

June 2024

Ministerial Musings

June Is Bustin' Out All Over

I must confess that I have fallen into the habit of reviewing the long lists of holidays featured in a given month for inspiration in choosing a topic for my newsletter submissions. It is understandable though. There are so many things to celebrate and so little time. How can one not want to write about <u>National I Love My Dentist Day</u> or <u>National Donald Duck Day</u>?

In all seriousness, June is chock filled with all kinds of really serious topics including several that are spiritually related. June is <u>Pride Month</u>. June 19th is the now the national holiday, <u>Juneteenth</u>, so designated to celebrate the end slavery. Both are topics worthy not only of celebration, but also some serious reflection. Both can lead to that, "Thank goodness that's over," syndrome.

Before anybody takes offense, perhaps I may offer a bit of an explanation. There are things we build up to that require a more intense focus than business as usual. Christmas is a prime example. We expend so much time and energy making ready for it. At last the calendar flips over to December 25th. For many then, there is a larger exhale and the thought of, "Thank goodness it's over." Decorations are packed up and stored in we sink into the comfort of normal. Many birthdays run a similar course, especially the milestone ones.

With regard to Pride Month and Juneteenth, there are not a whole lot of things to undecorate, but the question comes up, "What is normal?" The underlying purpose of all holidays is to take us beyond the normal. Or, the basis for all holidays is to create a more intense focus on something that warrants a deeper consideration. This is true regardless if the holiday commemorates something that was or something that is. In this sense we celebrate for the purpose of creating a new normal.

We do not celebrate Pride Month with an attitude that members of the LGTBQ communities have gained full acceptance in the world or in our country, nor do we celebrate Juneteenth thinking that full racial equality has been accomplished. We

celebrate in acknowledgement that some progress has been made. Surely, there is a consciousness today that is more enlightened that 100, or even 50 years ago. However, there still remains work to be done. Maintaining the status quo would in fact be equivalent to moving backwards.

An important ingredient in every human endeavor is endurance. How might the world look different if every day truly was like Christmas? Returning to normal certainly has a lot of appeal, and I am all in on the idea. But first let us be about the business of making the normal "NEW." LED's have become the new normal in the world of light. Let us focus on making our Light the new normal, a normal in which equality makes anything other obsolete.



One last thing... June also contains the <u>longest day of the year</u>. Just saying...

Peace,
Rev. Mike
revmike@unityoffoxvalley.org

Youth Education for a Younger Crowd

This June, the youth and teachers will celebrate the **Power of** *Imagination*! Our disciple for the month is *Bartholomew*, and our color is **Light Blue**. We will delve into our inner creativity and imagination through crafts, stories, outdoor activities, and the exciting creation of our own Imagination Power Board!

Join us for our annual <u>Roots and Wings Ceremony</u> on Sunday, June 2, during the 10 am service. This cherished tradition has been a memorable part of our church for many years. It is a sacred occasion where we honor our youth and their teachers for their spiritual efforts over the past year. Everyone will walk the "Twelve Powers Path" and receive a beautiful rose. Any youth who have advanced to the next age group, such as moving from Juniors to Uniteens, will be awarded a special certificate recognizing their spiritual growth as they continue on their sacred journey.

After the ceremony, we'll celebrate with a delicious *Ice Cream Social* and an exciting outdoor activity, "Skate in the Lot!" With approval from our church's insurance company, we'll provide a safe area in the parking lot for our youth to skate using roller blades, skateboards, Heelys, or scooters. Parents/guardians will be required to sign a waiver for their youth to participate and be present while their youth is skating. To ensure safety, helmets are required for all participants. We anticipate this event will be a thrilling experience for everyone! We are deeply grateful to Kathleen, our Business Manager, for donating an adorable tablecloth to showcase our ice cream selections!

In closing, I'd like to express the following prayer in honor of Father's Day:

Loving Spirit, we are grateful for all the fathers and father figures in our lives. We honor fathers as well as grandfathers, uncles, mentors, and friends who step into fatherly roles with love and care. We bless them with strength, wisdom, and patience at they guide and support their children. May they find joy in their roles and feel Your presence always. We envision those missing their fathers today comforted and surrounded in Your love and peace. As we bless all father figures, we know your grace and guidance is with them always. In appreciation, we say amen and amen.



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!



Roots & Wings



"Celebrate Our Youth and Teachers!" Sunday, June 2nd, 10am

This is a profoundly meaningful time as we will pay tribute to the dedication of our youth and teachers for their spiritual endeavors. Each participant will walk the "Twelve Powers Path" and be presented with a flower. Those who have "winged-up" to the next age group will be honored with a special certificate acknowledging their ongoing spiritual commitment.

After the ceremony, we will celebrate with a yummy Ice Cream Social that will include dairy and non-dairy treats!



Also, the youth will have an exciting opportunity to join our "Skate in the Lot" event. A safe area will be designated in the parking lot for the youth to participate in skating (roller blades, Heelys, scooters, skateboards, small tricycles.) Parents will need to sign a waiver and be present while their youth is skating.

Safety is our major concern, so each youth must wear a helmet!

We are looking forward to this fun and memorable event!



For more info., please contact Mary Nowroozi at marynowroozi@comcast.net

NO <u>SUNDAY SCHOOL</u> THIS DAY!

Please contact Mary Nowroozi with any questions: <u>marynowroozi@comcast.net</u>

Please click here to take you to the website.

Online Sunday Bulletin

Our Sunday Bulletins are available online!

Just click on the link <u>here</u> and scroll down to the Online Bulletin section.

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



Soup Sunday



Please sign up for Sunday, June 2nd, after the Service

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

Please click here to take you to the Cafe website.

Women's Group



Sunday, June 2nd, 12:30pm

We accomplished so much at our last meeting, so let's keep the momentum going!! You can check out the minutes of our last meeting on our website. We look forward to seeing all of your smiling faces and hearing your ideas for group outings, retreats or workshops, or anything else that sounds interesting!!!

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact: Bobbi Severson: <u>bsever4785@gmail.com</u>

Please click <u>here</u> for the Women's Group website.



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 <u>here</u> 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 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.

David Roth







Sunday, June 9th, 10am

Sermon-In-Song: "Living in Harmony: Easier Sung Than Done"

"David has reached our hearts. With voices like his still singing, there's certainty that the candle will remain lit, the hope reasserted, and the dream still sung..."

~ Peter Yarrow (Peter, Paul & Mary)





Unity of Fox Valley 230 Webster Street Batavia, II

www.unityoffoxvalley.org churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org

If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Mike: revmike@unityoffoxvalley.org

Please click <u>here</u> for the UFV David Roth 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 <u>here</u> to take you to the Youth Ministry website.

Healing & Wholeness Service



HEALING AND WHOLENESS SERVICE

Friday, June 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!

This Service will not be Live Streamed.

Please click here to take you to the Healing & Wholeness website.

Early Bird Bingo



Please contact Mickey Koziol with any questions: mickey1catahoula2@hotmail.com

Game Night



3rd Saturday of the month, 7pm, Dining Room

Let's have some fun together!

We have Rummikub, Quirlkle, 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 information, please contact Joey Nelson: tyloredurden@aol.com

Please click <u>here</u> for the Game Night 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.



If you cannot attend the service in person, you still You Tube Channel 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 <u>here</u> to take you to the Sunday Service website.

Summer Solstice Service



Friday, June 21st, 7pm

We will gather together for an outdoor meditation on our lawn alongside the church. On this day we will move into a prayerful mindfulness of the basic gifts of Spirit that bless us every day, but which we tend to take for granted. It promises to be powerful, meaningful and fun. As usual music will play a significant part of the service.

Please do come and join us. We will convene in the hospitality area before processing outside. If it rains, we will move the service to the sanctuary. All ages are invited to part of the service. Each of us will add to the energy of the experience. Immediately following the service we will toast marshmallows and gather round to enjoy s'mores.



Does it get any better?

If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Mike: revmike@unityoffoxvalley.org

If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Mike: revmike@unityoffoxvalley.org

Please click here for the Summer Solstice Service website.

Paddleboat Cruise Sales Begin



Wednesday, July 24th, 7-8:30pm

Enjoy the night cruising down the Fox Valley River with Unity Friends and Family on a private charter.

Sunset Cruise Sing-Along!



Singing Voice Recommended, not required!

Boards 6:45pm rain or shine.

Please bring a ready to eat dish to share, as well as your own non alcoholic beverage.



\$20 per ticket

Pottawatomie Park, 8 North Avenue, St Charles



Email questions to Mickey Koziol: RMKoziol@aol.com

Tickets goes on sale Sunday, June 30th, after Sunday Service.

Email questions to Mickey Koziol: RMKoziol@aol.com

Please click here to go to the Paddleboat Cruise website.

Backpack Drive



All Donations Due Sunday, July 14th

School will be soon out for the summer, but we are already planning for the fall!

The Backpack Drive is a great opportunity for us to meet a real, timely, and important need in our community by equipping kids for a great start to the school year. Each backpack we collect will be distributed to students who need them at our local partner schools.

Consider donating NEW, large and heavy duty backpacks for middle and high schoolers!

Here is how you can help:

- Purchase/Collect new backpacks from your friends, family, and coworkers and drop them off right outside the Church Office.
- Purchase gift cards (Visa/MasterCard or from Target, Walmart or Meijers.).
- Write a check (to: Unity of Fox Valley/Memo: Backpack Drive) or donate cash.
 All will be collected and donated to the school to purchase more backpacks!

Please contact Kathleen in the Church Office for more info: churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org

Please click here for the Backpack Drive website.

Prayer Chaplain Ministry

Fresh and alive and gay and young.

June is a love song, sweetly sung..." **

** Lyrics from Rodgers & Hammerstein's musical, Carousel



June, the start of *Summer*, begins a magical time of the year - graduations, weddings, vacations; outdoor concerts; fun festivals; a season for fulfillment of hopes, dreams and plans made during the months of late fall, seemingly endless wintertime, and, this year, a seesaw spring. However, as *Unitics*, we know that we can live in the "summer season" all year, all life, long - through our spiritual practice of *prayer and meditation*!

Speaking of celebrations and prayer, are you looking for an inspirational gift to present to a graduate this June? Or maybe you want to frame a memorable prayer for a newly married couple or as a gift for a new baby. I came across this Unity prayer by Martha Smock, although written decades ago, that fits these purposes in current times. I envision it as a prayer for all seasons and for any situation; a healing prayer and a prayer of empowerment!

It's the prayer I am praying for you, right here, right now!

I trust the spirit of God in you to direct your steps and to make plain your way. I place you lovingly in God's care and keeping with the faith that out of God's infinite love your every need is supplied.

I see you as God's child, well, whole, and strong, renewed in mind and body.

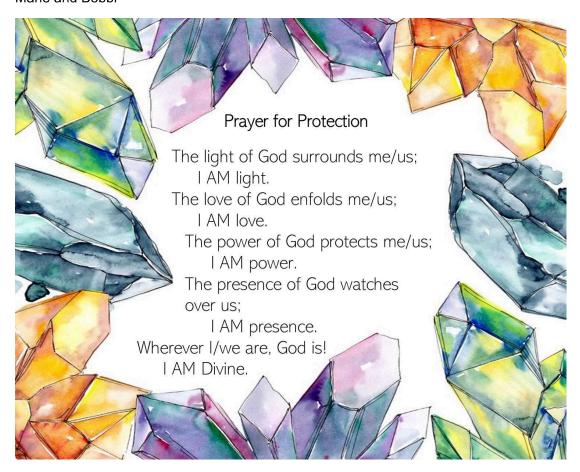
I trust God's presence to be with you in all things; I trust God's wisdom to guide you. I rejoice in your God-given intelligence and good judgement.

I see you as God sees you, growing and unfolding through every experience. I keep faith in the wonderful capacity in you that enables you to meet life victoriously. God bless you, child of God, in every needed way, this day and every day...

Our Prayer Chaplains, Pam Skaar Verner, Denise Hage, Wanda Faye Holmes, Bobbi Severson, and Marie Manella are here to support you, a treasured member 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.

May you have a joyous June!!!



Volunteer Ministry



WOW! Already June!! It is hard to believe, maybe because April and May were so busy with many Volunteer opportunities, and you all came forth!! So here are some much deserved shout outs!!

THE GARAGE SALE was a huge success and although we didn't quite reach our goal of \$5,000 it certainly wasn't for lack of trying. We had great contributions with many varied offerings! We are still getting a final dollar amount, but at this point it stands at almost \$2700 with expenses deducted. More than we made two years ago in addition to meeting and reaching out to more people in our neighborhood and community at large!

We can't begin to thank our many volunteers enough that stepped up and helped get the job done from signage, pricing, setting up, working Friday and Saturday and the inevitable cleanup and putting everything back in place!! It really was a team effort, led by Sharon Mays, Marcie Lucas, (and me). So, a very special **Thank You** to the following who gave willingly of their time & talent to make this all happen! We were amazed and so very grateful for everyone that stepped up. It is kind of like the Academy Awards, you hope you don't forget someone important as you thank everyone!!

SO THANK YOU TO THESE WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS: Susan Korpan, Rev. Mike Korpan, Kathleen Malick, Laura Schreiner, Abby Schreiner (and her friend), Marie and John Manella, Sharon & Michael Mays, Mickey Kozoil, Beth Johnson, Denise Hage, Lynette Newan, JoAnne Vanthournout, Joey Nelson, Bob Anthony, Alex Christensen, Darryl, Judy DeVoe, Rose Maxson, Rev. Jan Little, Kitty Karn, Susan Renard, Donna Beichel, Carl & Lucy Kleimer, Susan McQuaid, Pam O'Brien, Pam Skaar, Nate, Mary & Mike Nowroozi, Dawn Staszak, Sami Fletcher, Victoria Staszak, Kevin Scobey, Carl Strang, Warren Wakerlin. And Marcie Lucas, with your extra special helpers; your husband Mike, son Dave, and friend Cindy. All of you gave willingly of your time so that UFV could benefit. We are most grateful!!

SPECIAL EVENT THANK YOU(S):

Thank you, Wanda Faye, Lucy & Carl, Mary Waters, Deb, Marie, Laura Schreiner, Pam O'Brien, and of course our <u>Kitchen team</u>, Bob and Alex, and everyone else that brought yummy food for our annual <u>Taco Sunday</u> in celebration of Cinco De Mayo. This is always a fun time with exceptional yummy food!!

Daniel Nahmod was in the building!! We sang, we laughed, and maybe a few of us cried. Thank you to our ticket sellers, (Mickey, Sharon, JoAnne, & Bonnie), and thank you to everyone that supported this event by coming to his workshop and/or the concert! Many new faces enjoyed this event. Thanks to everyone that brought a friend!!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

<u>Paddleboat Cruise</u> Ticket Sales will begin Sunday, June 30th. We will need someone to sell tickets before and after each service leading up to this event on Wednesday, July 24th. It's an eazy-peezy job and If we get 4 volunteers, you should only have to be

available one Sunday. Contact me, (<u>bsever4785@gmail.com</u>) and let me know the Sunday you would like to help out and I will work up a schedule.

Someone asked me the other day if we have an Event Coordinator. My response, "well not exactly by that name or maybe it is me since I coordinate the volunteers." As I pondered this question, I came to this conclusion, most of the events that have been taking place have been suggested by the <u>Board of Trustees</u> who are always looking for ways to bring community to us and us out into the community. Or, in the case of Joey, who decided that <u>Game Night</u> needed to be revised and took that project on himself. Or by Mickey, who added an hour of <u>Bingo</u> to game night and is supporting that event. Or by Wanda Faye, who had the idea of <u>Taco Sunday</u> and has been coordinating that event for the last few years. So. . . . I guess what I am getting at here is that we all can be an event coordinator if we choose to be. If you have a fun idea or a way that we can attract other people in our community to Unity of Fox Valley, then please bring it forth and we will give you all the support you need in the way of volunteers to make it happen. However if someone would like to step up and be the Event Coordinator, then we would welcome you with open arms!!!

AND ALONG THAT LINE.... We still need an <u>Outreach Coordinator</u>. Kathleen has been graciously filling in, but we would really like to have someone take this over. Please contact me, <u>bsever4785@gmail.com</u>, should that speak to your heart!!

AND IN CONCLUSION...

As I think back over these past few months and how busy they have been with the garage sale, a memorial, extra special feasts, I am most grateful you, our volunteers, and how you always step up in big and little ways to lend support be it physical or emotional!! In honor of baseball season, **you knocked it out of the park!!**

"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, confusion into clarity. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow" Melodie Beattie

In gratitude and blessings!!
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:

Please click <u>here</u> 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 that 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: 7/2 & 16

Soup Sunday: 7/7

Backpack Drive Ends: 7/14
Bingo & Game Night: 7/20

Paddleboat Cruise: 7/24

Donate items from our Charity List Shop Now



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 <u>here</u> 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.

For the 1st time in the 10+ years I have worked here, I FINALLY took a full week's vacation! Sure, it didn't land in all one week (I took W & Th off from one week & M & Tu off the following week) but it *kinda* counts! I tried to schedule a full week's vacation a few years back, but the pandemic cancelled my plans.

We drove to visit my daughter, Ava in college. She is located in Savannah, GA. We had such a nice time! And a road trip with someone who truly is the most patient, loving, understanding & generous man makes the drive enjoyable! Ava visited with us right away! We visited her dorm room, and she showed us some of her classrooms. We then saw some sights, ate good food and really enjoyed the time together.



I'm more than blessed 💗

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 **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.

