



July 2022

Ministerial Musings



There is an old Three Stooges bit in which Larry is crying out, "I can't see! I can't see!" Moe rushes over to him and asks, "You okay kid. Why can't you see?" And Larry answers, "I got my eyes closed."

Susan always criticizes me for some of the slapstick and sophomoric humor that I enjoy on occasion. But there is God in everything, and frequently there is wisdom where you least expect to find it.

The above bit is silly of course. However, at face value it is extremely profound. We tend to believe what we see, but oftentimes choose to see what we want to see. It follows then that we close our eyes when we are confronted with something which we just as soon not to face.

It is all a function of our filters. Last month before the primary elections we were inundated with TV ads promoting political candidates and denigrating the opposition. Billions of dollars were spent in an attempt to get us to see things "their" way. I became amused as I speculated that it very likely made little difference to so many who already had decided who was the good guy and who was the bad guy.

We do the same in our relationships even with people we love. We have the ability to choose and determine what is truth, and then selectively close our eyes to any evidence

to the contrary.

One of the determining factors is that part of us that really does not want to know the truth because we might have to make changes that could be disruptive to our lives. There is not much more difficult than having to admit to ourselves that maybe we have had it wrong.

The words, "O Say Can You See," are the opening lyrics to our national anthem. It will be played and sung many times over the 4th of July holiday, and rightfully so. The underlying notion of the anthem being able to see that the flag still flying is visible proof of what we so proudly hail is the pursuit of truth as the American way.

To the extent this is the case, the American way actually is consistent with a commitment to a spiritual path. Spiritual paths always are about the discovery of truth because they always are about finding God in every situation. Anytime we decide to close our eyes our spiritual paths take a detour. Traveling along a spiritual path can be difficult or being about the American way complete and in concert with the notion that all of us are created equal with certain unalienable rights are not easy. Going wherever the Truth takes us can be scary.

There is a majestic beauty to the dawn's early light. Eyes closed or open, ultimately it will reveal the truth of what our flag and we are really about. O say can you see???

Have a great holiday!

Rev Mike

revmike@unityoffoxvalley.org

Youth Education for the Younger Crowd

As we move right along into mid-summer, we will honor the entire month of July by delving into the **Power of Understanding**. The disciple for this month is **Thomas** and the **color is brilliant Gold** (aha - like the summer sun). Through Bible and contemporary stories, we will guide the youth to come to the realization of our oneness with God as all-powerful, all-knowing Divine Spirit.

We have a busy, "powerful" month planned with special summer activities for every Sunday:

For starters, on *July 3rd*, we will be celebrating our inherent power of Freedom (maybe we can initiate it as another Unity Principle) with exciting indoor/outdoor activities that include crafts, games, and songs.

“What Unity Means to Me” Service is scheduled for **July 10th**, and two of our Juniors will be sharing their experiences on their “Unity” paths and on how their spiritual understanding has been enfolding and empowering their young lives so far.

On **July 17th**, we are envisioning a fun time for all age groups along with their teachers/parents as we plan to stroll over to the [Batavia Creamery](#) on Wilson Avenue to enjoy a cool, refreshing treat (dairy or non-dairy). Yum!

As July moves right along, we will be **tie-dying scarves** on **July 24th**. For any youth that would also like to tie-dye a shirt, we suggest they each bring their own white, cotton t-shirt in his/her own size. We advise everyone to wear comfy clothes, and we will provide cover-ups and gloves to avoid any contact with the dyes.

Lastly, for an uplifting musical experience, the youth are encouraged to hang out in the teen area downstairs after service on **July 31st** from 11 to 11:30 am to participate in a **drumming circle lead by Mike Nowroozi**. Drums and maracas will be provided; however, your youth can bring their own percussion instrument if they have one. Thank you, Mike, for offering to lead this musical endeavor for our youth.

We are so looking forward to these upcoming, exciting summer events! We appreciate everyone’s participation and support for our [Youth Program](#).



In gratitude,
Ms. Mary, LUT
marynowroozi@comcast.net

“Give me understanding that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.”
John 6:7

Office Closed

The Church Office will be closed the following days:



- Monday, 7/4
- Monday, 7/11
- Thursday 7/21
- Kathleen will begin working from home (primarily) on Wednesdays starting July 27th.

Subject to change without notice.

Coffee & Tea with Myrtle & Me



Every Thursday, 10:30 am, on the Church Lawn

Dear UFV Family & Friends,

Please come and join us! Bring with you a lawn chair, 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.

If it rains or is too cold/hot, don't let that stop you. We will hold this event inside.

Peace,
Mike

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.

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.

Healing & Wholeness Service



**HEALING AND WHOLENESS
SERVICE**

There will be no Healing & Wholeness Service in July.

Please join us on Friday, August 12th, 7:00 pm

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](#) to take you to the Healing & Wholeness website.

Sunday School



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.

Part of our responsibility in answering that call is a mindfulness of the world around us, and doing what we can to insure the safety and well-being of all who join in our Sunday worship.

We also remind everyone to adhere to the [Covid Protocols](#) that have been set in place. Your understanding and cooperation will contribute to being able to continue to meet in person.

Subscribe to our
You Tube Channel

If you cannot attend the service in person, you still can be a part of it by tuning in to our YouTube channel. All you have to do is click [here](#).

Whether you opt to join us in person or online, we look forward to having you with us.

Peace,
Rev. Mike

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

Sunday Services



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: marynowroozi@comcast.net

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

Prayer Chaplain Ministry

July... Here we are, beginning the second month of summer and already well into those “dog days” of hot sultry weather! July is traditionally a festive month, celebrating our July 4th Independence Day. But as I write this my thoughts are not celebratory, turning to upcoming festivities. I am thinking about freedom. I am thinking of how I have been privileged to be able to take freedom for granted, not personally experiencing its fragility - until now. Yet, even though there is much to lament, I choose (and this is a choice no one can take from me) to hold on to my spiritual beliefs and understanding. I choose to continue to hold hope in my heart and compassion for all - even for those who are celebrating the recent regressive decision made by one arm of our government.



Sadly, I have commented in this newsletter much too often these past two and a half years about the unprecedented times in which we are living. But even as “the beat goes on” I continue to put my faith in our inherent strength and resilience. My modus operandi: First, prayer and meditation; then, taking the appropriate actions I am guided to do...

I would like to share with you two excerpts from the Unity booklet, *The Comfort of Prayer*.

This first is from Mary-Alice and Richard Jafolla’s essay, “What is Prayer.”

Prayer in its simplest form is any conscious attempt to experience the presence of God.

The second excerpt is from the section, “Prayers in Grief.”

In the midst of every question and concern, divine wisdom is an active force for my discernment. I am never without a sense of direction, for God is wisdom. In the quiet of prayer, I open inner space for all that I need to know going forward.

And now, a quote on Hope, in my email this morning, from A Network for Grateful Living.

Word of the Day

Hope is like a road in the country; there was never a road, but when many people walk on it, the road comes into existence.

Let's walk together and create a new road...

If you have considered becoming a prayer chaplain, we will be offering our **Prayer Chaplain Ministry Training in October, 10/14 & 15, and November, 11/18 & 19** - one Friday evening and Saturday each month. This training is an opportunity to enrich your spirituality through service to our members. Both women and men are welcome to walk this spiritual path. If you are interested or have any questions, we invite you to contact Bobbi Severson (630) 632-2368 bsever4785@gmail.com or Marie Manella (630) 803-1630 mleduc7@yahoo.com

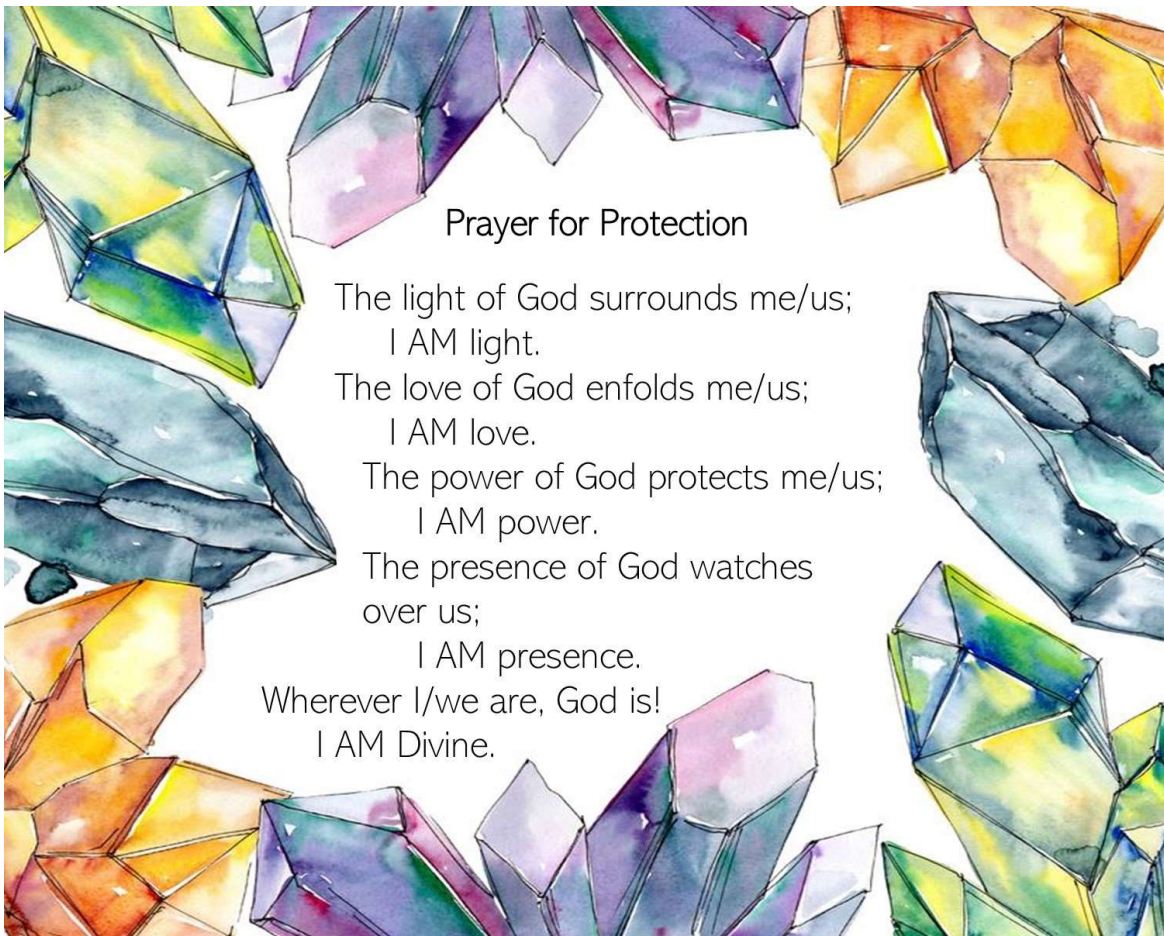
The requirements for applicants are that you be a current Unity of Fox Valley member, demonstrate an understanding of Unity principles, have a willingness to pray with others, and have taken a prayer class. No former experience in praying with others is necessary.

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

The first class of [Welcome to Unity](#) (required for membership) was held on June 26th. The next one is scheduled for July 17th. If you missed the first class, but are still interested either in becoming a member, being a part of the Prayer Chaplain Ministry, or just knowing more about Unity principles and our spiritual center here at Unity of Fox Valley, you are still welcome to join us. The prayer class schedule is "in the works" and will be announced soon.

Your Prayer Chaplains, Wanda Faye Holmes, Maria Cosentino, 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.

Blessings and hugs,
Marie and Bobbi



Prayer for 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.

Wherever I/we are, God is!

I AM Divine.

Prayer of Forgiveness

(from *The Comfort of Prayer Unity* booklet)

I acknowledge that God is present in every person and experience.

The Spirit of harmony, order, and understanding is at work in me now.

Through my spiritual nature, I am willing to see the God presence in others and release
any desire to judge.

The divine spirit that dwells in each of us is greater than any disagreement.

My heart fills with serenity and faith.

Life is mine to live in peace, joy, and abundance.

Jordanes's posthumously published fragment on the relationship between the cooptation
of the means of production and the experience of empowerment stands as a monument to
the scholarly concerns of ten years ago. The cooptation of the means of production
highlights the experience of empowerment.

Volunteer Ministry



JUNE SHOUT OUTS: THANK YOU to everyone that volunteered and helped out at the **Ice Cream Social** for the kiddos, [Hesed House](#) (two Mondays in June), the beautiful [Summer Solstice Service](#), and for those that supported our sponsored **little league** (organized by the Marketing Committee). And we were gifted by a

labor of love from our Office Manager, Kathleen, with a special **Father's Day treat**. How cute were those little shirts, with ties no less, and filled with a little treat!! She always finds creative ways to bless this congregation above and beyond her normal office duties.

It was a busy month in June, and we could not accomplish any of this without you, our volunteers!! We are blessed and grateful!!

JULY HAPPENINGS: After the busy first few months of Spring, we seem to slow down in July so relax and enjoy your month because not much is on the calendar for this month except our "[Welcome to Unity Class](#)". The 2nd class will be held July 17th and all are invited even if you missed the first class. Highly recommended for newcomers and those interested in becoming a member of Unity of Fox Valley.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: **AUGUST 21st** will be our [annual picnic](#) at the Fabyan Forest Preserve on the West side of the River. Always a fun time with our outdoor service and good food. THANK YOU to Deb McQuaid and the [Men's group](#) for hosting this event. And if you are able, we will need volunteers to help Deb set up and clean up. Contact Deb McQuaid at debmcquaid@aol.com or the church office if you would like to be a part of this group. More info will follow soon!

MUSINGS: I invite you to read Marie's Prayer Chaplain article this month. She so eloquently expresses what is in all of our heart's these days in light of the recent court rulings. She encourages us to hold the higher ground and never give up hope!! We are so grateful for our Prayer Chaplain ministry here at Unity of Fox Valley and our dedicated group of prayer chaplains that are always available to hold Sacred Space and pray with you. You don't walk this journey alone, so reach out, and grasp a hand to support you!!

Blessings everyone!

Bobbi Severson

bsever4785@gmail.com

Annual Church Picnic



Sunday, August 21st, 10:00 am

For the whole family! Everyone is invited!

Please stay tuned for more details.

For more information or to volunteer to help, please contact Deb

McQuaid: debmcquaid@aol.com

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

Just Ask Ministry



*Ask and you shall receive.
People Prospering People!*

CURRENT OFFERINGS:

- Shoebox full of hand cut ceramic for making mosaic. Description: Triangles and squares; white, dark green, southwest colors. Sharon

Mays: sharon_mays@comcast.net 8/6/22

CURRENT REQUESTS:

- Pressure CANNER:

churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org 8/2/22

Do you need something? Do you have something to offer? Let us know!
churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org

Please click [here](#) to follow up with any of the above or for more info.

Please reach out to the contact person directly. The church will not be managing any transactions.

Young Living

Did you know that when you purchase Young Living products Unity of Fox Valley benefits in more ways than just the cost of the item purchased? Young Living products are the highest quality and have many health benefits.



We have a good selection of Young Living Products available for sale. From agave nectar to an array of toiletries and cleaning products! We also have Essential Oils available for calm & healing.

Do you need us to order anything?

Place your order with Kathleen in the Church Office by the 10th of each month!

For more info. or any questions, please contact Kathleen:

churchoffice@unityoffoxvalley.org

AmazonSmile



Support Unity of Fox Valley with your Amazon Purchase!

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Unity of Fox Valley every time you shop, at no cost to you. Just click on the link below and make a purchase!

AmazonSmile will donate a percentage of the purchase price of eligible products to Unity of Fox Valley.

Please click on the following link to start shopping & help raise money for Unity of Fox Valley!

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2889899>

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://smile.amazon.com/hz/charitylist/l5/5I9LM5FXITZG/ref=smi_ext_lnk_lcl_cl

Tithes & Offerings



Nothing is possible without your commitment and generous financial support. Thank you so very much!

Please click [here](#) or copy and paste the following link in your browser:

<https://www.paypal.com/biz/fund?id=44UC5B8W64KBQ>

- You may contribute any amount and you do not need to have a PayPal account to contribute but you do need an email address.
- **Paypal does take a fee from your donation.** If you would like to be sure your entire donation is given to the church, feel free to mail in your donation: Unity of Fox Valley, 230 Webster Street, Batavia, IL 60510.

- ***If your donation is for a specific event, please be sure to write that in the Memo area of your check.***

News from the Church Office

A section in the Newsletter to fill you in on some of the fun doings of our Business Manager, Kathleen Malick.



There is a lot going on with me since February but there is a light at the end of the tunnel, and we are getting there!

My Bartlett home went up for sale and was under contract in 5 days. I'm still in the process of moving but we should be closing in July and we should be completely moved out in about 2 weeks (or sooner). We bought a riding lawn mower (click on my pic to go to my Instagram account and find Galen driving that thing!) and another car! It's the year of

spending.... and I haven't even broken ground on my garden yet! HA HA HA!

Oh.. and that car we just bought? We haven't even owned it a week and it was struck by lightning! I'm going to lay down now....

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>



On Going Activities

Please contact each group for more info. regarding their meetings. Click on any of the events below to bring you to their individual web pages.

- [**A Course in Miracles**](#) - 7:30-9:00 pm every Thursday evening, Unity of Fox Valley facilitates A Course in Miracles discussion group. This is an ongoing class rain or shine. Each week a new topic is discussed. Everyone is welcome at any time and the class is always open to new attendees.
- [**Alcoholics Anonymous**](#) meeting. Tuesdays at 6:00pm. Please contact AA for more info regarding their meetings.
- [**Men's Group Meeting**](#) - the first and third Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm, September through May.
- [**Unity Green Team CommUnity Event**](#) - Events to be determined

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.



Share on Facebook



Share on Twitter

