

December 2025

Ministerial Musings



"Away in a Manger" is a popular Christmas carol known and sung by most of the Christian world. It tells the story of the Nativity. The first two stanzas were first published anonymously in 1885, with a third stanza added later.

Growing up in Catholicism we were forbidden to sing the carol because it was understood to have been written by Martin Luther. The ban on singing it had nothing to do with the lyrics which were entirely consistent with Catholic beliefs. It was a no-no simply because it was Protestant; that is, non-Catholic. Ironically, it is now thought to have been American in its origin. Of course, it still would have been banned because it still was not Catholic.

I never gave much thought to the title of the carol. Even now I assume the word, "Away," was intended to mean "far off," or "distant." Catholic or Protestant my interpretation would mean that God or the Christ was out of reach, somewhere out there and apart from us. According to the lyrics, "The little Lord Jesus lay asleep on the hay," while the stars in the sky looked down where He lay.

So, I have dared to make a slight modification to the title and apply a metaphysical interpretation that I believe is consistent with the gospel account. I have changed one

word in the title from "Away," to "A Way."

Jesus came into the world under very meager circumstances. Scripture tells us He was born in a stable and slept in a manger which was a feeding trough for the animals. Regardless of whether one views the gospel account as fact or fiction, it makes a very dramatic point. That is, whatever your origin, in spite of your worldly circumstances, there is "A WAY." In fact, perhaps greatness is realizable through our meagerness than through privilege.

Of course the argument is made that Jesus was able to create "A WAY," because he was the Son of God. Sadly, this is a perspective that has been oppressive for over 2,000 years. One cannot be certain what the intent was by the writer of the Gospel of Luke in telling the story of the birth of Jesus. I am certain though that if interpreted as a practical affirmation of everyone's unlimited potential, it speaks of a miracle that is a very real possibility for all of us. It is a perspective that is closely aligned with Unity's second principle. It is a perspective that elicits a profound meaning to Christmas; much more so than celebrating a birth of a deity somewhere "Away" 2000 years ago.

It is fascinating that the early Christian movement during the 1st century was called, The Way. Much of our existence is spent looking for "A Way" in response to virtually every life experience. It was a time when perhaps Christianity was the most unadulterated. Christians took to The Way to make sense of or to bring sense to their lives and to discover the Truth of their self-worth. Love was embraced as The Way.

This Christmas we are called to make things Merry by awakening in our mangers and finding "A Way." There is no finer gift that you can bring forth. I think that is what was in the heart of the Little Drummer Boy.

Rump bum bum bum

Rev Mike

revmike@unityoffoxvalley.org

Notes from the Board

At our November Board Meeting we approved October minutes and will wait until December to approve October Treasurer's report with November's when all information is completed (we met early in November in preparation for Annual meeting). We prepared for the Annual Meeting agenda.

We approved financial expenditures still involving an aging building (fuse box replaced by circuit breakers and downstairs sprinklers replaced) and have added future possibilities of expensive bulbs (or new projector).

We are keeping the fundraiser "Invest in Our Future" open until after Thanksgiving to hopefully reach our \$15,000 goal, while being very grateful for much needed donations

already received to maintain our Spiritual home.

Abbey Farms, a very successful outing, was attended by all the kids and Trunk or Treat also enthusiastically and well attended. Essential Oils have been inventoried and readied for Gift Sales. We have moved Lizzardo Museum to be a 2026 Activity. The BBQ Drive-thru Fundraiser provided income of \$1562 after expenses including reusable signs total helped by donations. May 26, 2026 has been booked for next time. Volunteers were amazing!

The Women's Retreat has been booked for September 26, 2026 at Lazareth Spirituality Center; Everyone was very enthusiastic this year about the facility and speaker, Ellen Schnur.

January 10 will be the yearly Board Retreat.

The next Board meeting will be December 8, in person.

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

Youth Education for a Younger Crowd

For the month of December, our youth will explore the **Power of Life**, drawing inspiration from the birth of Jesus as shared in the Gospel of Luke. This Power, symbolized by the color **Red** and represented by the **disciple Judas**, reminds us of the *lively* excitement and renewal that flows through all creation.

Speaking of excitement, our much-anticipated Christmas Pageant is coming soon on Sunday, December 14th, during the 10 am service. This year's theme, *With Love at Christmas*, draws from Unity's 2025 Advent Booklet, and it will highlight the timeless, divine message of divine love expressed through the Nativity story. Through reflection, creative expression, and joyful participation in our Christmas Pageant, the youth will explore how this narrative mirrors the awakening of the Christ Spirit within each one of us.

Rehearsals will take place during Sunday class on November 30th and December 7th, with a final practice on Saturday, December 13th, at 1 pm in the sanctuary. Youth and adults alike are welcome to take part in this heartwarming celebration. A sign-up sheet is available in the Youth Ed area. We look forward to a meaningful and joy-filled performance that captures the true essence of Christmas love and unity throughout the year.



Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 21st. That morning, our classes will come together for a fun ***Gingerbread House Decorating*** event, just in time for *Ugly Sweater Day* as well! Each youth will create their own one-of-a-kind gingerbread house masterpiece. We are gratefully accepting donations of candies, pretzels, cookies and other tasty decorations to help make this event extra sweet.

If you have questions about the Pageant or wish to contribute Gingerbread House supplies, please contact me at marynowroozi@comcast.net. Thank you!

May your holiday season be filled with peace, love, and joy!

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

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

Fundraiser

2025 Fundraiser

- Our expenses are more than our income
- Significant Insurance Increase
- Very Costly Sprinkler Repair
- Inflation (utilities...)
- Building Updates Needed



Unity of Fox Valley needs YOU!!

Goal \$15,000 ~ Raised \$12,515

Help move our home out of the red, into the Black!

There are several ways you can donate:

Cash or Check:

- Envelopes are provided for your convenience right outside the Conference Room.
- Cash – Please write your name on the envelope if you would like your donation to show on your Contribution Statement.
- Checks – Please write 'Investing in Our Future' in the Memo section of your check.
- You may deposit this right outside the Conference Room or mail it in (address is below-we do not recommend sending in cash).

Credit or Debit Card:

- Just click [here](#).
- 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.
 - Please write 'Investing in Our Future' in the Memo section of your check.

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

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

Prayer Chaplain Ministry



If every day were Christmas
how different life would be,
if not one day but all the year
were ruled by charity.
Had we the faith in miracles
a child has Christmas morn,
each day would be love's manger
and Christ would be reborn
in us again to change and heal
our outworn wars and ways -
had we a child's or shepherd's gift
for wonderment and praise!
Yet every day is Christmas
when we have learned to live
by love's law, learned not how to get
but only how to give;
and like a child can wonder
and like a child can pray,
but have the grown-up wisdom
to give ourselves away.

James Dillet Freeman, Unity's Poet Laureate

"*Life* is our forward, onward, and upward power, our ability to flow our way from good to good. By the power of *life*, we give life to our dreams and intentions. Our power of presence is the distinctive, unrepeatable expression of divine identity we each can be - the light of the world.

God is life; therefore, we live. We live knowing nothing could be missing, withheld, or broken about us. All that we could need for life, we already have within as whole spiritual beings." {1}

Advent invites us, each December, to contemplate the meaning of the birth of the Christ child - the birth of divinity - within each one of us. That is *Life*, the power that is the foundation of all our divine gifts!

*"Believe in yourself and your motives,
Believe in your strength and your worth,
Believe you were sent from God's fair firmament
To aid and enable the earth.
Believe in the Saviour within you -
Know Christ and your spirit are one.
Stand forth defined by your own noble pride,
And whatever you ask shall be done."* {2}

We respect that December can be a bittersweet time for many. If you feel in need of more support during these times we invite you to reach out to your Prayer Chaplains - Denise Hage, Wanda Faye Holmes, Marie Manella, Luna Ninò, Bobbi Severson and Pam Skaar.

We make periodic Caring Calls to support you, our spiritual family, with your prayer needs. And 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 Bobbi or Marie will be in touch.

Praying that December delivers delight, joy, and peaceful moments to your days...

Blessings,
Marie, author
Bobbi, editor

{1} Excerpted from the 2019 Unity Advent booklet

{2} Excerpted from a 1908 issue of Unity Magazine, republished at Truthunity.net

Dear God, guide us to move humanity forward with compassion, courage, and grace.
Help us use every word we speak and every action we take to build a more caring and
connected world.

Amen

Maria Shriver
#ivebeenthinking

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

Inner Peace - In every encounter, I radiate divine peace.

Love - Divine love is the origin of my creation. I create in love.

Faith - My faith is unshakable.

Prosperity - I am excited about the prosperity overflowing in my life right now!

World Unity - Through divine love, I live in unity with the world.

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

ONLINE Men's Group



**1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 7pm, ONLINE
December 2nd & 16th**

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.

Safe Space



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

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.

for a bit. We hope to see you! All are welcome!

Peace,
Mike

Please contact Warren Wakerlin with any questions & to request the login information: wwakerlin@aol.com

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

Please click [here](#) to for the Safe Space website

There will be NO Safe Space and A Course in Miracles on 12/25!

Name Tag Sunday

**NAME TAG
SUNDAY!**



1st Sunday of the Month

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

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](#) for the Sunday 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.



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](#) for the Youth Ministry website.

Soup Sunday



THE FIRST SUNDAY
OF EVERY MONTH

IT'S GONNA BE
DELICIOUS!!

SIGN UP TO BRING
YOUR YUMMY SOUP
TO SHARE!

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



Please sign up for Sunday, December 7th

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

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

Service of Remembrance



Service of Remembrance

Sunday,
December 7th, 10am

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



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

Healing & Wholeness Service



HEALING AND WHOLENESS SERVICE

Friday, December 12th, 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

This Service will not be Live Streamed.

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

Christmas Pageant

Youth Christmas Pageant



Sunday, December 14th, 10 am Service

The Christmas Season is here, and we are preparing for our annual Pageant, *With Love at Christmas*, inspired by Unity's 2025 Advent theme. This will be an uplifting retelling of the Nativity story with a metaphysical touch. Youth of all ages - and any adults who feel called - are invited to participate. Sign-up is in the Youth Ed area.

Rehearsals will be held during class on :

- Sundays, November 30th & December 7th, during our 10 am class
- Saturday, December 13th, at 1 pm in the Sanctuary

Your participation would be greatly appreciated.

Any questions, please contact Mary in the Youth Ed area
or at marynowroozi@comcast.net.



There will be NO Sunday School on this day!

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

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

Christmas Service

You are invited!



Christmas
SERVICE

Friday, December 19th, 7pm

This is a sacred service of inspirational music, scripture readings, carols and candle lighting as we joyously celebrate the coming of the light to a world waiting to be reborn.

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

Ugly Christmas Sweater

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



Sunday, December 21st

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



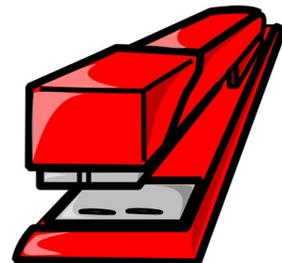
Please click [here](#) for the Christmas Fun website.

Office Closed

**The Church Office will be closed
December 24th - January 1st**

Subject to change without notice.

Please click [here](#) for the church calendar.



World Healing Meditation



Tuesday, December 31st, 6am

On December 31, 1986, noon Greenwich time, people around the world gathered to participate in the most comprehensive prayer activity – a planetary affirmation of peace and love, forgiveness and understanding in a simultaneous global prayer link to achieve a critical mass of spiritual consciousness.

Thus was the birth of World Healing Day or World Peace Day. Whatever the term or label, it was a new beginning in restoring this world. It was and continues to be shared moments of oneness to dissolve the sense of separation and return humankind to Godkind.

Today this positive consciousness is practiced and celebrated throughout the year with the accumulation of positive energy wafting over the planet and all its inhabitants on World Healing Day, when millions of people gather together as one to usher in a new era of peace and love on earth.

All gatherings begin at precisely the same moment all around the world, each group praying in their native languages, each praying in their own traditions. We all are affirming Peace and committing to do our part to heal the world.

This Service will not be Live Streamed.

Please contact Bobbi Severson (bsever4785@gmail.com) or Marie Manella (mleduc7@yahoo.com) with any questions or for more info.

Please click [here](#) to take you to the World Healing Meditation website.

Volunteer Ministry



As we finish off this year, we can look back and be proud of our many volunteer accomplishments. We sometimes forget how important all of our Sacred Service Ministries are. They may not seem like much, but when we look at the big picture and the year in review, ALL OF YOU did amazing things. Just to name a few; our CASA gift giving, our Fundraisers, Major Building Projects, Landscaping, Greeters, our beautiful Music Team, not to mention our Special Feasts and our Sunday Cafe. So we are beyond grateful this Holy Season for YOU and all that you do to support our church family!!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

- WE REALLY, REALLY NEED SUNDAY **GREETERS**
 - MARK YOUR CALENDAR **JAN 4TH, CHRISTMAS UNDECORATING**
 - EXTRA GREETERS FOR THE **CHRISTMAS SERVICE** on the 19TH
-

My prayer for you this Christmas is for peace, love and joy in your homes and in your hearts. May the love that you feel during this Holy Season flow out into the world all year long. May we all spread the peace that our World needs right now to heal and to reflect the true meaning of Christmas and of life. Amen

Bobbi
bsever4785@gmail.com

Click [here](#) for the Volunteer Ministry website.

Women's Group



There will be NO Women's Group Meeting in December.

**Join us on Sunday,
January 11th!**

**Drumming Circle
with Kitty Karn**

"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.

Housekeeping



HOUSEKEEPING SCHEDULE!

Fridays, 11-2pm

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

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.

Sue has brought 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 Susan Korpan by the 12th of each month!
auntsuz@gmail.com**

Please click [here](#) for the UFV Young Living website.

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 doing of our Business Manager, Kathleen Malick.

This is my last entry in the Newsletter!

I'm feeling all kinds of different emotions as I write. I started here in 2013 and after 12 years of serving you and with the incredible support of my husband, I am retiring 8 years earlier than planned. Instead of recapping all the extras I have done, I just hope most of was enjoyed.

I wish all the best to everyone and thank you for everything!

(It only seems fitting to post my Staff photo ❤️)



**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 the 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>

Follow Us on Instagram

Connect with us on Social Media by following us on Instagram!

@unityoffoxvalley

<https://www.instagram.com/unityoffoxvalley/>



Contact Information

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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.

