

October 2024

Ministerial Musings



Here we are in October, a month that features a variety of holidays. The most popular among them being Halloween, which in many ways rivals Christmas especially as far as children are concerned.

Origins of Halloween trace back to early Celtic traditions and the celebration of Samhain. When Samhain festivals precisely began is difficult to say. It is referenced in ancient Irish literature written in the 9th century. However, its real origins probably were birthed by pagan customs that go back 900 to 1000 years earlier.

The history of beliefs and customs associated with the Samhain holiday and its ultimate evolution to present day Halloween is prolific. We have ghosts, goblins, skeletons, bats, spiders, monsters and so on. All of these have emerged throughout the centuries. Some have been spawned by spiritual theories, some by superstitions and all of them carry the label of being spooky or frightening.

The story of any of them might warrant a newsletter article; today I focus on one, Witches. Witches have an ancient history. One of the earliest written references to witches can be found in the Hebrew scriptures dated back at least as far as 700 BCE.

King Saul enlists the help of a witch to make a connection with Solomon who had passed and to predict the outcome of a battle.

Over the centuries in addition to being regarded as seers, other powers and characteristics, all of which were evil and ugly, became ascribed to witches and to innocent people who were falsely condemned as witches. In 1692 and 1693 more than 200 women and men were accused and tried for practicing witchcraft. Those convicted were either hung or drowned. Many of them actually were healers who dared to exercise forms of prayer practices.

There is this human tendency to fear, criticize, condemn and eliminate that and those which are different from our kind. There is even a stronger tendency to point a finger at others as the source of all our troubles and woes and all that is evil. After all, when something is wrong, it certainly cannot be our fault.

I grew up believing in witches who were portrayed as green skinned with boils, and who were beyond ugly beyond belief. They flew around on broomsticks and cast evil spells. They even tried to eat children; a myth even more preposterous than the myth of eating pets. There are so many stereotypes attached to witches that yet today; to call somebody a witch would be an insult.

The good news is that today most the stereotypes attached to witches have been debunked. Thanks to the arts and to the roles of witches played by the likes of Elizabeth Montgomery, Kim Novak and Jack Lemmon, witches in fact are attractive and really as normal as we mortals for the most part. The characters in Harry Potter are even better; they are gifted. Black cats are regal and incredibly adorable.

Today there is Wicca, a relatively modern and diverse pursuit of spirituality centered around both a God and Goddess. They have one rule: "Harm none and do as you will." Wiccan rituals consist of meditation, movement, music and prayer. Like the essence of most religious movements, wiccans quest is the betterment of self and the world.

It took a very long time for a new consciousness to enfold around witches and overcome prejudices based on fear and the insecurities of others. There are other institutions such as slavery and the inequality of women in the world that remain steadfast in resisting change. The good news is that the crumbling of such mentalities is inevitable. How fast changes can be realized may not be predictable but certainly can be influenced.

We can fight battles with bullets. We can fight by weaponizing our fears. Or we can become witches and cast spells of love and peace through prayer. We can determine witch way is up.

Peace,

Rev. Mike

revmike@unityoffoxvalley.org

Youth Education for a Younger Crowd

This October, we are celebrating the motivating power of *Zeal*, symbolized by the vibrant fall color of **orange**. We associate this power with *Simon the Zealot*, a disciple of Jesus who embraced enthusiasm and dedication. Our youth will explore how Zeal can be a driving force in achieving their deepest desires and fostering an eager connection with their innate Spirit. Also, we will take time to reflect on the metaphysical meanings of the Halloween symbols, such as the light in the Jack-o-Lantern, which represents the Christ Light within each one of us, and how it can enhance our understanding of the spiritual significance of the night before All Saint's Day.

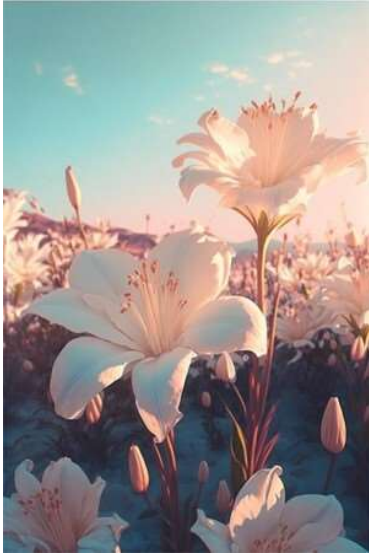
On Sunday, October 6, our youth will be presenting their annual **Intergenerational Service**, *High Five*, during the 10 am Service. The youth will lead parts of the service and share the importance of the Five Unity Principles, explaining how they incorporate these principles in their lives to foster harmony and love. We encourage the youth to please attend practice on Saturday, October 5, at 9 am. Any questions or concerns, please contact me at marynowroozi@comcast.net

Please join us for our annual "**Tail Gate Trick or Treat**" after service on Sunday, October 27. We encourage everyone to come dressed in costume and to please bring wrapped treats (no nut products) to hand out to our youth in the parking lot. Instead of saying "Trick or Treat," our youth will use "Unity Wing Words" such as "love", "joy," or "peace." Your treats would be lovingly appreciated, and we are looking forward to this "spooktacular" family event. All are welcome!



With deep gratitude,
Ms. Mary, LUT, CSE
marynowroozi@comcast.net

Tom Zwitter Memorial



Memorial Service for Thomas Matthew Zwitter

Tom Zwitter, a long-time member of Unity of Fox Valley, passed away in August. Even though he had moved away he was deeply involved here at our spiritual home, and we want to remember his beautiful energy.

Please join us as we remember and celebrate Tom.

A Memorial Service will take place on Wednesday, October 16th at 7pm at Unity of Fox Valley.

Prayer Chaplain Ministry

Fall has officially arrived and October is now commencing! Halloween paraphernalia has been showcased in stores since late August with Christmas decor following closely behind. We have definitely entered the final lap of 2024.

The newsletter themes explored here in August & September were *Faith* and *Hope*. In these Orwellian times we're experiencing, I'm suggesting the next step to contemplate is *Action*. To quote *The Letter of James*, 2:17 in the NRSV of the New Testament: "So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead."



Our fifth Unity Principle, "... We must also live the Truth we know" calls us to act on our beliefs. (For those of you who want a refresher on the Five Unity Principles, please click [here](#).)

Some time ago I came across an abbreviated version of these classic 5 Principles (for which I, remorsefully, did not record a source):

1. **God is;**
2. **I am;**
3. **I can;**
4. **I pray;**
5. **I live it.**

Unity's emphasis on Practical Christianity encourages us to "walk our talk," to keep practicing what we believe, and to pick ourselves up when we "fall" (without judgement) - essentially, to live our lives in God consciousness. And how do we begin? We go back to *God is; I am; I can;* and *I pray!* We practice *Prayer and Meditation!*

As we embark on the last stretch of this year, I invite you to consider the idea that an *Action* you can contemplate is looking into the [Prayer Chaplain Ministry](#).

The basic requirements to be a Prayer Chaplain are: that you be a current Unity of Fox Valley member; demonstrate an understanding of Unity principles; have a willingness to pray with others; and have taken a prayer class. No former experience in praying with others is necessary.

"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." - Matthew 25:40

Our Prayer Chaplains - Pam Verner Skaar, Denise Hage, Wanda Faye Holmes, Bobbi Severson, and Marie Manella - are here to support you 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 that you have a prayerful, *active* October!

Blessings,
Marie and Bobbi

An Affirmation for Action:

Sweet Spirit, I affirm that my words and actions be one in unity with my heart.
I am grateful for my many blessings.

Sacred prayers used by the Unity Prayer Ministry this October...

Inner Peace - Peace. Peace. Peace is my true nature.

Guidance - Centered in divine wisdom, I trust my inner knowing.

Healing - I celebrate ever-flowing vitality in my body and my life.

Prosperity - My mind is one with God-mind, in which everything is possible.

World Peace - Centered in Christ consciousness, I am the light of the world.

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**

**ONLINE A Course in
Miracles**



Every Thursday, 10:30 am

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

Name Tag Sunday

**NAME TAG
SUNDAY!**



Intergenerational Service



**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.

1st Sunday of the Month

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

YOUTH EDUCATION INTERGENERATIONAL SERVICE



HIGH FIVE

**Sunday, October 6th,
10 am Service**

*Please join our youth at their
Intergenerational Service, High Five!*

They will lead portions of the service and share the significance of the Five Unity Principles, explaining how they apply these principles in their lives to create a harmonious and loving experience. We encourage all youth to attend practice on Sunday, September 29, during class time and on Saturday, October 5, at 9 am. Your youths' participation would be greatly appreciated to be of loving service to our Unity family.



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

THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL ON THIS DAY!

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

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

Online Sunday Bulletin

Our Sunday Bulletins are 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.



Soup Sunday



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**



**Please sign up for Sunday, October 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, October 11th, 7pm

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

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

This Service will not be Live Streamed.

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.

Women's Group



Sunday, October 13th, Noon

“We are a heart-based circle of women committed to empower, explore, and expand our spirituality both socially and in service to others. We do so in consciousness, while affirming Divine Presence inherent within ourselves.”

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

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

Early Bird Bingo

Game Night

A red-bordered poster for 'Early Bird BINGO'. The word 'BINGO' is written vertically in large, bold letters, each inside a colored circle: B (purple), I (green), N (yellow), G (red), O (blue). The text 'Early Bird BINGO' is at the top. Below it, it says '3rd Saturday of the month. 6pm Now thru summer!'. To the right, it says 'Right before' above a small 'GAME NIGHT!' logo. Below that, it says 'Come early for your chance to yell 'BINGO!' and pick a prize from the Winner's Table. Warm up with Bingo then stay for Board Games with friends!'. A QR code is present, with the text 'Another activity of your interest brought to you by your Board.' below it. At the bottom, it says 'Please contact Mickey Koziol with any questions: mickey1catahoula2@hotmail.com'.

**3rd Saturday of the month,
6pm, Dining Room**

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

Please click [here](#) for the Early Bird Bingo & Game Night website.

Fun Fall Outing



**3rd Saturday of the month,
7pm, 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 information, please contact
Joey Nelson: tyloredurden@aol.com**

Unity of Fox Valley

Fun Fall Outing

ABBEY FARMS

2855 HART RD. AURORA

SATURDAY
4-10PM

OCTOBER 26



TICKETS: \$20/EACH

LIMITED TICKETS: FIRST
COME FIRST SERVED.

TICKET SALES START
OCTOBER 6TH

CASH OR CHECK ONLY

MICKEY KOZIOL:
RMKOZIOL@AOL.COM



8 ACRE CORN MAZE

HAY RIDES



21 ACTIVITIES INCLUDED IN ADMISSION

Tickets goes on sale Sunday, October 6th, after Sunday Service.

Email questions to Mickey Koziol: RMKoziol@aol.com

Please click [here](#) to go to the Fun Fall Outing website.

Tailgate Trick or Treat



TRUNK OR TREAT

SUNDAY, OCT. 27TH
11: AM, PARKING LOT

.....
UNITY OF FOX VALLEY
230 WEBSTER STREET,
BATAVIA, IL

COME DRESSED IN COSTUME
AND JOIN US FOR HALLOWEEN FUN!

Registration is due no later than *Wednesday, October 23rd*
by contacting Mary at marynowroozi@comcast.net with the exact
number of youths attending. On *Thursday, October 24th*, an email
will be sent out to inform everyone the number of children
participating to determine how many treats each family
will need to bring. Please bring only ***store-bought, wrapped***
(no peanut/tree nut) treats!

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



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

Please click [here](#) for the Tailgate Trick or Treat webpage.

Volunteer Ministry

GRATEFUL!!!

THANKS TO ALL that made our **Annual Picnic** happen to close out our summer feast!!

Music was simple and elegant, speakers were inspiring, weather was perfect, food was plentiful, and we are blessed!!



We couldn't do this picnic without the planning, prep, and schlep!! So, a special thanks to Deb McQuaid, Marie Manella for the shopping, the Men's group, led by Bob Anthony & Alex Christensen, for the grilling & hauling, thanks to Rev. Jan Little, Mary McGinty, & Joey Nelson for the early arrival to set up tables! Also, for those that helped with the cleanup!!

THE **DECORATING** angels are at work again from upstairs to downstairs and all around the church!! Imagine how bare we would look if we didn't have these dedicated, talented ladies!!

We can thank Sharon Mays, JoAnne Walker, Susan Wohl and Marie Manella!! So, give them a shout out or a hug the next time you see them!!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY!!

PLANNING AHEAD because it will be here before we know it!! We need a person or two, that will head up the **THANKSGIVING FEAST** this year!! Again, these special feasts take some planning and organization to make it all happen. It's not overwhelming, so if you can help us out, please email me (bsever4785@gmail.com) if interested!!

WITH FALL APPROACHING we can always use help on the **Landscape Committee**!! Feel free to contact Sharon Mays (sharon_mays@comcast.net) if you have some hours to spare!

WHAT VOLUNTEERING MEANS TO ME:

As shared by Pamela O'Brien, *"I find a sense of community and joy when I volunteer
Teamwork don't seem like work"*

Blessings and Grace to one and all!!

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:

- Toaster. Nothing special. Just a white 2 slice toaster.
- Cardboard Cactus. Please click [here](#) for a photo.

CURRENT REQUESTS:

- Old denim jeans. Size isn't a factor.

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**

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.



At the end of September marks two things: Time to start harvesting my pumpkins and my work anniversary. This past September I celebrated 11 years here at Unity of Fox Valley. I am so thankful for my years here.

**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.

