



**May 2021**

## **Ministerial Musings**

Admit it. As much as you may have enjoyed eating Cracker Jack, growing up it was all about the prize inside. If you ate enough of it, you understood that sometimes the prize really was nothing exciting, and it could actually be disappointing. It could be something like a dumb plastic soldier that even back then you know it was at best worth a penny. Nonetheless you couldn't wait to get down to the bottom of the box to find it.

For quite a few years my family lived on the second floor above Elsie's candy store. She not only sold Cracker Jack, but she also sold "Surprise Boxes." These were plain white cardboard boxes each of which contained a "surprise," no candy or anything – just the surprise. I remember the price was ten cents a box, probably about \$2.50 in present value. These things sold out pretty quick. And as was the case with Cracker Jack, sometimes even as a kid you knew the plain white cardboard box was more fun than the prize. It was analogous to picking the wrong door or the wrong curtain on Let's Make a Deal.

But it didn't matter. Whoever came up with these marketing ideas were geniuses. It never was about what was inside the Cracker Jack or the Surprise Boxes. It was the tiny bit of excitement, a wee bit of adventure. Maybe you would hit the jackpot and get the miniature paper parachute that you could shoot into the air. Sometimes the parachute would actually open and majestically float down to the earth. Most of the time the parachute didn't open, and it came down like a rock, or landed on a garage roof; and that would be that.

I believe the thrill of it all was in the quest. Knowing that you could get something worthless is what made chasing after the rare neat prize exciting.

If you are expecting me to now move to encouraging you to dare to go inside yourself to find a prize, I am not doing that. The analogy doesn't play out because what is inside of you is precious every time all the time. No booby prizes ever at your core.

Instead, I would encourage you to look for the prize in everything and everybody. Dare to feel free and take risks. Surely, there will be occasions in which you are disappointed. Maybe more often than not you will be disappointed. It doesn't matter. Allow yourself to be nine years old. Find the adventure in every quest. There are "Surprise Boxes" everywhere, and they are very inexpensive, and often cost no more than five minutes of your time for you to break your routine just a bit. Give it a try. I think it is a Cracker Jack of an idea.



Peace,

Rev. Mike

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

## Youth Education for the Younger Crowd

As we continue to provide youth lessons on the Zoom platform, our main focus has always been on engaging the youth to experience God in themselves and in one another. We are still quite limited at this time in participating in physical activities such as dance and nature walks, yet our youth continue in interacting with each other by exploring their spiritual journey through uplifting prayers, meditations, songs, stories and discussions.

For this month's spiritual endeavor, we will explore the **Power of Power**, **Color is Purple** and the **Disciple is Phillip**. We will offer the youth lessons to open their understanding that the infinite, all-powerful God is forever present in each one of us, ready to express wonderfully and lovingly in a multitude of ways in our outer world.

Also, as the astonishing miracle of Mother Earth continues to blossom forth, the youth will delve into Unity's 3rd Principle by planting "thought seeds" with the understanding that we absolutely live our lives by the choices we choose to think and believe!

Speaking of Mother Earth, the youth will joyfully honor and bless all the mothers in their lives – moms, grandmas, aunts, caregivers, teachers, doctors – all those lovely women who touch their lives with unwavering kindness and compassion. To enhance our

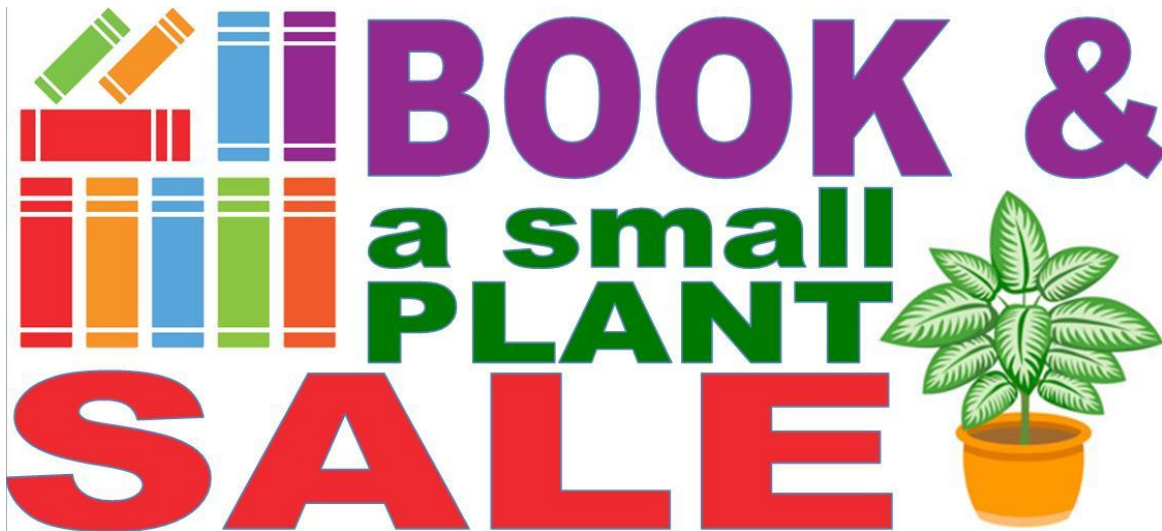


Mother's Day lesson, we will read the stories of a few amazing women in the Bible, one of which is Ruth who was deeply devoted to her mother-in-law Naomi. Ruth's testament of loving commitment metaphysically represents "human love raised to divine love" (Metaphysical Bible Dictionary).

## Happy Mother's Day!

With much appreciation and many blessings,  
Ms. Mary, LUT, CSE

### Book & a Small Plant Sale



**Friday, April 30th & Saturday, May 1st, 8-4 pm**

***The Book Sale is back and we added on a small Plant Sale!***

This event will coincide with Batavia's City Wide Garage sale. Due to the rollout of vaccines and wide spread safety protocols in place we feel that we can safely hold this event while still protecting the health of our community. Hosts and shoppers should wear face masks, use hand sanitizer, and socially distance themselves from others while visiting sales. The tables will be spread out for safe distancing. This event will be held in our parking lot unless there is inclement weather. It will be then held in the Lower Level of our church.

***All sales are final. No returns. All items are as is. No holds.***

## CONTACTS:

- Kathleen Malick: [churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org](mailto:churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org)
- Bobbi Severson: [bsever4785@gmail.com](mailto:bsever4785@gmail.com)

Please click [here](#) to go to the Book & a Small Plant Sale website.

***We have LOTS of book offerings!*** Come by & pick up something new to read!

- History
- Family/Women/Babies
- CDs/Tapes/Videos/DVDs
- Reference
- Novels & Biographies
- LGBTQ
- Nutritional & Health
- Children
- Business & Finance
- Cookbooks
- Unity Books
- Spiritual/Self Help/Psychology
- Miscellaneous

***Our Small Plant Sale is ready!*** After you pick up a book or two, come by and pick up a new planty friend! Some are rooted cuttings. Some are full on giant plants! First come. First Serve.:

- Rooted Monstera Deliciosa cuttings
- Pink Syngonium
- Kalanchoes
- Sanseverias
- Jade Pothos
- Golden Pothos
- Scindapsus Pictus Exoticas
- Parlor Palm
- Philodendron Brasils
- Heartleaf Philodendrons
- Neon Philodendrons
- Italian Stone Pine
- Peace Lily
- Ficus Lyrata/Fiddle Leaf Fig
- Diffenbachia Camilla
- Boston Fern
- Croton
- Yellow Pansy Basket
- & more!

## 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 Town Hall Meeting**



## **Sunday, May 2nd, after the Service**

Please plan to join us after the Sunday Service for a Unity of Fox Valley Town Hall Meeting. Our Board of Trustees wants to keep you informed regarding current items being considered such as the church parking lot. Your input is valued and appreciated so please join us.

**Please do not log off after the Service. Just continue to stay logged in.**

Please click [here](#) for the Town Hall Meeting website.



## Online Sunday School

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**Every Sunday, 11:30am, Online**

**No Sunday School Today on May 2nd!**

Please join us for the [Town Hall Meeting](#) after the Service.

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



**May 2nd, 1:30 pm, Online**  
**May 16th, 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, May 4th & 18th, 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 Raffle

# FUNunity of Fox Valley draising

## **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 Coffee & Tea with Myrtle & Me**



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

**There will be NO Coffee & Tea with Myrtle & Me on May 6th.**

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 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 & Wholeness Service



## HEALING AND WHOLENESS SERVICE

**Friday, May 7th, 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.

### Memorial Day



**Monday, May 24th**

In observance of Memorial Day, the Church  
Office will be closed.

Thank you so much to all the men and women  
who have given their lives in service of this  
country.

**Prayer Chaplain Ministry**

Happily, we are now well into spring. Spring and “springtime,” as described in Wikipedia, refer to not only the season, but “also to ideas of rebirth, rejuvenation, renewal, resurrection and regrowth.” These universal “springtime” ideas along with April’s last Daily Word affirmation, “I have the power to shape my life,” lead us to our Power this month - Power!



Winifred Wilkinson Hausmann, author of *Your God-Given Potential: Unfolding the Twelve Spiritual Powers*, states, “Power, we must understand, is not an end in itself; not a goal to be sought. Rather, it is simply a means that enables us to attain the end of bringing forth God ideas on earth.” With this ‘God given’ quality, inherent in each of us, we can manifest our “springtime” hopes and dreams and create our heart’s desires...

If any of you have a “heart’s” desire to be more comfortable praying with others, **we invite you to consider becoming a Prayer Chaplain**. The training is an opportunity to enrich your personal spiritual life as well as teaching you skills, and giving you tools, to be of service to your spiritual family. Both women and men are welcome to walk this spiritual path. The only requirements for Prayer Chaplain applicants are that you be a current Unity of Fox Valley member, demonstrate an understanding of Unity principles, have a willingness to pray with others, and have taken a prayer class. No former experience in praying with others is necessary.

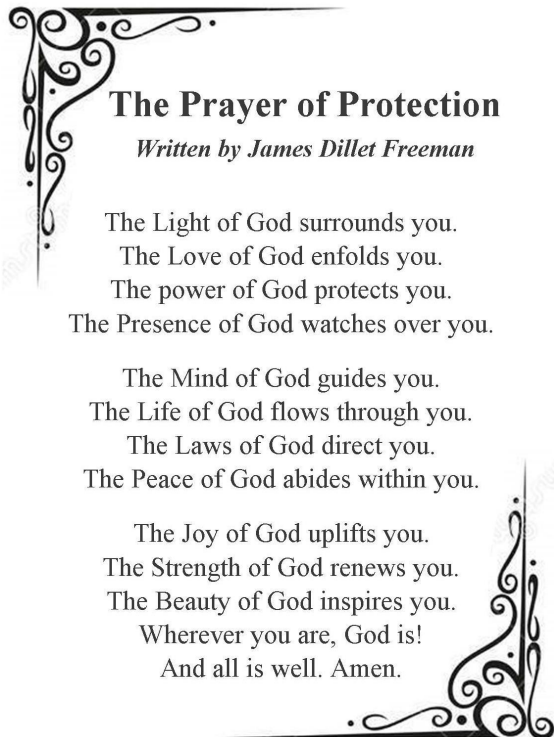
If you are interested in joining our prayer ministry or have any questions, we invite you to contact Bobbi Severson, 630-632-2368, [bsever4785@gmail.com](mailto:bsever4785@gmail.com) or Marie Manella, 630-803-1630, [mleduc7@yahoo.com](mailto:mleduc7@yahoo.com)

***"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." - Matthew 25:40***

Your Prayer Chaplains, Eliza Sutherland, Wanda Faye Holmes, Carl Klemaier, Maria Cosentino, Mary Nowroozi, Denise Hage, 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 using our power to shape our life, 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.

### **A prayer by Ernest Holmes of Centers for Spiritual Living, offered by Wanda Faye Holmes**

“When you become confused, stop and listen to your inner calm. Turn from the confusion to that deeper something within, and say:

I am submerged in peace.  
I am surrounded in peace.  
I am immersed in peace.  
There is nothing but peace.  
Peace-deep, calm, undisturbed.”

## **Green Team**



The importance of **Earth Day** is a combined responsibility between each individual and governments world-wide. U.S. president Joe Biden was host to a two-day Earth Day virtual summit among 42 countries April 22-April 23, including China and Russia. Each country's leader made comments. The significance of the event did not and was not expected to make substantial news. The meeting was a starting point to share viewpoints and to make pledges of significance. One day prior to the town hall virtual meeting, Joe Biden made the pledge to reduce auto gas emissions in the U.S. of at least 52% by the year 2030 as the goal. The focal points will take dedication and work to achieve.

One of the first announcements of the Biden administration January 20 was the U.S. rejoined the Paris Climate Accord.

Each of us can make a difference to be informed in, and function with, proper recycling understanding. One aspect of recycling is to recycle polystyrene food and foam packing units, instead of littering those items in refuse containers.

Thank you for making an effort to be a positive force in more than just April 22 Earth Day.

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

## Volunteer Ministry

THANK YOU, THANK YOU!! To everyone that volunteered to help at the [Book and Plant Sale](#). Hard work goes into something like this, but with all the high powered help we had to sort and schlep, it went very smoothly!!! Our Office Manager, Kathleen volunteered her time and talent to organize the Plant part of this



sale, make up our inviting signs, and also cute little name tags!! You never let us down when we ask and all of you certainly responded with physical help and many book donations!! It was also a time of coming together and SAFELY being social and catching up with one another!! That alone, made it all worthwhile and successful!!!

WE ARE GRATEFUL for Kathleen, Galen, Joey, Mickey K, Lynette, Wendy, Karen, Judy, Bob Anthony, Marie, Rose, Donna Beichel, Beth, and MarCia for all of your muscle and help!! Books are not light!!!!

MAY is a quiet month as far as activities go, but the [LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE](#) can always use help in keeping us looking beautiful. I just had a new thought about how we can keep our church grounds looking spiffy! What if we had a volunteer for one section or one area that they would be responsible for? You could work at your own pace and your own schedule. If this appeals to you, please contact Larry Schaeffer, [nshmn2@gmail.com](mailto:nshmn2@gmail.com) for information on what we need and how you can help!!

SPRING makes me happy, hearing the birds sing, smelling the renewal of the earth, and hearing the activities that warmer weather always brings!! A tough year, no doubt, but like Spring, we can emerge into a newer self, a hopeful self, and see the beauty all around us!!!



In peace, love and gratitude for our beautiful church family!!!

Bobbi Severson

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

## Just Ask Ministry



***Ask and you shall receive. People Prospering People!***

Do you need something? Do you have something to offer? Let us know! Email the church office with what you need/have to offer and it will be posted on the site for 2 months. The

ASK Ministry requires that no money is exchanged for items or services received or offered.

### **TURN IN YOUR OFFER/REQUEST:**

Email the Church Office ([churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org](mailto:churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org)) the following.

- Your contact info: It will be posted on the website
- What you are offering or requesting

Please reach out to the contact person directly.

*The church will not be managing any transactions.*

Please click [here](#) to go to the Just Ask Ministry 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 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](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



## **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**



## 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>

- **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 Events



**Saturday, June 12th, 11am – noon**

Come join us in the church parking lot for a morning of delicious ice cream, uplifting music, fun games and more! We will be handing out individually wrapped ice cream and popcicles till supplies last (please register!).

In order to ensure a safe experience for all, we will comply with state requirements of wearing masks and social distancing even if vaccinated.

**To attend, Registration is a MUST!**

Please contact the church office **no later than Tuesday, June 1 by noon** with how many people will be attending: [churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org](mailto:churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org)



*We are looking forward to a fabulous, fun family experience for all!*

*Please feel free to invite your neighbors, friends & family!*

Please click [here](#) to take you to the Ice Cream Social 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.*

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Let's start the month with our [Book & a Small Plant Sale](#) thanks to my Co-Chair, Bobbi Severson & our many volunteers! I do hope you can come by, if not to just say hi!

We are also in the starting stages of planning our next big event! Mark your calendars for **Saturday, June 12th** where I will be handing out FREE individually wrapped icy treats in the Parking Lot! I wasn't able to throw my yearly [Ice Cream Social](#) last year so I hope I can see you this year!

On the home front, I've planned out my cut flower garden, my hydrangea garden and I was able to get some free plants from a local art shop/school that will be doing their landscaping this year. I have so much going on that I will have to put off my Japanese garden hopefully to just next summer. All the while drinking from my new favorite cup that was gifted to me! Tee hee!

Be well everyone! I miss you all but we will all be back together again!

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

[Forward This Email](#)

[Join Our Mailing List](#)

**A Note about Unsubscribing:** If you unsubscribe to any email you receive from UFV, you will no longer receive any email notifications from us - including Sunday Service links.

