



January 2021

## Ministerial Musings

### I Call “Oops”

Back when I was a boy, sometimes we would play marbles. There was a rule that applied when we played. If you were lining up your shot and the marble slipped off your finger, you could call, “Oops,” or “Slips.” This meant that you had a redo, and you would get another turn. I suspect the reason the rule got started was because our hands were small and maneuvering a marble could be challenging. Whatever the reason, everybody understood it was part of the game.

I mention this because I think it applies very much as we turn the calendar bidding 2020 goodbye and welcome 2021. The year of 2020 was perhaps the most historical of our lifetimes. Sadly, much of what will be remembered are things we would just as soon forget. It has been a year of political upheaval, social injustice and unrest, rioting and a pandemic that has been disruptive in many ways in addition to the lives it has claimed. What better time is there than now to call, “Oops!”?

Whatever way you have reacted to all of the clamor of 2020 throughout this past year, you are entitled to a redo in terms of who and what you are and do. This applies not only to those threats, dangers and fears brought to us on the world stage, but also to every single worry and pain experienced in our daily lives regardless of the source. Not only that, God is so loving and so forgiving that you are free to call, “Oops,” as often as needed. I share with you a single line from the Book of Revelation, “Behold, I make all things new.”

There is a tendency to overlook this loving aspect of God, but it is so important to keep in mind as we enter the New Year with our resolutions. It is far better to have to repeatedly call, “Oops,” than to decide to quit playing because the marble keeps slipping on us.”

Through our failures and slips in life we learn, grow and progress. If we only stick with it,

we improve at mastering not only the personal challenges but the world scale ones as well.

This year if your only resolution is to call “Oops” in prayer, it will be enough.

*You are so loved, so have a very Happy New Year!*

Peace,

Rev. Mike

[revmike@unityoffoxvalley.org](mailto:revmike@unityoffoxvalley.org)



## Youth Education for the Younger Crowd

As we continue on Zoom, we will welcome in the New Year 2021 with the youth of all age groups as well as the teachers participating in our traditional **Burning Bowl/White Stone Ceremony** to be held on **Sunday, January 3rd**. This will be a time when we will write down intangible (fears, doubts) and/or tangible things (staying up too late, too much gaming) that we feel are no longer needed in our lives. The White Stone Ceremony will then follow with everyone writing down one or two new words or concepts that we'd like to see be manifested in the coming year.

Since these ceremonies obviously will be held on Zoom, we cannot possibly have a *Burning Bowl*; however, “when there is a will, there is a way” to get creative! After some thought, I decided that I'll encourage ahead of time for everyone to have a small trash can nearby to “slam dunk” what they are tossing out in their lives. I'm sure the kids would love that! Furthermore, for the White Stone Ceremony, they will have received, either through an email attachment or snail mail, a drawing of a large stone that they will write on their “new” words!

To further begin 2021, the youth will be exploring the Power of Faith, color is **Dark Blue** and the **Disciple is Peter**. This power is an appropriate one to actually kick-off not only the New Year, but to further enhance the other Powers for the rest of the year! To broaden our understanding of the Power of Faith and its relationship to our spiritual beliefs, we will be exploring several Parables and Miracles of Jesus.

Speaking of miracles, I'd like to say how delighted I am that we “miraculously” pulled-off our online **Christmas Pageant** on Sunday, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> with all the youth participating by

social-distancing. It was amazing how it was all recorded separately per family and put together as a whole to reflect on the metaphysical interpretation of the Nativity Story. As I had mentioned at that service, we often hear the common phrase “it takes a village to raise a child”, this presentation could not been possible without the team effort of so many involved. It is worth repeating my deep gratitude to the following: to *Rick Mckay* for his dedicated time and effort in recording the youth and musicians’ videos and for film editing; to his wife, *Marsha* for diligently taking photos and keeping the area sanitized; to *Warren Wakerlin* for meticulously setting up sound and sound editing; to our musicians, *Rob Orland*, *Jennifer Gray* and *Mike Nowroozi*, for sharing their musical talent on piano, flute and santoor, respectively; to *Perry Hurtt*, *Kathleen Malick* and *Mike Nowroozi* for creating props and stage set up; to *Rev. Mike Korpan* and his wife *Susan*’s continual support; and lastly, yet extremely important, to all of our wonderful *youth* and their *parents* for their upmost dedication despite the current pandemic so that the youth could share their amazing talents with all of us! I am so proud of each and every one of them! Way to go! I wish everyone a very Happy New Year, one that is filled with peace, love, health and prosperity.

Many thanks and many blessings,

Ms. Mary, LUT, CSE

[marynowroozi@comcast.net](mailto:marynowroozi@comcast.net)

## Online Healing and Wholeness Service



## HEALING AND WHOLENESS SERVICE

**There will be NO HEALING & WHOLENESS SERVICE on  
Friday, January 1st!**

**Please join us on Friday, February 5th instead!**

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.

Just look for the email with the login information that will be sent out the Wednesday prior.

**Please contact Rev. Mike to request the login  
information: [revmike@unityoffoxvalley.org](mailto:revmike@unityoffoxvalley.org)**

For more info., please contact Rose Maxson: [singingalong77@gmail.com](mailto:singingalong77@gmail.com)

Please click [here](#) to take you to the Healing & Wholeness website.

## Online Burning Bowl



**Burning Bowl Service**  
**Sunday, January 3rd, 10am, Online**

**The Burning Bowl and White Stone Service**  
has been a tradition for our congregation seeking spiritual  
direction as a way of letting go that which is no longer  
needed so that we are open and receptive to experience  
new, enriching spiritual opportunities for the New Year!

This service is offered on the first Sunday of January and is a perfect way to start off the New Year. You will be encouraged to write down those things that you wish to release from your life and commit them to the flames to be consumed. Through the powerful and symbolic release of the burning bowl ritual, you can let go of anything holding you back.

You are then given a white stone on which to write your new commitment to yourself for the coming year.

An email with the login information was sent out Thursday and will be sent again on Saturday morning.

**Please contact Rev. Mike to request the login information or if you have any questions: [revmike@unityoffoxvalley.org](mailto:revmike@unityoffoxvalley.org)**

Please click [here](#) to take you to the Burning Bowl/White Stone website.

## 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 contact Mary Nowroozi with any questions & to request the login information: [marynowroozi@comcast.net](mailto:marynowroozi@comcast.net)**

Please click [here](#) to take you to the Youth Ministry website.

## Online Bhagavad Gita Class



# Bhagavad Gita Class



**1st & 3rd Sundays  
January 3rd & 17th, 1:00 pm, Online**

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.

**Please contact Carl or Lucy Klemaier with any questions & to request the login information: [colonelklay@yahoo.com](mailto:colonelklay@yahoo.com)**

Please click [here](#) to take you to the Bhagavad Gita Class website.

## Online Men's Group



**Tuesdays, January 5th & 19th, 7:00 pm, Online**

This group explores spirituality and religion in diverse and exciting ways.  
Newcomers are ALWAYS welcome!

Please contact Rev. Mike with any questions & to request the login  
information: [revmike@unityoffoxvalley.org](mailto:revmike@unityoffoxvalley.org)

Please click [here](#) to take you to the Men's Group website.

## Online Coffee & Tea with Myrtle & Me



**Every Thursday, 10:00 am, Online**

Please come and join us! Bring with you your drink of choice, a sweet treat perhaps, questions, ideas, curiosity, imagination and a friend or, you may just come to hang out for a bit. We hope to see you! All are welcome.

Just look for the weekly email with the login information sent out every Tuesday morning.

Please contact Rev. Mike with any questions & to request the login  
information: [revmike@unityoffoxvalley.org](mailto:revmike@unityoffoxvalley.org)

Please click [here](#) to take you to the Coffee & Tea with Myrtle & Me website.

## Online Raffle



**Starts every Thursday at Noon**

We invite you to participate in our Unity of Fox Valley FUNdraiser. You can do so simply by going to our [website](#) and clicking on the DONATION BUTTON at the bottom of the website. What makes it FUN is that an easy donation of \$5 automatically enters you into our weekly raffle. Each multiple of \$5 that you donate multiplies the number of times your name is entered. For example, a \$25 donation enters your name five times. Also, each week UFV will share your contribution with a selected charity.

***A new raffle starts every Thursday!***

**Please contact Dawn Staszak for more information or if you have questions regarding this event: [dawn\\_311@yahoo.com](mailto:dawn_311@yahoo.com)**

Please click [here](#) to take you to the FUNdrasing website.

## Online A Course In Miracles



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

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

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

Just look for the weekly email with the login information sent out every Tuesday evening.

**Please contact Warren Wakerlin with any questions & to request the login information: [wwakerlin@aol.com](mailto:wwakerlin@aol.com)**



Please click [here](#) to take you to the ACIM website.

## Online Sunday Services



**Every Sunday, 10:00 am, Online**

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

An email with the login information will be sent Thursday and Saturday morning prior to the Service.

**Please contact Rev. Mike with any questions & to request the login information: [revmike@unityoffoxvalley.org](mailto:revmike@unityoffoxvalley.org)**

Please click [here](#) to take you to the Sunday Service website.

## Bible Interpretation: Hebrew Scriptures



**Thursdays, January 14th - February 18th,  
6:30-8:30 pm, Online**

Beneath the literal sense of the Bible, interpreters have for over 2,000 years discerned allegorical meanings related to divine truths and spiritual realities. Unity's approach to

scripture is connected to that stream of thought, which has at times been “mainstream” but more often “esoteric” and mystical. In this class you will experience the rewarding and surprisingly practical process of the Unity way of Bible interpretation. You will learn a step-by-step method for metaphysical interpretation and application of the meanings to your life. Via Zoom, we will explore selected stories and characters of the Hebrew Scriptures through lecture, discussion, and metaphysical interpretation. Come join us to explore and relate the Hebrew Scriptures to your spiritual journey.

**Recommended Texts:**

- The Bible (NRSV)
- [The Revealing Word](#) – Charles Fillmore (Available on Truthunity.net)
- [The Metaphysical Bible Dictionary](#) – Charles Fillmore (on Truthunity.net)

We would so appreciate if you please use the AmazonSmile link if you can. AmazonSmile will donate at no cost to you a percentage of the book purchase to Unity of Fox Valley.

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

***This class is Available for S.E.E. Credit.***

**Please contact Marge Orchard for more information or to register: [margeorchard@gmail.com](mailto:margeorchard@gmail.com) (847)912-4457**

Please click [here](#) to take you to the Bible Interpretation: Hebrew Scriptures website.

## Prayer Chaplain Ministry



### Happy New Year!

2021 has finally arrived. This past year has been, for many of us, one of the most challenging years of our lives. One of the articles I read as I was researching ideas on hope called 2020 a “wretched” year. The author, Kaisha Johnson of The U of I Springfield Journal, went on to say, “While the clock striking twelve on January 1 does not signal definitive change, it does insinuate the possibility of a fresh start. Some 2020 events have generated the turn of a new leaf, so to speak. If such events are to encourage change in the world, there could be a considerable amount of things to look forward to in the very near future. These events can give anyone just a glimmer of hope for what (is) yet to come.”

Last year the Unity Advent booklet, *The Spirit of Christmas*, contemplated both hope **and** faith as the first week's focus, expanding the traditional Christian theme of hope on its own. In the piece written for the first Sunday, November 29, 2020, Rev. Kurt Condra stated that Unity was "perhaps inspired by the view that '*faith* is the assurance of things *hoped* for.'" He then wrote, "In *The Revealing Word* Unity cofounder Charles Fillmore makes this distinction: 'Hope is the expectation of good in the future ... It is subject to time. Faith is the certain knowledge that our good is ours right now ... It goes beyond time and space.'" "

As we begin the first month of this new year, I, along with the rest of our Prayer Chaplain Ministry, invite you to hold a glimmer of *hope* for the desires of your heart **and** hold the *faith* that the good you seek is already yours.

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](mailto:churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org) and a Prayer Chaplain will be in touch.

As we begin 2021 with hope and faith, we encourage you to continue to take good care of yourselves; wear your masks in public spaces, practice physical distancing, and call on us if you need prayer support in between our calls.

Blessings and hugs,  
Bobbi and Marie

## 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**



Join us **Sunday, January 3rd**, for our [Burning Bowl, White Stone service](#). This is our traditional service of letting go (releasing what doesn't serve us) and opening ourselves to a new beginning (affirming our wholeness). Much prep work will go into this service to make it just as special as it always is. THANK YOU

VOLUNTEERS!!

A BIG BIG THANK YOU to Mary, the children, parents, and all of her wonderful volunteers that made the Children's Christmas pageant such a special service for all of us. We are so blessed and so fortunate to have the wealth of talent and creativity within our Church Family!

THANK YOU to all of our early risers that volunteered to read and hold the sacred energy for our World at our [World Healing Meditation](#) on **Thursday, December 31st, 6:00am**. Thank you, Marge, for facilitating and gifting us with such a beautiful sacred time to come together.

The year 2020 has certainly been a different kind of year for our volunteering activities with in-church participation on hold for most of the year. We are so grateful for all who have volunteered to make our Zoom services so special. For me it has been a lifeline of connection even though different from the host of activities we normally would have experienced. I have had to grieve that loss of physical contact but seeing all of your smiling faces each Sunday, reminds me that we are so fortunate to be able to stay connected with this remarkable technology. I can't even imagine what it would have been like going through this experience with only a landline phone!! Another thing to be grateful for.

I would encourage each of you to "volunteer" to reach out to one another, check on your friends and family, keep the lines of communication open!!! That is how we will be able to get through these challenging next few months. We know that we are all connected even though apart and that we are never walking this journey alone!! Someone is always thinking of you, saying a little prayer for you and loving you from a distance! And wherever we are God is, and all is well!!!

Blessings and a very Happy New Year to all!!!

Bobbi Severson

## Green Team



In spite of smaller gatherings to celebrate the Christmas holidays because of COVID-19, we may have recycling questions after Christmas. Some items are obvious to recycle. Some items may pose questions.

Many communities will pick up trees with the community trucks, although the trees can be recycled if we persist to find a way. Items which will not be recycled include ribbons, glitter, and some wrapping paper. especially those which include sticky tape.

Cardboard is in dire need by manufacturers, so we should find a way to recycle former presents which arrived in cardboard boxes. Some glass bottles and glass jars can be recycled. Checking for the triangle number will help answer those questions. Greeting cards nearly all can be recycled.

We can and must do a little investigating to find out about items which can be recycled. In spite of deniers and those who do not care, we must help the planet!

We can be Green Ones in 2021!

—The Green Team

For more info, please contact Carter Crane: [cartercrane@thevoice.us](mailto:cartercrane@thevoice.us)

Please click [here](#) to take you to the Green Team website.

## 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 maintain 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

Please click [here](#) to take you to the Food Initiative website.

**RECIPIENTS:** If you or your family is in need of assistance, please contact the church at [churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.com](mailto: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



## January/February 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](mailto: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 Kathleen in the Church Office by the 10th of each month!***

For more info. or any questions, please contact Kathleen:

[churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org](mailto:churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org)

## AmazonSmile



**Online shopping is at an all time high!**  
**Support Unity of Fox Valley with your Amazon Purchase!**

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Unity of Fox Valley every time you shop, at no cost to you. Just click on the link below and make a purchase!

AmazonSmile will donate a percentage of the purchase price of eligible products to Unity of Fox Valley.

Please click on the following link to start shopping & 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  
amazon smile

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

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

or, copy and paste this link:

[https://smile.amazon.com/hz/charitylist/l/5I9LM5FXITZG/ref=smi\\_ext\\_lnk\\_lcl\\_cl](https://smile.amazon.com/hz/charitylist/l/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:

<https://www.paypal.com/biz/fund?id=44UC5B8W64KBQ>

- 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.*

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Anyone really restless?

I think I'm driving my family crazy with all the stuff I have been doing. I built this reindeer on a whim. I have made new wreaths, planters & even getting ready for the Spring by getting my spring bulbs in my pots and working up patterns for my new woodworking projects (Pssst! You can see a lot of what I do on my Instagram account. Just click on my name below)! They seem to appreciate it all because I'm getting all kinds of compliments on our house décor. When I do sit, I'm working on my knitting but now I'm thinking

about training for another Half Marathon. We will see on that one though only due to my hip... but when did suffering ever stop me? (Did I tell you when I ran a Half Marathon in the brutal heat of summer? That was a tough one but worth it!)

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, please email me: [churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org](mailto: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!***

*Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays!*

[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. Click on any of the events below to bring you to their individual web pages.**

- [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](mailto:churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org)

fax: 630.879.1728 [www.unityoffoxvalley.org](http://www.unityoffoxvalley.org)

prayer line: 630.879.1129

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