

April 2023

Ministerial Musings

Just in from the IRS

Here we are. It is the month of April, the month of so much that goes on. In the world of sports, we have the Masters Tournament in golf, the French Open in tennis, the start of a new baseball season, the start of the hockey and basketball playoffs, and the NFL draft. It also is the time of the year when trees and bushes begin to sprout leaves reminding us that the permanence of death is illusory. If we need a further reminder, many perennials in the world of flowers begin to poke their way through the ground. Life abounds and surrounds us. What is there not to love about spring?

Well, there may be something. Two things that are inevitable in life are death and taxes. Theologically, the former is easier to address with a happier ending than the latter. As we all are painfully aware, this month we all will have to file a return outlining revenue and deductible expenses. When it all is done, we will come away knowing either how much we owe or how much of a return we will realize.



You probably are assuming that "IRS" stands for Internal Revenue Service, and for good reason. But borrowing from the norm and twisting it a bit as I am prone to do, I suggest an alternative meaning for this article: Internal Relevance of Spirit. Similar to income tax requirements, we all are subject to the Internal Relevance of Spirit.

The IRS is that inner knowing that we rarely keep a conscious record of when it comes to responding to what or how we are called. Every day we are blessed with Spiritual revenues or blessings, and every day we get to choose how we are going to use them. Every day there are opportunities that we invest in properly or not. The accounting process does not work with numbers. If we do not claim some revenues or opportunities, the only penalties are our own knowing that we could have realized a better return for

ourselves. There is no sin involved. Deep down you will know what you owe if anything.

On balance we also know when we have seized the opportunities and invested wisely in the gift of life. In that sense we enjoy a return of joy, confidence and peace. Again, there are no numbers involved. Spiritual satisfaction and delight become more visible as the Spirit becomes more relevant in our lives. Just like a positive return from the Internal Revenue Service, you are free to enjoy what you get back anyway you may choose. Reinvesting it always is a good choice.

As April 15th rolls around, remember always to “Render to Caesar those things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.

Rev Mike

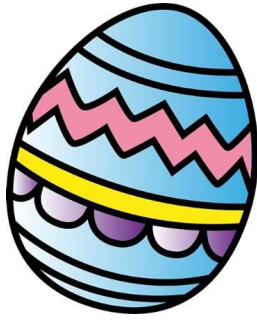
revmike@unityoffoxvalley.org

Youth Education for a Younger Crowd

Ahh...it's spring! A time for all things new; all things invigorating and inspiring! We will begin this springtime month by celebrating **Palm Sunday, April 2.** At this time, the youth will explore the story of *Jesus Enters Jerusalem*, found in all four gospels, and how metaphysically the passage “*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord*” relates to our own spiritual understanding, praising the Christ Spirit that resides in each one of us.



The following Sunday is **Easter!** We are looking forward to the youths' presentation to the congregation of metaphysical meanings of several Easter symbols such as the cross, lilies, colored eggs, and last but not least, the bunny.



After their “message”, the youth will proceed downstairs for lessons enhanced with fun Easter activities, followed by our annual **Easter Egg Hunt** on the church grounds. For inclement weather, we will hold it indoors in the Youth Ed area. We are excited that several of our youth and their families as well as families from the community will be joining our Egg Hunt gathering! **We request that all youth be registered by Sunday, April 2, to ensure there are plenty of eggs for everyone!**

We will continue the month of April by exploring the **Power of Good Judgment/Wisdom**, represented by the color bright **Yellow** and the **Disciple James**, son of Zebedee. They will be introduced to this “insightful” power through Bible and contemporary stories as spiritual intuition in listening to the voice of Spirit within, guiding them to make positive choices in their lives.

With respect to making positive choices, our youth will close out the month by honoring Earth Day and discussing ways they can make a positive impact on preserving the beauty of our planet Earth and all its magnificent inhabitants, each one created in the “image and likeness of God”.

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



Name Tag Sunday

**NAME TAG
SUNDAY!**



1st Sunday of the Month

Before the Service, please stop
& write up your name tag!

Flowers for Sunday Service

The Platform Committee invites you, our congregants, to help decorate the platform by donating flowers for Sunday service **beginning April 15th.**

The flower arrangement may be fresh or artificial in an appropriate vase, ready to place in front of the podium, and removed at the end of service. *The donator will be responsible for both placing and removing the arrangement.*



To schedule your participation, please contact Sharon Mays by Wednesday before the Sunday you would like to donate: 630.479.2982 sharon_mays@comcast.net

Palm Sunday



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

Easter Feast



EASTER FEAST

Sunday, April 2nd, after the Service

*Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall to bring
a dish to share, set up &/or clean up*

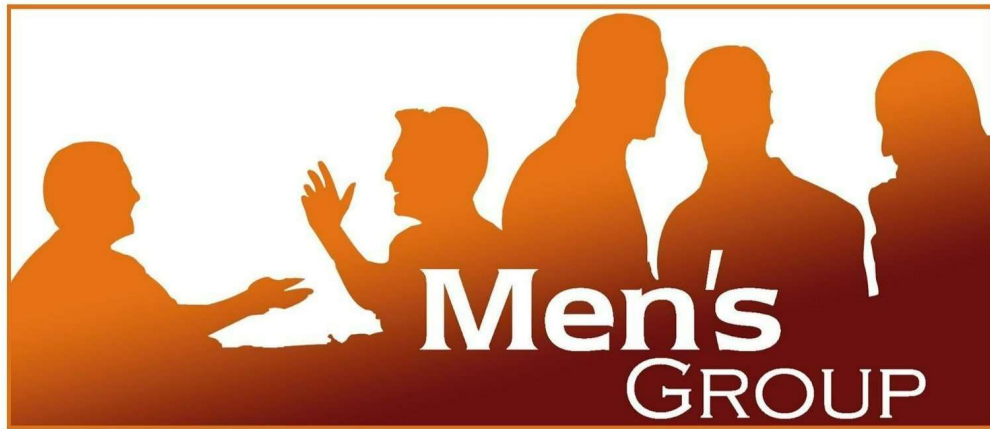
Please contact Dawn Staszak with any questions
or for more info.: dawn_311@yahoo.com



Please contact Dawn Staszak with any questions:
dawn_311@yahoo.com

Please click [here](#) for the Easter Season 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>

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.

Taize Service

A poster for a Taize Service. The left side has a dark red background with white text. The right side features a photograph of several lit candles of different colors (red, orange, yellow) against a dark background. The text on the red background includes the title 'Taize Service', the date and time 'Good Friday, April 7th, 7pm', a description of the service, an invitation, and a statement about the service being a beautiful way to commemorate Good Friday. A small note at the bottom right of the poster states 'This Service will not be Live Streamed'.

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

Easter Service

CELEBRATE EASTER

WITH UNITY OF FOX VALLEY
SUNDAY, APRIL 9TH, 10AM

Sunday, April 9th

Unity of Fox Valley
encourages everyone
to wear your



Best Easter Bonnet/Hat!

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

Participation is not required but encouraged!

Any questions? Please contact Kathleen: churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org

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

Easter Egg Hunt

Unity of Fox Valley

Plastic eggs with wrapped chocolates, no peanut products, will be offered on the outside lawn, weather permitting. For inclement weather, the Egg Hunt will be offered indoors in the Youth Ed Area.

Bring your favorite Easter Basket!

EASTER EGG HUNT

Sunday, April 9th, 11:15am
230 Webster Street, Batavia
Parking Lot

(After 10 am Sunday Service and Sunday School)

*We appreciate
your participation for
this fun family event!*

**REGISTRATION IS A MUST! Please contact Mary
at marynowroozi@comcast.net by April 5th.**

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

Coffee & Tea with Myrtle & Me



Starting April 13th!

**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

Please click [here](#) to for the Coffee & Tea w/Myrtle & Me website

Healing & Wholeness Service



HEALING AND WHOLENESS SERVICE

Friday, April 14th, 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.

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.



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.

Daniel Nahmod Workshop

Be Like Water

A workshop of faith, serenity
and surrender.



Sunday, April 23rd, 12:30 pm
Spiritual Workshop by Daniel Nahmod

Love Offering Basis



In this 2 hour workshop, Daniel offers a glimpse into an entirely different, utterly calming and comforting way to look at your life. Through stories and songs, readings and questions, quiet time and discussion, you'll be invited to take a deep breath, step back from your daily pressures and to-do lists, and get some new - and potentially profoundly clarifying - perspective on what's most important, what you are truly called to do, and what you just might be able to let go of... perhaps for the very first time.

In the wake of quarantines and protests, lockdowns and curfews, upheaval both personal and society-wide, at the edge of "normal" as we know it, there's perhaps never been a more stressful time collectively. Perhaps there's also never been a more important moment to just be, to take stock, to rest, and to allow new insights, new interests, and new definitions of self to come to light. To flow like water, without resistance, wherever we're meant to flow. To go, as Daniel puts it, where the ocean says to go.



www.unityoffoxvalley.org
churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org 630 879 1115
Unity of Fox Valley, 230 Webster Street, Batavia, IL

**Any questions? Please contact the Church Office
or Susan Korpan: auntsuz@gmail.com**

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

Daniel Nahmod Concert



Award-winning singer-songwriter returns to share brand-new music from his 23rd studio album 'REAL'. This stunning collection of new songs showcases his renowned lyrical eloquence and insight, his gift for memorable melody and sly humor and the passion, honestly which have moved millions of music fans around the world! He will also revisit some of his most popular and requested songs!

Don't miss this rare opportunity to hear one of the Unity world's most in-demand performer live and in person here!!

[Click here to purchase tickets!](#)

**Any questions? Please contact the Church Office
or Susan Korpan: auntsuz@gmail.com**

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

Prayer Chaplain Ministry

Spring is here - no matter what the outside temperatures are in this moment! Spring, for me, is a season of new beginnings - a harbinger of hope - as I look forward to warmer temperatures, flowers beginning to grow, new leaves budding on the heretofore bare tree branches! I invite you to reflect on your own favorite seasonal hopes as we all welcome 2023's Spring and this new month of April!



As I was thinking what to write about in this month's newsletter I found a Unity Booklet that Bobbi had brought to my attention a short time ago. It's titled, "Messages We Need to Hear, From the Writings of Martha Smock." Martha Smock was editor of *Daily Word* from 1944 to 1957 and 1964 to 1984, 33 years altogether. Her name may not be familiar to current Unitics because at her time as a contributor to and editor of the *Daily Word*, her name never appeared on the masthead. At that time all writers remained anonymous. But, thankfully, her legacy and inspiring words are still available to us. The following is excerpted from an essay in the booklet which I am offering as an inspiring ending to Lent and beginning of the Easter Season!

The Truth About You

"I am going to tell you the Truth about you. How do I know? I know because I know you. You may say, 'But you do not really know me ... How can you know the Truth about me?'

I know you, dear friend, even though I may not know you personally. I know you are a child of God. I know you as a living spirit sent forth from God. I know you as God intends for you to be known ...

The truth about you is that you have a great capacity for love ... God has given you a heart of love, a heart that does not seek its own, a heart that does not reject or condemn, a heart that is ready to understand, ready to forbear, to forgive, ready to rejoice. By the very nature of being, you are a loving person ...

he truth about you is that you are wise. You have understanding, you have intelligence ... Your mind is one with the Mind of God. All intelligence is within you to draw upon, to use. Your capacities are not limited by what you have not learned in the past. Your capacity for wisdom, for knowledge, for enlightenment is as unlimited as God is unlimited.

The truth about you is that you have all the supply you need ... You are one with the source of all supply, you are one with God, and you live in the midst of a veritable sea of substance. The supply is there. You have but to realize it and to ask in order to call it forth ... There is no lack in God; there is only abundance, pressed down, shaken together, running over.

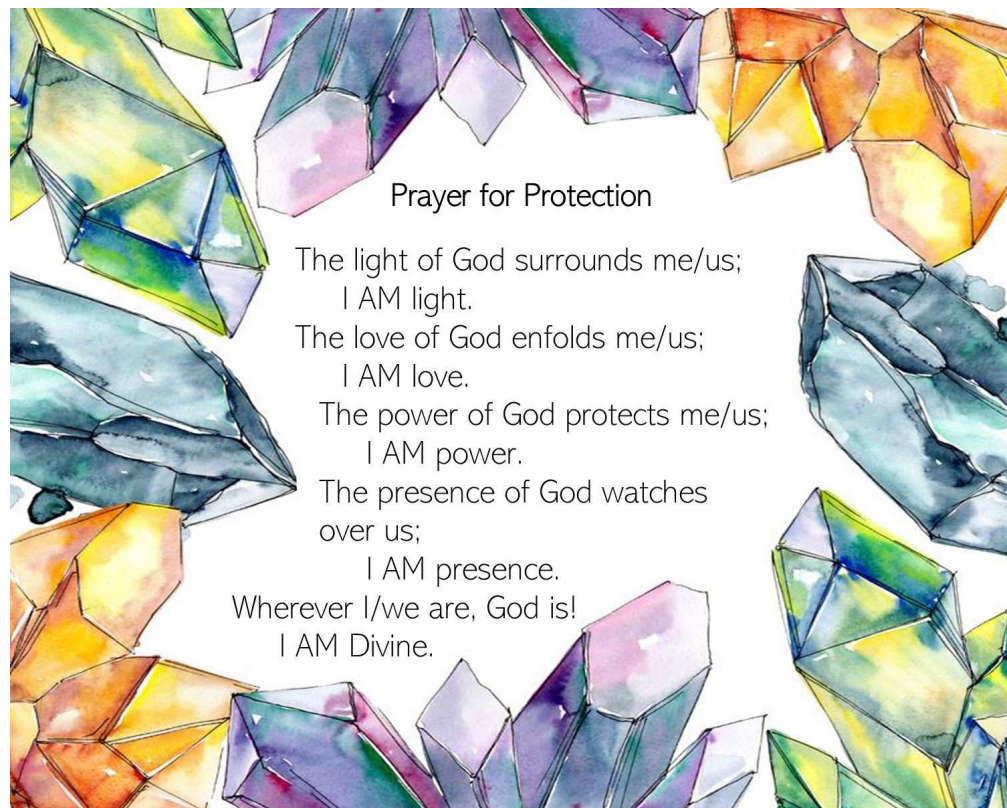
The truth about you is that you are happy. Happiness is not dependent on circumstances, on outer conditions. Happiness is a condition of the heart, and God keeps the spark of happiness, of joy, always burning within you. Even in times of grief or sadness, the joy is there deep within you. It cannot be quenched ... You are instinctively a happy person, for this is the way God made you.

Yes, I know the truth about you, and I like what I know, for the truth about you in that you are a wonderful person, a living, breathing, healthy, happy, prosperous, wise, loving child of God."

This is the Truth about you that we, your UFV Prayer Chaplains, know about you!

Your Prayer Chaplains, Wanda Faye Holmes, 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



Prayer for Protection

The light of God surrounds me/us;
I AM light.

The love of God enfolds me/us;
I AM love.

The power of God protects me/us;
I AM power.

The presence of God watches
over us;

I AM presence.

Wherever I/we are, God is!

I AM Divine.

Let This Be Your Blessing for Others

By Martha Smock

I have faith in you, because I have faith in God in you.

I do not pray for you to be better than you are; I pray for you to be as good as you are.

I pray for you to express your true Christ self.

I do not pray for you to be happy in the way I think your happiness lies.
I pray for you to follow your indwelling light, which always leads to fulfillment and happiness.

I do not pray for you to be free from responsibilities.
I pray for you to be free from worry and anxiety, to be the fearless, wise confident, capable being that you are in Spirit.

I do not pray for you to conform to my idea of success and achievement.
I pray for you to express and expand your God-given abilities and talents in your own unique and wonderful way.

I pray for you, knowing that you are beloved of God.

I bless you without reservation.

I love you as God loves you.

Volunteer Ministry



SHOUT OUT

Wow!! Rev. Mike asked and you delivered!! Thank you to everyone that stayed and helped prepare the sanctuary for the new carpeting being installed as I write this newsletter! What a task, but with everyone's enthusiasm and muscle, YOU made it happen in record time!!

A very special thanks to the staff, Rev Mike, and Susan for the fun time of celebrating YOU, our wonderful volunteers at our annual Volunteer Dinner in March. GRAZIE!!

Thank you, Aimie, for lending us your gnomes and other St Patty Day decorations, we looked very green and festive!!



Unsung hero!! Thank you, Joey, for the cleanup work that had to be done in the shed!! You just keep blessing us in so many ways and we so appreciate you!!

EASTER FEAST is **April 2nd** and we are grateful for Dawn Staszak who stepped up to lead our volunteers to put on yet another lovely feast!! Thank you to everyone that volunteered to bring scrumptious dishes and to everyone setting up and cleaning up!!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The biggy this month is the talented Daniel Nahmod returning to UFV for inspiration, stories, and song in not only the Sunday Service message, but a Workshop as well and then topped off with a resounding concert. **IF YOU CAN HELP in anyway, please contact Susan Korpan, auntsuz@gmail.com** and she will be most appreciative!! Mark your date, **April 23rd**, invite a friend and join us for a day and evening of song!!

COMING EVENTS

EASTER FEAST, APRIL 2ND

TAIZE SERVICE, GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 7TH

HEALING & WHOLNESS SERVICE, APRIL 17th

COFFEE AND TEA with Myrtle and Me is back!! First meeting to celebrate the warmer season will be April 13th at 10:30. Come join us for conversation and getting to know one another. We never know where a conversation will lead us.

COOL THOUGHTS

I only have warm thoughts as we welcome Spring, wash off the stored lawn furniture, plant the flowers and gardens and enjoy the warmer, longer and brighter days!! We dodged many storms this winter, but I also say a prayer and keep in mind that some areas of our planet earth were not so fortunate. Enjoy your Spring in whatever way makes your heart sing with the birds!!

I have warm thoughts for our Spiritual home and all of YOU that share your energy and love in so many ways. For all of you in my life, I AM GRATEFUL!!

In peace and love,
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:

- Alton Brown's Good Eats Video Series
churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org

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



- **Annual Taco Bar** 5/7
- **Healing & Wholeness Service** 5/12
- **Office Closed - Memorial Day** 5/29
- **Soup Sunday** 6/4

Unity of Rockford Rummage Sale



Unity of Rockford Annual Rummage Sale

Thursday, April 20th - Saturday, April 22nd

Our brothers & sisters at Unity of Rockford will be holding their Annual Rummage Sale! They will have a variety of clothes, home decor, kitchenwares, electronics, tools, books, CDs, and so much more! Everyone is welcome!

If you have any questions, please contact them: unityrockford@gmail.com

Please [click](#) here for their website.

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>

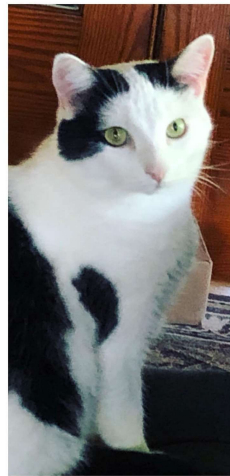
- You may contribute any amount and you do not need to have a PayPal account to contribute but you do need an email address.
- **Paypal does take a fee from your donation.** If you would like to be sure your entire donation is given to the church, feel free to mail in your donation: Unity of Fox Valley, 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.

The black & white kitty is Reese. She is my resident house cat. You have seen her before. She is friendly and curious. The grey & tan one is Barnadette. She came with our barn when we bought our new property & she is skittish and scared.

But Barnadette has had an amazing trust-journey and she has opened her heart to us. She is so snuggly & friendly (the previous owners said she was mean, but we just don't see it when she is purring and rubbing your chin).



The decision was made that we would bring her into the house and see if she can become a house kitty. She has been in the house 2 weeks (1st week was to recover from a procedure & the 2nd week was to start her integration into the house).. Well, she is healed and back to playful and loving but Reese WANTS TO TEAR HER HEAD OFF! Ugh! A big fight happened between a door and we are starting back to square one. We would appreciate prayers for these two to get along.

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>

Contact Information

phone: 630.879.1115 churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org

fax: 630.879.1728 www.unityoffoxvalley.org

prayer line: 630.879.1129

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