



February 2021

Ministerial Musings

Careful, Your Bow Is Loaded

As we plod along through winter, February brings us Valentine's Day. It takes me back to my childhood days. I remember most of the kids would show up at school with Valentine's Day cards. We were allowed to get up and parade around the room placing a card on the desks of anybody to whom we wanted to wish a Happy Valentine's Day. If you wanted to kiss up to the teacher, you came with a special card just for her and ceremoniously placed it on her desk.

And who can forget the candy? We all remember those little hearts that were pure sugar and they came in different colors. Each heart came with its own little inscribed message. While I do consider myself to be a bit of a sentimentalist and a romantic, the message on the back of the hearts should have read: **"Warning, the surgeon general has determined that these hearts can cause cavities and do serious damage to your dental hygiene."** I actually cracked a tooth on one.

The best part about Valentine's Day is that you can become a little more expressive of your feelings without sacrificing your vulnerability. In fact, you actually are encouraged to share your love openly with others, and certainly with those you really care about, and even with those things about which you are passionate. We all really like to show our hearts, but sometimes need a little encouragement.

Being loving is an inborn human trait. As much as we may try to dull the senses or withdraw, we cannot escape that we all have passions if not for other people than certainly for other things. If you do not understand this, pause for a moment and ask yourself, "Where do I shoot my arrows?" Or to put it another way, "Where am I putting forth my time and energy?" It may be something that you do not even put much thought into such as

sports, TV, eating or some other habit. The question that follows is, “Is this my true Valentine, or might there be something better?”

Love elevates a relationship. It takes us from the mundane to the divine. It captivates us in a way that sets us free, and inspires us to grow our capacity to love even more. If we wait for Cupid to come along and develop this innate gift, we are missing the mark. If only it all were so simple as to draw back a bow and shoot an arrow. Even our worse habits take time and commitment for us to develop them. Ahhh, but if we give it a chance, the art of loving others can be such a sweet learning curve, much sweeter even than those little candy hearts.

Peace,

Rev. Mike

revmike@unityoffoxvalley.org



Youth Education for the Younger Crowd

As we continue our [Sunday morning classes](#) on Zoom through the month of February, the youth and teachers will reflect on the “**Power of Love**”. The color **Pink** and the disciple *John* are associated with this Power, and each youth will create their own unique **Pink** Power Board of Love, filled with affirmations and Bible verses to share during our class time. Their lessons will be enhanced by reading and discussing Bible stories of Jesus’ miracles and parables, all of which are excellent miraculous demonstrations of the power of unconditional love and faith, such as *Healing the Paralytic* and *Healing the Blind Man*. For the Lenten season, we will be exploring the meaning of “fasting” during the forty days before Easter. Jesus had taught his disciples that prayer and fasting are ways to spiritual understanding. We will emphasize to the youth that Unity teaches a way to fast is to “fast” from negative thoughts and behaviors so that we can acknowledge and appreciate the presence of God in our lives and in others.

It’s not too early to think of spring and Easter bunnies! We will be having an [Easter Egg Hunt](#) outside on the church grounds on **Saturday, April 3, at 2 pm**. For inclement weather or if, at that time, the Covid situation unfortunately makes it unsafe to “hunt” for eggs, we will have a *Drive-Thru Easter Egg Hunt Pick-Up*! Hey, “...when there is a will, there is a way...” to make this event possible and loads of fun. The treats inside plastic eggs will be wrapped chocolates (no peanuts), and all items will be handled properly and

safely. To ensure that we have plenty of eggs for each youth, **you will need to register by contacting me at marynowroozi@comcast.net no later than March 22.** Friends are invited to join, too! We're looking forward to seeing everyone in-person at our Easter Egg Hunt gathering! Thank you everyone for your loving support and participation!

Happy Valentine's Day to All!

Many thanks and blessings,
Ms. Mary, LUT, CSE
marynowroozi@comcast.net

Online Men's Group



Tuesdays, February 2nd & 16th, 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

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

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

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

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

Online Healing and Wholeness Service



HEALING AND WHOLENESS SERVICE

Friday, February 5th, 7:00 pm, Online

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**

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

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

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

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

Online Bhagavad Gita Class

Bhagavad Gita Class



**1st & 3rd Sundays
February 7th & 21st, 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

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

Ash Wednesday

ASH



Wednesday

Wednesday, February 17th, 7:00pm

Lent officially begins on Ash Wednesday.

Please mark your calendars.
Unity of Fox Valley will hold a special meditation service.

The service will be officiated by Rev Mike.

Prayer Chaplain Ministry



Welcome to February, the shortest month of the year (thank heavens this year's not a leap year). And it's the month we begin to experience more light in our days! It's also a month of noteworthy holidays - Groundhog Day, Lincoln's Birthday, Chinese New Year, Valentine's Day, Presidents Day & Mardi Gras, to name a few. Lent begins this month, too - this year [Ash Wednesday](#) falls on the 17th.

In our newsletter last month we invited 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." Faith, as you know, is the first of the 12 Powers that are fundamental to us, aspects of the nature of the Divine. Strength is the Power that follows Faith. The Unity Advent booklet, *The Spirit of Christmas*, says, "A *spiritual strength* like no other is our foundation to stay the course when challenged by life and navigating new landscapes...It is our guide through the chaos and ultimately to the remembrance that God is everywhere present, in the dark and in the light."


This month we encourage you to affirm your power of Strength, the 2nd of the 12 Powers. And we encourage you to seek out prayer to support you on your spiritual journey.

I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13

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.

As we continue on in 2021 with renewed strength, we encourage you to keep on taking 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. We also want to remind you Prayer Chaplains are available for private prayer on Zoom after Service each Sunday...

Blessings and hugs,
Bobbi and Marie

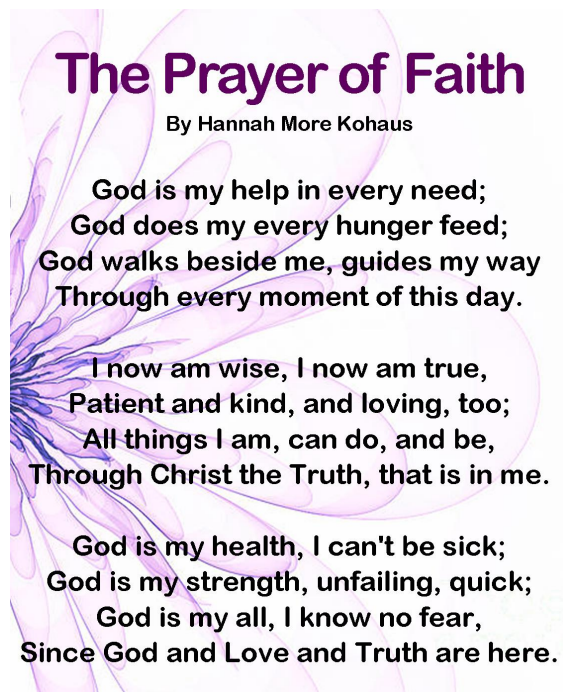
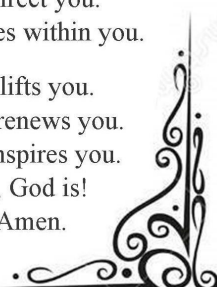


The Prayer of Protection
Written by James Dillet Freeman

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



JUMP ON THE VOLUNTEER TRAIN!!

As mentioned in an e-mail that went out to everyone in January, it is time to revisit the needs of our volunteer ministry. It has been a strange year for sure and many

of you have stepped up to fulfil that need, volunteering in many different ways to support our Zoom services and limited activities. But now it is time to prepare for a new year and hopefully a return to our physical church in the early Summer. So please check out our ministries below and check in with your heart and your "Covenant"! I am always available to explain our needs and the tasks of each team.

Please click [here](#) for the Volunteer Sign Up form.

- Audio Visual Committee
- Building Team
- Business Office Assistance
- Community Outreach
- Concierge Ministry
- Finance Committee
- Green Team
- Landscape Beautification
- Lending Library
- Marketing
- Music Team
- Prayer Ministry
- Sacred Grounds Café
- Special Events & Feasts
- Ushers & Greeters
- Youth Ed Spiritual Guides

I also invite you to join me in a **VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH AT 11:00 A.M.** to just connect with each other and explore our needs even more!

We are so grateful for your time and talents that support our Spiritual family in so many ways!!

Topic: VOLUNTEER MEETING

Time: Feb 6, 2021 11:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81560620237?
pwd=cFVvYXBBVVc4T0w5ZzdoM0FmN0NQdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81560620237?pwd=cFVvYXBBVVc4T0w5ZzdoM0FmN0NQdz09)

Meeting ID: 815 6062 0237

Passcode: 117950

One tap mobile:

+13126266799,,81560620237#,,,,*117950# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,81560620237#,,,,*117950# US (New York)

If you have trouble accessing the meeting, please contact

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

Bobbi Severson

bsever4785@gmail.com

Green Team



President Joe Biden and John Kerry, who is in charge of climate adjustments as an envoy, will take care of larger items. Rejoining the world in essential tasks, such as the Paris Climate Accord, is a Green venture and not a political calculation.

We must be concerned about the every-day, smaller items, which are important: Proper recycling, understanding where those items should be taken, sent, evaluated, is the responsibility of every person. We must be conscious of the small, however, important choices, which have an effect on our world. Taking responsibility is essential. Thank you to those who are under way with those tasks. The rest of us must step up to the tasks.

The Green Team, unfortunately, does not have the capability of giving presentations through a Zoom network, of important discussions. We will continue to monitor how we can better function in our world with solid Green choices.

Think Green in our World!

—The Green Team

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

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

Easter Egg Hunt



Easter Egg Hunt

Come join in on
the fun for our
Easter Egg Hunt!

Unity of Fox Valley  Parking Lot
230 Webster Street, Batavia, IL
Saturday, April 3, 2pm

For inclement weather; and/or if it is not feasible due to the Covid situation, we will have a Drive-Thru to pick up the eggs (plastic eggs with wrapped chocolates, no peanut products).
All items will be handled properly and safely.



To attend, REGISTRATION IS A MUST!
Please contact Mary at marynowroozi@comcast.net by March 22!

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

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, 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
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

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/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.***

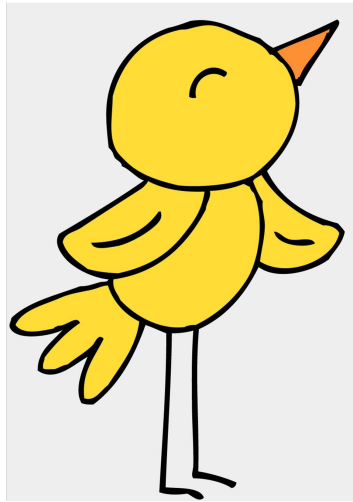
Please click [here](#) or copy and paste the following link in your browser:

<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.***

Upcoming Dates

**Get ready for the
Easter Season!**



- March 28th: Palm Sunday
- April 2nd: Taize Service
- April 3rd: Easter Egg Hunt - **RSVP REQUIRED by 3/22!**
- April 4th Easter Sunday

Please click [here](#) to take you to our Easter Season website.

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.



Please considering volunteering! Rev. Mike is looking for Daily Word Readers! If you are interested, please contact him: revmike@unityoffoxvalley.org

Congratulations to photographer, Brendan Smialowski for the famous photo of Senator Sanders!

This past January, I celebrated my husband's birthday. Galen turned the big 5 - 0! We also celebrated another wedding anniversary! Time is ticking and won't stop. I truly welcome each day I age but with each celebration, it is clear that I am also aging. So eat the donut! Take the leap! Use your good towels! Buy those damm shoes and enjoy all of it. But also take care of yourself because your quality of life is important too! So smile. Stop being so grumpy and pessimistic and you will be surprised how freeing that is!

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

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!*

[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

fax: 630.879.1728 www.unityoffoxvalley.org

prayer line: 630.879.1129

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