

April 2021

The
UNITY
Messenger

Issue 4



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of Peoria**
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Lines from Linda;

Easter Greetings to All of You:

Once again the season of Spring has arrived. We are able to witness the coming forth of new life in places that appeared to be lifeless. Green shoots are pushing their way through the soil with a promise of multiple colors to follow. Some trees are budding with the promise of foliage and the production of seeds of fruit, nuts, and flowers as the host to provide for future springs of new life.

As we view all of this activity we witness the promise, "Behold, I make all things new." What is new in your activities, relationships, and most importantly after the storm of the past 16 months is new in your thoughts and feelings?

As we observe the changes of the seasons we are also able to observe the changes in ourselves. Perhaps a letter to God, expressing gratitude and releasing. Journal writing may be beneficial for this inventory. Either of the above may facilitate new awareness coming to your conscious awareness. Enjoy the journey of Spring!

Linda

UNITY OF PEORIA

PURPOSE STATEMENT

*Honoring Oneness,
celebrating life,
and expressing love*

MISSION STATEMENT

*Being all God
created us to be.*

VISION STATEMENT

*Creating heaven on earth
through the oneness of mind,
body and spirit.*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

*Teresa Barnard, President
Roy Pitts, Vice-president
Edie Godby, Secretary
Juanita Burton, Treasurer
Linda Foreman, Minister/CEO*

**You are invited to attend
Board Meetings held each third
Sunday of the month at 1:30pm
in the Center!**

In this newsletter...

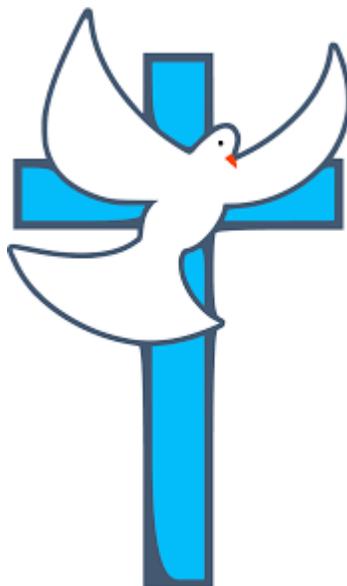
**Page 1 Remembering Easter
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BALANCE

The best gift we can give ourselves this Easter is balance and forgiveness. Balance of our physical and spiritual well being and forgiveness of ourselves. Crucifixion symbolizes the importance of balance and forgiveness. The horizontal piece of the cross represents our physical plane, the vertical, upward piece of the cross represents our spiritual plane as we grow. Where the horizontal and vertical pieces intersect represents balance. It is critical we nourish ourselves both spiritually and physically. We optimally function as individuals when we are healthy and whole. The better we are as individuals, the better we can care for our family, support our friends, work at our occupations and serve our community.

The nails of crucifixion represent the judgment we cast on ourselves. The judgment that we are not good enough or punishing ourselves for mistakes or bad decisions. Part of nourishing ourselves spiritually is forgiveness of mistakes and bad decisions and realizing you are more than good enough. I encourage you to “pull the nails” from your “cross.” Forgive yourself and acknowledge you are more than good enough. I suggest you “fake till you make it” until you are able to embrace your own kind of wonderful.

—Edie Godby



“I Am” Statements of the Christ Within

“I am who I am” (Ex. 3:14), God tells Moses. God's spirit as the “I Am” is present within us as the Christ.

In The Gospel According to John, “I Am” statements made by Jesus can guide us to an understanding of the Christ within. Consider the relationship of these statements to the truth of your being:

“I am the light of the world” (Jn. 8:12). As we have discussed, the Christ within provides the illumination that we need to comprehend truly and rightly.

“I am the gate” (Jn. 10:7). The essence of God within us is our gateway to the life of abundant love and harmony that God intends for us to have.

“I am the good shepherd” (Jn. 10:11). Challenging “wolves” dissolve into their “native nothingness” when faced from a consciousness centered in the presence and power of God.

“I am the resurrection and the life” (Jn. 11:25). On a very practical level, our fears and worries and limitations die when they come into contact with the Christ within. Then our minds are renewed or resurrected to see God's will, which is always good, going on in all situations, conditions, and relationships.

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life” (Jn. 14:6). We can use books, tapes, talks, magazine articles, sermons, churches, religions, or whatever we want as tools to help us focus on God's presence. Indeed, Jesus tells us that above all else, we should “seek first the kingdom of God” (Mt. 6:33 NKJV). In actuality, though, all these tools have the same purpose: to direct us to the Christ within, for it is within us that Jesus says we find God. “The kingdom of God is within you,” He says (Lk. 17:21 KJV).

“I am the true vine” (Jn. 15:1). We can grow spiritually straight only by turning to the Christ within.

These “I Am” statements make effective affirmations to direct our attention inward so that we can experience God's presence.

The Christ Within Is Universal

Christianity does not have a monopoly on the Christ within. We recognize it in all people, whatever nationality they may be or on whatever spiritual path they may walk.

The Christ is the universal presence of God at the center of every individual. It is God's gift to you.

We in Unity salute the Christ in you!

—Excerpt from *The Christ Within* by Raymond Teague