



September 2020

Ministerial Musings

Filling in the Cracks



I remember when I was a young boy being amazed by the growth of grass and weeds in the cracks of cement. I would just stare at this seemingly insignificant sprout of green which probably was no more than three inches by maybe a half inch somehow finding a way through a gap in the concrete. I also remember just wondering why.

I mean what's the use when you think about it? It is such an insignificant spurt of life in the grand scheme of things. It certainly is not a welcome event. It is an eyesore according to our lens of what is aesthetically pleasing. In fact, we take deliberate steps to get rid of it and try to prevent it from reoccurring by spraying it with weed or vegetation killer. After all, a lot of time and money was put into our paved walkways, and such unwelcome growth only detracted from our efforts to make everything pristine. Furthermore, its lifespan was going to be so short-lived anyway.

But also I was so intrigued. Despite being regarded as unpleasant and a nuisance, and despite being unwelcome, these patches of life seized the opportunity. It gave me a sense of wonder about the irrepressibility of life. Think about it. New life happens everywhere and anywhere that it possibly can. Death obviously is an ongoing event, but life in its millions of different forms continues to spring forth. It says, "Here I am regardless of the circumstances. I may not be here for very long. It may only be for a week or a day or even for a few moments, but here I am."

I think there is a valuable lesson for us in these unwanted spurts of growth. Instead of dwelling on everything that is against us growing and thriving, we really should be focusing on every moment doing what we can to manifest who and what we are. Despite the odds that may be stacked against us and notwithstanding how tiny the possibilities of flourishing may appear; we are here to emerge and grow. Barriers such as concrete, negative feedback and criticism cannot contain us. All that grass in the cracks needs is a little dirt and some water. All we need in any moment is a little resolve and a little love.

Peace,

Rev. Mike

revmike@unityoffoxvalley.org

Note from the Board

Dollars and Sense

In June we had a Townhall meeting in which we shared news that was relatively good with regard to our financial picture. This is to update our current financial situation.

The good news is that we continue to have a core group that generously contributes to the church on a regular and consistent basis. On behalf of the entire Unity of Fox Valley family, we extend our heartfelt appreciation for this support.

On the flip side, overall weekly contributions have slowed drastically. In the month of July contributions declined by 23%. We have been able to maintain our finances to date mostly in part to the PPP loan we received. The funds received under this loan now have been exhausted.

Under the old “normal,” when people were contributing weekly at church, most of this deficit would be covered. Now these weekly collections have slowed to a trickle. We suspect the main reason is that it is not as easy to contribute, but the decline of these contributions has resulted in a downward trend. Were we to collect just \$1000 more per week, it would make a big difference.

Contributing by PayPal, or by a monthly automatic contribution is not complicated, and no amount is too small to use one of these methods. All you need to do is contact Kathleen at the church office, and she will help you do this in a way that is comfortable for you. The email address is churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org. You may also phone: (630) 879-1115.

We look forward to the day when we again can return to our actual church home. Your help is needed to maintain our church until we can do so. We never would expect or ask anyone to contribute beyond their means, but we are asking you to step up and increase your support if you are in a position to do so.

Thank-you.

The Board

Youth Education for the Younger Crowd

Our youth will be exploring the **Power of Order** for the Month of September. The color for this Power is **Dark Green** and the **Disciple is James, son of Alphaeus**. We will encourage the youth to come to an understanding of how everything comes into existence in alignment with the law of order through God Mind. In order to enhance this understanding, the youth will be exploring the perfect harmony of God's creation from the beautiful enfoldment of a rose from seed to the balanced revolution of the magnificent cosmos of our Solar System.

Speaking of magnificent, you wouldn't want to miss our annual "**Roots and Wings**" Ceremony that will be held on **Sunday, September 13th** during the **10 am** service! Many of our youth and teachers will participate in this delightful, memorable ceremony as they will be blessed and honored for their spiritual endeavors throughout this past year. Those who are "winging-up" to the next group will receive a special certificate that honors their achievements as they move onto the next class level of spiritual exploration. Due to the current unprecedented situation, this special service will still be offered on Zoom, yet know that we are working diligently to make this virtual service just as heartwarming as if all the youth and teachers were back celebrating in our amazing "brick-and-mortar" church! We are excited and appreciative that this service can still be offered through such technology, and we are grateful for everyone's loving commitment!

Last, but not least, let us hold in prayer all of our youth as they venture back to school this fall whether through remote learning or hybrid. We envision our youth and their committed teachers and loving parents/guardians to be guided through Spirit in inspirational ways that will uplift them all to their greatest potential with ease and excitement and with wholeness in body, mind and spirit. We are ever so grateful to God. And so it is. Amen.

Many blessings,
Ms. Mary, LUT, CSE

marynowroozi@comcast.net



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, September 4th, 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

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

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on September 6th

The upcoming '[Roots & Wings](#)' Ceremony will be held on Sunday, September 13th at 10am Service.

Links for 'Roots & Wings' rehearsal during the week of September 7th through the 12th will be sent to the Youths' Parents.

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

Bhagavad Gita Class



**1st & 3rd Sundays
September 6th & 20th, 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

Office Closed



Monday, September 7th

The Church Office will be closed. Enjoy the day off!

World Day of Prayer



Unity celebrates the 27th Annual World Day of Prayer

Unity invites you to join with friends in prayer around the world to affirm this year's World Day of Prayer theme: **'From Fear to Faith'**. Draw upon divine power and presence to realize the limitless possibilities in your life.

There are several ways to participate in the 2020 World Day of Prayer service:

- **UWM Opening Ceremony: Wed., September 9th, 7 pm**

UWM Opening Ceremony will be broadcasted live on their [Facebook page](#) or [YouTube](#)

- **UFV Prayer Chaplains: Thurs., September 10th, 10 am**

Please check our website for login info as the date approached. please click here..

Bring your family and friends!

For more info., please contact Marie Manella: mleduc7@yahoo.com

or Maria Cosentino: mlcosentino@gmail.com

Please find all the info for World Day of Prayer on our website.

Please click [here](#).

World Day of Prayer Labrynth



We also plan to schedule opportunities to walk our own church labyrinth in conjunction with the World Day of Prayer activities. The labyrinth will be set up in the church sanctuary.

Labyrinth Times:

- Wednesday, September 9th, 10am-4pm
- Thursday, September 10th, 11am-4pm

Reserve your time:

We want to ensure the health and safety of everyone as well as comply with mandated guidelines, so we are asking people to reserve a time in order to allow proper distancing.

- To sign up, please contact Marie Manella: mleduc7@yahoo.com

To download the Labyrinth brochure, click [here](#).

World Day of Prayer Prayer Requests



During World Day of Prayer on September 9th–10th, you and your loved ones will be reverently held in prayer in our 24-hour prayer vigil.

To turn in your Prayer Requests:

- Email the church office by Wednesday, September 9th by noon with your request: churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org
- or Submit your request directly to Unity by clicking [here](#).

Roots & Wings



Sunday, September 13th, 10am

This will be a sacred, reflective time when we will honor and celebrate all the youth, teachers and aides. The youths who are “winging-up” to the next group will receive a special certificate that honors their spiritual growth from the previous group.

For more info, please contact Mary Nowroozi: marynowroozi@comcast.net

There will be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on this day.

ONLINE Heart-Centered Metaphysics I



Wednesdays, September 16th - October 21st
(No class 10/7), 7 - 9pm, Online

This class "...focuses on the building of consciousness, growing spiritual awareness that integrates head and heart, intellect and compassion. The practices of the Silence, meditation and prayer will form the foundation..." of these lessons.

Required book: Available on Amazon.com:

- **Heart-Centered Metaphysics, A Deeper Look at Unity Teachings**

by Paul Hasselbeck

We would so appreciate if you please use the AmazonSmile link below to buy your book. AmazonSmile will donate at no cost to you a percentage of the book purchase to Unity of Fox Valley. Thank you! You may find that link [here](#).

Facilitated by Mary Nowroozi, LUT ~ Love Offering will be greatly appreciated
Available for S.E.E. credit (requires \$45 to register)

Please contact Mary to register and to receive Zoom link: marynowroozi@comcast.net

Please find all the info for Heart Centered Metaphysics on our website.

Please click [here](#).

Pet Blessing

Pet Blessing Service



Saturday, September 26th, 11am



All God's creatures welcome!

This event will be held on church grounds. You may bring your pet or bring a picture of your pet if you feel it is best to keep your pet at home. This will be a fun, spiritual time for all of God's creatures (animal and human)!

Please contact Mary Nowroozi with any questions
or for more info.: marynowroozi@comcast.net

For more information, please contact Mary Nowroozi: marynowroozi@comcast.net

Women's Ministry



Unfortunately due to Covid, our [Women's Ministry](#) group has been suspended until further notice. We apologize for the loss but recognize the global compassion we must all have of this unprecedented time for all. Be well and stay safe.”- Laura and Donna

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact:

Laura Schreiner: LauraSchreiner@hotmail.com

or Donna Bailey: baileynova@gmail.com

Prayer Chaplain Ministry



This month we Prayer Chaplains invite and encourage you to join with us in participating in the [27th Annual Unity World Day of Prayer](#). This year's theme is “**From Fear to Faith**” and, as it said on an email from Unity World Headquarters, “What we need now more than ever is prayer.” Please check out the details on this event in this newsletter and in the updates that UFV has and will continue to send via emails.

However you choose to participate, please affirm with us and Unity World Headquarters:

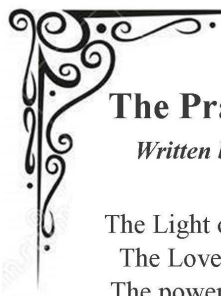
Standing in Truth, I move from fear to faith.

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. If you have not been receiving prayer calls and want to start now, please contact the church office at 630-879-1115 or churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org and a Prayer Chaplain will be in touch.

We look forward to a time when we can gather and pray in person but meanwhile, as these "consciousness raising" times continue, we encourage you to wear your masks in public spaces, practice physical distancing, and to call on us if you need prayer support in between our calls.

Blessings and hugs,
Bobbi and Marie

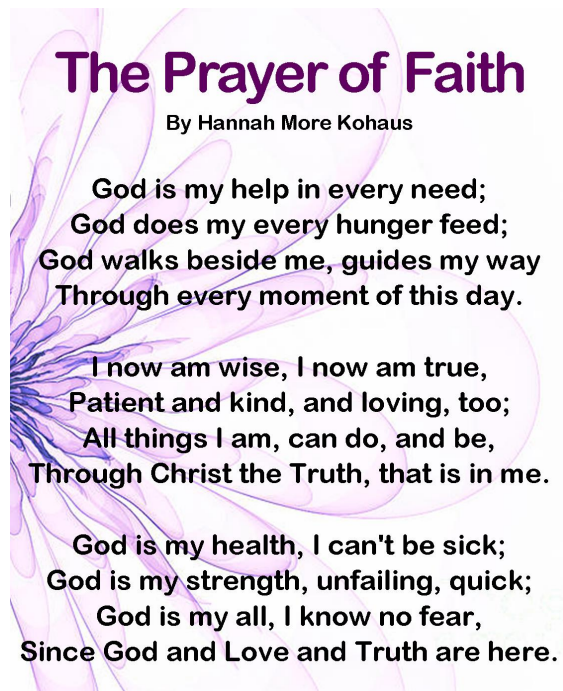
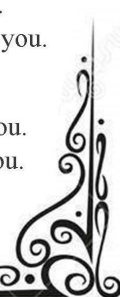


The Prayer of Protection
Written by James Dillet Freeman

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



I must say, it has been strange writing this newsletter these past 5 months. With our church activities curtailed, there is less need for hands on volunteering!

One need I know that we do have, is volunteers for our [Landscaping](#) requirements. We can certainly social

distance while doing this. I have been away the month of August, so not sure what our requirements are at this time. There is always weeding and watering to be done. Cecilia,

who lived close to the church, watered and kept us looking beautiful. We can never thank her enough for all that she did. I am sure for Fall cleanup we will coordinate a few work days. Let me or Larry Schaefer know if you would like to be on our team!!

THANK YOU so much to everyone that has participated in our [Food Initiative](#) Drive that has been going on throughout this pandemic. We have been able to donate to local food banks and have a reserve for our own needs. We are grateful for your generosity!!!

We need items for our on-line [Silent Auction](#). Please contact [Rev Mike](#) or [Dawn Staszak](#) for more details on this event.

Blessings everyone and have a great month!!

Bobbi Severson

bsever4785@gmail.com

Green Team



The Green Team, unfortunately, will not hold events in September or October because of the shutdown of our building and lack of access to Zoom.

However, we must continue to think Green for the benefit of society and the future of us all, next decade and beyond.

We can take a moment to reflect on some of the wonderful Green Team events we have held over the course of the GreenTeam's existence and their significance to our lives.

We can make a difference.

Green is for more than Kermit (the Frog). It can JUMP start a conscious effort to replenish, renew, and reuse.

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

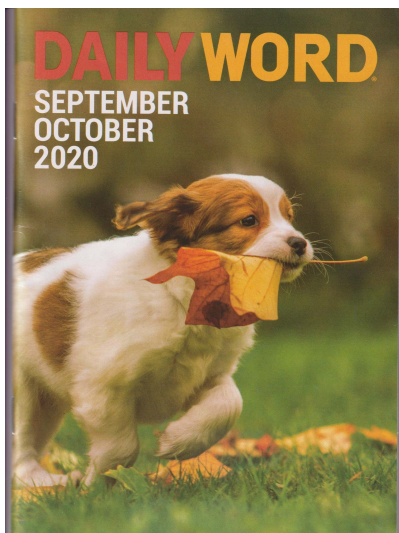
RECIPIENTS: If you or your family is in need of assistance, please contact the church at churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.com, and you will receive further information regarding the program. All of your communications will remain confidential.

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

September/October 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

charity lists
amazonsmile

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](#) 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.
- *f 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.

On September 23rd, I will be celebrating my 7th completed year at Unity of Fox Valley! (Amazing I haven't been kicked out yet! HA HA HA!) This has been a different kind of year,



hasn't it? I appreciate the patience as we transitioned to a new way of working. I ask for your continued understanding as we go forward. The staff & I are doing the best we can to meet everyone's needs as best as possible.

I'm physically in the office on Mondays & Tuesdays (subject to change w/o notice) and working from home on Wednesdays & Thursdays. If you need me Wed. or Thurs., please email me:

churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org

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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