



July 2021

Ministerial Musings

Oh Say Can You See?

I have the fondest memories of the 4th of July. It was a day teeming with all sorts of fun activities. For starters, nobody had to work. Given that it was summer and usually quite warm plus nobody had air conditioning back then, people were outside interacting with each other. I lived catty-corner from Echardt Park. All day long there were baseball and softball games. The park pool was open and jumpacked. In the evening the park was the cite for unauthorized fireworks. For thirty cents, which meant going into my “savings,” I would get a hot dog with fries from Al’s hot dog stand across the park. More than any other day of the year, the neighborhood was vibrant.

Of course, as children we looked for mischief. We each had our stash of firecrackers. A few had cherry bombs. We would roam the streets and the alleys looking for neat things to explode. This would include cans, bottles and various fruits including on occasion a watermelon. As I look back, it is a wonder I still have enough fingers left to count to ten. The next day we would comb the streets for the metal remnants of sparklers. We would fold over the tips and shoot them with rubber bands. It is also a wonder I still have enough eyes to count to two.

If you asked people what all the partying was all about, most everybody would be able to tell you, “We are celebrating our country’s independence.” If you were to ask anybody if they thought about that while having a beer or lighting a firecracker, I doubt that even a single person would answer, “Yes.”

It is fascinating how the essence and the sacred can become lost in and to the very rituals created to commemorate and celebrate them. We have to squeeze in those Christmas and birthday parties. We do so without much thought of the miracles of the Word

becoming flesh, which by the way, applies both to Christmas and our own births. How often do we do things because it always has been done, or we do not know anything different?

There are dead rituals and there are vibrant rituals. The distinction between the two is that vibrant rituals are done with a mindfulness of what we are celebrating. In that case the activities transcend going through the motions into yet another transformation. This applies to singing Happy Birthday, singing a song, lighting a candle, lighting a firecracker, a hug or a kiss, and even a simple smile shared.

What we always are celebrating is that it is all God, all the time. If we look at our freedom in this knowing this Independence Day, we will come to realize that we are even much freer than we had thought. As we sing the words, “Oh say can you see?”, let’s allow this to be our focus. If you do, you will not need a firecracker to get a bang out of this holiday.

Peace,

Rev. Mike

revmike@unityoffoxvalley.org



Youth Education for the Younger Crowd

As we Zoom into summer, we will be exploring the **Power of Understanding**. The color for this month is **Gold** and the **Disciple is Thomas**. To enhance this Power in our youth lessons, we will reflect on the Bible story of Solomon in I Kings 3:5-15 when God offered to Solomon any gift of his liking such as courage, strength, money, or fame. Solomon let all those possible choices go and rather asked for an understanding heart so that he could make fair and just decisions for the people of his land.

With an “understanding heart”, the youth and teachers will honor the concept of freedom this 4th of July, blessing it in appreciation for our God-given gift of free-will choice. We will begin our morning with a powerful motivating Ted Talk presented by a fifth grader telling his own story of how he changed his thinking from a “fixed-mind set” to a “growth-mind set” in overcoming his difficulty in reading comprehension. He eventually has become a “champion” not only in reading but in many other aspects of his life. We will ask the youth to share how they may have likely applied their gift of free-will choice in overcoming any

“fix-mind set” obstacles and how they can remember through prayer and meditation to carry that concept into future challenges in their lives.

Lastly, we are encouraging *all* youth and their families to attend our ***Fun in the Sun*** on **Saturday, July 17, from 2 to 4 pm!** Following any safety protocols adhered at that time, we will reunite in the parking lot and from there walk over to the *Batavia Creamery* for a cool treat (dairy or non-dairy). Then we will stroll on back to the church grounds for fun games and socializing. We are looking forward to seeing the youth and their families at our gathering, visualizing it being a fun time for all!



In deep gratitude to all,
Ms. Mary, LUT, CSE

Music Ministry

And the Beat Goes On

There are some changes happening involving our music program. As part of our commitment to you, the Fox Valley spiritual family, we are sharing these updates and are also seeking your help!

For starters, Rob Orland, who has generously shared his musical talent with us for over fourteen years, is stepping down as our Music Director effective the end of this month. Rob has blessed us with his musical gifts not only on Sunday mornings, but also at countless special events such as our Christmas Candlelight, Thanksgiving Eve, and Taizé services, and other meditation services. Rob also has served our church family by working with our children in many programs and services. Thank you, Rob; we appreciate your many years of dedicated service and your many contributions to our community. We bless you!

We do expect to announce a new Music Director soon. We affirm that we will embrace this change together as a church family and look upon it an opportunity to grow and evolve together. Music is an integral part not only of our services, but of the entire church



experience. In fact, it represents a form of prayer and is an important ministry in the truest sense.

Recognizing that the music ministry touches all of us, here is where you come in. As we return to in-person services, we will transition away from our reliance on recorded music videos.

We know there is an abundance of musical talent within our church family. We are looking for individuals with musical

ability—whether playing a musical instrument and/or singing—to consider participation in the music ministry. Although in the early planning stages, we do expect to include more live music, periodic soloists, choir music, congregational singing, instrumental pieces, and so forth in our Sunday services. Please consider tithing your talent and time to this important ministry.

If you are interested, or even just curious, please contact the church office:

churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org, Rev Mike: revmike@unityoffoxvalley.org or Bobbi

Severson: bsever4785@gmail.com

As William James said,

I don't sing because I'm happy;
I'm happy because I sing.

William James

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

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

Office Closed

The Church Office will be closed the following days:

- Thursday, 7/1
- Tuesday, 7/5
- Thursday, 7/22



Subject to change without notice.

Online Coffee & Tea with Myrtle & Me



Every Thursday, 10:30 am, on the Church Lawn

Please come and join us! Bring with you a lawn chair, 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.

If we get rained out, we will just bring it inside so don't let the rain stop you!

If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Mike: 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

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

Online Healing & Wholeness Service



HEALING AND WHOLENESS SERVICE

There will be no Healing & Wholeness Service in July.

Please join us IN PERSON on Friday, August 6th, 7:00 pm

Please join us in our once-a-month service filled with music, chant, prayer, and hands on healing conducted by members of our music team and our prayer chaplain team.

If you've ever wanted a time and place where you could just be open and surrendered to the healing power of Spirit this will a wonderful opportunity to be surrounded in love, prayer, and peace.

First Friday of every month!

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, 1:30 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.

Game Night

GAME NIGHT

Friday, July 16th, 7:00pm

**Special fun night celebration
In memory of Mickey Cowles**

***We have games for two or more
(Mexican Train Dominos)
50/50 raffle
Silent auction items***

Children are welcome with a responsible Adult.

Light refreshments will be provided, but we won't
mind if you bring a snack to share!

**For more info., please contact Bobbi Severson:
bsever4785@gmail.com 630-632-2368**

Bobbi Severson: bsever4785@gmail.com 630-632-2368

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

Prayer Chaplain Ministry



July, the middle of the summer months here in the northern hemisphere and considered the warmest month of the year, may, hopefully, be the month we open Unity of Fox Valley to “in person” services for the first time in sixteen months. A time for celebration, indeed, even in the midst of continuing confusion in these beleaguered times. As we begin to navigate, sometimes with uncertainty, in our newly opening world, we can call on our inherent power of *understanding*.

In the Unity Booklet, *How to Stay Centered, No Matter What*, Rev. Evin Wilkins, a senior minister at Unity of Madison, Wisconsin, writes, “You see, spiritual understanding isn’t always the same as understanding that the sky is blue or two plus two equals four. It’s knowing and trusting that your highest good is unfolding despite outer circumstances. It’s knowing and trusting that the path before you will lead you to a destination far more beautiful than you ever dared to imagine.”

This excerpt from “A Prayer of Understanding,” in the above mentioned booklet can be said as an affirmation:

“In the silence of prayer, understanding reveals that my own comes to me in divine ways that are a blessing to me and to others - always!”

Rev. Sheila McKeithen, J.D.
Kingston, Jamaica,

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 and a Prayer Chaplain will be in touch.

As we continue on in 2021 using our creative powers to shape our life, we encourage you to keep on taking good care of yourselves 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 and soon, in person after Sunday Service in our “brick and mortar” spiritual home...

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.

This prayer, by Ernest Holmes of Centers for Spiritual Living and offered by Wanda Faye Holmes, is a good one to support us as we call on our inherent spiritual *gift of understanding...*

“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.”

Volunteer Ministry

A very big SHOUT OUT to all the volunteers that helped make the **Ice Cream Social** such a fun event. We couldn't have done it without you. . . . Mike & Mary Nowroozi, Kathleen & Galen Malick, Dawn Staszak, Mickey Koziol, Rick & Marsha McKay, Carl Strang, Alex Christensen, Maria Cosentino, Joey Nelson, Donna Beichel, Pam O'Brien, and Wanda Faye. And special mention to Rev Mike, who had the best job of all on that hot hot day!! All of you worked through a pretty hot and humid day and you never waived!! You are what makes it possible to hold these fun-filled events. It was so nice to see familiar faces and catch up with what has been going on in our lives besides COVID. And we had extra treats when Perry showed up with Cup Cakes to celebrate his birthday!!!



Thank you to all of you that showed up to help clean the church in preparation for our re-entry!! We got the job done in short order with all the wonderful volunteers that we had. You can come back with peace of mind knowing that everything upstairs has been wiped down, polished, and vacuumed!! We are ready for YOU!!

We lost one of our most ardent Volunteers, Mickey Cowles. As most of you know she made her transition June 17th. If anything needed to be done, you can rest assured that Mickey would be one of the first to volunteer. She loved her monthly game nights and weekly Women's luncheons where you would always find them in a fierce game of something, usually Mexican Train Dominoes. So in joyful celebration of Mickey and her many years of dedication to our church family, we will be hosting a **Game Night** on **Friday, July 16th**. We hope you can join us for this special night in her honor. So mark your calendars and watch for more details to come!!

Blessings and have a wonderful and safe 4th of July!!

Bobbi Severson

bsever4785@gmail.com

Green Team



Climate change, preserving structure of the Earth the best way humanly possible, and individual responsibility for recycling, are not political functions, even though those deniers seek to construct such a narrative.

We can do and must do better.

Each community has some form of recycling. We must participate with understanding of what will be picked up and what will not be picked up each week. We must understand the procedure by contacting the correct community information office.

Nearly all communities do not accept polystyrene, packing foam and food contain foam. Dart Container Corporation, 310 Evergreen in North Aurora, has covered outside bins for foam drop-off 24 hours each day, seven-days each week.

Here are directions to drop off packing foam and food-container foam: South-bound or north-bound on Route 31. Turn west, right in the southbound lane, the first traffic light south of the traffic lights for the I-88 East-West Interstate; make an immediate, only a few feet, hard right in the lane which goes north and turns left, adjacent to the I-88 on Smoketree Plaza. Follow it several city blocks to the dead-end at Evergreen. When you stop at the stop-sign, the bins are directly across the low-traffic intersection and easily visible. Drive to the front of the bins to drop off the foam in the correct bins. The bins are

on the east side of Dart Container Corporation. There is no entry necessary to the Dart area.

We have an obligation to help protect Earth, one small step at a time. There are no dramatic functions to be helpful, only small, sustained, substantive, efforts. Throwing out that which can be recycled is wasteful.

There are no Green Team activities planned in the near future, at least until following the opening of the church building.

Go Green each day!

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

Just Ask Ministry



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

Do you need something? Do you have something to offer? Let us know!

churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org

CURRENT OFFERINGS:

- 5 cup rice cooker
- Do you know someone homebound who would like to get a hand written note in the mail once a week? Please provide name, interests, and address, age range.

CURRENT REQUESTS:

- I would like someone periodically help us with technical support for our PC computer.
- 15 baby jars with lids and 15 Junior jars with lid.

Please click [here](#) to follow up with any of the above or for more info.

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



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



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/lr/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.**

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.

Did you miss the Ice Cream Social? Well, you missed Rev. Mike nailing the target on his 2nd try and dumping me with a bucket of water! AND you missed his cute victory dance! HA HA HA! It was a hot day but wow it was great seeing everyone!



My office hours are updated again in anticipation of a reopening. I'm physically in the office on Mondays, Tuesdays & Thursdays (subject to change w/o notice) and working from home on Wednesdays. If you need me on a Wednesday, 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

[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.



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