



August 2020

Ministerial Musings

Virtual Spirituality

I was reflecting on what has and what not has been happening at our church since the middle of March. Obviously, we have not been meeting physically. Oh, how I miss looking you in the eye, the hugs, the camaraderie, the joking around; and let's not forget the food. Since the virus has interrupted our comfortable routine and our savory hospitality, I think I may be a bit undernourished. Obviously, I am joking and well fed. More importantly, I continue to be well fed spiritually.

I am so very grateful for what we have been able to do technologically during the pandemic. Zoom has its issues and drawbacks, and obviously our contact with one another is not what used to be. Still, what meeting virtually has confirmed is that the essence is there. The essence is always there. Perhaps accessing it in a tangible manner has become different, maybe now a little more inconvenient, but what we share has not diminished. In a way, circumstances may have even spotlighted the family aspect of Unity of Fox Valley. I know it has for me. That we miss seeing one another in the flesh and sharing a cup of coffee together only confirms what we share.

The same principle extends to us individually. Virus or no virus, our lives often may fall into the category of virtual. Things, different circumstances sometimes require us to show up more in the flesh than in the spirit. All of the extraneous business of working jobs, honoring schedules, meeting deadlines, going to the store, and so on, only require our robotic virtual selves. We do not have to be there in spirit, but we can be...

A make-shift definition of virtual might be, "almost, but not quite." Even when we do something just by going through the motions, we meet that definition. All we have to do to amp things up is to be present with a bit more awareness. When we say a simple hello to

somebody, we can do so with a greater mindfulness of the divine of the person we greet. When we ask somebody, "How are you?", we can do so with a tiny bit more of really wanting to know and a little bit less of doing what we are expected to do. With each tiny little exercise, we start showing up a little less virtual and a little more real.

No doubt our Zoom gatherings are virtual by definition. We transcend the technology not by turning on the computer and logging on, but rather by being truly present to one another regardless of the format. Having to see and speak to one another through our little electronic cannot dampen that. In the same way doing all of the mundane things that life dictates cannot diminish who we are. Spiritually, we are only as virtual as we may choose.

Peace,

Rev. Mike

revmike@unityoffoxvalley.org

Youth Education for the Younger Crowd

As we continue on Zoom for our safe well-being at this time, we will be exploring the Power of Will for the month of August. **The disciple for this month is Matthew** and the **color is shimmering silver**. The youth will learn that once we, like David in the Old Testament story of David and Goliath, reconnect ourselves to the loving presence of God and are willing to let go and let God be in charge of our lives, all wonderful and inspiring things are possible.

Two of our Y.O.U. (Youth of Unity) and I had attended a Virtual Day Event titled **"Community"** on **Saturday, June 27**, hosted by the Great Lakes Region Y.O.U. Here, many Y.O.U. and Sponsors from the five-state region uplifted our sense of oneness and purposefulness as a spiritual community through songs, prayers, meditations and art activities. At this event, it was announced that such meetings in the Y.O.U. region will continue every 3rd Sunday for the summer months of July and August through the Zoom platform. This is an excellent opportunity for our teens along with other regional teens to collaborate, connect and create! We are so grateful for the mission of the Great Lakes Region Y.O.U.!

Aria King, representing our Unity of Fox Valley, had planned to host/lead Y.O.U. class in the Chicagoland area on Sunday, July 19, but since the Great Lakes Region had hosted on that 3rd Sunday, Aria has kindly move that date to Sunday, August 2. The link for our

Y.O.U. will be provided soon. We thank you, Aria, for being flexible in making this change to a later Sunday, and we know you will do a fabulous job!

Our [Gathering in the Lot](#) on Saturday afternoon, July 18, was absolutely fabulous! Here our youth of all ages as well as their parents and teachers had met safely in our church parking lot, joyfully reuniting with radiant smiles and distant hugs! We offered safe, fun activities that had surely reconnected and uplifted our spiritual family! It was so heartwarming to be together again, and we visualize that such a gathering will actually occur in the very near future every Sunday in our “brick and mortar” spiritual home with real, physical hugs!

Continue to be safe, well and at peace!

Thank you all with many blessings,

Ms. Mary, LUT, CSE

marynowroozi@comcast.net

Silent Auction FUNdraiser



Dear Unity of Fox Valley Family & Friends,

As announced at our town hall meeting last month, the Board of Trustees has decided to do a [Silent Auction FUNd Raiser](#) this year. Our financial position is such this year that the Board felt it was unnecessary to pursue direct financial assistance from our church family, and a silent auction could be a fun way to help us meet our needs.

The auction is scheduled to run beginning **October 17th** and continue up **to** and through **October 25th**. This is an event that can be promoted and carried out online. We also will put together a safe venue allowing people interested to view items that are being auctioned.

We are now seeking contributions of items that can be included in the auction. With the exceptions of artwork and antiques, items donated should be new and not used. There also are opportunities to be creative. Perhaps you have a special service that can be offered such as music or art lessons. Maybe you can assemble a gift basket of wine and cheese, or coffees or teas. If you have a connection or relationship with a restaurant or service in our community, perhaps you can solicit a gift certificate. Are you a gifted seamstress or cook? These are just a few ideas that can be explored.

We also are looking for volunteers to assist us in putting this together. There is a minimum amount of organizational work involved. If you are open possibly to giving some time, please contact Bobbi Severson bsever4785@gmail.com

If you have something to contribute or have any questions, please notify our church office: churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org. Whatever you may have to offer will be much appreciated and tax deductible.

Peace,

Rev. Mike

revmike@unityoffoxvalley.org

Online Sunday Services



Every Sunday, 10:00am

Attend our Online Sunday Service from the comfort of your own home!

Please click [here](#) to take you to the info you need to join in on Online Sunday Service!

The links changes every week so be sure you have the most up to date info.

If you have trouble accessing the meeting, please contact

Zoom: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us>

Online Sunday School



Every Sunday, 11:30am, Online

We are encouraging youth of all ages - Children's Church, Juniors, Uniteens and Y.O.U. (Youth of Unity) - to join us for an hour of spiritual connection through prayer, story, meditation, and singing! ***Parents are welcome to join in on the fun, too!***

Please click [here](#) to take you to the info you need to join in on Online Sunday School!
The links changes every week so be sure you have the most up to date info.

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

Bhagavad Gita Class



**1st & 3rd Sundays
August 2nd & 16th, 1:00pm**

The Gita is the essence of the perennial wisdom of the Universe. It maps the stages of the mystical journey of our soul as we travel, each on our individual path to knowing we are all part of the interconnectness and oneness of the Creation. The class is based on the American teacher, Sat Shree's commentary on the Gita.

This class will be held ONLINE. Please contact Carl or Lucy Klemaier for login information to join in.

For more info. or any questions, please contact Carl or Lucy Klemaier:

colonelklay@yahoo.com

Coffee & Tea with Myrtle & Me



Every Thursday, 10:30am, on the Church Lawn

Please join us for our weekly chat but now we will be taking advantage of the summer weather and meeting on the church lawn! Please bring your drink of choice, a comfy lawn chair and enjoy conversation and the summer with us!

You can still join us online!

Just look for the weekly email with the login information or go to the [website](#).

A Course In Miracles



Every Thursday, 7:30pm - 9:00pm

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

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

Please click [here](#) to take you to the info you need to join in on the class.

The class will be facilitated by Warren Wakerlin: wwakerlin@aol.com

Healing and Wholeness Service



**HEALING AND WHOLENESS
SERVICE**

Friday, August 7th, 7:00pm

1st Friday of every month at 7pm. We all can use some healing as the events in our world give testimony recently. The service features prayer and music to realign ourselves with the healing power of Spirit that resides within us and surrounds us. Please join us.

Please click [here](#) to take you to the login information when it becomes available or wait for the email that will be sent out when the event gets closer.

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

Prayer Chaplain Ministry



Each month the prayer chaplains are taking turns sharing a favorite prayer with you, our spiritual family. This month's prayer is from Wanda Faye:

Today you are to identify yourself with the more abundant life, to think on these things which make for peace, to dwell on the unity which underlies everything. As you consciously poise yourself in the realization that you live in pure Spirit, new power will be born within you. You will find yourself renewed by the Divine Life, led by Divine Intelligence and guarded by Divine Love. Focus your inward vision on this indwelling harmony, knowing that as you contemplate its perfection you will see it manifest in everything you do.

Affirm: Everything I do, say and think is quickened into right action, into productive action, into increased action.

My invisible good already exists.


My faith, drawing upon this invisible good, causes that which was unseen, to become visible.

All there is, is mine NOW; all there ever was or ever can be, is mine NOW.

Your Prayer Chaplains, Eliza Sutherland, Wanda Faye Holmes, Lucy & Carl Klemaier, Maria Cosentino, Mary Nowroozi, Bobbi Severson and Marie Manella, are committed to making periodic Caring Calls to all our members. We make these calls to support you, our spiritual family, with your prayer needs. When we pray with you, we hold everything said in confidence, placing your requests in the sacred space of limitless possibilities of God's love, that place we often are unable to see for ourselves.

As these “consciousness raising” times continue, we encourage you wear your masks in public spaces, practice physical distancing, and to call on us if you need prayer support in between our calls. If you have not been receiving prayer calls and want to start now, please contact the office at 630-879-1115 or churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org and a Prayer Chaplain will be in touch.

Blessings and hugs,
Bobbi and Marie

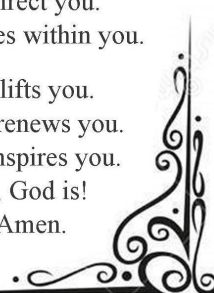


The Prayer of Protection
Written by James Dillet Freeman

The Light of God surrounds you.
The Love of God enfolds you.
The power of God protects you.
The Presence of God watches over you.

The Mind of God guides you.
The Life of God flows through you.
The Laws of God direct you.
The Peace of God abides within you.

The Joy of God uplifts you.
The Strength of God renews you.
The Beauty of God inspires you.
Wherever you are, God is!
And all is well. Amen.



The Prayer of Faith
By Hannah More Kohaus

God is my help in every need;
God does my every hunger feed;
God walks beside me, guides my way
Through every moment of this day.

I now am wise, I now am true,
Patient and kind, and loving, too;
All things I am, can do, and be,
Through Christ the Truth, that is in me.

God is my health, I can't be sick;
God is my strength, unfailing, quick;
God is my all, I know no fear,
Since God and Love and Truth are here.

Volunteer Ministry



Time either seems to float by or zoom by (maybe a pun intended), but here we are in August already and still physically separated from one another, but knowing that we are all one and interconnected!!

Our biggest volunteer need this month is for a team to organize the [Silent Auction](#) in October. That is not that far away and will be here before we know it. If you are interested in being creative with us, please contact Kathleen in the church office churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org or myself bsever4785@gmail.com. Also, we will be in need of Auction items. So if you have or can donate something, please let us know.

The landscape committee is in need of help!! Our flower angel, Cecilia, moved closer to family. It may take two or three of us to replace her!!! She loved ministering to our church grounds and did a great job! Please let me know or contact the church office. THANK YOU Cecilia for all of your years of volunteering not only with the Landscape team, but our Usher and Greeter team as well!!! We wish you only the best on this new adventure!!!

Everyone stay safe, stay the distance, and know that you are truly appreciated and loved!!

Blessings!!

Bobbi Severson

bsever4785@gmail.com

Green Team



Life goes on, in spite of the COVID-19!

The reasons to be Green continue. The Earth and our future require awareness and attention.

Communiities in DuPage County, for example, offer recycling collection with municipal service. Understanding requirements is important and they are different in various communities where ever we live. We should take the time to be responsible for recycling.

The Green Team events are on hold until further notice and we will not have functions online.

Be well, be Green, and be positive!

For more info, please contact Carter Crane: cartercrane@thevoice.us

Food Initiative

Dear UFV Family & Friends,

We have established a UNITY OF FOX VALLEY FOOD INITIATIVE. This is to assist those who may be facing difficulties due to the



current coronavirus situation. The program is being administered by a very small committee to try to main the privacy and anonymity of those in need. If you and your family are in need, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Blessings,

The [UFV Food Initiative](#) Committee

Rick McKay, Chair

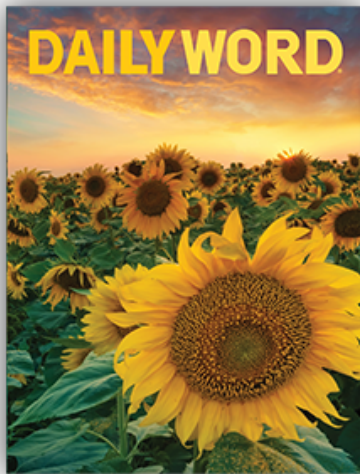
RECIPIENTS: If you or your family is in need of assistance, please contact the church at churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.com, and you will receive further information regarding the program. All of your communications will remain confidential.

DONORS: If you would like to participate as a donor, you may send a check to the church designating that it is to be applied to the UFV Food Initiative. We also will continue to collect non-perishable can goods in the bin at the parking lot door if this is the most comfortable way for you to participate.

Daily Word

July/August Daily Word

The latest edition of the Daily Word has arrived and it is ready to be sent to you!



If you would like one:

1. Please email Kathleen and let her know if you would like the regular print or large print and your mailing address churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org
2. Once you get your email acknowledgement back from Kathleen, please send in **\$6**. Please make your check out to 'Unity of Fox Valley'. Please also write in the memo section of your check 'Daily Word'. We ask that it be a separate payment from your donations.
3. It will then be sent off to you!

There are limited copies of large and regular print. First come first serve.

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 with Barbara DuRocher by the 15th of each month!

For more info. or any questions, please contact Barbara

DuRocher barbarajdurocher@gmail.com

AmazonSmile



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>

Donate items from our Charity List
Shop Now



Occasionally, we need to restock our supplies. You can help!

Just click on the [here](#) to see what we need!

or, copy and paste this link:

https://smile.amazon.com/hz/charitylist/ls/5I9LM5FXITZG/ref=smi_ext_lnk_lcl_cl

Tithes & Offerings



We'd so appreciate it if you please remember Unity of Fox Valley financially at this time.

- Please click [here](http://ufvweb-new.unityoffoxvalley.org/donation/) or copy and paste the following link in your browser: <http://ufvweb-new.unityoffoxvalley.org/donation/>
- You may contribute any amount and you do not need to have a PayPal account to contribute but you do need an email address.
- ***Paypal does take a fee from your donation.*** If you would like to be sure your entire donation is given to the church, feel free to mail in your donation: Unity of Fox Valley, 230 Webster Street, Batavia, IL 60510. If your donation is for a specific event, please be sure to write that in the Memo area of your check.

News from the Church Office

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

I turned 49 this past July and it was a good time. Since I couldn't really do the things I wanted, I didn't dwell on it. Instead I did the things I could do and enjoyed it all! I had the day off on my actual birthday so I spent the afternoon sweating in my garage building myself a big plant stand (you can find the final planter stained and all on my [IG page](#)). My family gifted me some new plants (3 varieties of Ficus Elasticas and a Dieffenbachia Camouflage) & my best friend made it extra special too. Here I come 50! It will truly be awesome!



You can always see more of my collection and pictures of my MANY, MANY hobbies by going to my Instagram page. Just click on my name below.

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

Please contact each group for more info. regarding their meetings

- [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. Please contact AA for more info regarding their meetings.
- [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. Please contact OA for more info regarding their meetings.

- [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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