



Newsletter for February/March 2026

# *A Positive Path For Spiritual Living*

## Ministerial Musings

### From Shadows to Shamrocks

Every year the calendar asks us to sign onto three very different things in rapid succession.

The first is that a furry little groundhog controls the weather. True, both can be unpredictable, but it is a strain to determine how else they might be connected. Then, we move to a state that suggests that love can be accurately expressed through heart shaped chocolates or a Hallmark card. Last but not least, the notion is that everyone is at least a little bit Irish after a toast or two and an affirmation that leprechauns are real.

It is an unofficial trifecta before winter's goodbye: Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day and St. Patrick's Day. Together they represent a journey from existential dread to romantic optimism to cheerful chaos.

It starts with February 2<sup>nd</sup> with Groundhog Day when we gather emotionally, if not physically around a scared little rodent named Punxsutawney Phil. Phil pops his head out from his burrow, twitches and squints at the world, and decides whether we deserve spring or six more weeks of seasonal torture. There is no science involved, only vibes, which reflect something between our hopes and our winter blues.

If Phil predicts more winter, we sigh and put our coats back on. Of course, if he predicts an early spring, we suspect he is lying. Either way,

### Inside this issue

---

Youth & Teens Ministry .....	3
Prayer Chaplain Ministry .....	4
Board of Trustees .....	5
Volunteer Ministry.....	6
Women's Group .....	6
Calendar .....	7

### Special points of interest

---

- Souper Bowl Sunday, February 8
- Ash Wednesday Service, February 18, 7:00 pm
- Welcome to Unity class, February 22 and March 1, after service

we are reminded that much of life is both repetitive and random with much that is beyond our control. This sets the stage for an attitude of romance which follows.

Only 12 days later along comes Valentine's Day. In the midst of our shivering and chattering teeth, we are called to pivot to romance and view the world as pink. Restaurants shrink their menus but triple their prices. Sugar abounds. Candy is shaped like our hearts. More Johnny Mathis songs are played on the radio. Love is in the air here, there and everywhere.

Valentine's Day gives testimony that love can conquer everything: the freezing cold, bad forecasts, and that little rodent's judgement. It is hopeful. It is sweet. It sometimes is a little unhinged, much like love itself. It also can send a spark to that part of us that yearns to burn brightly. It also can birth dance, joy and frivolity – the perfect lead in to St. Patrick's Day.



---

*“These holidays remind us that we are alive, and that we get to decide how to live. We are free to embrace it in all or in part.”*

---

March 17<sup>th</sup> is St. Patrick's Day, the more relaxed kin of Valentine's Day. We extend romance to include camaraderie. Red hearts are replaced with green shamrocks. Any and all clothing is acceptable as long as there is green in it. Metaphysically, everyone suddenly is Irish. St. Patrick's Day does not give permission to be festive; it demands it.

Similarly, St. Patrick's Day doesn't promise spring – it declares it. The snow may still come. Cold winds may continue to blow. However, the days grow longer. There is more light assisted by many a mood that is light hearted.

Combined, the three holidays offer a logical progression. Groundhog Day teaches us patience. Valentine's Day teaches us hope by reminding us of our power to love. St. Patrick's day teaches and reminds us of the spiritual gift of celebration. Together, they serve to remind us that volatility, even when it borders on chaos or extremes all are part of the gift of life. More specifically, they remind us that we are alive, and that we get to decide how to live. We are free to embrace it in all or in part.

It all gives us a motivation to pray as we move not through the seasons of the year, but rather through the seasons of our lives. Through the groundhogs, the heart shaped chocolates and the green shamrocks, why are we here? We all get to answer that question individually, but stagnation and boredom are prohibited.

Rev. Mike

## Youth and Family Ministry

As we move through February and into March, our Children's Church and Juniors will explore how our innate spiritual powers grow and strengthen one another. Beginning with the *Power of Love*, our youth will reflect on the teachings of Jesus and the story of the disciple John, learning that love is expressed through kindness, compassion, and care for others. As the season transitions into Lent, that understanding of love naturally leads into the *Power of Strength*, represented by the disciple James. Through parables and creative activities such as storytelling, games, crafts, and song, our youth will discover that true strength is nurtured by love, guiding them to face challenges with prayerful courage and faith in God's presence.

Our teens are also looking ahead to a meaningful spring and summer, with plans to attend a Uniteen spring retreat, a YOU spring rally, and a



*“With grateful hearts, we thank all of you for your continued love and support for our youth.”*

YOU summer conference. To support these worthwhile opportunities, they will be offering at least one fundraiser and would be deeply grateful for the loving support of our congregation.

In the Teen lessons, they will continue to deepen their understanding of Unity by exploring its beginnings through the prayerful consciousness of Myrtle and Charles Fillmore, along with selected readings from Eric Butteworth's *Practical Christianity* and how these concepts reflect the powerful teachings of Jesus. We also look forward to their occasional service as ushers and greeters in the sanctuary, offering them a meaningful way to experience purpose and the joy of serving our spiritual community.

Our teens have been invited by the *Unity of Des Plaines* YOU and Uniteens to participate in a Lock-In taking place from February 28 to March 1. We will need to provide Unity of Des Plaines with a list of all YOUer, Uniteens, and sponsors who will be attending the event, along with any dietary restrictions by February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The plan for the Lock-In includes arriving at the church and then traveling together to a *Feed My Starving Children* facility, where teens and sponsors will volunteer by packing meals for families in need overseas. This is a meaningful service opportunity for our teens to put compassion into action.

Any teen and parent interested in that event please contact Dawn or me to complete the registration form and submit payment.

We are truly grateful to Unity of Des Plaines for extending this invitation and for their generosity in hosting this Lock-in, building connections with other teens and adults in our wider Unity community.

With grateful hearts, we thank all of you for your continued love and support for our youth. As we learn from Jesus' words in John, *“Love one another as I have loved you.”* We prayerfully affirm that this spirit of love guides all that we share and grow together.

Blessings,

Ms. Mary, LUT, CSE



## Prayer Chaplain Ministry

This winter seems to be a repeat of 2024, ‘blessing’ us with an arctic and snow laden January! Thankfully, this February won’t be bringing us an extra day, although we may feel like the times we’re living in will never end.

Staying with the theme of past newsletters, the powers for these two months are *Strength* and *Wisdom*. *Strength*, as defined by Rev. Paul Hasselbeck and Rev. Cher Holton in their 12 powers book, “PowerUp,” is the “ability to endure, stay the course, last, be persistent, persevere, and be stable.” Charles Fillmore, in “Keep a True Lent” offers another aspect of *Strength* as dependability, “... the force or power to do, (the) capacity to accomplish.”

Looking through 2025’s Advent booklet, *With Love at Christmas*, Rev. Robin Volker’s words, in her short essay on the third power, *Wisdom*, spoke to me. In the second paragraph she shares “Wisdom is not just what I feel and know; it is the divine presence within me, guiding my every step toward my highest good. *Wisdom* graciously offers me the clarity and understanding to navigate the winding path ahead.”

As we navigate these next months we invite you, as Unity students, to remember that the greatest “tools” we have are within, and always available!

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](mailto:churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org) and Bobbi or Marie will be in touch.

**“I am strength.  
I am the energy of the  
I Am in action.”**

**“Wisdom is my spiritual  
compass, gently guiding  
me with grace and  
clarity.”**

*Continued on Page 5*

### *The Prayer of Protection*

*The light of God surrounds me/us;*

*I AM light.*

*The love of God enfolds me/us;*

*I AM love.*

*The power of God protects me/us;*

*I AM power.*

*The presence of God watches over us;*

*I AM presence.*

*I AM Divine.*

*Wherever I am/we are, God is!*

*And All is well!*



Sacred prayers used by the Unity Prayer Ministry this February

**Inner Peace**—Divine peace flows in my mind and my heart.

**Wisdom**—Centered in divine wisdom, I trust the whispers of Truth.

**Wholeness**—One with God, I choose life, wholeness, and well being.

**Strength**—God is my strength; I am steadfast and courageous.

**Blessing**—Awakened in divine love, I am a blessing.

### Your Board of Trustees

Mickey Koziol, President  
Nate Birr, Vice President  
Carl Strang, Treasurer  
Donna Beichel, Secretary  
Dave Rolison, Trustee  
Joey Nelson, Trustee

## Prayer Chaplain Ministry (*Continued*)

If you are pondering how you can enhance your spiritual journey and express your inner light more fully, please join us after the service on February 15th, at 12:00 in the Adult Ed room, to learn more about our Prayer Chaplain Ministry. This is an informational meeting to answer any questions you may have about becoming a Prayer Chaplain.

Although our current prayer chaplains are women, that has not always been the case. We encourage our male members to consider this avenue of service to our spiritual family. Your energy and prayer consciousness would be a most beneficial ad-

dition to the Prayer Chaplain Ministry and are most welcome.

*"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*

As we enter these next weeks of Winter and the beginning of Spring 2026 we invite you to remember that altho the tides of life flow in and out, the rhythm of all life - the One Presence and One Power in all creation - is within you, always and in all ways.

Marie, Author  
Bobbi, Editor

## Board of Trustees News

In January, the Board attended a day long retreat at the Nazareth Spirituality Center in Batavia. This was a beautiful setting in which to start the new year. After conducting our monthly business meeting we were led by Ellen Schnur in thoughtful approaches to a stronger, inspiring Board. We will now have a "Parking Lot" of open ideas with a clear path to develop plans for the church now and in the future. This retreat allowed us to know each other better, and yes, be a stronger, more responsive, and cohesive group while honoring our individual worth.

At the February Board meeting, we will be finalizing the activities to be offered to determine interest of members as well as to review fundraising possibilities. Year-end reports will also be reviewed.

To help increase our members investment in volunteering, Board members will be available during the Volunteer Sign-Up Sundays.

Blessings,  
Mickey, President

## Volunteer Opportunities

**SOUPER SUNDAY:** February 8th is Soup/Super Bowl Sunday. Wanda Faye, along with Bob and Alex, is coordinating this event. Check with Wanda Faye, [geminiangoddess2000@yahoo.com](mailto:geminiangoddess2000@yahoo.com), if you would like to help or bring something for that fun day!!

**PRAYER CHAPLAIN TRAINING:** March 20 (evening) & 21st (day) and April 17th (evening) and 18th (day). We will have an informational meeting on February 15th to give you an opportunity to ask any questions you may have. A sign up sheet is available on the table by the Library.

## Volunteer Ministry

We undecorated in January! Thanks to all who pitched in and got the job done in no time!! We are blessed!!

**SHOUT OUT**—We are extending the Volunteer Fair to Sunday, February 1, due to weather issues. We have had a good turnout so far, and I thank everyone who has made a commitment to be on one of our Sacred Service Ministry Teams. These teams truly are a sacred ministry that supports Rev. Mike, the Board of Trustees and the Staff! So much is accomplished (by YOU, our volunteers) as we all work together to bring life and love to our church community.

**SPECIAL REQUEST**—We truly are blessed with our dedicated Greeter

Team members. We are looking for a person who could “lead” the team. This does not necessarily mean that you need to be here every Sunday. Please contact me with any questions and we can review what is needed. ([Bsever4785@gmail.com](mailto:Bsever4785@gmail.com)).

**IN CLOSING**—Thank you to our many wonderful, dedicated, talented volunteers!! We are truly blessed to have all of you as part of this church community. We say it over and over, but we can never say it enough!! We are gratefully grateful!!!

Blessings,  
Bobbi,  
Volunteer Coordinator

*“If the only prayer you say is ‘Thank You’ let that be enough”*



### JOIN US:

FEB 8TH

Topic: Courageous Black Women

MARCH 8TH

Topic to be announced

## Women’s Group

The Women's Group had a very successful 2025 and we are off to a great start this year with fun topics and great participation. We are still looking for one or two women to step up and facilitate the group. Laura Schreiner and I will be handing the baton to the new group leader(s) in May to carry on. We are good through May with our topic selections. The balance of the year will need to be discussed with the group and scheduled. Please contact us, [Bsever4785@gmail.com](mailto:Bsever4785@gmail.com); or [LauraSchreiner@hotmail.com](mailto:LauraSchreiner@hotmail.com) with any questions you may have!!

Blessings,  
Bobbi and Laura

*Women’s Drumming Circle, 2025*



Unity of Fox Valley  
 230 Webster Street, Batavia, IL  
[www.unityoffoxvalley.org](http://www.unityoffoxvalley.org)

Rev. Michael Korpan, Minister  
[revmike@unityoffoxvalley.org](mailto:revmike@unityoffoxvalley.org)

Mary Nowroozi, LUT, CSE,  
 Assistant Spiritual Leader

Dawn Staszak,  
 Teen Youth Director

Kitty Karn,  
 Music Director

Deb McQuaid, LUT  
 Marge Orchard, LUT

Marie Manella &  
 Bobbi Severson,  
 Prayer Chaplain Coordinators

Prayer line: 630.879.1129

Office phone 630.879.1115  
 Office fax 630.879.1728  
[churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org](mailto:churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org)  
 AJ Javadi, Business Manager



## Calendar

February 1	Sunday 6:00 pm	Memorial Service at the Holmstad—Clarise Schultz will be among those being remembered
February 5	<b>Every Thursday</b> 7:30 pm	A Course In Miracles—contact Warren at <a href="mailto:wwakerlin@aol.com">wwakerlin@aol.com</a>
February 3 & 17	7:00 pm Online	Men’s Group meeting—contact Warren at <a href="mailto:wwakerlin@aol.com">wwakerlin@aol.com</a>
February 8	Sunday 10:00 am	Souper Bowl Sunday after the service—contact Bob Anthony, <a href="mailto:banthony103@comcast.net">banthony103@comcast.net</a>
February 8	12:00 (approx.)	Women’s Group—Courageous Black Women
February 13	Friday 7:00 pm	Healing and Wholeness Service
February 15	Sunday 12:00 pm	Prayer Chaplain Orientation and informational meeting, Adult Ed Room
February 18	Wed 7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday Service
February 21 & March 21	Saturday 7:00 pm	Game Night! Contact Joey Nelson, <a href="mailto:tyloredurden@aol.com">tyloredurden@aol.com</a>
February 22	Sunday 11:00 am *	Welcome to Unity Class with Rev. Mike. *Meeting will follow the service
February 28 — March 1	Saturday through Sunday	YOU and Uniteens Lock-In at Unity of Des Plaines. Parents should talk to Mary or Dawn for details and registration
March 1	Sunday 11:00 am *	Welcome to Unity Class with Rev. Mike. *Meeting will follow the service
March 3 & 17	7:00 pm Online	Men’s Group meeting—contact Warren at <a href="mailto:wwakerlin@aol.com">wwakerlin@aol.com</a>
March 8	12:00 (approx.)	Women’s Group—topic to be announced
March 20 & 21	Evening and day hours TBA	Prayer Chaplain Training