by that list of who has been naughty and who was

nice. Letting go of all that can be very tough, but it is only in that letting go that all that Santa symbolized can be truly embraced.

Much of what Santa stood for can feel very abstract. Things like joy, generosity, jolliness and love can be difficult to grasp and wrap ourselves around unless they become tangible in some way. The mistake is in trying to replace Santa with a substitute provided by the world. The miracle is coming to know that the red suit fits beautifully on us ourselves.

I believe, i believe! I swear I believe.

Rev. Mike

Note from the Board

The Board discussed the results of the Dinner Dance & Annual Meeting. The Board will undergo further review of church property. An Advisory Committee on Church Financials was discussed & tabled. A review of the Minister's Contracts were postponed till the January Board Retreat. There will be no December Board Meeting.

The Board

Frosting on the Cake Fundraiser



*Frosting
on the Cake
Fundraiser*



I'm excited! We just received our first donation towards the additional beautification of our spiritual home. YEAH! This generous gift is going toward three separate areas. I can only imagine the sense of satisfaction, ownership, and joy engendered when the upgrades are completed.

Be sure to watch our Fund Raiser Project Board for the latest updates on our “Frosting on the Cake” wish list progress.

The Board of Trustees and your Revs hope you will be as excited and enthusiastic about making our home even more special and inviting.

Hospitality



In case you have not noticed, our hospitality service downstairs after the service has evolved into quite a wonderful experience. There is plenty to eat of different foods and desserts, almost all of which are the result of the generous loving efforts of volunteers. In addition, it has grown into a time of camaraderie, giving our church family members an opportunity to bond and share.

Please do come and join in the fun. **Please also note that the hospitality service begins after the service ends.** This is important as our children's program on occasion has been interrupted if people come downstairs for hospitality early. Your understanding of this is much appreciated.

Youth Education for the Younger Crowd

For the month of December, the youth will be celebrating the Power of *Life*. The disciple is *Judas* and the color is RED! Through inspiring Bible stories, meditations, crafts, songs and prayers reflecting on the Birth of Jesus, the youth will celebrate the *Christ Light* born within each one of us as the eternal glow that keeps our souls alive with the power of enthusiastic life!

Speaking of enthusiasm, the Christmas Season is here and that means it will soon be that magical time for our annual [Christmas Pageant!](#) This year's performance is titled ***The Nativity Story – Unity Style*** and will be held on *Sunday, December 16* during the 10:00 am service. The Pageant will be very spiritual and heartwarming as it reflects on Unity's metaphysical teachings of the Nativity story. Any youth who wants to participate will need to complete a permission form that is available downstairs in the youth area and is *due no later* than Sunday, December 9. The Pageant involves longer narrative-speaking parts for teens/parents, and shorter speaking and non-speaking parts for youth of all ages. All participants are strongly encouraged to attend ***practice on Sunday, December 9, during***

class time at **10 am**; to attend **dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 15, from 9:30 am to 11:00 am**; and to **arrive on Sunday, December 16 (day of the pageant) at 9:15 am**. We appreciate all participants and are looking forward to an absolutely memorable and magical *Nativity Story – Unity Style!*

Last, but most importantly, not least, we express deep gratitude to Rev. Jan for donating her beautiful, pre-lit Christmas tree for the Youth Ed area! Yeah!

Many thanks and many blessings,
Ms. Mary, LUT, CSE



Christmas Decorating & Chili Party



Christmas Decorating & Chili Party!

Please join us!

Saturday, December 1st, 10:00am

Let's make this a whole family affair! Everyone is welcome.

Service of Remembrance

SERVICE OF *Remembrance*



**Sunday,
December 2nd, 10am**

*A day to remember
and celebrate the life
of a loved one, who has
moved on to his or her
next life experience.*

Men's Ministry



Tuesdays, December 4th & 18th, 7:00pm

The Men's Group meets the first and third Tuesday of each month,
September through May at church. All men are invited to join!

A Course In Miracles

A Course in Miracles



*The journey to God is merely
the reawakening of the knowledge
of where you are always and what
you are forever.*

Every Thursday, 7:30pm to 9:00pm, at Fox Valley Unity Church.

The emphasis for this session will be the Workbook from A Course in Miracles

The class will be facilitated by Warren Wakerlin (Wwakerlin@aol.com)

Everyone is welcome - you may join in at any time!

Healing and Wholeness Service



HEALING AND WHOLENESS SERVICE

Please join us on Friday, December 7th, 7:00 pm

Please join us in our once-a-month service filled with music, chant, prayer, and hands on healing conducted by members of our music team and our prayer chaplain team.

If you've ever wanted a time and place where you could just be open and surrendered to the healing power of Spirit this will a wonderful opportunity to be surrounded in love, prayer, and peace.

First Friday of every month!

For more info., please contact Rose Maxson: singingalong77@gmail.com

Secret Santa



It's beginning to
look a lot like
Christmas, and
that means it's
time for our...



For the 16th year, Unity of Fox Valley will be providing gifts for 30 children who are served by CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) Kane County. These are children who might otherwise find their Christmas trees bare.

The Christmas tree is up!

Please select a tag or tags from the tree and return your gifts on or before Sunday, December 9th.

You do not need to wrap your gifts.

Please contact Beth Johnson, Outreach Chair,
with any questions: bethmjohnson@comcast.net

Oil of the Month



Oil of the Month

Sunday, December 9th, 11:45-12:15pm

We will be picking an oil a month and have a brief 30 minute class as to where the oil comes from, how it is diffused, the properties it contains, what it can be used for and how to apply/diffuse it.

Christmas Spirit! Join us to hear about this wonderful oil of the season. We'll be sharing some easy and uplifting holiday gift ideas, and you're welcome to create some make and take bath salts to give to that special someone.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

For more information, please contact Barbara DuRocher: barbarajdurocher@gmail.com
or Nancy Gouch: nancygouch@att.net

Christmas Pageant

The Nativity Story

Unity Style



Unity of Fox Valley Youth Ed Christmas Pageant 2018

Once again, our Spiritual Sunday School will be presenting their annual **Christmas Pageant**, and this year's presentation is titled ***The Nativity Story – Unity Style***.

The Pageant will be very uplifting and spiritual as it reflects on Unity's metaphysical interpretation of the birth of Jesus.

Any youth who wants to participate will need to complete a permission form that is available downstairs in the youth area and is due no later than Sunday, December 9. All participants are strongly encouraged to attend **practice** on **Sunday, December 9**, during class time at **10 am**; to attend **dress rehearsal** on **Saturday, December 15, from 9:30 am to 11:00 am**; and to arrive on **Sunday, December 16** (day of the pageant) at **9:15 am**.

We appreciate all participants and are looking forward to a heartwarming performance!

Please contact Mary Nowroozi for more info.: marynowroozi@comcast.net

Christmas Services



Christmas at Unity of Fox Valley

Monday December 24th, 7:00pm
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Tuesday, December 25th, 10:00am
Christmas Day Service

World Healing Meditation



Monday, December 31st, 6:00 am

On December 31, 1986, noon Greenwich time, people around the world gathered to participate in the most comprehensive prayer activity – a planetary affirmation of peace and love, forgiveness and understanding in a simultaneous global prayer link to achieve a critical mass of spiritual consciousness.

Thus was the birth of World Healing Day or World Peace Day. Whatever the term or label, it was a new beginning in restoring this world. It is a moment of oneness to dissolve the sense of separation and return humankind to Godkind.

Today this positive consciousness is practice and celebrated throughout December with the cumulation of positive energy waving over the planet and all its inhabitants on World Healing Day when millions of people gather together as one to usher in a new era of peace and love on earth.

Volunteer Ministry



THANK YOU TO THE BOARD and Kathleen for the wonderful Dinner Dance festivities!! We ate, we danced, we took pictures, and we visited with one another!! A big shout out to Kathleen, Joey & Kathleen's husband Galen for all of your hard work on the decorating!! We were beautiful!! Thank you to

those that helped cleanup afterwards!! Always the inevitable cleanup, but we got it done and still had time to dance!!

A very heartfelt thank you to Diane Crompton and her volunteer team for a fun filled, belly filled, laughter filled, Thanksgiving feast! We looked beautiful once again, and all of the dishes shared did not disappoint!!

You know volunteering to help decorate or clean up is such a great way to learn about your fellow church members. As we were decorating on Saturday morning, there was much laughter and sharing. Many hands made for quick work that morning!! Thank you one and all!!!

Hopefully we will see you at the [Christmas Decorating and Chili Party](#) Saturday morning **Dec 1st at 10:00am!!** Come one, come all and join in the fun of making our church home beautiful!!

One of our volunteer opportunities that is sometimes overlooked is our beautiful [Christmas Eve Candlelight Service](#). Maybe you have that musical talent that has been kept a secret because you think you just aren't quite good enough? Rob and his Music Team do amazing things and you can too!! Get with Rob and lend your beautiful voice or instrument!! That service will be held Dec 24th at 7:00pm. Rehearsal will begin this month!!

Heads up for JANUARY [Burning Bowl](#) ceremony on **January 6th**, followed by [Christmas Un-Decorating](#)! Please allow some time that day to stay and help!!

So, it is very much looking like Christmas out there this morning as I write this. Our first blizzard of the season! A little scary, but beautiful!! So my thoughts? Slow down and be safe as winter begins. Be kind and cautious on the roadways and bless all travelers, even the person that cut you off or nearly rear ended you because they were driving to fast!! Allow plenty of time to reach your destination relaxed and anxiety free!!

Many Blessings, Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and prayers for all!!!
Bobbi Severson, bsever4785@gmail.com

Green Team

The [Green Team](#) will continue in 2019 with an event **January 27, 2019**.



The Green team continues to accept polystyrene for recycling. The bin downstairs is accessible for empty and clean food containers of styrofoam and for packing styrofoam. Please take advantage of our service.

Here are Green Team tips by Karen Hunter Kowalski:

In 2015 we disposed of 37.6 Million tons of food waste. See tips to eliminate waste by going to toolkit at www.epa.gov.; to eliminate junk mail, go to directmail.com and sign up for the Do Not Mail list; tear newspaper sheets and office paper into strips and place it around your plants. It will nourish the soil and keep it moist as well as eliminate waste. Do not use glossy paper ad sheets.

Think Green this holiday season.

Burning Bowl



Burning Bowl Service

Sunday, January 6th, 10am

***The Burning Bowl and White Stone Service** has become a tradition for members of the congregation opting for spiritual reflection as a way to let go of the old and whatever baggage has been holding them back.*

Christmas Un-Decorating

*Alexa, take down
the Christmas decorations*

(it was worth a shot)



CHRISTMAS UN-DECORATING



Sunday, January 6th, after the Service

*Please stay after the Burning Bowl Service and help us
UN-Decorate the church from it's Christmas Decor!*

More hands make quick work!

Outreach Ministry



***Half Day
School Program***

Noon to 3:30PM

**Volunteers
needed!**

Thursdays, February 28th & April 19th, Noon-3:30pm

Throughout the school year there are dates on which local school children are let out after half a day.

In some cases parents of those children are working and unable to be home early. Volunteers are needed to assist in attending to those children for a couple of hours.

If you think you would like to work with those children doing crafts or other activities, please sign up! To be eligible you need to be high school age or older, and willing to undergo a background check.

Please contact Beth Johnson for more info or to sign up:

bethmjohnson@comcast.net 630-336- 6159

Prayer Chaplains

Did you know that our prayer chaplains are available to Unity of Fox Valley members for home, hospital and nursing home visits? You may request them to pray with you at anytime. Call the office at 630-879-1115 or email us at churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org

Namaste!



Young Living



Did you know that when you purchase Young Living products Unity of Fox Valley benefits in more ways than just the cost of the item purchased? Young Living products are the highest quality and have many health benefits.

We have a good selection of Young Living Products available for sale. From agave nectar to an array of toiletries and cleaning products! We also have Essential Oils available for calm & healing.

Do you need us to order anything?

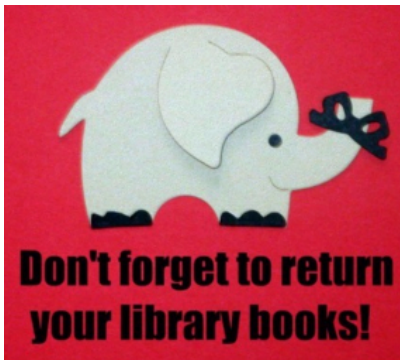
Place your order in the Fellowship Hall by the 15th of each month!

For more information, please contact Barbara DuRocher barbarajdurocher@gmail.com



December 1st - 24th
In stock items ONLY!

Library



Please remember to return your library books!

If you have books out from the Library and you have had them for awhile, please remember to return them!

AmazonSmile

amazonsmile

**Do your holiday shopping
at smile.amazon.com**



AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Unity of Fox Valley every time you shop, at no cost to you. AmazonSmile will donate a percentage of the purchase

price of eligible products to Unity of Fox Valley!

Just click on the link below and make a purchase!

Use this link over & over all year round!

Please click on this [link](#) next time you need something
& help raise money for Unity of Fox Valley!

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2889899>

News from the Church Office

*A section in the Newsletter to fill you in on some of the fun doings
of our Office Manager, Kathleen Malick.*

Wow! This past November was quite fun and packed for me. Not just work but I got a chance to have a very small get away with just my husband Galen this past month. It was cut short but still wonderful when you are married to the love of your life.

I got to take my daughter Ava to see Hamilton too! She has wanted to see it for so very long and we just had a wonderful time together. PLUS! I got to hug this giant donut. Life is complete! HA HA HA!



Get out there! Act a little silly. Love the one your with. You are loved. You are blessed and you are uniquely you!

*Please remember that it is never too late to eat right, get up and get moving! Love yourself
by ***treating your body right. It's the only one you have!****

Blessings!

[Kathleen Malick](#)

Follow us on FACEBOOK!

Connect with us on Social Media by liking our
Facebook page! There you will find updates



on our events and general news.

<https://www.facebook.com/unityoffoxvalley>

On Going Activities

- **[A Course in Miracles](#)** - 7:30-9:00 pm every Thursday evening, Unity of Fox Valley facilitates A Course in Miracles discussion group. This is an ongoing class rain or shine. Each week a new topic is discussed. Everyone is welcome at any time and the class is always open to new attendees.
- **[Alcoholics Anonymous](#)** meeting. Tuesdays at 6:00pm.
- **[Men's Group Meeting](#)** - the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm, September through May.
- **[Overeaters Anonymous](#)** meeting. Sundays at 5:00pm.
- **[Unity Green Team CommUnity Event](#)** - 4th Friday or 4th Sunday, January through April and July through October.

Contact Information

phone: 630.879.1115 churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org

fax: 630.879.1728 www.unityoffoxvalley.org

prayer line: 630.879.1129

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