

March 2024

Ministerial Musings

Puff and Lugh

This is one of the strangest titles I ever have come up with not just for our newsletter but for anything I ever have authored. What are these and how are they even closely related? Even after I disclose who or what they are, the connection may not be obvious. However, figuring it out and putting the pieces together might be fun.

Starting with Puff, he was a mighty dragon and a companion and playmate of Little Jackie Paper. Puff and Little Jackie were the main characters in the Peter, Paul and Mary song, *Puff the Magic Dragon*. The song is the story of their wonderful relationship and its sad ending. Although it is short and musical, it is folklore in a true sense.



The folklore surrounding Lugh goes back to medieval times. According to some scholars, the word leprechaun comes from the ancient Irish-Celtic god and cultural hero Lugh. Lugh was originally the god of the sun and light, and then he became a great warrior ruler of ancient Ireland. Lugh was a “small person” and the king of a legion of small people that once ruled Ireland before it was Ireland.

According to Encyclopedia Britannica, Lugh's stature (literally) diminished over time as the Christianization of Europe gathered pace. He eventually was transformed into *Lugh-chromain*, meaning “stooping Lugh.” Lugh thus became a sort of fairy craftsman, and from there, Lugh became 'leprechaun', the diminutive fairy-goblin in medieval folklore. Both Puff and Lugh share two other fates. Eventually, as their days of glory ended, they both lived out their remaining days in caves. Much more significantly, their days of glory

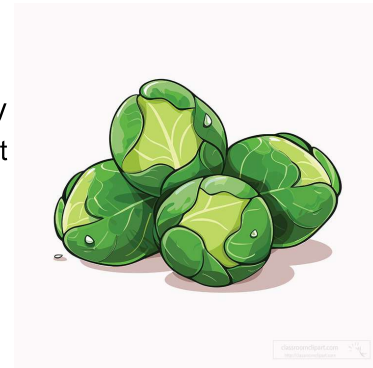
came to an end in a way that paralleled a loss of innocence by those who once had held them in reverence.

Whenever there is change, there are consequences. Something that had been is destined to become what once was. Change for the better or change for the worse, it makes no difference. There always are goodbyes attached, oftentimes along with tears, be they shed in joy or sorrow. Certainly, all of this must play a significant part in our resistance to change and putting on newness. Whether forced upon us or proactively determined by us, change requires both faith and courage along with a wisdom as to what we carry with us and what we abandon as we move on.

In the song, the ending implies a sad fate for Puff, but maybe not. It is possible another Little Jackie Somebody might have come along and resurrected the experience of love for Puff. Inasmuch as it is a mythical fable, we are free to write and add a new verse to Puff the Magic Dragon. All it would take would be a revisit to our innocence and the rediscovery of the Little Jackie in us.

As for Lugh, he in fact has been resurrected and in a very positive way. Cleverly, early Irish immigrants launched a campaign in response to the xenophobia that was heaped upon them. They went out of their way to include and invite non-Irish folks to their parades and celebrations, and they introduced the fun myths of leprechauns to America. How can you hate a little tiny creature who hides a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow or the folks that shared such gaiety with the world?

Almost forgot, leprechauns always dress in green, and Puff, well, he was green. St. Patty's Day is our opportunity to join in the fun by wearing green ourselves. We can do it just for the fun of it. We also can do it with a small mindfulness of the positive things that green represents. You know, things like spring and new growth, prosperity and brussels sprouts. Yes, brussels sprouts.



And maybe we can tip a green hat or take a sip, just a wee bit of green beer if so inclined, toasting Lugh and Puff. I am certain the amazing things Little Jackie Paper went on to do were done with the love of Puff beneath his wings, and ditto for Lugh and the Renaissance.

Rev Mike

revmike@unityoffoxvalley.org

Youth Education for a Younger Crowd

As we anticipate the upcoming springtime, our younger youth will embark on a journey exploring the **Power of Strength**, symbolized by the color **Spring-Green**, and the **Disciple James**. To *strengthen* their own spiritual growth throughout the Lenten

season, we will immerse ourselves into the stories of Jesus' miracles and parables, enhanced by interactive games, crafts, and songs.



In honor of **Palm Sunday** on March 24th, we will delve into the story of *Jesus Enters Jerusalem* as told in all four gospels. We will explore the metaphysical interpretation of this narrative, and its relevance to our understanding, celebrating and praising the Christ Spirit within each one of us.

The following Sunday is **Easter**, March 31st, and through story-telling and crafts, we will be teaching the youth the significance of Jesus' resurrection and its symbolism of hope and renewal, emphasizing the triumph of light over darkness. We will offer a safe and loving environment that allows the youth to ask questions and express their thoughts to come to their own understanding of this holiday's deeper meaning.

After class that morning, we will enthusiastically host our annual **Easter Egg Hunt!** Weather permitting, we'll hold it outside on the church grounds, inviting the youth to search and find plastic eggs filled with nut-free chocolates. A special guest, one with big, floppy ears and a fondness for hopping, will be joining in on the fun. We eagerly anticipate several families attending this joyful event.

Lastly, our Uniteens, along with some of our younger youth, want to express their heartfelt gratitude to all the parents and congregants who generously baked yummy treats for our **Bake Sale** fundraiser last month. The Love Offerings from the Sale, lovingly donated and greatly appreciated, will be used to cover registration fees for the upcoming Uniteen Spring Retreat and for special activities for our younger youth. Once again, a great big thank you goes out to each and every one of you

In gratitude and with many blessings,
Ms. Mary, LUT, CSE
marynowroozi@comcast.net



Name Tag Sunday

1st Sunday of the Month

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

**NAME TAG
SUNDAY!**



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.

Online Sunday Bulletin

We will now be making our Sunday Bulletins available online!

Just click on the link [here](#) and scroll down to the Online Bulletin section.

The bulletin will be updated on Thursdays, & all content is subject to change without notice.



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



**THE FIRST SUNDAY
OF EVERY MONTH**

**SIGN UP TO BRING
YOUR YUMMY SOUP
TO SHARE!**

**IT'S GONNA BE
DELICIOUS!!**

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

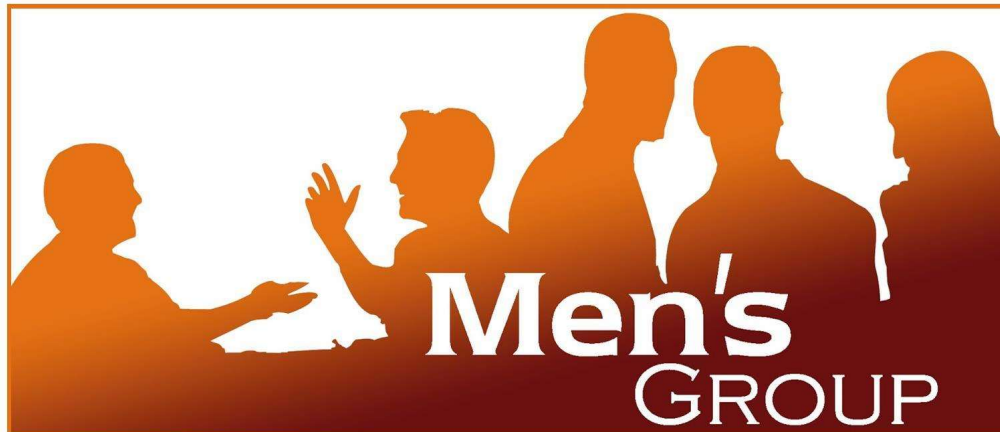


March 3rd after the Service

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

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

Prayer Class

PRAYER CLASS

**Wednesdays, March 6th - April 10th,
6:30-8:30 pm, Adult Ed Room**

Whether you are an **experienced** prayer practitioner
or new to the wonders of affirmative prayer,
there is always more to discover: about ourselves,
our divine nature, and how we can live into truth more fully.

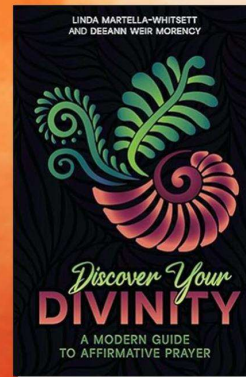
This class is meant for anyone interested in prayer and
praying with others or yourself.

***Join us as we explore Unity's
Five Step Prayer Process
using affirmative prayer.***

Required Book:

Available on Amazon.com

- **Discover Your Divinity:
A Modern Guide to Affirmative Prayer**
by Linda Martella-Whitsett
& DeeAnn Weir Morency, 2023



Facilitated by Maria Cosentino, L.U.T.

On a love offering basis. All are most welcome to attend.

Please contact Maria Cosentino for more info.: mlcosentino@gmail.com

Please click on the link below for more information on the required text.

Please click [here](#) to take you to the class 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 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, March 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.

Game Night



***3rd Saturday of the month,
7:00pm, Dining Room***

Let's have some fun together!

We have Rummikub, Quirkle, Oh Hell, Scrabble, &, of course, Dominos. We also encourage you to bring your own favorite games and share them with us.

Children are welcome with a responsible Adult.

Light refreshments will be provided, but we won't mind if you bring a snack to share!

**For more info., please contact Joey Nelson:
tyloredurden@aol.com**

For more information, please contact Joey Nelson: tyloredurden@aol.com

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

Palm Sunday



Palm Sunday marks the beginning of the Holy Week journey.
We hope you can be there to share this with us.

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

Easter Feast



For more information or to volunteer, please contact Bobbi Severson: bsever4785@gmail.com

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

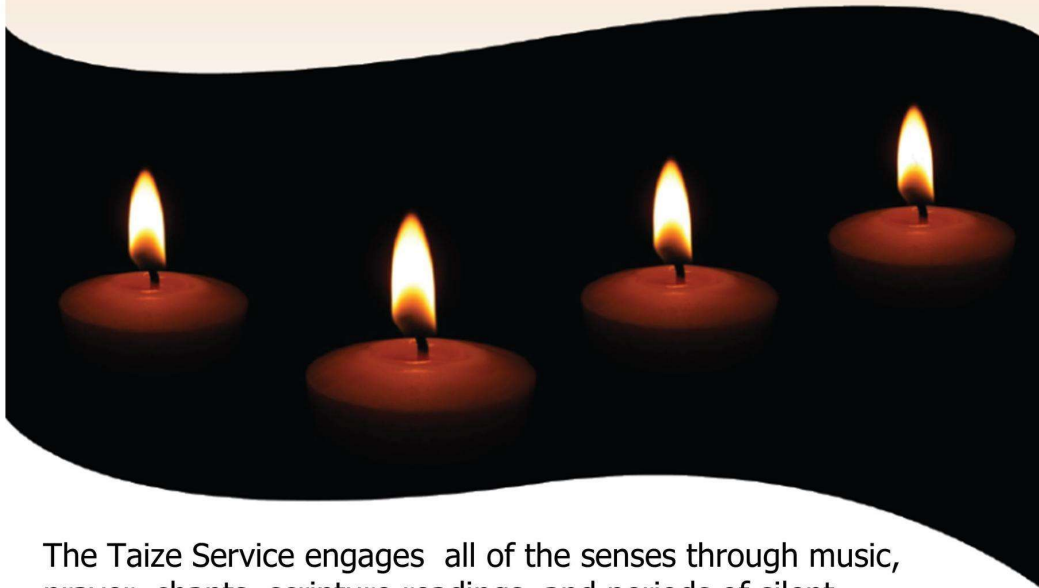
Taize Service

**Good Friday,
March 29th, 7pm**

TAIZÉ

SERVICE

This service is a beautiful way
to commemorate Good Friday.



The Taize Service engages all of the senses through music, prayer, chants, scripture readings, and periods of silent contemplation to attain a state of deep contemplative awareness.

All are invited to this beautiful, soulful, candlelight ceremony celebrating the light that is not overcome by darkness.

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

Easter Sunday

UNITY OF FOX VALLEY
230 WEBSTER STREET, BATAVIA, IL



EASTER SUNDAY

CELEBRATE THE SAVIOR

SUNDAY, MARCH 31ST, 10AM

Gather your family & friends and come out to our Easter Service.

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

Easter Bonnets/Hats



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

Easter Egg Hunt



For more information & to register, please contact Mary
Nowroozi: marynowroozi@comcast.net

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

Prayer Chaplain Ministry

I'm writing this at the beginning of the last week of a record breaking, very mild, February. And from the forecast it looks as if this March will be coming in like a lamb... Of course the possibility of more winter days, albeit short-lived, will remain with us for a while. For the time being, however, we can enjoy the spring like weather as we move into actual springtime; appreciating each day's increasing minutes of sunlight, early flowers poking their delicate blooms through the warming earth, and buds beginning to bloom on the bare branches of trees all around us.



If you have been using Unity's Lenten Booklet, 40 Days - Let Go, Let God, you have been in the spiritual process of releasing "aspects of our humanity" * that often keep us from experiencing and expressing our good. Having studied Unity's teachings on denials and affirmations, I have learned that when we release unwanted beliefs and qualities it's important to fill that vacuum with positive beliefs - affirmations of Truth. I invite you now to take that a step further and learn about the power of affirmative prayer - "the power of praying by [yourself] and praying with others from an awareness of [your] spiritual nature."* (Psst - you don't have to be a minister or a prayer chaplain to do this!)

Starting on March 6th, UFV is hosting a **Prayer Class** that will indeed introduce you to Unity's Five Step Prayer Process using Affirmative Prayer. This class will be facilitated by Maria Cosentino, one of our Licensed Unity Teachers, and will use the book, Discover Your Divine Identity* by Linda Martella-Whitsett and DeeAnn Morency, both Unity ministers. Come to church on Sunday to hear a little more about this class and to sign up, or check out our website for more info and to register online.

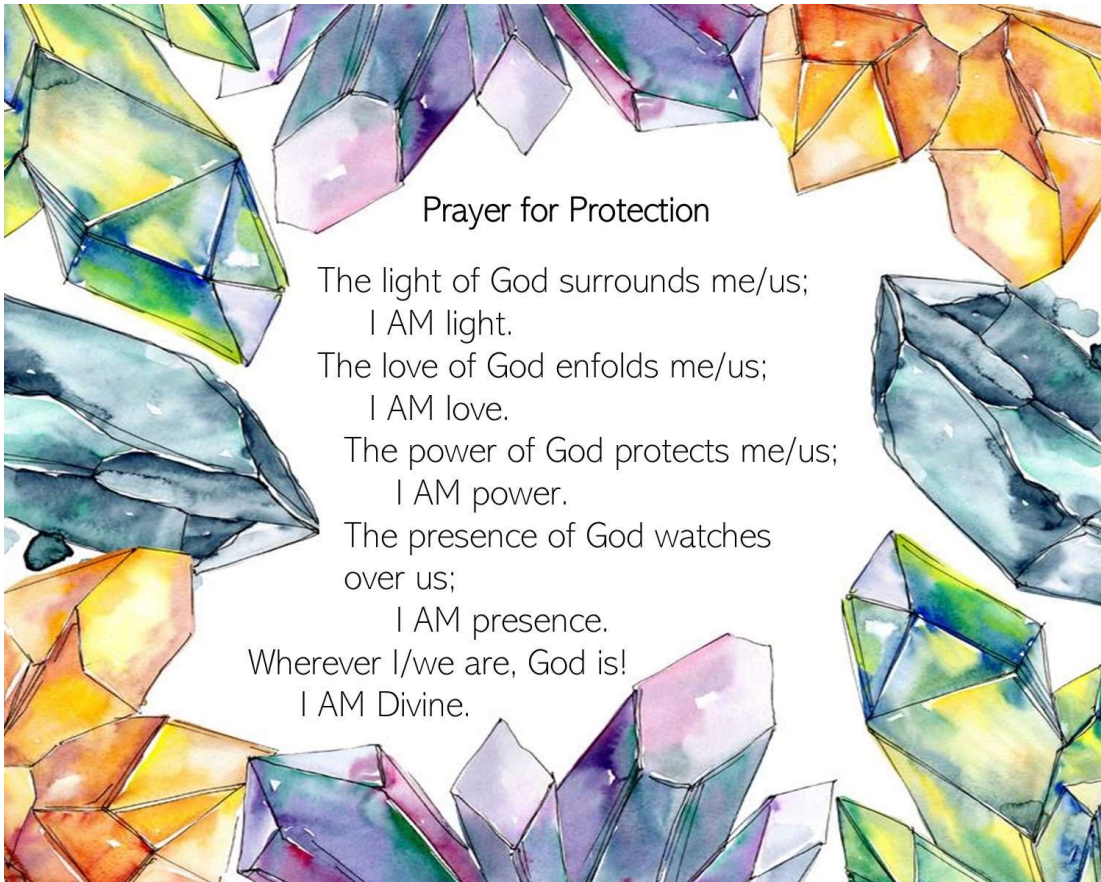
However you spend this Lenten month of reflection, I pray that this Easter you will feel renewed as you open to the Divinity within you!

If you need a little "assistance" (prayer) as you practice letting go during your Lenten journey, remember your Prayer Chaplains - Wanda Faye Holmes, Bobbi Severson and Marie Manella - are here to support you, a treasured part of 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.

A Prayer Chaplain is available to pray with you after the service each Sunday. We also 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. Praying you all have a blessed March and a



Blessings,
Marie and Bobbi



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

Inner Peace - I release all to God. My spirit is peaceful and free.

Guidance - I open my mind to divine inspiration and follow my divine direction.

Healing - Every atom of my being is invigorated with healing life.

Prosperity - I am prospered by divine love.

World Peace - I am an emissary of peace and harmony in the world.

Volunteer Ministry

SHOUT OUT:

We had a very successful **Volunteer Fair** and we want to thank everyone that signed up for one of our Sacred Ministry Teams!! Your time and talent is so important to our church community!! Some of you have already heard from your Chairperson (or persons). Some teams are without a chair, still working on those teams. Some are **OUTREACH** and **SPECIAL EVENTS/FEASTS**. If you have any interest in taking the helm, please feel free to contact me.



THANK YOU, WANDA FAYE, and the **PC TEAM** for a fun **SUPER BOWL** celebration with BBQ Chicken Sandwiches (very yummy!) and other fun foods to kick off the day! Any reason to eat is a celebration for us!!

THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE AMAZING women that signed up on the **Women's Group** survey!! More than 20 ladies expressed an interest. Soooooo, now we just need to explore more of what you are hoping to get out of this group. If you can shoot me an email (bsever4785@gmail.com) and just tell me what you need or are hoping to get from this group, that will help us do a little planning. I admit that I have kind of put this on the back burner as we were coordinating the other Volunteer Ministries. I will get working on that and hope to have a meeting soon.

GAME NIGHT was a success, and we thank Joey for taking this fun activity on and making it happen every 3rd SATURDAY of the month going forward. So, if you missed this one, get it on your calendar for March 15th and join in the fun!! Some of our YOUer's (and Mom's) joined us that night and coordinated it with the youth lock-in night!! Lot's of activity and fun!!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

EASTER FEAST signup sheets are up. We could really use someone that can take charge on that Sunday, coordinate decorating on Saturday and cleanup on Sunday. Also to assist Carl and Lucy in the kitchen getting everything ready. Unfortunately, something came up unexpectedly that will take me out of town that weekend. Please sign up and let me know if you can help out in these critical areas. Bob, Alex, and Mary Ann and their dedicated team do an outstanding job EVERY Sunday but need additional help on these special feast Sundays.

SAVE THE DATE:

April 19th will be our **VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER**. If you have been any part of volunteering this past year, we want to recognize you and spoil you on a night when you don't have to do anything!! RELAX AND ENJOY!!!

JUST THINKING!!

YAY!! SPRING is springing a little early this year and I don't mind at all!! I think we have confused the trees, plants, and birds, but maybe they know something we don't. So, enjoy the longer Spring-like days as they bloom forth!

**"If you want to touch the past, touch a rock. If you want to touch the present,
touch a flower. If you want to touch the future, touch a life"**
~ AUTHOR UNKNOWN

We never know how or when we may touch someone and lift them up with a kind gesture, a smile or a word. Be kind and reach out today!!

Blessings, Peace and Prayers!!
Bobbi
bsever4785@gmail.com

Just Ask Ministry



Ask and 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 the item is offered by the church)

CURRENT OFFERINGS:

-

CURRENT REQUESTS:

- Affordable apartment that accepts
1 cat. Nate Birr:
forgiveness@gmail.com 2/5/24

Just Ask is currently not accepting offerings of items till after the Garage Sale.

Please click [here](#) to follow up with any of the above Offerings/Requests
or for more information.

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



- **Men's Group**: 4/2 & 16
- **Soup Sunday**: 4/3
- **Healing Service**: 4/12
- **Volunteer Appreciation Dinner**: 4/19
- **Game Night**: 4/20

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:

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.

On most Wednesdays, I work from home. Where my desk is situated in my office, I have a bank of shelving where my cat, Reese can perch. About 90% of the time, if she isn't sitting on my lap, or my husband's lap, she is there. Watching... Making sure I am working. 😊

Happy March everyone! Let's make a really Wonderful Month!

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.

