



March 2021

## Ministerial Musings

### A Virtual Anniversary

As we venture into March, we are approaching an anniversary. This month will mark one year since we had to shut down the church due to the coronavirus. This may not seem like an anniversary to get all excited about or celebrate. However, we do have this tendency to underscore those not so pleasant occurrences in our lives as well as the joyful ones. Every once in a while, you will hear someone make a comment like, "Next month will mark ten years since my divorce," or, "My mother or father died ten years ago today."

All significant events, happy or not, instill memories in us. Generally, when those memories surface, they bring with them the emotions that we experienced at the time those events took place. In short, much of who we are is a composition of our experiences. There is a perfect biblical example of this, the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt. The main event in the story was Passover, the final intervention by God that caused the pharaoh to release the Israelites. Of course, this was an experience to be celebrated in that moment. It is regarded as the birth of Judaism. They did not have much time to celebrate though; it also was the beginning of a forty-year journey in the desert trying to discover what being a Jew really meant.

For us at Unity of Fox Valley, the past twelve months also has been a journey. With a few exceptions our church has remained empty. Circumstances have dictated that we come together virtually on Zoom. As the pages of the calendar turned, one by one, those meaningful church celebrations such as the [Taizé service](#), [Easter](#), the [Christmas pageant](#) and so on, have had to be rethought. On a positive note, they also were re-imagined. Very likely in years to come, we will look back and remember what it was like not to congregate physically, and the emotions of the past year will be part of those memories.

This phenomenon is neither a good nor a bad thing in and of itself. Whether experiencing something for the first time or reliving something from the past, we have a choice what to do with it. Even the saddest moments can be blessed and appreciated for the gift of the heart which allows us to feel. We then can dwell there, or we can release it. Conversely, even the most joyful experiences present the same choice. In either case, clinging too long could slow down our journeys and prevent us from that next wondrous moment.

Where we go from here is yet to be determined. Let us bless the past twelve months and give thanks for the togetherness that is even more fondly shared. Let us bless the past twelve months in light of yet another promised land that awaits us as a church family. With every step we take, virtual or otherwise, the journey within our hearts continues. I look at all of you and realize I am not alone, and I am blessed.

Peace,

Rev. Mike

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



## Youth Education for the Younger Crowd

It has been just about a year, since March 8, 2020 to be exact, that we have all gathered together in our “brick and mortar” church; yet, we have been blessed, like so many others, that we are able to stay connected through a virtual platform for our Sunday and special services as well as our classes. This has been a technology learning curve for us all; however, we appreciate God providing the Divine ideas for this opportunity to even exist! As we continue on Zoom for the month of March, our youth will explore the Power of Strength representing the color **Light Green** (think spring) and the **Disciple James**. Also, as the Lent Season continues into March, the youth will reflect on a few of Jesus’ parables and will explore the Palm Sunday story of Jesus Entering Jerusalem, leading into the Holy Week before Easter.

To begin our Easter fun, we will be offering an **Easter Egg Hunt** outside on the church grounds on **Saturday, April 3, at 2 pm**. If inclement weather or the Covid situation makes it unsafe to “hunt” for eggs, we will still have fun through a *Drive-Thru Egg 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, it is imperative that each youth is registered by contacting me at [marynowroozi@comcast.net](mailto:marynowroozi@comcast.net) no later than March 22.*

The youth will continue to celebrate Easter for they will be leading the [Easter Service](#), **Sunday, April 4, at 10 am!** We are looking forward to them not only leading us into prayer and song, but to presenting *The Metaphysics of the Easter Symbols*, a spiritual concept that many of you may find new and invigorating. I'm sure it will put a celebratory smile on your face!

We are looking forward to seeing everyone "in person" at our [Easter Egg Hunt](#) gathering (remember to **register by March 22**) and attending our virtual Easter Service. We greatly appreciate all of you for your loving support in encouraging our youth during these unprecedented times!



Many blessings,  
Ms. Mary, LUT, CSE  
[marynowroozi@comcast.net](mailto:marynowroozi@comcast.net)

## Online Men's Group



**Tuesdays, March 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](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



## **A new raffle starts every Wednesday!**

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.

**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 Healing and Wholeness Service



**Friday, March 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](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 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.

## Online Sunday School

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## 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



**1st & 3rd Sundays  
March 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](mailto:colonelklay@yahoo.com)**

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

## Palm Sunday





# Palm Sunday

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

**Sunday, March 28th, 10:00am**

## Prayer Chaplain Ministry

Well, March is here... Meteorological spring has begun... And **Daylight Saving Time** begins on **March 14th!** I am certainly ready to have daylight last an hour longer each day and to watch as earth begins to wake up after the long winter's sleep! Hopefully the snow that we're buried under as I write this has begun to melt by now!



Continuing the theme of the 12 Powers, this month we ask you to recognize the power of wisdom that is within you, always, waiting to be sought. The metaphysical definition of wisdom, from *The Revealing Word*, is: "Intuitive knowing; spiritual intuition; the voice of God within as the source of our understanding; mental action based on the Christ truth within." It goes on to say, "Wisdom includes judgment, discrimination, intuition, and all the departments of mind that come under the head of knowing."


As you spring ahead into this new month during the Lenten season, we invite you to embrace your inner knowing by affirming your power of Wisdom. And continue to seek out prayer to support you on your divinely human spiritual journey.

**You (God) desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Psalm 51:6**

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 continue on in 2021 with renewed wisdom, 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

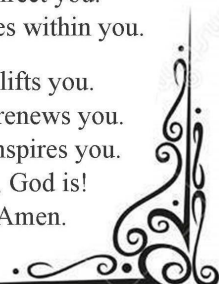


**The Prayer of Protection**  
*Written by James Dillet Freeman*

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.



## **Charles Fillmore's Invocation**

I AM now in the presence  
of pure Being,  
and immersed in the Holy Spirit  
of life, love, and wisdom.  
I acknowledge Thy presence  
and Thy power, O blessed Spirit;  
in Thy divine wisdom now erase my  
mortal limitations  
and from Thy pure substance of  
love bring into manifestation  
my world, according to  
Thy perfect law.

**Volunteer Ministry**



I want to thank everyone that joined us for our Volunteer Zoom meeting and for everyone that sent an email to affirm their ongoing volunteer commitment. It was great to connect and "see" my fellow congregants that I haven't connected with much over the last months. It felt good to just chat and review what we

might need over the next few months. We agreed that things might look different when we come back to our physical space, but we are all ready, willing, and able!!

We have a few urgent volunteer needs as we begin planning our next few months. So I ask that you reflect on your talents and time and connect with me on any of these committees that speak to you:

**USHER AND GREETERS; LANDSCAPE; BUILDING AND GROUNDS;** these Sacred Service committees are always in need of help and key to meeting the needs of our physical space.

**AUDIO /VISUAL** (looking for individuals who are familiar with Live Streaming who can support Warren and Rick). This is a newly formed committee to enable us to continue to bring our Sunday Service to congregants far away and that might not be able to make it to the church.

**"VOLUNTEER" TO SUPPORT OUR WEEKLY RAFFLE!** Watch for some great prizes coming up that you won't want to miss!!!

Who would have had thought that when we closed down a year ago, that we would go over a year without physically connecting with each other on a weekly basis. In my heart I know that we will pick up right where we left off and come together with an even greater appreciation for friendships made and the support that we have felt even through the internet. The hugs (hopefully) will be a little longer, a little tighter and the laughter will once again ring throughout our church home!!!

Affirming peace, love, and health to all!!!

Bobbi Severson

[bsever4785@gmail.com](mailto:bsever4785@gmail.com)

**Green Team**

We can be Green the best way possible 24 hours, seven days a week, 52 or 53 weeks a year!



Understanding information is important.

The clean energy jobs sector is one of the fastest growing in Illinois. Renewable energy will provide a required boost to our economy and be helpful to our environment at the same time.

Sierra Club Valley of the Fox Group will present by way of Zoom, **"How You Can Help Illinois Pass the Clean Energy Jobs Act"** with a **7 p.m. Monday, March 8** presentation. The presentation will be provided by Jessica Beverly, an expert on Illinois Clean Energy Jobs Act (CEJA).

The link to the Zoom meeting is available by going to [www.sierraclub.org/illinois/valley-fox](http://www.sierraclub.org/illinois/valley-fox), or Facebook Page, sierraclubvof.

Think Green, even in the Winter!

—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.

## 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](mailto:marynowroozi@comcast.net) by March 22!

## Food Initiative



UNITY OF FOX VALLEY  
**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

**DONORS:** If you would like to participate as a donor, you may send a check to the church



[churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.com](mailto:churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.com), and you will receive further information regarding the program. All of your communications will remain confidential.

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



**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/ls/5I9LM5FXITZG/ref=smi\\_ext\\_lnk\\_lcl\\_cl](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>

- **Please DO NOT use this link to purchase Raffle Entries!** Click [here](#) for the raffle.
- 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

# Taize Service

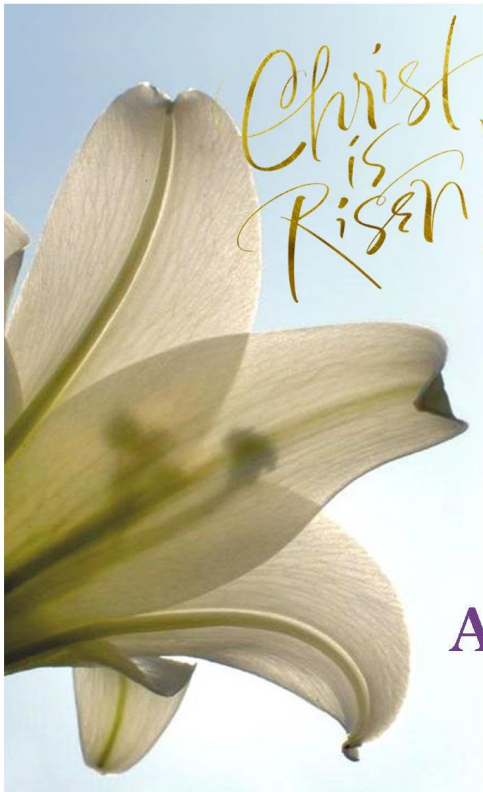
**Good Friday, April 2nd, 7pm**

*The Taize Service engages all of the senses through music, prayer, chants, scripture readings, and periods of silent contemplation to attain a state of deep contemplative awareness.*

All are invited to this beautiful, soulful, candlelight ceremony celebrating the light that is not overcome by darkness.



*This service is a beautiful way to commemorate Good Friday.*



*Christ  
is  
Risen!*

## Celebrate Easter

with

**Unity of Fox Valley  
Youth Ed**

**April 4th,  
10:00am**

*Alleluia*

Ladies,  
Unity of Fox Valley encourages you to wear your  
Best Easter Bonnet this Easter!

Sunday, April 4th



*You don't have an Easter Bonnet? Please feel  
free to make something fun to wear!*

*Participation is not required!*

## 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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When I work from home, I get an office kitty. My little, friendly Reese is working on cleaning herself and I'm just trying to get work done with a kitty on my lap. With us nearing one year with abbreviated in person office hours, this is 'Office Lap Kitty' is a weekly thing. Reese knows the routine and she is NOT gonna like it when I come back full time in person! HA HA HA! I miss you all and I hope you are being safe and staying healthy.

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!***

[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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