

July 2021

The UNITY Messenger



**Unity Church
of Peoria
3127 N Avalon Place
(mailing: 3117 N Avalon
Place) ●
Peoria, IL 61604**

Issue 7

Lines from Linda,

Reopening for all activities at our church has begun. Thank you to all who have observed the safety precautions, which kept us healthy during the pandemic.

There are plans to celebrate on Sundays some of the activities we delayed over the past year. First Sunday flowers are returning. We will receive new members into our community, Fellowship Hour (coffee hour) is reinstated. There will be the hiring of 2 new employees. (See page 3)

The best for me is to be in your presence once again. Coming together in the spirit of unity is among my cherished activities since 1985 when I discovered Unity.

As I lit the Prayer of Protection votive candle each night we were apart. I felt a calming assurance that we would be together again.

The Light of God surrounds you.
The love of God enfolds you.
The power of God protects you.
The Presence of God watches over you.
Wherever you are God is, and all is well.

Love and Light,

Linda

As we are fully opening there will be adjustments to our behaviors and manner of participation.

Wear a mask if you are not fully vaccinated

No hugging or hand shaking without verbal agreement between the participants.

Offerings and Prayer Requests are deposited in the prayer box in the foyer or in the offering plate at the front of the room.

Be aware of social distancing.

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
Unity through the oneness of mind,
body and spirit.*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

*Teresa Barnard, President
Christy Egart, Vice-president
Diane Jordan, 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!**

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UNITY CLASSES

NEW **Tuesdays (Beginning July 6th) 10:30am in Fellowship Hall**

“A New Way of Thinking” by Charles Roth

NEW **(Beginning August 4th) Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall**

Matthew * Mark * Luke * John

The four books which chronicle the life of Jesus, in differing ways, are our exploration and discussion. When were these stories written? Who are the authors? Why are they so different? We will also explore the metaphysical interpretations of this record. Bring your Bible or borrow one from our library

TWO NEW EMPLOYEES NEEDED

We are asking you to assist in the hiring of a musician for Sunday Services and an employee to clean the church and center. Please pass this word and encourage anyone who might be interested to contact the church at 309-682-8554 or unitypia@sbcglobal.net. When they knock we will open the door for an interview and hopefully an employment agreement. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.



Unity's WELL OF ABUNDANCE

“Ask and you shall receive.”

WE ARE ASKING FOR...

Garden attendants to maintain our beautiful landscaping, your time and talent will be greatly appreciated

We are grateful for your financial support during this unusual time, each offering is appreciated.

Lately I've been thinking quite a lot about home. In April, I sold my home of 23 years. It was a place that was my sanctuary, my happy place (for the most part!). I had my gardens and critter tree where I would interact with nature. I watched so many different species of birds from wrens, to hummingbirds, to Cooper's Hawks. I put peanuts out for my squirrels and loved watching them gather and snack. Some nights I had a few unexpected critters visit, like the skunk who startled my little buddy, Emmett once when he and Gemma were spending the night. He had gone out to catch lightning bugs and met a skunk instead! Regardless of the critter visitors, it was a place I felt free to be exactly who I was: nature lover, reader, teacher, spiritual seeker. It was almost like my home was part of my identity, and even though I wanted to move to be closer to my daughter and her family, there was some grief leaving that home.

So, I closed on my old home on April 23rd, and I would not close on my new home until May 7th. My solution was to store my possessions and take up residency in a sweet little Hobbit House in Bartonville. I settled right in. My groceries were in the fridge, my clothes in the closet, but to make myself truly at home, I needed to make a Farm & Fleet, and a greenhouse run to get birdseed to feed the birds, and flowers to help me feel more like home. Wouldn't you know it, when I first drove into the drive and got out of my car, a cardinal was just singing it's little heart out. I took that as a welcome, and settled right in. It felt like home, even if it was just a temporary one. I wasn't so sad to leave that home because it didn't contain much of my history, and I was excited to get moved into my new place.

Since I've moved into my new home, many people have asked me if I was excited to be there and if it just felt wonderful to be moved. I have had a hard time answering that question. I like my house, though I have been challenged to utilize the space in this house which is pretty different from my old one. So, I still have a room with unpacked boxes and don't navigate the nighttime bathroom trips as easily as in my old home. The sounds here are also much different, so the new squeaks and creaks, and hums are an adjustment as well. It just hasn't felt quite like home. I had bought flowers and potted them for the porch and patio and that helped, but today, **I planted my flower garden!** Maybe it was just

using that creative part of me that did it. Maybe it was my way of making this place a home - putting my mark on it. I picked out native plants and pollinators to foster bees and butterflies. I brought new dirt in to help enrich and soil and added a little Osmocote to each hole to give it a little jump start of food. When I started early in the morning, the air was crisp and cool, but by the time I quit at noon, I was soaked with sweat and ready for a shower. But, I had to just sit back and enjoy what I had planted first. It was then that I felt that little click. **Now, I am home.** It's ok if everything isn't put exactly where I want it yet, I have my flowers, part of my creativity right here.

All this thinking and digging got me wondering about my spiritual home? Where is that? How do I know? There's that saying, "Home is where the heart is." I wonder if that is where my spiritual home is - my heart. We talk about the Christ within and finding that center that is a part of the Divine. Do I take care of my spiritual home like I take care of my physical home? Sometimes, yes. Sometimes, no. I think my Daily Word study and gratitude journal help feed my soul like the Osmocote feeds my Coneflowers and Cosmos. But sometimes, I think it becomes too routine for me. Am I just going through the motions? I need a boost! So I'll use a new magazine or book to supplement my daily study, maybe help me see or think of things in a new light. See (create?) new beauty in my soul through meditation and prayer. So - home? I think I carry it with me, in that creative divine center within. It's a thought!

—Teresa Barnard, President

