

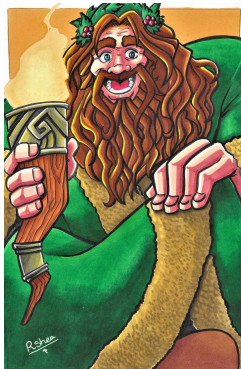


December 2023

Ministerial Musings

Christmas Present

With all due respect to Eckhardt Tolle, there is more to the miracle of Christmas than the Now. It does not mean that the Now does not warrant some very special awareness, but both the past and the future have a bearing when it comes to recognizing and celebrating those Now Christmas moments.



If we turn to the classic Charles Dickens novella, *A Christmas Carol*, we learn that our lives are multi-dimensional. We all have a past, and we all get to choose how our previous experiences interplay with the present. We can bring forward to the Now all of those warm loving Christmas past ghosts: presents, warm family meals, caroling, eggnog, bright lights and love. This is what healthy evolution is all about – carrying forth all that is good as we move on to our next iteration.

Some of the ghosts from the past are memories that are not so pleasant and maybe even painful. A significant part of the Christmas miracle is that we actually can choose what to do with them. If we just try to hide them away, they likely will turn up anyway as uninvited guests. How much better if we can manage to include them in a spirit of forgiveness, and maybe even gratitude in the knowing that we can embrace them from as victors rather than victims! What would Santa do?

Jumping to the future we again can affirm the birth of the Christ within ourselves. Faith is all about the ability to see the unseen despite any and all appearances to the contrary in the Now. Part of savoring any Now moment never includes thinking that “This is as good as it gets.” Part of any Christmas moment becomes even more powerful in the knowing that the best is yet to come. There is a dream that begs the question, “Why can’t everyday be Christmas?” If the Divine within us is strictly seasonal, it is only a wanna be divine.

So, what about Now? It is only in the Now that Christmas can be experienced in its fullness by being inclusive of our total being. In any given moment we can re-create ourselves and the world around us by embodying the total picture. We choose not to dwell in the past by celebrating our wrinkles in the Now. We can build for the future by embracing the wonder of what we see in the mirror. There is a kinship shared by the ghosts of the past, future and present. We honor that and grow in it by loving right here and now. Love always is the perfect present.

JOY to the WORLD

THE LORD IS COME

Peace,

Rev Mike

revmike@unityoffoxvalley.org

Youth Education for a Younger Crowd

To begin this festive season, the youth will be honoring the **Power of Life** by delving into the story of the *birth* of Jesus as portrayed in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. **Red** is the symbolic color, and the **Disciple is Judas**. Through storytelling, prayers, and most, notably, through our upcoming Pageant performance, the youth will contemplate how the Biblical accounts of Jesus' birth metaphysically represent the ongoing narrative of our own spiritual journey.

Parents and grandparents please mark your youths' calendars for *Sunday, December 3rd*, when all our classes will come together for our exciting **Gingerbread House Decorating Party!** It's a fun and engaging event where each youth will create their own incredible gingerbread house. Teachers and parents are encouraged to join in and share the fun. Through loving donations, we'll supply a wide assortment of festive candies, pretzels, and cookies to ensure these creations are both visually stunning and delicious!



The time has arrived for our traditional **Christmas Pageant!** This year's theme is "The Sweetest Christmas" in honor of the Unity Advent 2023 booklet. The performance will be held on *Sunday, December 17th*, during the 10 am Service and will reflect on the metaphysical interpretation of the birth of "Sweet Baby Jesus." We welcome youth of all ages to participate by signing up downstairs in the Youth Ed area. Rehearsals are scheduled for Sundays, December 3rd and 10th, during the 10 am class time and for Saturday, December 16th at 9 am. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at marynowroozi@comcast.net.

We would be immensely appreciative and filled with excitement to have you join us as we believe this Pageant has the "Power of Life" to uplift your spirits and graciously touch your hearts with great joy!



*I affirm for all of you a very Merry
Christmas filled with many blessings and
a New Year that embraces you with
abundant health and prosperity!*

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

Christmas Decorating & Chili Party



Please click [here](#) to take you to the Christmas Fun 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!

Ugly Christmas Sweater Day!

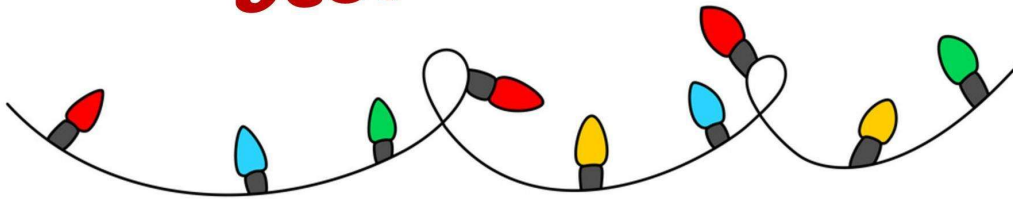
**It's About to Get
*UGLY!***



**UGLY CHRISTMAS
SWEATER SUNDAY**

Sunday, December 3rd

***Come to church in your
'best' sweater!***



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

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, 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.

Secret Santa Due

SECRET SANTA



For the 20th year, Unity of Fox Valley will be providing gifts for children who are served by CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) Kane County. These are children who might otherwise find their Christmas trees bare.

The Christmas Tree will be on the back wall of the sanctuary for the whole month of November.

Please select a tag or tags from the tree and return your gifts on or before Sunday, December 3rd.

Please contact Kathleen in the Church Office with any questions: churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org

All Gifts are Due Sunday, December 3rd!

Please don't be late!

Only ONE delivery trip will be made to CASA.

Please contact Kathleen in the Church Office with any questions: churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org

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

Soup Sunday



THE FIRST SUNDAY
OF EVERY MONTH

IT'S GONNA BE
DELICIOUS!!

SIGN UP TO BRING
YOUR YUMMY SOUP
TO SHARE!

CONTACT BOB ANTHONY
WITH ANY QUESTIONS:
BANTHONY103@COMCAST.NET



December 3rd, after the Service

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

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

Garage Sale

Unity of Fox Valley
Citywide
Garage Sale

Sundays ONLY
December 3rd, 10th, January 7th & 14th
9-10am & 11am-noon

Sprucing up for the holidays? Cleaning out closets and dresser drawers?
Please consider donating your items to our garage sale!

Please click on the link below for acceptable and non-acceptable items.

Thank you for your support as we prepare for this May fundraiser!

If you have any questions, please contact Marcie Lucas: 630-696-6034

Please click [here](#) to take you to our Garage Sale website.

ONLINE Men's Group



1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 7pm, ONLINE

This group explores spirituality and religion in diverse and exciting ways.
Newcomers are ALWAYS welcome!

Please contact the Church Office with any questions & to request the login
information: churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org

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

We are asking you to use your 1st & last names for your Zoom account. Please click [here](#) for instructions.

If you want to invite a friend/guest, please let the Church Office know ASAP so they know to admit them into the Zoom meeting.

Please click [here](#) for the Men's Group website.

Coffee & Tea with Myrtle & Me



**Every Thursday, 10:30 am,
in the Dining Room**

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

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.

Healing & Wholeness Service



HEALING AND WHOLENESS SERVICE

Friday, December 8th, 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.

Service of Remembrance



*Service of
Remembrance*

**Sunday,
December 10th,
10am**

*A day to remember and
celebrate the life of a loved
one, who has moved on to his
or her next life experience.*

Please click [here](#) to take you to our Service of Remembrance website.

Christmas Pageant



Youth Ed
Christmas
Pageant

The SWEETEST Christmas

Sunday, December 17th, 10 am Service

This year's presentation is titled "The Sweetest Christmas" in line with Unity's Advent Booklet. The pageant promises to be a spiritual and heartwarming experience as we metaphysically embrace the Nativity story of "Sweet Baby Jesus."

We invite youth of all ages to be a part of this delightful and meaningful play. They will choose either a speaking or non-speaking role, so everyone can partake in their own way.

To participate, please sign-up downstairs in the Youth Ed Area.

Rehearsal dates and times:

- Sundays, December 3rd and 10th, during class time at 10 am;
- Saturday, December 16th, at 9 am in the sanctuary.
- All participants are expected to be at church on Sunday, December 17th, at 9:15 am.

Everyone's involvement will be greatly appreciated and will make this Christmas Pageant a special and memorable event.

Any questions/concerns, please contact Mary Nowroozi:
marynowroozi@comcast.net.



There will be NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on this day.

Please contact Mary Nowroozi with any questions: marynowroozi@comcast.net

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

Come Sing with Us!



Friday, December 22nd, 7pm

***The Music Team invites you to sing with them for the
Christmas Candle Lighting Service!***

Practices will be on Thursdays from 5-6:30pm on:

- November 30
- December 7, 14, and 21

You bring your voice and positive vibes,
and we'll furnish everything else...risers included!

**Please contact Kitty Karn for all the details:
kitty.karn00@gmail.com**

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

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service



Please click [here](#) to take you to our Christmas Fun website.

Christmas Sunday Service



Please click [here](#) to take you to our Christmas Fun website.

Prayer Chaplain Ministry

December is here, again! It's a cliché for sure, but where has this past year gone?

"The days are long, but the years are short." This quote, written by Gretchen Rubin, is touchingly illustrated in a one-minute video she created for YouTube called *The Years Are Short*. (Please click [here](#).) She wanted to share "the little story about the day that this idea hit me with full force." Although this story is about Ms. Rubin's *aha* moment of parenthood, I think it can be a story about being in the moment, a practice that can benefit us all, young or old, parents or not...



And what better time of year to practice savoring the moments as we move into the winter holiday season of Christmas, Kwanza and Chanukah. It can be a mixed bag time of year. For some, December ushers in a flurry, or frenzy, of activities: Shopping, family gatherings, school holidays, decorating, baking, shopping, and so on. For others the holidays can give rise to memories of days gone by, thoughts of loved ones no longer with us. And others are beginning to plan ahead for the new year, only a month away.

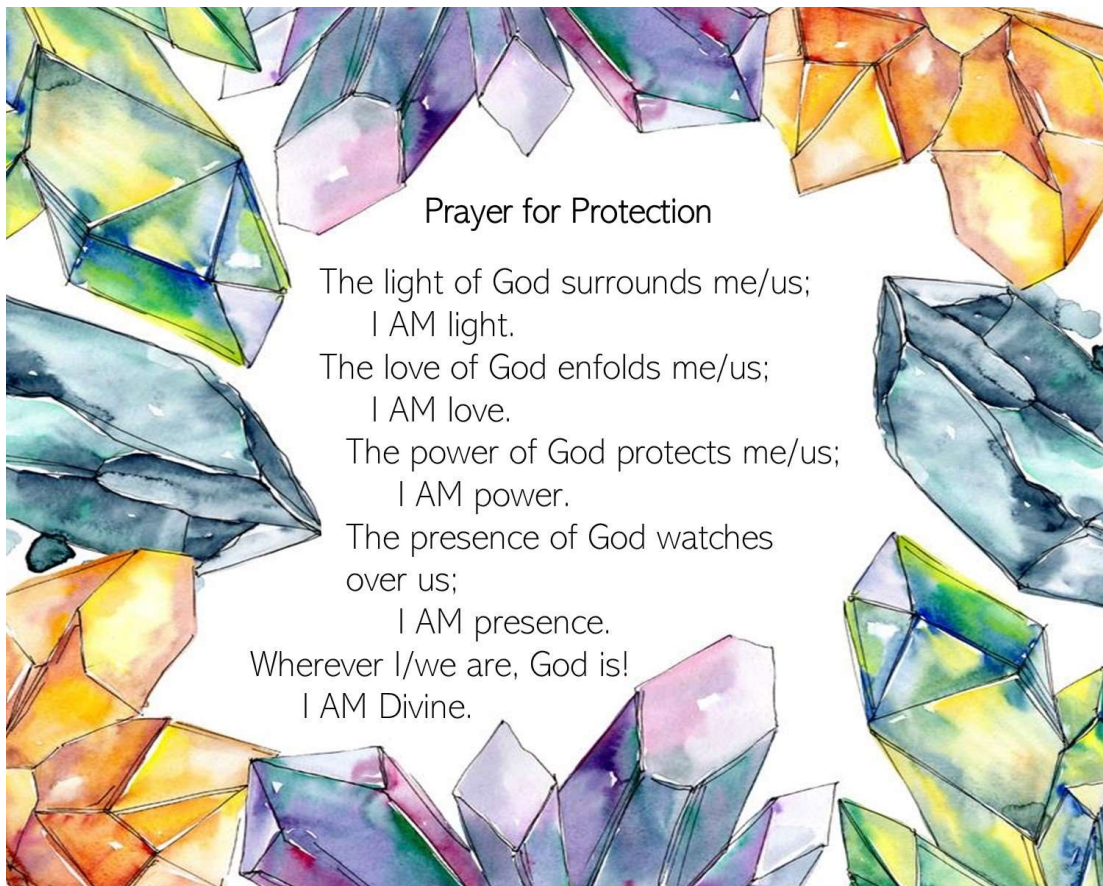
Whatever your dreams, your plans, your hopes are for this 12th month of 2023, I invite you to *be present* - to yourself, to your loved ones, to those who may not be feeling the joy that is being touted all around, to life *as it is*.

And if you need a "little help (prayer) to get by" this season, remember your Prayer Chaplains - Wanda Faye Holmes, Pamela O'Brien, Bobbi Severson and Marie Manella - are here 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 of God's love; that place we often are unable to see for ourselves.

We are here to pray with you after the service each Sunday, and to make periodic Wellness/Caring Calls. 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,
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.

The sacred prayers used by the Unity Prayer Ministry this December.

Faith - With expectant faith, I am optimistic and confident.

Peace - Centered in peace, I broadcast peace on earth and goodwill to all.

Love - I demonstrate the harmony of love through kind thoughts and acts.

Joy - Knowing God is my source, I count my blessings and spread joy.

Life - I celebrate the birth of Christ consciousness within my body, mind and spirit.

Volunteer Ministry



SHOUT OUT:

Thank you to our Cafe Team. . . Bob, Mary Ann, Alex, Mickey and to our Thanksgiving Feast Team. . . Deb, Rev Jan, Marie, Mary, Liz, Sharon, Lucy & Carl, and Joey, for another successful and scrumptious Feast. So much to be thankful for and especially these wonderful volunteers and all of you who brought a dish to share!! Food & friendship warms our hearts!!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Christmas Decorating & Chili Party: Come have fun and help us make ourselves beautiful for the Christmas festivities, **SATURDAY, DEC 2nd AT 10:00 A.M.** Then stay for our Chili and Chat!! Many hands decking the halls make for light work!!

We are always in need of **Greeters**!! Please consider this very important ministry team. You are the first person our newcomers and congregants see when they come through the door. One Sunday a month is all we need if we have enough people! Please see Joey or Bobbi if you have any questions about what this entails. It's a great way to get to know people and greet those that you do!!

JUST A HEADS UP: We have decided to participate this Spring in **Batavia's City Wide Garage Sale**, May 3rd and 4th. We will need many **VOLUNTEERS** to make this fundraising event happen. So stay tuned for more info on how you can volunteer. We also wanted to give you an opportunity to do a little Winter/Spring cleaning! We will start actually collecting items Sundays, December 3rd, and 10th and January 7th & 14th. This will get us started and more dates will be announced as we get closer. REMEMBER, this was a great fundraiser two years ago, and we hope to more than

double the \$2000 we made that year!! Help us manifest this abundance by helping and donating your items. Lists will be available on what we will be able to take.

JUST THINKING!!

Hard to believe that we are closing out another year!! We so appreciate all the ways that you, our remarkable volunteers, have stepped up, stepped out, helped out, and supported in ways that we don't always notice. So many people behind the scenes that just do what they do without a lot of fanfare or recognition. Please know that you are all so appreciated and loved!!

"Kindness is so quietly woven through our ordinary days that sometimes we don't even notice it. Everywhere there is tenderness and care. There is beauty".

~ John Donohue

Love, Blessings, and a very Merry Christmas!!

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 (unless it is being offered by the church).

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 12th of each month!

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

Upcoming Events



- **Burning Bowl/White Stone Ceremony:** 1/7
- **Christmas Undecorating:** 1/7
- **Soup Sunday:** 1/7
- **Garage Sale Donations:** 1/7 & 14
- **Healing Service:** 1/12
- **Volunteer Fair:** 1/21 & 28

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](https://a.co/6W4z8xs) to see what we need!

or, copy and paste this link:

<https://a.co/6W4z8xs>

Tithes & Offerings

tithes

AND OFFERINGS

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

Please click [here](https://www.paypal.com/biz/fund?id=44UC5B8W64KBQ) 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.

Christmas came early for me this year. I picked up my new coat and it includes the personalization for free.

BUT getting spoiled isn't part of the plan next year because our barn needs a need roof, and we don't think we can wait any longer.

BUT it will also be my last tuition payment for my daughter! YAY!



**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

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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.

