

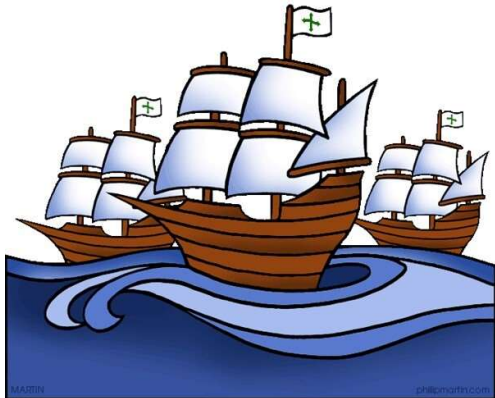


May 2023

## Ministerial Musings

### MayBe

There is a very old worn out riddle that almost definitely you have heard: If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring? Answer: Pilgrims



No doubt when Christopher Columbus ventured across the Atlantic on the Santa Maria to our now beloved America, it was a very new and different type of pilgrimage. No doubt it took a lot of courage and strong will to venture forth on this journey.

It is estimated that Columbus' journey took 61 days. I enjoy guessing what experiences those early pilgrims must have known. Surely there were days which were smooth sailing – times when the perils of the mighty Atlantic took a back seat to savoring the vastness, the wonder and the peace that an ocean has to offer. Surely over the course of 61 days there were times of downpours and high winds, storms that must have been terrifying and made survival questionable. Likely there were many a day when the people on the Santa Maria, the Nina and the Pinta, must have asked themselves, "What was I thinking?"

This month we say goodbye to April and its fickle weather experiences. We made it through with a promise of new growth and new life. At last come Mothers Day we have Tom Skilling's permission to plant flowers, bushes and all kinds of new things. May is the bridge between spring and summer. Most of us revel in it and the promises it makes.

But just as the passengers that sailed along with Christopher Columbus faced trouble and turmoil, our journeys too will face storms. Storms are not restricted

to oceans. Things we plan and plant will face challenges. Notwithstanding Tom Skilling's assurances, even frost remains a possibility.

Most of our storms will not be weather related. Without fail we will deal with issues around such things as finances, troubled relationships, health matters, job losses, sad memories and fears of all kind. We too sometimes ask ourselves, "What was I thinking?"

Words of encouragement here are not about thinking how good it will feel when you get through it all. That exhilaration is wonderful for sure, but it is all after the fact. The real vigor of life is experienced, or at least can be, when we are in the midst of the storm. It is in those moments when we can choose to come alive, and even survival takes a back seat to the experience.

Best part is you get to choose. You MayBe or you MayNotBe. The first choice brings life regardless; the second choice brings something less - also regardless.

Rev Mike

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

## Youth Education for a Younger Crowd

At this time every year, the youth celebrate May Day on the first Sunday by singing and dancing around our Twelve Powers May Pole. This pole consists of twelve elaborate, colorful ribbons, each one symbolizing one of the 12 Powers. Weather permitting, we plan to honor this traditional celebration outdoors on our church lawn. This will be a beautiful beginning for the start of the lovely spring month of May!



Speaking of the Twelve Powers, **the Power for the month of May is POWER!** The color **Purple** and the **Disciple Phillip** represent this Power. Our lessons will provide the youth an understanding of our infinite, all-powerful God presence in each one of us. We will offer prayerful meditations, Bible and contemporary stories, and crafts for the youth to explore that this spiritual power pertains to not only physical power, but it also encompasses their minds and souls inspiring them to creatively express their Christ potential. We plan to spend time outdoors strengthening those powers by participating in relay races and parachute games as well quiet meditative walks around the neighborhood.

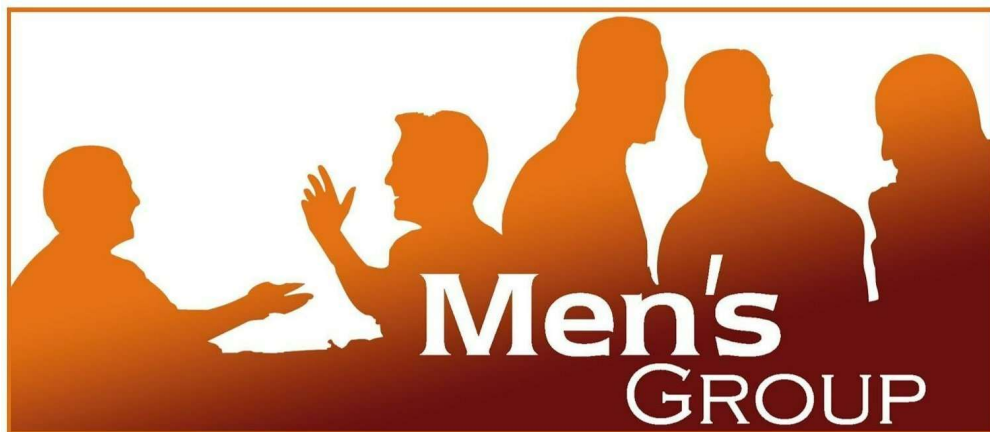
To celebrate Mother's Day, we all know the importance of honoring and blessing all the amazing mothers in our lives, as they are a true embodiment of comfort and compassion. We will read stories of several inspirational women of the Bible - Ruth, Rachel, Deborah, Esther, Abigail, Mary of Nazareth and Mary Magdalene – as a great way to inspire and empower the youth.

In closing from Isaiah 66:13,  
"As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you;  
and you will be comforted..."

With appreciation and blessings,  
Ms. Mary, LUT, CSE  
[marynowroozi@comcast.net](mailto:marynowroozi@comcast.net)



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

If you have trouble accessing the meeting, please contact  
Zoon: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us>

## 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

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

## Name Tag Sunday



## 1st Sunday of the Month

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

## Flowers for Sunday Service

The Decorating Committee invites you, our congregants, to help decorate the platform by donating flowers for Sunday service.

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 register at the Welcome Desk!*

Please refer your questions to Sharon Mays: [sharon\\_mays@comcast.net](mailto:sharon_mays@comcast.net)

## 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](mailto:marynowroozi@comcast.net)**

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

## Annual Taco Bar



**Sunday, May 7th, after the Service**

Welcome to our 5th Annual UFW Taco Bar. All are invited to join us in fellowship, food and fun. Thank you for your participation. We look forward to seeing you there.

### **Items Needed:**

- Carnitas
- Seasoned ground beef
- Shredded Chicken
- Soy Chorizo (vegan/vegetarian)
- Hard taco shells
- Guacamole & chips
- Gluten Free cornbread
- Hard taco shells (24)

- Large salsa & large bag of corn chips
- Shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- Canned diced tomatoes
- White rice
- Black & pinto beans (vegan/vegetarian friendly – no meat)
- Flour tortilla shells
- Shredded lettuce
- Mexican cheese blend
- Fresh diced tomatoes
- Cilantro
- Diced onions
- Salsa
- Sour cream
- Desserts

**Please contact Wanda Faye for an updated list of items needed or for more information: [geminiangoddess2000@yahoo.com](mailto:geminiangoddess2000@yahoo.com) or 586-604-6043**

Please click [here](#) for the Annual Taco Bar website.

## Healing & Wholeness Service



## HEALING AND WHOLENESS SERVICE

**Friday, May 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.

## Landscaping Day



# LANDSCAPING DAY

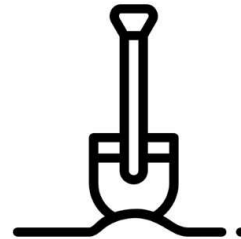
**FRIDAY, MAY 19TH, 9AM**

Spring and warmer weather is here so let's get our grounds ready for the growing season! The plan is to clean up as much as the property as possible.

Bring gloves, shovels, hard rakes, garden refuse bags and spend a day with friends!

*Remember our favorite saying,  
"many hands make light work"!*

Contact Kathleen if you can lend and hand:  
[churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org](mailto:churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org)



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

## Music Sunday

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Sunday, May 21<sup>st</sup> will be a uniquely musical service as we feature the members of our stupendous Music Team. Prepare to be uplifted as we experience the magical combination of Spirit and Song!

# MUSIC SUNDAY



Food Drive

# FOOD DRIVE

## APRIL 30<sup>TH</sup> – MAY 21<sup>ST</sup>

**All donations due Sunday! May 21st!**

Unity of Fox Valley will be collecting non-perishable and **non-expired** foods for the Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry. Please bring in your donation and drop it off downstairs.

Please click on the link blow for the items needed.

If you have any questions, please contact  
Kathleen: [churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org](mailto:churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org)

Please click here for the website.



## Prayer Chaplain Ministry

Welcome to May! As I've shared in previous newsletters, spring is my favorite season and May is the "turning point" month for me! As mild as our winter was, it seemed never ending. Thankfully, it finally has. The flowering trees, blooming bushes, daffodils, crocuses, and other early perennials that launched the energy of spring in April have ushered us to this new month. Spring and "springtime," as described in Wikipedia, refer to not only the season, but "also to ideas of rebirth, rejuvenation, renewal, resurrection and regrowth."



But, we don't have to wait for a special month or season to experience a *spiritual Spring* in our lives. Martha Smock, the Unity author whom I introduced in last month's newsletter, tells us - in another article from the booklet, *Messages We Need to Hear* - there is "No Need to Wait for a Turning Point." Martha reminds us in this piece that we have the power *within us* to effect our growth, to change any situation in our life. She writes, "We should never think that we are too old to make a change, that it is too late to begin again... The turning point comes first of all *in us*, not in some outer circumstance..."

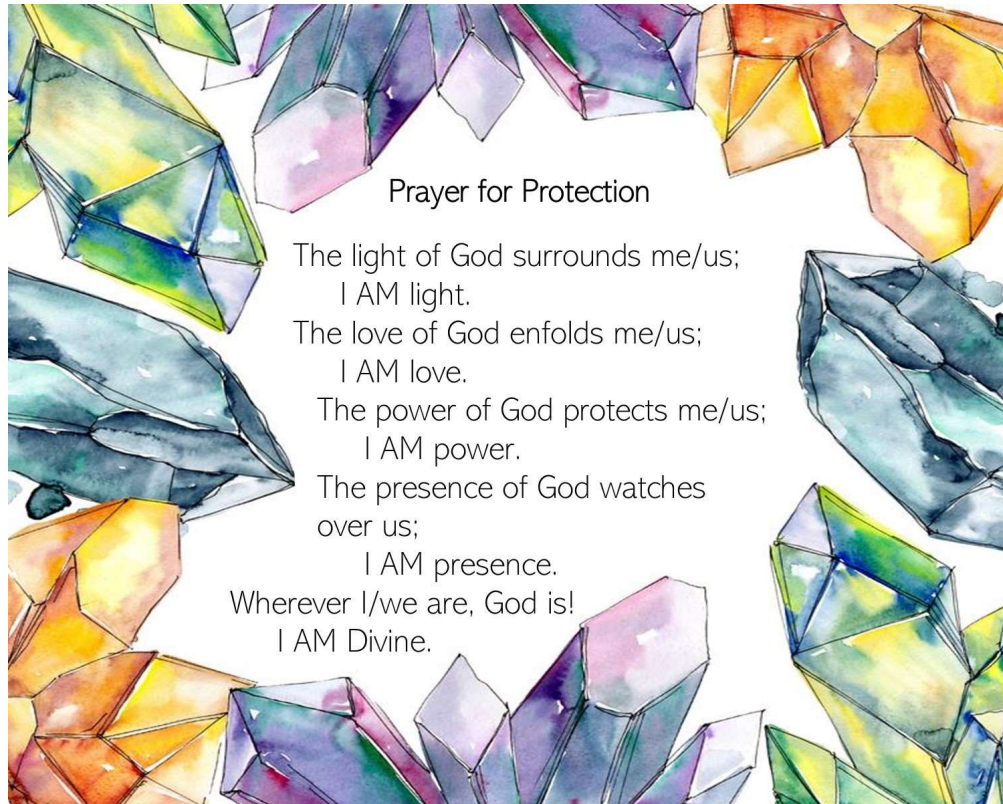
Prayer is a turning point. We talk a great deal about turning within in prayer. Affirmative prayer is really just that - a turning about of our inner thoughts and feelings, a turning about of our habitual reactions to life... Prayer is turning within...turning our thoughts toward light and Truth."

Here at Unity of Fox Valley our Prayer Chaplain Ministry, in its 22nd year, is available to be present with you, dear congregants, when you choose to "turn within in prayer," to experience your own "rebirth, rejuvenation, renewal, resurrection and regrowth" - and not just in the month of May!

Your Prayer Chaplains, Wanda Faye Holmes, Pamela O'Brien, Bobbi Severson and Marie Manella, are committed to making periodic Caring Calls to support you, our spiritual family, with your prayer needs. When we pray with you, we hold all you share 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



**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.

**A prayer for this month...**

"I pray always to see others with eyes of love, to hear them with the gift of understanding, and to touch them with gentleness. Sweet Spirit, let there be peace on earth and let it begin with peace, love, compassion and understanding in my heart."

**Volunteer Ministry**



### ***SHOUT OUT***

WOW!! We had so many wonderful volunteers that helped put the Sanctuary back together after the carpeting was installed. I always hesitate to name everyone for fear I will forget someone, but Mickey Kozoil, Sharon & Michael Mays, Marie and John Manella, JoAnn Walker, Joey Nelson, Kathleen Mallick, Warren Wakerlin, Kitty Karn (and Music Team), Susan Korpan, & Rev Mike, did a \*yeoman's work in getting books back on the shelf and everything back in place in the Sanctuary, Platform and Greeting area. Not an easy task but with everyone's dedication, muscle, and creativity it was completed in time for Easter!!

So I hope I didn't forget anyone!! Please know how much this was all appreciated!!

Great day and evening with Daniel Nahmod!! Thank you to Susan for coordinating this event and for the volunteers that helped perform various functions to make everything run smoothly for a fantastic concert!!

AND not to forget the Easter Feast!! Thank you, Dawn Staszak and your crew, who, once again, set everything up and fed us well!! Thanks to everyone that brought a dish to share as we celebrated in the Light and Love of Easter and Spring!!!

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### ***MAY VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES and COMING EVENTS***

**Taco Bar Sunday**, on May 7th!! Contact Wanda Faye, [gemiangiogoddess2000@yahoo.com](mailto:gemiangiogoddess2000@yahoo.com) for details if you would like to bring something, help set up, and/or cleanup!! Mexican theme and food!!

**HEALING SERVICE!** 2nd Friday of each month, May 12th at 7:00PM. Join Rose and her music angels, and the Prayer Chaplains, for an evening of music, meditation, and reflection!!

**LANDSCAPE DAY!!** Mark your calendar and bring your gloves, rakes, and muscle to help ready our outside for SPRING!! Friday, March 19th, at 9:00 AM.

**FLOWER REQUEST!!** With gardens popping in all of their glory, the Decorating Committee is asking that if anyone would like to bring a bouquet of Welcome Desk!! Share your beautiful blooms with your fellow congregants!!

**BATAVIA INTERFAITH FOOD PANTRY DRIVE!** We will be collecting non perishable supplies for the FOOD PANTRY the month of MAY. Bring your items and leave them on the table outside the unisex bathroom!! Check their website for items they really need.

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### ***COOL THOUGHTS OR SHOULD I SAY WARM/SPRING THOUGHTS!!***

So the definition of "yeoman's work" that I used in my first paragraph means, "very good, hard and valuable work that someone does especially to support a cause to help a team, etc."

Yep!! That pretty well sums up all that you, our dedicated volunteers, perform regularly to provide a safe, sacred, and loving space for our congregants and guests!! So many little things done quietly and without fanfare, that we don't even notice, are part of the love and support that we are blessed to have at Unity of Fox Valley!! Sometimes Thank You hardly seems adequate, but know how much you are loved and appreciated each time you step forward to lend a hand!!! ***WE ARE GRATEFUL AND BLESSED BEYOND MEASURE!!***

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### ***SOMETHING FUN!!***

If you read this article, come see me for a "prize". That's all I will say!!!

Blessings!!!

Bobbi

[bsever4785@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org)

## Upcoming Events



- [Roots & Wings](#) 6/4
- [Soup Sunday](#) 6/4

## Amazon Lists

**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://a.co/6W4z8xs>

## 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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I'm pretty sure that if there was an 'Obnoxious Shirt Day', I would win! HA HA HA!

SPRING! WOOO! Finally after a long winter! I'm ready! My seedling are ready. My garden is (almost) ready and I am looking forward to the summer.

May marks our 1 year anniversary of owning the new house (we didn't move in till July) and we have done lots to make it our own & fix some of things we could. Still more to do. Still pushing along, but loving the property and appreciating my many blessings.



Galen is wrapping up the play that he is in. One more weekend! I think by the time you are seeing this, I would have already seen it twice!

**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>

### Contact Information

phone: 630.879.1115 [churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org](mailto:churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org)

fax: 630.879.1728 [www.unityoffoxvalley.org](http://www.unityoffoxvalley.org)

prayer line: 630.879.1129

Forward this email

Join Our Mailing List

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

