

Summer into Fall
2026



A Positive Path For Spiritual Living

Ministerial Musings

Trade Deadlines

Football has one. Baseball has one. Basketball and hockey have one.

Every sport eventually reaches that point where general managers start pacing the floor, fans become amateur psychologists, and sports talk radio explodes with opinions from people who have never successfully managed a fantasy football team.

It's called the trading deadline.

By August 3rd, baseball front offices everywhere will have to answer a simple question: Are we buyers? Sellers? Or should we just stand pat and hope everyone else gets food poisoning? Contending teams ask, "What do we need to get us to a championship?" Struggling teams ask, "Should we trade some valuable pieces and start planning for next year?" And then there are teams that insist, "We like our roster," which is professional sports language for, "We have no idea what we're doing."

It made me wonder if perhaps we need our own spiritual trading deadline.

Not August 3rd, necessarily. But maybe every once in a while we ought to stop and take inventory. What thoughts are helping us? What habits are carrying their weight? And which attitudes have somehow remained on the roster long after their best years?

For example, resentment has been with me long enough to qualify for a pension. Worry has somehow become a team captain despite producing very few wins. Fear keeps making the opening-day lineup even though it hasn't had a productive season in years.

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Special points of interest

- Kane County Cougars All Faiths Night, July 31 6:30pm
- Church Picnic—on our Church grounds, August 2
- September 4 & 5—Celebrations of our 50th Anniversary
- Annual World Day of Prayer, September 10, 10 am
- Women's Retreat—September 26

Going through the motions has a “no trade” clause in its contract. And don't get me started on chronic complaining. If complaining were a professional athlete, it would have five agents, three endorsement deals, and absolutely no championships.

Maybe it's time to make some moves. Perhaps patience deserves more playing time. Maybe forgiveness should be moved into the starting lineup. Gratitude might be that veteran presence every championship team needs. And humility? Humility never gets much attention, but somehow it's always on winning teams.

Of course, not everybody should be buyers. Sometimes we need to become sellers. Some beliefs have expired. Some stories we've told ourselves have become too expensive to keep. Some grudges are consuming enormous emotional payroll while producing absolutely nothing.

And occasionally, standing pat is the right move. Not every season requires blockbuster trades. Sometimes the best thing we can do is



“[T]eams have a deadline, Spirit doesn't. Grace never expires at midnight. God never says, ‘Sorry, the phones are off.’”

faithfully practice what we already know instead of searching YouTube for seventeen new spiritual techniques guaranteed to change our lives before Labor Day.

But here's what every successful organization understands: Eventually, you have to tell yourself the truth. You have to honestly assess where you are and where you want to go. Because tomorrow is built by what we carry today. And while baseball teams and football teams have a deadline, Spirit doesn't. Grace never expires at midnight. God never says, "Sorry, the phones are off."

The invitation remains: Trade fear for faith. Trade resentment for forgiveness. Trade scarcity for gratitude. Trade old stories for new possibilities. Because the goal isn't simply to survive another season. The goal is transformation.

And the beautiful truth is this: The championship has already been won. The trades we make by the spiritual deadlines we set are designed to bring us to that realization.

We are not trying to earn God's love or qualify for divine acceptance. We are not rebuilding. We are not playing from behind. We are learning to live from what is already true. Day by day, thought by thought, choice by choice, we are learning how to play like champions.

And that may be the best trade of all.

Rev. Mike

Fifty Years and Counting!

There are anniversaries, and then there are moments that invite us to pause and appreciate something truly meaningful.

This year, Unity of Fox Valley celebrates its fiftieth anniversary. Fifty years. Half a century of prayer, learning, growth, friendship, service, laughter, tears, healing, and spiritual discovery.

As we reflect on this milestone, it is tempting to focus on dates and events. Those things matter. They help tell the story. But the true story of Unity of Fox Valley has never been found in a timeline. It has always been found in people. It lives in the lives that have been touched here.

Over the past fifty years, people have come through our doors seeking many things. Some arrived looking for answers. Some were searching for peace. Others were seeking a spiritual home where they could explore life's deeper questions without fear of judgment. Many found



“Half a century of prayer, learning, growth, friendship, service, laughter, tears, healing, and spiritual discovery.”

more than they expected. They discovered not only spiritual teachings but also a community of caring hearts walking the journey together.

One of the beautiful qualities of this community has been its recognition that spiritual growth is enriched by diversity. Unity of Fox Valley has never sought to create sameness. Rather, it has honored the unique paths, experiences, perspectives, and backgrounds that each individual brings. Here, differences are not obstacles to overcome but gifts to be appreciated. People from many faith traditions, and from no formal faith tradition at all, have found a home here. In a world that often emphasizes differences, this community has sought to discover the deeper truth that unites us. The many voices, viewpoints, and life experiences represented within this community have helped expand understanding, deepen compassion, and remind us that the Presence expresses itself in countless ways.

Some of those who helped build this ministry are no longer with us, yet their presence remains. Their vision, dedication, faith, and love helped create the foundation upon which we continue to build. We stand today on the shoulders of those who believed that a spiritual community rooted in love, acceptance, and the possibility of transformation could make a difference in people's lives.

And it has. Not always in dramatic ways. More often in the quiet ways that matter most. A new understanding gained during a Sunday message. A comforting word offered during a difficult season. A friendship that developed unexpectedly. A prayer that brought peace. A class that opened new possibilities. A realization that perhaps life could be lived from a higher place than fear, limitation, or doubt. These moments may seem small when viewed individually. Yet over fifty years they become something extraordinary. They become a living expression of spiritual awakening.

Fifty Years and Counting! (Continued)

One of the gifts of Unity teachings is the recognition that transformation begins within. Change the consciousness and life begins to change as well. For fifty years, Unity of Fox Valley has been nurturing that process. It has encouraged people to see themselves differently, to see one another differently, and to see life itself through the lens of possibility, love, and spiritual truth.

That commitment has extended beyond adults as well. For decades, our Youth Program has provided a nurturing environment where young people could explore spiritual principles, develop confidence in themselves, and discover their own connection to something greater. The impact of that ministry cannot be measured simply by attendance records or years of operation. It lives in the character, values, and lives of the many young people who have been touched by its presence.



“Join in the celebration and participate in the growth as we continue forward – together.”

Generations of children and teens have been encouraged to recognize their worth, trust their inner wisdom, and carry spiritual principles into their daily lives. That legacy is among the most important gifts this community has offered.

We are not a large congregation by modern standards. Yet anyone who has spent time here knows that spiritual communities are not measured by attendance figures. They are measured by the depth of their love, the sincerity of their caring, and the willingness of people to walk beside one another through every season of life. That spirit has always been one of our greatest strengths.

As we celebrate this anniversary, we do so with grateful hearts. We honor those who came before us. We appreciate those who are part of this community today. And we look forward with anticipation to all that is yet to unfold.

After all, this anniversary is not simply a celebration of the past. It is a celebration of an ongoing journey. The same spirit that inspired a handful of people to begin this ministry fifty years ago continues to inspire us today. The invitation to grow remains. The opportunity to awaken remains. The call to love more fully remains.

Fifty years is worth celebrating. And what a beautiful journey it has been.

But perhaps the greatest cause for celebration is that the journey continues. May all who read this article consider it to be an invitation to join in the celebration and participate in the growth as we continue forward – together.

Rev. Mike

Youth and Family Ministry

As we move through the summer and into early fall, our Youth Education program will be exploring three of the Twelve Spiritual Powers that help us grow in our awareness of God and express our divine nature. Through stories, creative activities, and experiences in nature, our children will discover how these powers are already alive within them and how they can use them in their daily lives.

In July, we will focus on the *Power of Understanding*, represented by the disciple Thomas, the color gold, and the radiant sun. Understanding is our ability to perceive spiritual truth beyond appearances. As we take moments of silence to listen within, we learn to hear the gentle voice of Spirit reminding us that “God is good and everywhere present.”

In August, we will explore the *Power of Will*, represented by the disciple Matthew, the shimmering silver moon, and our willingness to trust God’s guidance. Will helps us choose faith over fear and allows us to surrender to the wisdom and goodness of Spirit.



“We thank all of you for your continued love and support for our youth.”

Then in September, we will discover the *Power of Order*, represented by the disciple James, son of Alphaeus; the nature symbol of the ant; and the color dark green. Through classroom activities and nature walks, our youth will learn how Divine Order brings balance, harmony, and purpose to all of creation and to our own lives. We look forward to a season of learning, growth, and spiritual discovery together.

Mark your calendars for the *Kane County Cougars' All Faiths Night* on Friday, July 31, at 6:30 p.m. Enjoy a great baseball game and a spectacular fireworks show afterward. Tickets are \$9 for adults (youth are free) and available downstairs. Wear your Unity of Fox Valley T-shirt and join us for a fun evening of fellowship and community!

Also, mark your calendars for our *Annual Church Picnic* on Sunday, August 2, held right here on our church grounds! Join us for a day filled with delicious food, plenty of games, laughter, and fun for all ages. Bring a favorite dish to share and enjoy a wonderful time of

fellowship and connection with our Unity family.

As part of our *50th Anniversary Celebration*, we invite youth of all ages to join us for a special *Youth Activities Afternoon* on Saturday, September 5, from 3:30–5:30 p.m. Enjoy crafts, outdoor games, fellowship, and a pizza dinner as we celebrate together. Registration is free. To sign up, please contact marynow-roozi@comcast.net by August 23.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all of you for your generous love offerings and ongoing support of our Youth Education program. Because of your kindness, we can continue creating a loving and enriching environment where our youth can learn, grow, and thrive. Thank you for investing in the next generation and helping make these wonderful opportunities possible.

Love and blessings,
Ms. Mary, LUT, CSE



Prayer Chaplain Ministry

Why we pray in the affirmative

My spiritual journey has led me to change how I approach prayer. Prayer, for me, doesn't have to be long or involved, it is not a supplication to a God "out there". When I discovered affirmative prayer through prayer chaplain training and many classes, it really resonated with me.

Charles Fillmore defined prayer as:

More than supplication ...an affirmation of Truth that eternally exists; the act of affirmation . . . the "yes" action of mind; the act of affirming; the declaring Truth; the mental movement that asserts confidently and persistently the Truth of Being in the face of all appearances to the contrary. -- The Revealing Word.

"AN AFFIRMATION OF TRUTH" - - This is why your Prayer Chaplains pray in the affirmative because it is such a very powerful way to pray. We envision, we hold, we uplift, we imagine with you all that is possible; the Truth about you no matter the outer circumstances. We see the Truth of you when you may not be able to see it for yourself! You have all you need within to create the magnificent YOU that YOU ARE!! And we let it be!

I invite you to pray with our prayer chaplains; Wanda Faye Holmes, Denise Hage, Pam Skaar, Luna Nino and Bobbi Severson. We are here to support you in prayer on Sunday and through our monthly calls, holding all that is shared in confidence, love, and unlimited possibilities!

Most of us are here every Sunday, so if the Prayer Chaplain for a particular Sunday is busy, please feel free to reach out to any one of us!! As we say, no one needs to leave here with a heavy heart!!

Namaste,

Bobbi

And your Prayer Chaplain Team

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.

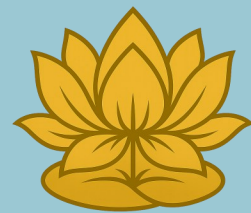
The presence of God watches over us;

I AM presence.

I AM Divine.

Wherever I am/we are, God is!

And All is well!



Sacred Affirmations that you can include in your time of prayer and meditation used by the Unity Silent Prayer Ministry

JULY

Inner Peace - Established in the center of my being, I am still and peaceful.

Wisdom - God is the wisdom that flows as intelligence throughout every cell in my body and every thought in my mind.

Healing - I tell the truth of divine life to my body and my circumstances

Prosperity - Focused in faith, I perceive the truth of divine abundance by which I prosper.

World Peace - In the light of spiritual understanding, I behold divinity within all beings.

AUGUST

Inner Peace - With God as my peace, I rest deeply and breathe easily

Guidance - I am guided by infinite wisdom in all matters.

Life - I am one with and now fully flourish in divine life

Strength - Through wind and storm, I stand steady knowing God is my strength.

Harmony - I am willing to be a presence of divine love in all my relationships

Women's Group

JULY:

We'll meet on the 12th for Alex Christensen's talk on car maintenance. Everything we wanted to know, but were afraid to ask will be addressed!! Depending on the weather, we may be outside starting at noon!!

AUGUST: PLEASE NOTE MEETING DATE CHANGE TO 3RD SUNDAY, AUG 16TH.

Come and Dance, Dance, Dance. We will be having fun and practicing our Line Dancing for the Golden Anniversary Friday night GALA. Mary Nowroozi will lead the group and give us some tips and pointers!!

We will start at noon, location will be announced!!

SEPTEMBER: NO MEETING ON THE 13TH. Join us for our Annual Women's Retreat on **Saturday, the 26th.** MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND WATCH FOR MORE DETAILS AND SIGNUP. SAME FUN LOCATION AS LAST YEAR IN BATAVIA!!

We always have fun, no matter what we do, so come relax, talk, and have fun!!

We are still looking for someone or someones to lead the Women's Group for 2027! Please contact Bobbi if interested. October will be our last meeting for this year and then we need to plan for the upcoming year.

Blessings,
Laura and Bobbi



Board of Trustee News

Your Board of Trustees

Mickey Koziol,
President

Nate Birr,
Vice President

Carl Strang,
Treasurer

Donna Beichel,
Secretary

Dave Rolison,
Trustee

Joey Nelson,
Trustee

April

Minutes and Treasurer's Reports approved, the first order of business.

A new TV monitor was installed in the sanctuary so information and song lyrics can be clearly seen; plenty of space up front for those who want to see better!

A list of proposed activities of interest was reviewed. In some cases, there is not enough interest to pursue at this time. However, some activities may become part of 50th Golden Celebration. The June 24th River Rhapsody concert was a Unity social event at the Batavia Peg Bond Center downtown.

Door hangers announcing both Cycle Safety Saturday, a community Event in our parking lot, and our BBQ Fundraiser were distributed to the nearby community. Board members got to see the prototype.

Discussion was held about need to support the considerable amount of positive activity at OUR Unity: Marketing, Outreach, Cycle Safety Saturday, Update to Welcome Packets, BBQ Fundraiser, Golden 50th Celebration and new chairs and tables to create a warm social setting for after service and other activities. These changes also promote a warmer first impression with new visitors. We have a "Parking Lot" of

future ideas to revisit once each quarter.

May

Previous month's minutes and Treasurer's Report were approved. The Board discussed current activities...Drive-Thru BBQ Fundraiser, Bike Safety Saturday, Pride Parade, Marketing, Advertising, Outreach, 50th Anniversary Celebrations, Tables/Chairs, Labyrinth potential investigation. Many members are contributing their talents and time to activities at Unity of Fox Valley. Personal investment continues.

June

Because of many current activities underway additional sign-up activities will be pursued again in 2027. An exception being pursued may be personally handling the Heavenly Host events. The 50th Anniversary celebration and Outreach activities are well under way.

Outreach made \$2670 for Mutual Ground. The next activity is already underway: Food Drive for the Batavia Food Pantry which will be delivered to them in July. More activities are in the works for the rest of the year including the yearly Christmas Tree for CASA.

The Drive-through BBQ Fundraiser brought in a profit of \$767. Additional funds were used for advertising with the hope that sales would increase; we sold more units and made more profit than previous sales. We've booked a better time for next year prior to Memorial Day and will put meal price on signage. We will run the sale moving up and expanding hours until 6:30 or 7 pm. We may also partner with other churches or scouts doing community service. Other places would get the profit on Presales only, which would expand the customer base without losing any of our profit. A better rate is available for increased quantities.

Board of Trustees (Continued)

Our first Bike Safety Saturday garnered interest from the local area. However, the expense and labor of using door hangers in the surrounding neighborhoods did not seem to bring in as many participants as the street signs, which seemed to have more of a draw. The Bike sponsors would like another event in August. One suggestion was made to have more activities for kids, such as an obstacle course. In addition to supporting these activities, the events help raise Unity of Fox Valley's visibility within the neighborhood.

The 50th Anniversary events are underway. A flyer listing the activities is being mailed and the invitation to the Gala will be going out. Ticket sales begin in July. We plan to invite present and past church members. Angel Tickets will be available. Potential sponsors are being contacted to sponsor a table.

A Labyrinth team will meet with the group that completed projects at Unity Headquarters, as well as at local schools and churches. The team will explore the site, cost, volunteer needs, and overall work involved.

The 2026 Women's Retreat will be 9/26 at Nazareth Spirituality center with the theme of Self Care.

The copier we had been leasing to buy is now ours. However, it is not working well. Repair as well as a different printer is being considered.

We will once again include financials monthly to Unity of Fox Valley.

In Love,
Your Board of Trustees

SHOUT OUT TO—

WORKING TO GET OUR NAME OUT IN THE COMMUNITY:

Thank you Susan Renard and your trusted volunteers for a fun filled informative "Bike Safety Saturday" hosted by UFV in partnership with BATA-TAC, (Batavia Active Transportation Advisory Commission), Batavia Police Dept, BOJ-E-Bikes, and Prairie Path Cycles. Several bikes were donated by Terry and Susan Wohl, and Prairie Path Cycles. Some friends and strangers went home very happy!! Susan, You made it look easy but we all know how much research and overall planning went into this event and we are so very grateful for you and your dedication to getting Unity of Fox Valley better known in

SHOUT OUT TO—

JUST WORKING, WORKING, WORKING:

We are so blessed with our Landscape Team and how they quietly go about keeping us looking trimmed and beautiful. A special thanks to John Manella who spent a few hours and muscles sawing up the railroad ties and 4x4's that had been left over from a garden re-planning. Please feel free to take and use or help us dispose of them by putting one or two in your weekly garbage pickup. They can be found stacked up by our garbage can area.



Volunteer Ministry

JULY:

5th—Soup Sunday

10th—No healing service this month

12th—Donations due: Volunteer by bringing in food and other much needed non-food items for the BATAVIA FOOD PANTRY.

AUGUST:

2nd—Annual Picnic: ***Please note this change!!*** We will hold the picnic here on our own church ground. A sign-up sheet will be provided for a dish to share and volunteers to help set up before the service and for cleanup afterwards. Please con-

tact Jim Skaar for more information on how you can help. jimskaar@icloud.com

SEPTEMBER:

4th—**TIME TO CELEBRATE: Friday evening 6:30 - 10:00** - Our Golden Anniversary Team has been working overtime to plan a fantastic fun filled night of dinner, dancing, raffles, auctions, and laughter!! You just need to join us in this celebration of 50 years here in the Fox Valley area as a Unity Spiritual Center.

5th—**Saturday Afternoon and evening** Kid fun and Concert!!

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

September (Continued)

10th— (Thursday @10:00 AM) Join us for our Annual WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

26th—(Saturday) 8:00 to 5:00. Women's Retreat . . . stay tuned for more details!!

IN CLOSING-- We often sing a song at the Healing Service, "*Do all you can with what you have in the time you have, in the place you are, do all you can*". We know that our volunteers are special and doing all that they can and we are so very blessed. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!

Blessings,

Bobbi

SHOUT OUT TO—

BBQ Fundraiser

We held our 3rd BBQ Fund raiser with Mickey Koziol at the helm with many dedicated volunteers to make this event happen. We lucked out and had one of those rare 80 degree days in May. Well, we're not sure if we lucked out ... it was pretty warm but we dished it up and survived to tell the stories.

Pride Parade

We marched again in the June Aurora Pride Parade. Thank you to Dawn who did the organizing, Jim and Pam Skaar for providing the vehicle to transport banners, water, and snacks, and for those that were able to join us in our walk this year. Susan Korpan prepared all the rainbow suckers that we were able to hand out to the spectators which was a huge success. Walk light, carry a big message!!!



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Melissa McDonald, Youth Teacher

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Deb McQuaid, LUT

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Calendar Highlights

July 5	Sunday 11 am	Soup Sunday
July 12	Sunday 12 pm	Women's Group—Care maintenance by Alex Christensen
July 31	Friday 6:30 pm	Kane County Cougars All Faiths Night—See Mary Nowroozi for info and tickets
August 2	Sunday 11 am	Church Picnic—on Church grounds—contact Jim Skaar to help jimskaar@icloud.com
August 16	Sunday 12 pm	Women's Group—Line Dancing Lessons :)
Sept 4	Friday 6:30-10 pm	Dinner and Dancing to celebrate UFV 50 Years at Lincoln Inn in Batavia
Sept 5	Saturday 3:30-5:30 pm	Youth Activities Afternoon
Sept 5	Saturday 6 pm	Concert featuring Daniel Nahmod
Sept 10	Thursday 10 am	World Day of Prayer
Sept 26	All day	Women's Retreat at Nazareth Spirituality Center—More info to come!

Ongoing Classes & Events

- Youth Education: Sunday School Sundays, lower level, 10am Nursery through High School Ages
- Men's Group—ONLINE, Meeting the 1st & 3rd Tues of each month at 7pm
- Women's Group—2nd Sunday of the month at 12pm, Sanctuary
- Music Team Practice— Every Thursday at 5-6:30pm & Sunday at 8:30am
- A Course in Miracles—ONLINE Every Thursday at 7:30pm

Stay Connected

Visit our website for the latest events, classes, and Sunday messages:
www.unityoffoxvalley.org

Join our email list or update your contact info by emailing:
churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org