

August 2023

Ministerial Musings



Here we are, already in the month of August. Both of our baseball teams are disappointing. The Bears soon go to training camp. Very exciting, at least until the first game. Soon, we will feel the last breezes, the last breaths of summer.

It has been a whirlwind year up to this point not only meteorologically, but also in many other ways. The political arena has featured a parade of presidential hopefuls for 2024. Between that and an indictment here and there, we should get some good theater regardless of your political leanings. The Supreme Court has been active again. Can you say term limits anyone? Multiple laws for more gun control continue to be shot down. In direct opposite mass shootings continue to rise. The economy has had its ups and downs, but inflation has been deflating so far. The war in the Ukraine still is being waged, but it no longer dominates the news. (In the words of Billy Joel, we didn't start the fire.)

Returning to the world of weather, an occasional tornado or ten have visited us this summer. Parts of the country have been experiencing all-time high temperatures. Courtesy of our neighbors to the north, we were invaded by a serious unhealthy haze. (We definitely did not start that fire!). We have our own forest fires to entertain us. And of course, hurricane season is right around the corner. Global Warming? OK, maybe we did help start that fire. But no panic, scientists tell us we have a good year or two to turn things around.

It looks like social media is going to be around for a while. Facebook continues to thrive despite having been abandoned by the younger generation. Thank goodness we still can Tweet! Instagram, Snapchat, Pinterest, Linked In, Reddit and TikTok all are doing quite well, thank you. If you cannot find a platform you like, why not start one of your own?

If I might make a suggestion, maybe we can start one called *Whispers*. It can be a platform in which members can post only those words they have heard while listening to that still small voice deep within. We can dare to share prayer. I have no clue how effective it might be in slowing down the whirlwinds that are so prevalent. I do know prayer works

wonders in quieting the turmoil within me. If you like this idea, give a voice to it. No need to shout though; a gentle whisper will be heard.

Rev Mike

revmike@unityoffoxvalley.org

Youth Education for a Younger Crowd

For the month of August, our Juniors will be exploring the **Power of Will**. The **disciple for this month is *Matthew*** and the **color is *shimmering silver***. To enhance our understanding of this Power, we will read the story of *Moses and the Burning Bush* for it serves as a powerful reminder for us to be willing to hear the voice of Spirit in leading us to trust in God's guidance. In following that faith, we can step out to do what Spirit is calling us to do, even when we may feel inadequate of our abilities and/or unsure of the future outcome.

Our Children's Church will explore their concept of the Power of Will through the popular book, "The Little Engine That Could" by Watty Piper. We plan to use this well-known story as a metaphor to help our younger ones understand the importance of being willing to confront challenging goals. Throughout our lessons, we will delve deeper into the book's message and explain to the youth that by holding onto the simple phrase, "I can," they are tapping into their inner strength and openness to God's loving presence, inspiring them to have faith in their capabilities and embrace the willingness to face any obstacle with confidence.

The time has arrived for our **Annual Church Picnic!** We will all gather at Fabyan Park along the Fox River in Batavia on **Sunday, August 20th**. Service will start at 10 am, and I kindly encourage you to bring a dish to share and to arrive a few minutes early so that our youth are ready to join in on a variety of enjoyable games and take a peaceful, meditative stroll along the path. We are eagerly looking forward to you joining us for an invigorating and uplifting morning, surrounded by the wonderous beauty of God's magnificent nature. See you there!

As always, I appreciate each and every one of you for your loving support of our amazing youth.

Blessings,

Ms. Mary, LUT, CSE

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

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

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

Name Tag Sunday

**NAME TAG
SUNDAY!**



1st Sunday of the Month

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

We have some fun, new tags!

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.



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, Youth Director: marynowroozi@comcast.net or Dawn Staszak, Teen Youth Director: dawn_311@yahoo.com

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

Soup Sunday



August 6th, after the Service

Contact Bob Anthony with any questions: banthony103@comcast.net

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

Healing & Wholeness Service



HEALING AND WHOLENESS SERVICE

Friday, August 11th, 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.

Annual Picnic

EVERYONE IS INVITED! FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

Join us for our Annual
Sunday Service
& Church Picnic

Sunday, August 20th 10am
Bring a dish to share!



Fabyan Forest Preserve - West

This is just North of Fabyan Parkway on Route 31.

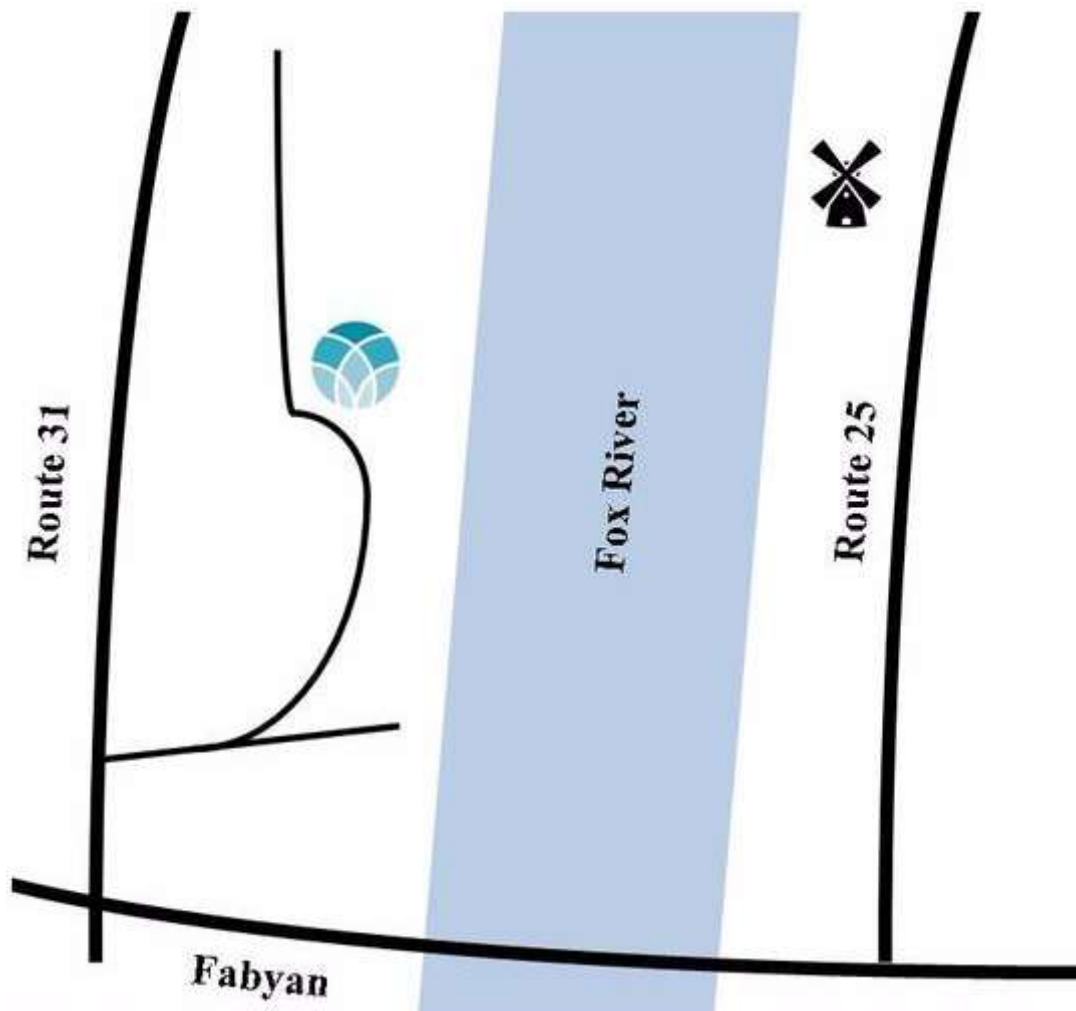
At the shelter. Look for Unity of Fox Valley signs.

*For more info., please contact Deb McQuaid:
debmcquaid@aol.com or Judy DeVoe: judy3cats@gmail.com*

We will need volunteers to help set up and clean up. If you are willing to help, please contact Deb or Judy ASAP and find out what needs to be done.

**For more info., please contact Deb McQuaid:
debmcquaid@aol.com or Judy DeVoe: judy3cats@gmail.com**

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



Please click [here](#) to tell you more about this location.

Prayer Chaplain Ministry

August - defined by Merriam-Webster:

[as a] noun - *the eighth month of the Gregorian calendar;*

[as an] adjective - *marked by majestic dignity or grandeur* (attributes embodied by many of us Leos - lol).



Prayer - the same dictionary has several definitions for this word, essentially describing this noun as an address; a request or wish; an act or practice of praying **to** God or a god - implying a God “outside” of us.

Now, there is no actual relationship between the words August (august) and Prayer, but it seemed a good way to start the August newsletter and to introduce/remind us that Unity presents another way to *define* and understand prayer.

In the Introduction of the Unity booklet, *The Gift of Prayer*, prayer is portrayed as “communion with God.” It goes on to say, “There are as many ways to pray as there are people...but all of them make a difference. Whether we sing, plead, praise, write, rejoice, give thanks, whisper in our souls, or shout it to the rooftops, we are connecting with God - and because of that, we are changed.”

In “Unity and Affirmative Prayer,” an essay in the booklet, Evelyn Lo Foreman writes that “Prayer is perhaps one of humankind’s most ancient and mysterious of practices...unique to everyone who experiences it, and there are as many ways to pray as there are people who pray.”

Further on Ms. Foreman describes a definition of prayer, practiced the Unity way, “Prayer is a conscious attempt to experience the presence of God...Through prayer, we expand into the consciousness of God... We do not pray **to** God or **for** God, but **from** a space of divinity within us.”

The conclusion of this essay observes that, “Prayer does not change God, but rather, prayer changes *our* awareness, *our* thoughts, *our* perceptions, *our* thinking and as a result, *our* behavior, and *our* lives.”

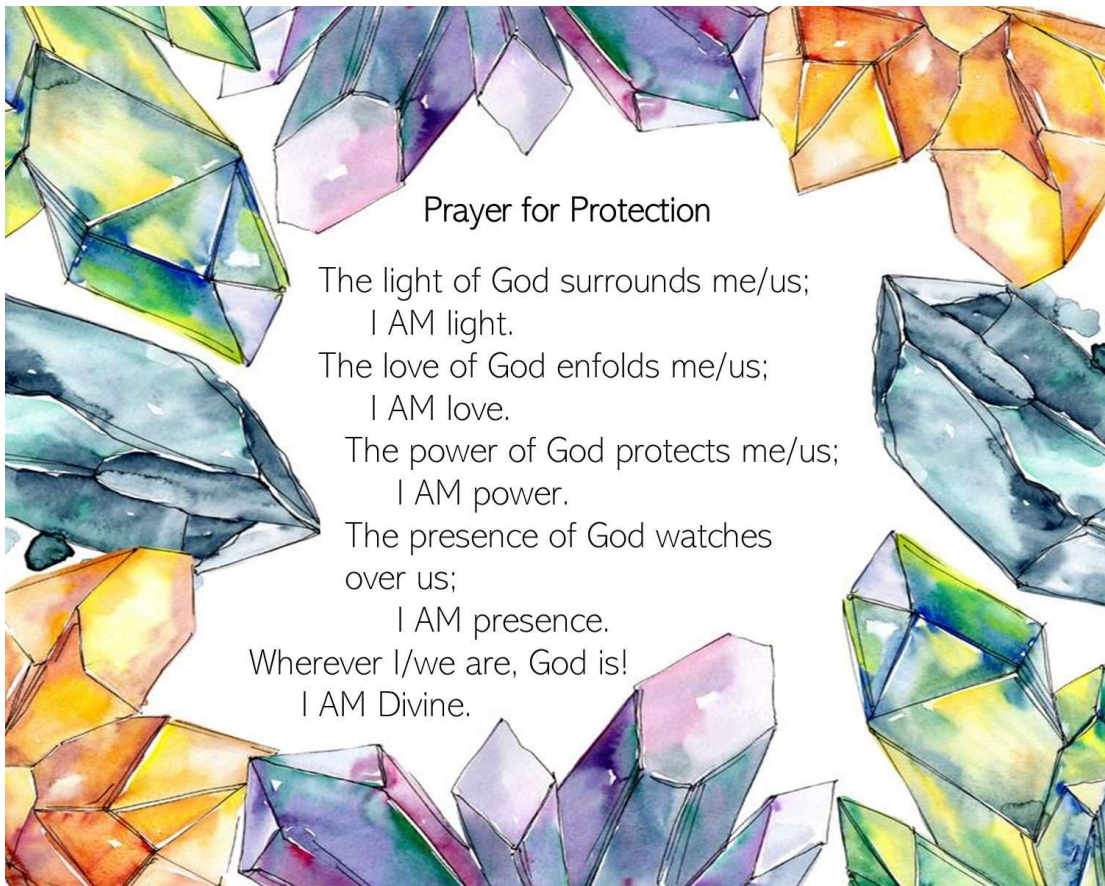
Although August means “summer” is waning, we can choose to spend these days augustly! (Note: the month has the accent on the first syllable, the adjective on the second - courtesy of Vocabulary.com) Just so, we can choose to pray affirmatively, connecting to “God within” as well as all around all, “bringing forth...what already exists in Truth.”

And so it is!

Your Prayer Chaplains, Wanda Faye Holmes, Pamela O’Brien, Bobbi Severson and Marie Manella, are available to pray on Sundays after service and are committed to making periodic Caring Calls - to support you, our spiritual family, with your prayer needs. Wherever and whenever we pray with you, we hold everything shared 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 August prayers

Inner Peace - With God as my peace, I rest deeply and breathe easily.

Guidance - I am guided by infinite wisdom in all matters.

Life - I am one with and now fully flourish in divine life.

Strength - Through wind and storm, I stand steady knowing God is my strength.

Harmony - I am willing to be a presence of divine love in all my relationships

Volunteer Ministry



SHOUT OUT:

We have many unsung heroes in our midst that just get it done! This month I would like to highlight the **Decorating Committee**, **Sharon Mays (Chair)**, **Marie Manella**, **JoAnne Walker**, and **Bobbi Severson**. JoAnne blesses this committee with her creativity of our floral arrangements that you see on the podium and around the sanctuary!! These ladies devote time, talent, and tithes to enhance and beautify our Sacred Space.

THANK YOU, LADIES !!!!

Continuing with our **Deep Cleaning Project**, we rented a scrubber and finished the floor in our downstairs hospitality area. Thank you to **Wanda Faye**, **Sean** and **Elija**, for your muscle work and getting this big job completed. Elija is one of our youths and he was a willing and able helper. Probably would not have gotten that scrubber going if he hadn't found the secret button!!

TAKE A LOOK!! The **Larry Sheaffer tree** has a plaque to commemorate his many hours of labor and love for our outside area. THANK YOU to the **MEN'S GROUP** that took on this project, raised the funds, got the tree planted and continue to monitor and care for its growth.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Greeter Team:

Our **Greeter Team** could use a few more helpers on Sunday!! Please think about this!!

To me, it is one of our key teams and is usually the first impression our guests and visitors have of our church community!! One Sunday a month is all that we are asking for, if you can do more, great!! A sign-up sheet is available across from the desk, we train if you are new to this team, and it really is a great way to meet and greet our congregants and visitors!!

See or contact Joey Nelson, (tyloredurden@aol.com) and he will be glad to give you additional information.

Annual Picnic:

The Signup poster for the Annual Picnic is up. Please indicate your dish to pass and if you can help with setup and cleanup on **AUGUST 20TH** at the FABYAN FOREST PRESERVE, Rt 31 side). THANK YOU, DEB MCQUAID AND JUDY DEVOE, for chairing this event.

Elvis Concert:

ELVIS ELVES ARE NEEDED! A few additional people are needed on that night, Sept 15th to greet and seat our guests. Please contact Mickey Koziol (RMKoziol@aol.com) if you are interested in helping out! She could also probably use some relief selling tickets on the Sundays leading up to that event.

Cafe:

Cafe Helpers are always appreciated and needed. Bob and Alex are dedicated to nourishing us on Sundays, but I know they always appreciate the additional support and help! We are so very blessed to have this opportunity after each Sunday service to visit and break bread together. If you haven't helped in a while or have not ventured into this ministry, please feel free to chat with Bob and Alex to see what is involved each Sunday. I know they would welcome you with open arms!!

JUST THINKING:

Each month as I prepare this article, I search my heart (and other sources) to find ways to thank our Sacred Service teams and volunteers for the time and talent they share with us.

Ask Rev Mike and he will tell you that "it's not just the minister". You, our volunteers, are the pillars of the church, the strength of the ministry, the spoke in the wheel, and the support to our minister and staff! No matter how small the contribution..... You are always appreciated and noticed!!

"There are so many things in the world that could be invisible to the material eye, and when you take a moment to stop, to pause, to be present and notice them, that's gratitude."

- Jay Shetty (internet personality, storyteller, podcast host, purpose coach, and former monk)

Bobbi
bsever4785@gmail.com

Decorating Committee



Do you have artificial floral stems or large vases you're not using?

Would you like to donate them to beautify the church?

The Decorating Committee would like to change floral arrangements frequently in the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall/Welcome desk upstairs. And, if your flowers are in bloom and you would like to donate them, arranged in a vase, for Sunday service, **please contact Sharon Mays, sharon_mays@comcast.**

Watering the Property this Summer



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO WATER THE PROPERTY THIS SUMMER

We need people for Sundays in August!

We need volunteers to water several spots on the property! We have a newly planted tree, new flowers in our planters, the Cut Flower Garden is about to begin and new this year -- A Pumpkin Patch!

Please go to the [website](#) for all the details!

Are you ready to help out? Please contact Kathleen in the Church Office to volunteer! churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org

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

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 (unless it is being offered by the church).

CURRENT OFFERINGS:

- I have a plethora of round garden stones in various sizes larger than a softball and smaller than a basketball which anyone can have. How many? There are at least 3 dozen, maybe more. We retired our pond. Wendy Gruen: gruenwj9080@gmail.com 6/21/23
 - Please click [here](#) and [here](#) for photos
- Tastefully Simple recipe collection and meal planner; Wildtree (similar to TS) freezer meal planner and recipes; Grill cover; Universal Gas Range Installation kit; PartyLite; 3-wick candle holder; PartyLite Bamboo sconce; Boys' Size Medium Gray Winter Coat with Hood; 2 Girls' Size 8 & 10 "Daddy-Daughter" dresses; Harlequin Doll; & Far Side Comic Book Collection. Dawn Staszak: dawn_311@yahoo.com 6/28/23

CURRENT REQUESTS:

- Unity booklets (not Daily Word) for our Little Free Library. Preferably with little to no wear and tear. Wendy Gruen: gruenwj9080@gmail.com 6/19/23

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 12th of each month!

For more info. or any questions, please contact Kathleen: churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org

Upcoming Events



- **Office Closed - Labor Day** 9/4
- **Men's Group** 9/5 & 19th
- **Healing & Wholeness Service** 9/8
- **World Day of Prayer** - Evening Service 9/13
- **World Day of Prayer** - Morning Service 9/14
- **Elvis Concert** 9/15
- **Pet Blessing & Fall Equinox Service** 9/23

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.

I had a really wonderful birthday last month. My husband gifted me with this giant fish planter, and it is perfect for the space. I placed it right above the fountain I installed.

It's time to keep track of the pumpkins we are growing on the church grounds! Fingers crossed that we get a Massive Pumpkin!



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

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.

