



FEBRUARY 2023

Ministerial Musings

What Does He Know?

Maybe it is because we are bored and tired of winter. Maybe it is because we are prone to seeking amusement in strange places. Maybe it is because we inherently are gullible. Whatever it may be, we all seem to be at the very least casually intrigued by the annual tradition of Groundhog Day.

Groundhog Day has a long-standing history. Its origin goes back to Germany centuries ago. The Germans did not use a groundhog. In fact, there was a succession starting with using bears awakening from hibernation. As bears became more and more scarce, the Germans began to use foxes, but eventually settled on using badgers. German immigrants brought the tradition with them to Pennsylvania.

In Pennsylvania the tradition would shift to groundhogs going back to the 1840's. Although Groundhog Day is celebrated in different parts of our country and Canada, the most renowned groundhog is Punxsutawney Phil. Punxsutawney Phil, or PP got his first name from the town; speculation has it the "Phil" was adopted as a tribute to a person of royalty.

Every February 2nd, PP is imposed upon to emerge and predict the weather. The folklore is that if PP sees his shadow, there will be six more weeks of winter. If he does not see his shadow an early spring is forecast. Despite the fact that PP's track record has not been all that accurate, Groundhog Day is a major happening in Punxsutawney. On many occasions 40,000 people have shown up to celebrate PP's day in the sun, or not. It is strangely similar to many current day political rallies both in number of attendees and the lack of reliability on the part of the star attractions.

Perhaps it is all in good fun, a perfectly wonderful reason for getting into it all. Perhaps Groundhog Day by analogy offers a spiritual lesson. The underlying thrust in our spiritual paths is not about getting it right as much as missing the

mark is an acceptable part of the process. In this knowing we affirm that Truth is within our grasp notwithstanding the hiccups in getting there.

The lesson that PP offers us is that nailing the correct forecast is secondary to continuing to search and try. A very real corollary to that is that the worst mistake we can make would be to remain in a hole and not venture forth. Thank you PP! You are a true gift beyond a shadow of a doubt.

Peace,
Rev Mike
revmike@unityoffoxvalley.org



Youth Education for a Younger Crowd

For the month of February, our Youth Ed will reflect on the “Power of Love”. The color **Pink** and the **disciple John** are associated with this *lovely* Power. Our Juniors will create a Pink Power Board filled with Bible verses from John and Corinthians and with affirmations, all demonstrating the power of unconditional love and faith. Our youngest youth will be introduced to understanding how sharing and showing compassion for other people are ways to be loving. Lessons for the entire Youth Ed will focus on how love for ourselves and for one another is the core of our innate spiritual powers that bind us together as One.

Our Uniteens have been delving into the book *The Secret to Teen Power* by Paul Harrington that emphasizes how everything in our lives come down to the law of attraction. In other words, how we attract all the “stuff” that happens according to the power of our thoughts. Our Uniteens know this concept is not new – it’s been around for thousands of years; however, it is truly applying it in our lives that matters. In fact, they have the Five Unity Principles memorized and understand the correlation of the law of attraction to Unity’s Third Principle: “I create my experiences by what I choose to think, feel and believe.”

Spring is just around the corner, so please mark on your calendars these upcoming special dates:

- [Palm Sunday](#) (Easter Feast), April 2, 10 am Service
- [Easter Egg Hunt](#) (Easter Sunday), April 9, 10 am Service
- [Roots and Wings Ceremony](#), June 4, 10 am Service



In honor of Valentine's Day, I'd like to close with the following familiar excerpt from I Corinthians: *"Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud... love is not happy with wrong-doing, but happy with the truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail."*

With appreciation and much love,
Ms. Mary, LUT, CSE
marynowroozi@comcast.net

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

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

Sunday Service

Sunday Service

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 ensure 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 School



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)

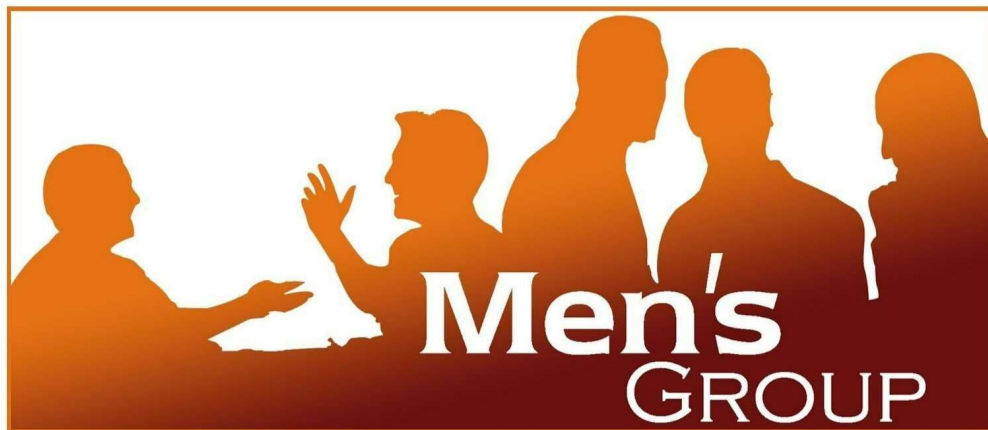
Parents are welcome to join in on the fun, too!

Any questions/concerns, please contact

Mary Nowroozi: marynowroozi@comcast.net

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

Men's Group



1st & 3rd Tuesday, 7:00 pm, Online

This group explores spirituality and religion in diverse and exciting ways.

Newcomers are ALWAYS welcome!

Zoom login information will be forthcoming or you may contact the church office

for more information: churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org

If you have trouble accessing the meeting, please contact

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

Healing & Wholeness Service



HEALING AND WHOLENESS SERVICE

Friday, February 10th, 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

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

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

'Soup'er Bowl Sunday



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH, AFTER THE SERVICE

Please join the Prayer Chaplains in the Cafe', after service, for a delicious bowl of soup, salad and dessert. There will be vegan, vegetarian and meat options. We look forward to seeing you there.

Please contact Wanda Faye Holmes for more info:

geminiangoddess2000@yahoo.com

Ash Wednesday



Wednesday, February 22nd, 7:00pm

Lent officially begins on Ash Wednesday.

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

The service will be officiated by Rev Mike.

Please click [here](#) for our Easter Season website.

Prayer Chaplain Ministry



Thank heaven it's February, the shortest month of the year and the month we begin to experience more light in our days! Lent begins later this month - [Ash Wednesday](#) falls on the 22nd. And, of course, February is the month we focus on **L-O-V-E**. Valentine's Day paraphernalia pops up in stores along with the "after Christmas" sales.

Love is a topic that's been written about more than any other; more than peace, war, history, politics; even more than culture or, believe it or not, religion! In my 1996 *Oxford Dictionary and Thesaurus* there are 8 definitions of love as a noun and 4 as a verb. Rather than defining it, the most popular passage about love in the *Bible*, written by St. Paul (1 Corinthians 13:4-8), tells us more about what love is and does, and isn't and doesn't.

Referencing more metaphysical material (since this is a Unity newsletter), Charles Fillmore, in *The Revealing Word*, calls love "The pure essence of Being that binds together the whole human family." He goes on to say, "Love is an inner quality that sees good everywhere and in everybody." Emmet Fox, a spiritual teacher and leader in the New Thought movement, declares, in *Around the Year with Emmet Fox*, that Love is the "third main aspect of God. God is not loving but Love itself..."

As I was perusing quotes, poems and essays for this missive I came across a book we had been using in the Gita class facilitated a year or so ago by Carl and Lucy Klemaier. *Love Letters from Spirit* by Laura Dickenson is a channeled book, highly acclaimed by Jack Canfield of the *Chicken Soup* series. The chapter, *Day 2, "Trusting and Loving Yourself,"* spoke to me because it's about self-love, an aspect of love that is often overlooked, yet is so essential as we progress on our spiritual path. These are the last two paragraphs...

Honor yourself. Learn to treasure your unique beauty, creativity and wisdom. These qualities are part of you, ready to bloom gloriously if not repressed or pressured into another direction. Value what you have to offer; develop it with perseverance and integrity. Trust yourself. The fact that you enjoy something, finding it fascinating or challenging, is a clue that it might be right for you. Life is meant to be interesting and fulfilling and you are meant to participate.

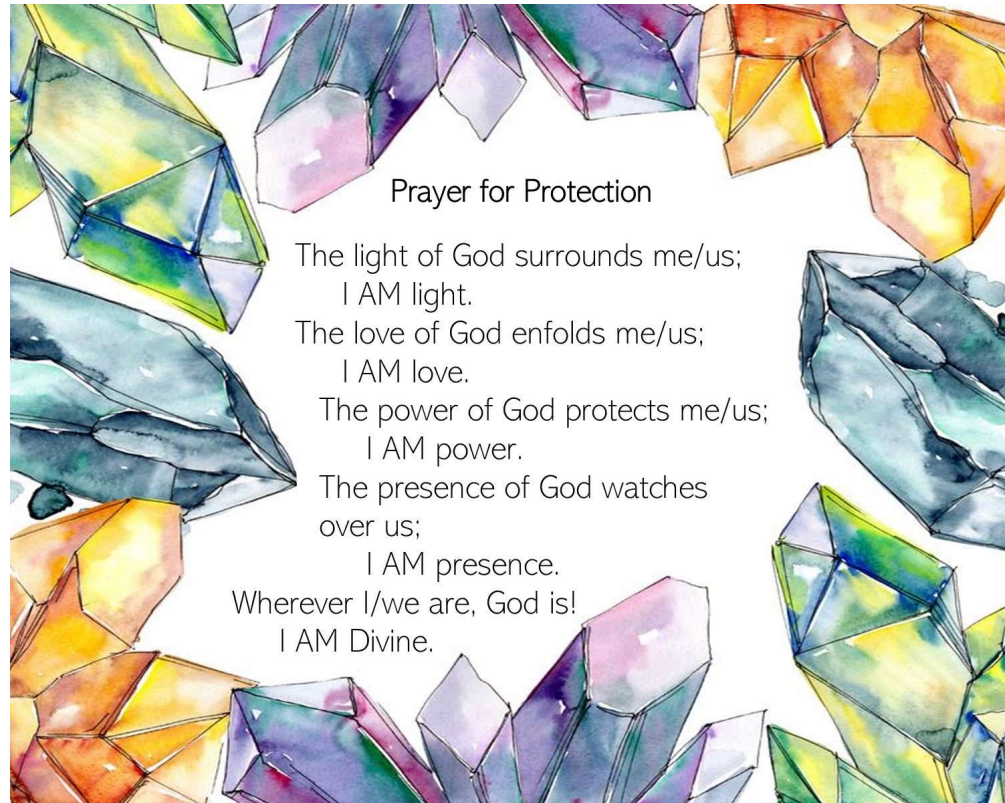
Love each day for the insight and progress it brings. Love your process of personal expansion and sharing your gifts. Love yourself.

Wherever you are on your spiritual path, we invite you to honor and love yourself.

Your Prayer Chaplains, Wanda Faye Holmes, Maria Cosentino, Pamela O'Brien, 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 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 churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org and a Prayer Chaplain will be in touch.

Blessings and hugs,
Marie and Bobbi



Unity Prayer Ministry's February Prayers

Inner Peace - Divine peace flows in my mind and my heart.

Wisdom - Centered in divine wisdom, I trust the whispers of Truth.

Wholeness - One with God, I choose life, wholeness, and well-being.

Strength - God is my strength; I am steadfast and courageous.

Blessing - Awakened in divine love, I am a blessing.

Volunteer Ministry

SHOUT OUT

Thank you to everyone that helped us undecorate our Christmas decorations!! We so appreciate all who lent a hand and made the job go so much faster.



We are so grateful to MARY ANN ANTHONY who always makes our Cafe and social area downstairs such an inviting area for coffee and fellowship. She brings in all of her own decorations, spends time setting everything up and has us looking so colorful and cute!!! I believe she also has her crew of elves (Mickey Koziol and Liz Hawthorn that assist). Many thanks!!

And while we are on the subject of the [Cafe](#), we are so grateful for the small crew that makes the coffee and sets up the wonderful pastries, fruits, and treats that appear every Sunday. Not an easy task!! So, thank you, BOB ANTHONY, MARY ANN ANTHONY, AND ALEX CHRISTENSEN who are the core team that makes this all happen. Plus, all the cleanup they do afterwards!! AND we thank the volunteer angels that bring in some of the goodies!! We are fed and we are blessed.

Thank you to WANDA FAYE, MARY WATERS, [THE CAFE CREW](#), and everyone who helped with the party for Deborah McQuaid to honor her as a LICENSED UNITY TEACHER!! Great job everyone and CONGRATULATIONS DEB!!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Thank you to everyone that signed up to be a part of our [Sacred Service Teams](#). We are grateful for you, your time, and your talents!! We will be in touch on the HOW you can support the Minister and your Spiritual Family.

COMING EVENTS

February 10th (2nd Friday) will be our [HEALING AND WHOLENESS SERVICE](#). If you haven't attended one of these contemplative, music and meditative services, you are missing out. We are grateful for ROSE and her music team and the CHAPLAINS that offer you this opportunity each month to enrich your Spiritual journey.

February 20th ("[SOUP](#)"er BOWL SUNDAY) Stick around after the service and enjoy soup, salad, and dessert provided by our Prayer Chaplains and Emeriti. It will be yummy!!

Mark your Calendar for MARCH 3rd for our [VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER](#)!! If you have volunteered this past year for any event we want to take this opportunity to thank you for all that you do. The best part. . . . YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING but come and ENJOY!!!

COOL THOUGHTS

From the Book Study, [Living Untethered](#), I learned that "every part of every cell in your body is composed of elements created in the stars, billions of years ago", So when someone calls you a STAR believe them!! Much more inviting to think about that, than decedents of Apes!

So, to all of our STAR volunteers, WE ARE GRATEFUL!!

Have a great February as we look forward to SPRING!!!

Be the Peace you wish to see in your world!!

Bobbi

bsever4785@gmail.com

Just Ask Ministry



Ask & you shall receive!

Do you need something?
Do you have something to offer? Let us know!
churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org

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

CURRENT OFFERINGS:

•

CURRENT REQUESTS:

•

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

Upcoming Events



- [Volunteer Appreciation Dinner:](#) 3/3
- [Healing Service:](#) 3/10

Amazon Smile



**The AmazonSmile program
will end on February 20th!**

Thank you to everyone that used our link to make your purchase on Amazon. Because of you, our church has collected over \$2000 through AmazonSmile!

There is still time to use our link for your Amazon purchase! Just use the link below before February 20th & AmazonSmile will donate a percentage of the purchase price of eligible products to Unity of Fox Valley.

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2889899>

**Donate items from our Charity List
Shop Now**

charity lists
amazon smile

**Now that AmazonSmile has ended,
there is another way to support us!**

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

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.

Are you cold? I am! We celebrated our 13th Anniversary this January. We just bundled up & went out for coffee (well, Galen drinks tea).

Ava is back in Georgia for school and we are just bundled up as much as can.

Now that the cold has really settled in, we are now working on some projects



inside our house.

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>

Ongoing 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.
- [Men's Group Meeting](#) - the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm, September through May.

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.

