



May 2025

Ministerial Musings

May Day



May Day, sometimes referenced as Mayday, has multiple meanings and connotations. The first of which has ancient origins as a European festival marking the beginning of summer. It usually was celebrated on May 1st. Festivities usually were quite extensive featuring such traditions as gathering wildflowers and green branches, crowning a May Queen, setting up a Maypole and extensive bonfires the night before. All in all it served to elevate awareness to the blessings of new life.

Next is International Workers Day also known as May Day. It commemorates the late 19th-century labor movement and the struggle for workers' rights, particularly the eight-hour workday. It was established in 1889 by the Second International, a socialist organization to honor the Haymarket Affair in Chicago. Unlike Labor Day, due to its origin it has a darker tone attached to it due to the incident in Chicago.



The Haymarket Affair in Chicago was a violent confrontation in Chicago between protesters and police. It resulted in the deaths of both several police and protesters. Eight labor leaders were arrested, tried and convicted despite a lack of evidence linking them to the violence. Four of them were executed, one committed suicide and the other three eventually were pardoned by the governor.

The remaining reference to May Day is to sound an alarm. It takes the form of being sounded three times: "May Day, May Day, May Day!" It basically is an audible SOS



commonly used in both aviation and marine circumstances but not exclusively.

A May Day call may often be sent out via radio but again not exclusively. It modern times it may also be sent out by a mobile phone or even a shout depending upon the emergency situation.

It also can become sustained taking the form of protests in response to perceived threats to human life. Such was the case of the civil rights protests during the civil rights movement in the 60's and 70's as well as the Black Lives Matter movement in more recent years. The protests to the Viet Nam War also might be categorized as a May Day alarm although there is no evidence of that term ever having been used back then. In these instances like all May Day alerts, they are calls to action and are very similar to recent protests in our nation. Are protesters responding to emergencies? Perhaps. To crises? Absolutely.

As radically different as the three May Days may be, they all are calls to action. Ancient festivals are calls not just to recognize but to be grateful and celebrate the gifts of summer and the plush abundance that it brings. May Day honoring the contributions of laborers calls us to be mindful that fairness and appreciation is due to everyone. May Day alerts call us to be responsive and not passive when the need arises. All three contribute to preventing, mitigating and dealing with chaos not only socially but also individually. All three are about "Mind-Fulness" in our multi-faceted lives.

Rev Mike

revmike@unityoffoxvalley.org

Notes from the Board

- Our monthly Board meeting April 14 included approval of usual reports and in-depth conversation about expenses more than income and our upcoming BBQ drive thru fundraiser and how to better promote it.
- The large expense of fire sprinkler repair is still in the search for a better price.
- We reviewed activities proceeding because of most interest. CPR/First Aid will be thru the Batavia Fire Department with a date tbd from times best for those who showed interest. Cost is \$30 a person and announcement will be made for others to also take the class. Summer concerts will be coordinated to give Unity time to gather together. Lizzardo Museum and Abbey Farms in fall are also on the agenda.
- Marketing will give the Board a presentation in the near future on Welcome packet revisions, handouts for the BBQ fundraiser, and letters to go to new residents.

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

Youth Education for a Younger Crowd

Each year, on the first day of May, our youth joyfully celebrate May Day with music, dance, and our beloved Twelve Powers May Pole, that is wrapped in twelve brilliant ribbons – each symbolizing one of the Twelve Powers. This tradition connects us to the wisdom and spiritual understanding of Jesus' Twelve Disciples and is associated with a Power for each month of the year.



May Day has been celebrated for centuries with roots in ancient spring festivals like the Roman Floralia and the Celtic Beltane, both honoring renewal, growth and the changing of the seasons. This year, in addition to our festivities, our youth will learn about these early traditions and how May Day has evolved over time.

Weather permitting, we will carry on our tradition outdoors on the church lawn, celebrating the beauty of spring with joy and gratitude. If the weather doesn't cooperate, we have plenty of space in the Teen area to hold the festivities indoors, ensuring it remains just as beautiful and uplifting.



Last month, several of our teens, along with their sponsors, Dawn, Missy, and Nate, attended the **Teen Spring Retreat** for a weekend in Elkhorn, WI. We appreciate Laura

who assisted by helping drive some of the teens up to the campsite and then back home after the retreat. On the first day, they all hung around for a Unity of Fox Valley group photo as you see included in this article. Once back home, everyone shared how they thoroughly enjoyed their time with fellow teens from other Great Lakes Regions churches and developed meaningful connections. They also mentioned how they all collaborated, having uplifted spiritual experiences, whether it was sharing a meal, conversing during their Spirit group meetings, or dancing away at Saturday night's Teen Dance. We appreciate our sponsors and all the loving support from you, our church family, so that our teens can have this worthwhile opportunity to greatly enhance their spiritual growth.

This Mother's Day, we will honor the mother figures in our lives – not just for their love and care, but also for the divine qualities they embody. All mother figures reflect God's loving presence through their wisdom, strength, and endless compassion, and through their acts of kindness, they bless and enrich our lives in so many ways. As we celebrate our mothers, we will encourage our youth to appreciate the sacred gift of the divine love that flows through all who nurture, uplift, and inspire us.

Happy Mother's Day!

In gratitude and many blessings,

Ms. Mary, LUT, CSE

marynowroozi@comcast.net

Prayer Chaplain Ministry



The Daily Word on May 1st is *Happiness* and the affirmation is *Happiness fills my soul!* My heart is full of happiness and joy as I write this on Easter Sunday evening. I spent a part of this day at a baby shower, celebrating the lovingly anticipated birth of my first grandchild's child. Easter's message personified - the dawning of hope and ... new life.

As I have expressed in previous May Newsletters, this is my favorite month - *spring green* leaves budding on the trees; lilacs, bluebells, lilies of the valley, iris, and peonies, to name a few, blooming soon; temperatures becoming consistently warmer; Mother's Day rapidly approaching; and for those of you with school age children, summer vacation just around the corner. It's a month of "rebirth, rejuvenation, renewal, resurrection and regrowth."

During these times that are "trying 'many of our' souls" I invite you to hold the light and energy of Easter in your heart, in your consciousness - "*A Reason to Believe in Life*," a phrase I'm co-opting from Rev. Teresa Burton's April 20th essay in the 2025 Lenten booklet, "In the Garden." Your reason to "believe in life" is what brings you joy; fills your body, mind, spirit, and soul with peace; enlivens your being; brings a smile to your face...

As St. Paul wrote in Philippians 4:8:

*Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or
praiseworthy-think about such things.*

Your Prayer Chaplains - Wanda Faye Holmes, Denise Hage, Pam Skaar, Mary Nowroozi, Bobbi Severson and Marie Manella - are committed to making periodic Caring Calls to support you, our spiritual family, with your prayer needs. There is at least one prayer chaplain available after service each Sunday, too. 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. If you have not been receiving prayer calls and want to start now, please contact the church office at 630-879-1115 or send an email to churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org and a PC will be in touch.

Happy May Day, Cinco de Mayo, and Mother's Day!

Blessings and hugs,
Marie and Bobbi

My adaptation of a prayer by Martha Smock, found in the Unity booklet, *Messages We Need to Hear*. I invite you to pray/affirm this for yourself or adapt it as a prayer for others.

I trust Spirit (God) within and all around me to direct my steps and make plain my way.

I know I am lovingly held in Spirit's care and keeping, with the faith that out of this infinite love my every need is supplied.

As co-creator with the Divine Creator, I am well, whole, and strong, renewed in mind and body.

I know Spirit's presence is within and all around me, always and in all ways. I trust this wisdom to guide me. I rejoice in my inherent intelligence and good judgement.

I know me as I Am, growing and enfolding through every experience. I keep faith in the wonderful capacity within me that enables me to meet life victoriously. I am blessed in every needed way, this day and every day.

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

Inner Peace - I am calm, centered in divine peace.

Understanding - I am a radiating center of light and understanding.

Healing - Claiming divine life, I heal.

Prosperity - With a consciousness of plenty, I prosper.

World Harmony - I am a presence of love in the world.

Coffee & Tea with Myrtle & Me



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

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.

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.

Name Tag Sunday



1st Sunday of the Month

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

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.



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.

Annual Taco Bar



7TH ANNUAL TACO Bar

SUNDAY MAY 4TH,
AFTER THE SERVICE

WELCOME TO OUR ANNUAL UFV TACO Bar!



ALL are INVITED TO JOIN US IN
FELLOWSHIP, FOOD and FUN.
We LOOK FORWARD TO seeing you there

PLEASE CONTACT WANDA FAYE TO VOLUNTEER TO BRING AN ITEM
OR WITH ANY QUESTIONS: geminiangoddess2000@yahoo.com OR 586-604-6043.



Items Needed:

- Carnitas:
- Seasoned ground beef:
- Meat:
- Shredded Chicken:
- Soy Chorizo (vegan/vegetarian):
- Hard taco shells:
- Guacamole & chips:
- Gluten Free cornbread:
- Hard taco shells (24), lg salsa & lg bag of corn chips:
- Shredded Monterey Jack cheese & canned diced tomatoes:

- White rice:
- Black beans (vegan/vegetarian friendly):
- Pinto beans (vegan/vegetarian friendly):
- Flour tortilla shells:
- Shredded lettuce:
- Mexican cheese blend:
- Fresh diced tomatoes:
- Cilantro:
- Diced onions:
- Salsa:
- Sour cream:
- Desserts:

Please contact Wanda Faye for an updated list of items needed or for more information: geminiangoddess2000@yahoo.com or 586-604-6043

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

Women's Group

Sunday, May 4th, Noon

***“The Force is with us”
by Deb McQuaid.”***



“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.”

Any questions? Please contact Bobbi Severson, bsever4785@gmail.com

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

Healing & Wholeness Service



HEALING AND WHOLENESS SERVICE

Friday, May 9th, 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](#).

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**

Saturday, May 17th, 7pm

Joey Nelson tyloredurden@aol.com

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

BBQ Fundraiser



**Unity of Fox Valley will be offering
a Fay's BBQ Drive Thru Fundraiser.**

You will have a choice of the following:

- 2 pc. Pork Chop Dinner,
- 2 pc. Chicken Dinner
- Combo Dinner
(1pc pork chop and 1 pc chicken).

*Each meal includes
baked beans, coleslaw,
apple sauce and
a Hawaiian roll.*

\$19 in Advance (Sundays 11:30-noon in May)
or \$20 at the Drive Thru

Fay's scrumptious dinner is known in all nearby
counties from their time at the Sandwich Fair.



230 Webster Street, Batavia, IL
BACK PARKING LOT ~ Enter in Van Buren

Please contact Mickey Koziol with any questions: RMKoziol@aol.com



Please contact Mickey Koziol with any questions: RMKoziol@aol.com

Please click [here](#) for the BBQ Fundraiser page.

Soup Sunday



Please sign up for Sunday, June 1st
No Soup Sunday in May due to the Annual Taco Bar!

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

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

Volunteer Ministry



SHOUT OUT!!

Thank you to Lucy and Carl and everyone that assisted them in the kitchen for another successful EASTER FEAST!! I know it is a lot of work, but with dedication and great help, this annual event is much appreciated. Thank you, Bob and Alex, for all the cleanup that you do after our normal Sundays and especially these special events which always generates more work!! So thank you again to all of you!!

Have you noticed anything different about the East side of the lawn by Kathleen's Cut Flower Garden?? **Thanks** to John Manella's muscles and hard work, the Children's garden has been dismantled and leveled off. We will plant grass for easier maintenance and mowing this summer. This decision was made sense we really didn't have volunteers to maintain this little garden.

THANK YOU to Kitty and the Music Team for the beautiful Lenten and Easter music!! Good Friday was reflective and beautiful, and Easter was uplifting and inspiring!! We are so blessed by the dedication and talent of our Music Team.

I hear the UNITEENS had a fun and reflective retreat! **Thanks** to Mary, Dawn, Missy, Nate, and Laura for encouraging and supporting our teens in this retreat!!

Thank you to Susan Wohl and her Daughter-in-law, Jolie for the great presentation to the Women's Group in April. Jolie is a Travel Consultant and through slides and her

personal knowledge and experience took us to faraway places through slides and her own stories. We gained a wealth of knowledge for future fun, exotic, and exciting travel ideas.

HOW CAN I HELP?? LET ME COUNT THE WAYS!!

1) The **Landscape Committee** will begin Spring cleaning; some areas have already been started (thanks Jim Skaar for cleanup around the West side of the shed!!)

Again, anyone that would like to be in the sunshine and get some exercise, the team can always use additional help!! Contact Sharon Mays at sharon_mays@comcast.com and I know she will be happy to find a Zone for you!!

2) PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING!! The **Greeter Team** still needs more volunteers to welcome and greet our congregants and guests. No previous experience necessary, just a desire to meet people and be the first voice they hear as they come in the door!! Contact Bobbi for more info and a walk through of what being a greeter entails!! bsever4785@gmail.com

3) **THE BBQ FUNDRAISER** coming up on May 21st!! Contact Mickey Koziol, RMKoziol@aol.com, I know she will appreciate it and find a way that you can help!! You can also help by getting the word out to family, friends, neighbors and strangers! Help us make this a successful fundraising event!!

4) **CAFE CLEANUP** help is always needed in the kitchen after our Sunday social gathering. Please consider helping for just a short time so that it doesn't always fall on Bob, Alex, Joey, and a few other regulars that I always see lending a hand!!

5) **THE WOMEN'S GROUP** continues to thrive, and we are most happy about that. We are looking for someone to lead this fun group of ladies. It was always Laura and Bobbi's intent to get it started and then hand it off to another creative lady (or ladies) to lead us on more exciting adventures and fellowship!! Contact Laura or Bobbi if this appeals to your heart!! LauraSchreiner@hotmail.com or bsever4785@gmail.com

IN CONCLUSION:

***"FEAR IS USELESS, FAITH IS NECESSARY, LOVE IS EVERYTHING"
(MARTIN SHEEN AS QUOTED IN THE BOOK, WHAT'S NEXT).***

So, as we move forward this month, let's remember this quote when we are bombarded by what is happening in our World at this moment in time. Stop, breathe, and spread love (not fear) whenever and wherever you can!!

In Love and Blessings!

Aurora Pride Parade



Sunday, June 8th, Noon-2pm

Unity of Fox Valley is marching this year!

Celebrate love, equality, and diversity at the 6th annual Aurora Pride Parade!

Expect a day filled with colorful floats, incredible performances, and an amazing sense of community. Aurora Pride, founded in 2019, is a 501c3 organization whose mission is to promote LGBTQ+ acceptance and community in Aurora, IL.

Pride parades, which are part of LGBTQ+ Pride Month, are held to celebrate the social and self-acceptance, achievements, and legal rights of the LGBTQ+ community, while also serving as a reminder of the ongoing need for equality and justice.

If you want to march with us, please contact
Dawn Staszak: Dawn_311@yahoo.com

Unity of Fox Valley, 230 Webster Street, Batavia unityoffoxvalley.org
Find more information and parade route here: www.aurorapride.org



If you want to march with us, please contact Dawn Staszak:
Dawn_311@yahoo.com

More information and parade route here: <https://www.aurorapride.org/>

Please click [here](#) for the UFV Aurora Pride Parade page.

Housekeeping

NEW HOUSEKEEPING SCHEDULE!

Fridays, 11-2pm

The cleaning crew will have priority
of the church during this time.



Lawn Mowing



NEW LAWN MOWING SCHEDULE!

Wednesdays, 8am

The lawn crew will have priority
of the church grounds during this time.

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:

- A small desk for the small landing just inside the parking lot at Unity. We will have a welcome area for

new visitors. Contact
RMKoziol@aol.com 4/21/25

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.

In the next weeks Sue will be bring samples of fragrances for anyone to test that heal and clean among others.

For more info or questions on the products, please contact Sue Rolison:
sue.rolison@comcast.net

Do you need us to order anything? Place your order with Kathleen in the Church Office by the 12th of each month: 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](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 doing of our Business
Manager, Kathleen Malick.*

My route to work is filled with open sky and lots of farmland. During this very cloudy day, there was this opening, but it wasn't really organically shaped but square... a WINDOW IN THE SKY! I had to pull over and take a picture of this marvel!

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.

