

July 2020

The
UNITY
Messenger

Unity Church
of Peoria

3127 N Avalon Place (mailing: 3117
N Avalon Place) •
Peoria, IL 61604

Website: www.unitypeoria.org •
E-mail: unitypia@sbcglobal.net
Office phone: (309) 682-8554 •
Office Hours: by appointment



Issue 07

Salutations of Divine Love to you:

Each evening as I light my prayer of protection candle for you, I also include a prayer for our planet and all inhabitants of our beautiful home to be present to, and allowing of the flow of divine love in and through all. There is great power in the attracting and harmonizing power of divine love.

I offer this prayer trusting its power to open the door of our minds to greater understanding, new insights (Divine Ideas), and enthusiasm to embrace a greater good. God is our abundant, instant and constant prosperity always available. The big question is do I, You and the global family allow the abundance to flow in and through us with liberty and justice for all. Do we judge which person or nation is worthy of abundant prosperity, liberty and justice and hold that thought and feeling in our mind?

“Our thoughts are prayers” and we each can be in control of our thoughts and feelings. As we are aware, of each thought and feeling, we have the power of permission (will) to accept and feed them or we can through our power of discernment choose to starve them and claim greater good for ourselves and all others.

Jesus said, “As I be lifted up, I lift all others with me.” This is not about his execution, it is a lifting in consciousness to allow the living spirit of truth in each of us to express. As we follow his example we will lift our eyes and witness the creation of heaven on earth. What will you see in the new creation?

Love and Light, 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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

*Teresa Barnard, President
Roy Pitts, Vice-president
Edie Godby, Secretary
Juanita Burton, Treasurer*

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

In this newsletter...

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Financial Prosperity During 2020

God, as our Source, continues to bless your church through your giving during this time of physically being apart. You are a channel of God's abundant supply, and through you the world is blessed by your faith, loving kindness, generosity and witness of oneness.

Your giving during this year has enabled Unity to honor its commitments and obligations each and every month. Below is a brief accounting of "General Fund" cash flow for 2020. As always you may request further details.

1/1 \$8,048.19 beginning balance 5/31 ending balance \$1,499.19

Through your continuing love offerings you ensured the ongoing financial stability during this year. Your prayer support continues the flow of divine love. Your action of participating in the physical maintenance of our properties has been an ongoing blessing as well. The laborers of loving maintenance, are greatly appreciated.

If you are reading this:

WE LOVE YOU!

WE BLESS YOU!

WE EMPOWER YOU TO DO GREAT THINGS!



“Whether we make a large or a small gift, let us make it with largeness of cheer and joy, even of hilarity, remembering that God loveth a "hilarious" giver.”—Charles Fillmore

Reverend Ellen Debenport, a longtime Unity Minister, has found 10 ways to shift our thoughts so we can contribute positively to the whole, and new ways to action!

1. Beware the Spiritual Bypass

I used to envy people who could float above problems and stay in what appeared to be acceptance and bliss. “Go with the flow,” they would say. “Embrace it all.”

I’m open to the idea that in the end, as we move toward the light, we will look back and see that our lives unfolded perfectly. But in the meantime, **I don’t believe we’re here to transcend the human experience.** It’s what we came for.

We knew there would be pain and drama. We wanted to help.

When pain and drama are in our experience is no time to turn away. I know it’s tempting to stay in bed! But we were made for these times—or we wouldn’t be here

2. Words Have Power

The events, people, or situations in our lives that we dislike have simply been *labeled* as problems. Consider that they are not inherently good or bad.

We know this because we can all recount stories when something we first labeled a disaster turned out to be a blessing. Haven’t you heard people say cancer was their friend and teacher, or getting fired was the best thing that ever happened to them, or a divorce they resisted set them free?

Stay open to the possibility that what you are calling bad will be redeemed for good in time.

3. Stay Grounded

I don’t want fear to control my life. I don’t want to give power to the threat of illness, financial shortfalls, or violence. I don’t want to misuse my imagination to envision the worst.

Here’s a helpful question that brings me back to the present moment: **“Where are my feet?”**

In other words, what is happening right now, in this moment? Chances are, I’m working online or puttering around in the kitchen. Or maybe my feet are stretched out on the sofa while I watch TV. Nothing bad is happening. Not in this moment. I’m fine.

This would be a good time to make a gratitude list.

4. Get the Facts

Information doesn’t comfort everyone, but I like facts. Find a reputable, objective source so you will know what’s going on. Find more than one.

However, don’t get sucked in by fear and what-ifs. Facts are neutral, and our reaction creates the drama (or not). Remember, this is the soul’s journey you agreed to take on this planet at this time. There is great work to be done.

Unity Online Radio host Suzanne Giesemann suggests we respond to any event or news with, “Isn’t that interesting?” It pulls us back into the present moment without judging the circumstances. We become the observer, and our minds become peaceful enough to sense joy.

5. Focus on Ultimate Goals

We all want the same things: peace and prosperity with health care and education available to all. Right? We only disagree about how to get there. Maybe the political party you disagree with isn’t really trying to destroy your way of life. Maybe they’re on a different path to the same destination. We know what doesn’t work: anger, condemnation, and blame. Instead, we can look past appearances and, as they sang during the civil rights movement in America, keep your eyes on the prize.

6. What Can You Learn?

It's not a bad idea to wonder periodically what you could learn from whatever is upsetting you. Remember the adage: If you spot it, you got it.

That means asking yourself whether any of the traits you condemn in others are manifest in you.

It's a **graduate course in spiritual growth**. As soon as you hear yourself judging someone, look for ways you might be doing the same thing.

7. What Can You Be *For*?

Take action when you feel guided and inspired. Too often, activism stems from anger. The actions we take are actually reactions against whatever we perceive as wrong and bad. If we come from a state of resistance, we only generate more conflict.

Align with Spirit (the Universe, life, a force for good, whatever you call it) before deciding what to do.

Don't be afraid to pray, "What is mine to do?" The answer might not be to march in the streets or write a tirade online. It might be to rear compassionate children. It might be to volunteer in your community or church. We each have different gifts, and every contribution matters.

You don't have to save the world. Mother Teresa said, "Don't look for big things, just do small things with great love."

8. Take an Even Bigger Step

Shifting our point of view takes practice, but the Bible tells us love casts out fear.

Here's the whole verse from 1 John 4:18: "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love."

Could we release fear and substitute love? If you're lying awake at night, focus on your heart's warm light and imagine it growing brighter until you are enfolding the planet with love. Consciously or not, every sentient being will feel your energy.

9. You Are Part of a Bigger Picture

We might not see the big picture, but I have to believe there is one. Maybe this is happening for the individual growth of each soul. Maybe it's a collective experience to push society forward.

In my view, the human species is struggling to grow up. Other species are thousands of years older, and many have established cooperative systems with nature and each other that allow them to survive.

I see us as a bunch of teenagers. We consider ourselves independent until something goes wrong, then we're looking for a rescue. But don't you also see brilliant flashes of wisdom and intuition in teenagers?

As a species, we're not finished yet.

10. Every Thought Counts

"Each Prayerful thought blesses the world with Peace"

In Practical Metaphysics, legendary Unity writer and teacher Rev. Eric Butterworth said, "The important key to effective living then is not trying to find the way to set things right, and to straighten people out, and to get the world to stop acting like it does. Not to set things right, but **to see them rightly** ... As Emerson would say, from the highest possible point of view."

We create our world through consciousness. What we hold in mind influences the whole. Jesuit priest Pierre Teilhard de Chardin called it the *noosphere*, the thinking layer of earth. It contains every thought we have had and determines our collective experience.

What are you contributing to it today?