



August 2022

## Ministerial Musings



Here we are. August is upon us. Every year at least once every week in August I listen to Neil Diamond's *Brother Love's Traveling Salvation Show*. It was not his first hit and only reached number 22 on the song charts. The opening lyrics are, "Hot August Night." The first time I heard it I knew I would be a Neil Diamond fan forever.

The song is about a traveling evangelical preacher. My affinity for the song was unrelated to any ministerial call I may ever have had. It was the emotion and passion that I heard in Neil's voice and lyrics. What inspired this young Jewish man, a New Yorker no less, write and sing about a preacher? And was he acting in his passionate delivery or was he feeling it?

It did not matter. I did not care. I was feeling it every time I played the song. The call that I heard had nothing to do with any official ministerial aspirations; at that time, I had none. The call that I heard was all about being a little less full of myself, and a little more about mindful of, I don't know, everything.

There is a reference in the song to the tent being engulfed in silence waiting to hear the message. This is captured in the lyrics: "And when you almost bet you could hear yourself sweat...". It is a strong testimony of a hunger not just to hear the word, but an open expectation of the presence of some something somewhere and somehow that will make

a difference in our lives. To me it is very much in tune (no pun intended) to where I am when I go into the silence. It is easiest to find something in the midst of nothing.

The inclusivity of the message is reflected in the words, “Pack up the babies and grab the old ladies cuz everyone goes.” And the message is simple. You got two good hands. Use one to reach out to one who is in trouble. Use the other when your heart is troubled to reach out to the “Man up there cuz that’s what he’s there for.” Notwithstanding the references to “man” and “he” and “up there,” it is a simplification that tells us our spiritual journey need not be all that complicated. If we can just let go of the drama and maintain our focus on the presence of Spirit and one another, we can get on a spiritual roll.

We all have different problems, worries and issues. Yet, we all share that we have problems, worries and issues. Some are more serious than others. The nature of all of them is that they can wear us down, make us grow tired and overwhelmed. Brother Loves message is simple. Maybe that is the true message – Keep it simple: Love God and one another. Was this a song ever? Who knows? But it should be music to our ears.

Rev Mike

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

## Youth Education for the Younger Crowd

For this month of August, our youth will be delving into the **Power of Will**. The **disciple for this month is Matthew** and the color is ***shimmering silver***. The youth will learn the Bible story of David and Goliath where David willingly released any fear, placing full trust in the power and presence of Spirit to overcome the adversity before him. We will elaborate on this approach, reminding the youth that willingly saying the simple words, “I can” calls upon their innate powers to be open to God’s loving presence so that amazing things are truly possible in their lives.

The youth, the teachers, and I appreciate our congregation’s loving support in providing us the monetary means to indulge on yummy ice cream at the local Batavia Creamery one Sunday last month. Not only did we enjoy our leisurely walk to the Creamery and our delicious cool treat, but we also had a fabulous time just being in the moment enjoying each other’s loving presence.



Speaking of appreciation, we are deeply grateful to two of our Juniors, Aimee and Lilah, that had graciously shared their thoughts for the July 10<sup>th</sup> message “[What Unity Means to](#)

Me". They each spoke on how their spiritual journey thus far in Unity has truly opened up their understanding and love for one another and that their "dreams really can come true".

As many of you know, we will be having our annual Church Picnic on **Sunday, August 21st**, at Fabyan Park in Batavia. Service will start at 10 am, and I encourage you to please arrive a few minutes early, bringing your youth to join in on a variety of fun games and to stroll along the path for a meditative walk. Please sign-up in the Fellowship area adjacent to the sanctuary to bring a dish to share. We look forward to seeing everyone there to enjoy the exciting games, the powerful message, the uplifting music, and each other in the ambience of God's beautiful natural surroundings.

Many thanks and blessings to all,  
Mary, LUT, CSE  
[marynowroozi@comcast.net](mailto:marynowroozi@comcast.net)

## Coffee & Tea with Myrtle & Me



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

Dear UFV Family & Friends,

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 it rains or is too cold/hot, don't let that stop you. We will hold this event inside.*

Peace,  
Mike

## 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. The Course invites us to retrain our minds so that we can experience more peace in this world.

***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.

## Sunday School



## Every Sunday, 10:00 am, In Person & Online

Dear UFV Family & Friends,

Come and join us as we explore wherever God and Spirit may lead us. Our coming together is an affirmation to answer that call collectively.

Part of our responsibility in answering that call is a mindfulness of the world around us, and doing what we can to insure the safety and well-being of all who join in our Sunday worship.

We also remind everyone to adhere to the [Covid Protocols](#) that have been set in place. Your understanding and cooperation will contribute to being able to continue to meet in person.

Subscribe to our  
**You Tube Channel**

If you cannot attend the service in person, you still can be a part of it by tuning in to our YouTube channel. All you have to do is click [here](#).

*Whether you opt to join us in person or online, we look forward to having you with us.*

Peace,  
Rev. Mike

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

## Sunday Services





**Every Sunday, 10:00 am**

We are welcoming youth of all age groups to join us for an hour of uplifting spiritual connection through prayer, story, meditation, songs, game, and craft:

Nursery (3 months to age 2)

Children's Church (ages 3 to 6 – preschool to 1st grade)

Juniors (ages 7 to 10 – 2nd to 5th grade)

Uniteens (ages 11 to 13 – 6th to 8th grade)

Y.O.U. (ages 14 to 18 – 9th to 12th grade)

*Parents are welcome to join in on the fun, too!*

**Any questions/concerns, please contact**

**Mary Nowroozi: [marynowroozi@comcast.net](mailto:marynowroozi@comcast.net)**

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

## Healing & Wholeness Service



## HEALING AND WHOLENESS SERVICE

**Friday, August 12th, 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.

***SECOND Friday of every month!***

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

This Service will not be [Live Streamed](#).

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

## Annual Church Picnic



**Sunday, August 21st, 10:00 am**

***For the whole family!***

***Everyone is invited!***

***Bring a Dish to Share!***

***Fabyan Forest Preserve - West***

This is just North of Fabyan Parkway on Route 31.

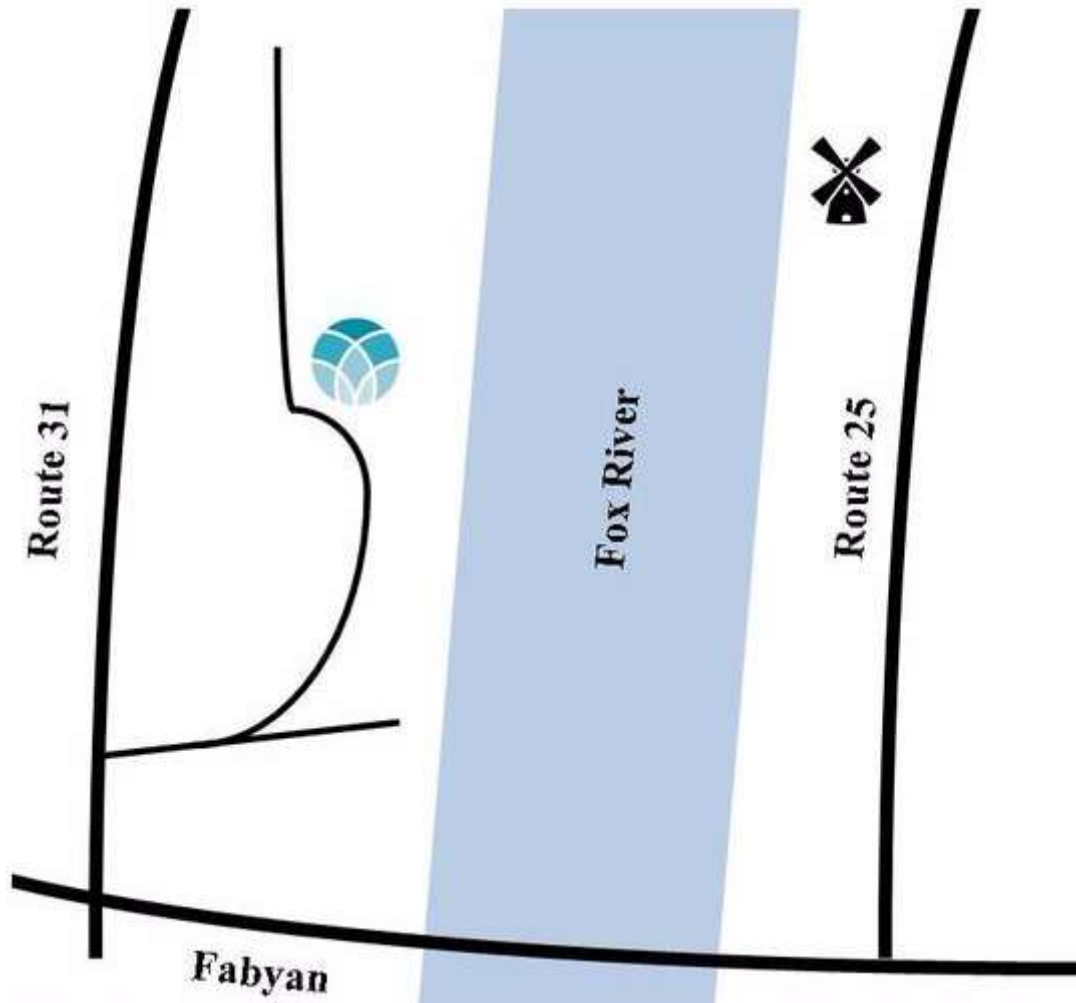
At the shelter. Look for Unity of Fox Valley signs.

Please click [here](#) to take you to more information regarding the location.

We need volunteers to help set up and clean up. If you are willing to help, please contact

Deb McQuaid ASAP and find out what needs to be done: [debmcquaid@aol.com](mailto:debmcquaid@aol.com)

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



## Music Ministry

### Musicians of Unity of Fox Valley!

The Music Team will begin regular Thursday rehearsals again on **August 25th from 5-6:30**. Both singers and instrumentalists are invited to join! Bonus points if you play bass!! It's ok if you're not an "every Sunday" kind of person. We're happy to work with your schedule. Email Kitty at [kitty.karn00@gmail.com](mailto:kitty.karn00@gmail.com).



Blessings,  
Kitty

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



## Prayer Chaplain Ministry



Welcome to August, the last month of summer, meteorological speaking. It never ceases to amaze me how quickly the months fly by! This month is noteworthy as it's our 1st anniversary of "in person" services and events after a year and a half of meeting virtually! Yet all in our world hasn't returned to what we remember as "normal" in the days before Covid and even before that. And it's looking as if things will continue to shift in the foreseeable future.

As Unity students we know that we are unlimited spiritual beings, that we have within us resources that will guide and support us as we navigate in this evolving world! I would like to share a few excerpts from the two books that Rev. Mike used in the recent Welcome to Unity Class. (Both books are available on Amazon.)

The first is from Eric Butterworth's *Unity: A Quest for Truth*. "On the human level of appearances, it seems that changes can lead to loss and injustice. But beyond the appearance is a level of experience where God's law of adjustment is always active, turning losses into gain, revealing the truth that even if (it) was intended for evil, God intends it for good... Divine order is always established within and beyond the experience for good." (p. 102)

How can we look beyond the appearances that seem to surround us in this life? If you have read or studied any Unity writings, you might be familiar with this answer - practice prayer and meditation. The book *Alternatives, New Approaches to Traditional Christian Beliefs* by William L. Fisher describes a number of traditional types of prayer, then offers more effective ways to pray. "Real prayer is an entrance into spiritual communion with God. This can only be done when we pray our own heartfelt prayers, when we pray in order to feel a sense of kinship with God... The Apostle Paul instructed us to 'pray constantly.'" He goes on to say that we don't have to be on our knees or point our folded hands upwards. The position of our body is not important, "but the position of our mind is all-important. We can have a constant *attitude* of prayer." (p. 32)

***This is the day that the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.***

Psalm 118:24

If, in this evolving world, you have ever contemplated becoming a prayer chaplain, we will be offering our Prayer Chaplain Ministry Training in October 10/14 & 15, and November 11/18 & 19 - one Friday evening and Saturday each month. This training is an opportunity to enrich your spirituality through service to our members. Both women and men are welcome to walk this spiritual path. If you are interested 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)

The requirements for 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. (The prayer class schedule is "in the works" and will be announced soon.) No former experience in praying with others is necessary.

**"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, Wanda Faye Holmes, Maria Cosentino, Mary Nowroozi, Bobbi Severson and Marie Manella, are committed to making periodic Caring Calls to support you, our spiritual family, with your prayer needs. There is at least one prayer chaplain available after service each Sunday, too. When we pray with you, we hold everything said in confidence, placing your requests in the sacred space of limitless possibilities in 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 send an email to [churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org](mailto:churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org) and a PC will be in touch.

Blessings and hugs,  
Marie and Bobbi

### **The Prayer of Faith**

God is my help in every need;  
God does my every hunger feed;  
God walks beside me, guides my way  
Through every moment of the day.

I now am wise, I now am true,  
Patient, kind, and loving too.  
All things I am, can do, and be  
Through Christ, the Truth that is in me.

## 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.

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.

—Hannah More Kohaus

## Volunteer Ministry

As most of you know, each year I come out to the Pacific Northwest to visit family. This time away from my normal routine allows me the opportunity to be on the water by boat or kayak and walk the beach. It also affords me time to rest, reflect, renew and to be grateful for all that life has to offer!

I am telling you this because it is going to be a shortened newsletter this month because the hiking trail is calling!!



Don't forget the [ANNUAL PICNIC & SERVICE](#) on **August 21st, at the Fabyan Forest Preserve**. The signup sheet is up for food and volunteers. THANK YOU, Deb, Men's group, and volunteers for all of the work you do to make this a fun time for all! Come join us and bring a friend!!

Thank you to all of our [Cafe](#) Volunteers that stepped up and stepped in so that Bob and MaryAnn could enjoy their vacation!! We are blessed by these two lovely people and their dedicated helper Alex, who make the coffee and organize our treats each Sunday morning! And for the food angels that drop off extra goodies!! I know everyone really missed this time of socializing during our shut down period, so it is nice to be back, and we are grateful for all that make this happen.

I know I say this almost every month, but it always bears repeating, our Spiritual family is

blessed with soooooo many talented, gifted, and generous folks and we don't take this for granted!!! We bless and appreciate each and every one of you!!!

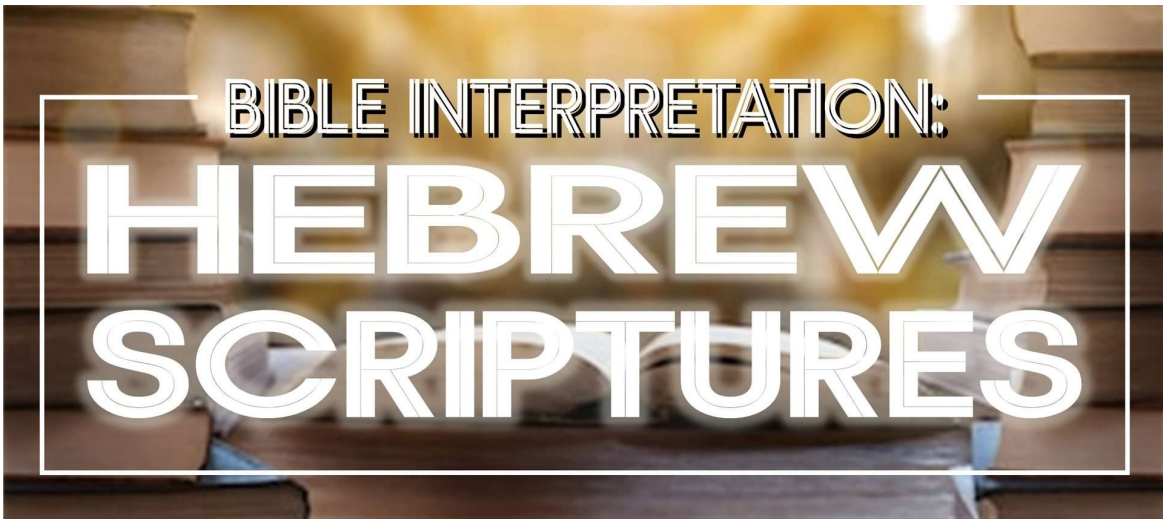
I will sign off by sharing the beauty of nature and these two little cuties!! Be well and be safe everyone!!

Bobbi Severson

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



## Bible Interpretation: Hebrew Scriptures



**Thursdays, 6-week ONLINE class**  
**September 8th – October 13th, 6:30-8:30pm**

This class will bring an understanding of Bible interpretation. You will experience the rewarding and surprisingly practical process of the Unity way of bible interpretation. Through exploration of the mail stories and characters of the Hebrew Scriptures, you will

learn a step-by-step method for metaphysical interpretation and application of the means to your life. Come and explore and relate these stories to your spiritual journey.

Facilitated by Marge Orchard, L.U.T. [margeorchard@gmail.com](mailto:margeorchard@gmail.com)

**Required Books:**

- **Bible – NRSV** (New Revised Standard Version)

The following are available for free download on TruthUnity.net:

- [Let There Be Light](#) by Elizabeth Sand Turner. Unity Books
- [Metaphysical Bible Dictionary](#), Unity Books
- [The Revealing Word](#), Unity Books

**Recommended Prerequisite:**

- **Overview: Hebrew Scriptures**

All are welcome to attend!

Offered on a Love Offering Basis

This is a S.E.E. required class

For more info or to register, please call Marge: 847 912 4457

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

*Please reach out to the contact person directly. The church will not be managing any transactions.*

**CURRENT OFFERINGS:**

- Shoebox full of hand cut ceramic for making mosaic. Description: Triangles and squares; white, dark green, southwest colors. Sharon

Mays: [sharon\\_mays@comcast.net](mailto:sharon_mays@comcast.net) 8/6/22

**CURRENT REQUESTS:**

- Pressure CANNER:

[churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org](mailto:churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org) 8/2/22

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



## 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/lr/5l9LM5FXITZG/ref=smi\\_ext\\_lnk\\_lcl\\_cl](https://smile.amazon.com/hz/charitylist/lr/5l9LM5FXITZG/ref=smi_ext_lnk_lcl_cl)

## Tithes & Offerings



***Nothing is possible without your commitment and generous financial support. Thank you so very much!***

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

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

- You may contribute any amount and you do not need to have a PayPal account to contribute but you do need an email address.
- ***Paypal does take a fee from your donation.*** If you would like to be sure your entire donation is given to the church, feel free to mail in your donation: Unity of Fox Valley, 230 Webster Street, Batavia, IL 60510.
- ***If your donation is for a specific event, please be sure to write that in the Memo area of your check.***

## News from the Church Office

*A section in the Newsletter to fill you in on some of the fun doings of our Business Manager, Kathleen Malick.*

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The Bartlett house has officially sold (This is one last photo before we left after cleaning the house for the new owners), and we are completely moved into our new home. All 1.5 acres of it! We have been spending time in our barn and home just getting things organized but there is always something right?

Well... we are now getting prepared to take my daughter to college in Savannah, Georgia. The 1st tuition bill came in (GULP! - and we haven't paid for books, a computer or spending money yet) so anything that isn't completely necessary will be on hold. It will be worth it though. My daughter's college degree is more important!

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](#)

If you click on my photo or my name above, it will take you to my Instagram page for more photos of my life. (FYI - This is my personal IG account. Although it is quite tame, please know that I do not censor it for anyone.)

## 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.
- [Unity Green Team CommUnity Event](#) - Events to be determined

#### 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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**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.

