

March 2020

The  
UNITY  
Messenger

Unity Church  
of Peoria

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Issue 03

ANNUAL MEETING  
MARCH 15TH FOLLOWING  
SERVICE.  
ALL ARE INVITED.  
PLANNING A SOUP AND SALAD  
BAR FOR THE  
“POTLUCK” AFTER THE MEET-  
ING.  
CONTACT EDIE GODBY TO  
ADVISE HER OF  
YOUR CONTRIBUTION

HELP WANTED

We, at Unity Church of Peoria, are in a state of excited expectancy to welcome into our faith community a new musician. We are asking, seeking and knocking for the fulfillment of this expectation. We are asking you to assist in our seeking and knocking. Please pass this word and encourage anyone who might be interested to contact the church at 309-682-8554 or [unitypia@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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 OF PEORIA

PURPOSE STATEMENT

*Honoring Oneness,  
celebrating life,  
and expressing love*

MISSION STATEMENT

*Being all that 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*

*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...

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Unity Prayer Support

## From My Perspective - March 2020

Stories are important! That theme has been jumping out of the books I've been reading lately. But really, stories have always been a big part of my life since childhood, when Grandma Freda would create her bedtime stories about Smarty Pants, a naughty squirrel who got in trouble trying to do good deeds. Stories are how we learn. They give us comfort and help connect us. Stories are what reveal "others" to us and us to ourselves.

If you look back throughout history, stories were used to instruct children in how to get along in society. Jesus used stories and parables to illustrate his life and faith lessons. Aesop's Fables are still used to illustrate values and beliefs. Who hasn't heard of "The Boy Who Cried Wolf" or The Tortoise and the Hare?" Other societies such as the Native Americans told their stories in the winter months as entertainment, but also, history lessons, passing down their own legends.

Sharing our stories in groups, blogs, on talk shows, in books and other social media can connect us and give us comfort. When someone reveals a particular struggle in life, it can show us we're not alone. Someone else has a similar struggle: The parents of a child with a medical struggle, overworked/overwhelmed moms and dads, to name a couple of common topics. These shared stories bind us together and give us hope. If someone else can make it through, we can, too!

Stories can also be a window into the life of another. They can offer a different perspective or help us question possibilities. A story can give an inside look into the mind of someone who is so different from us we couldn't possibly imagine - but with a story, we can. I may never be a 12 year old deaf girl, but I can empathize just a bit more than before because I read *Macy McMillan and the Rainbow Goddess* by Shari Green. *I can imagine, with the help of a story, what that life might be like.*

Stories challenge us to wonder, to stretch, to connect. Maybe that's why I love stories so much. They lead me to oneness and a greater understanding of myself and others. Got a story to share? Meet me after church in the fellowship hall. I'd love to hear it !

—Teresa Barnard

President

# UNITY CLASSES

## SUNDAY MORNING CLASS... 8:00 to 8:45 am, at the Center

Join us in the Center for Creative Living, for a discussion of **current events** that inspire us to engage spiritually, emotionally and intellectually to what is happening in our world!

## SUNDAYS... 9:15 to 10:15 am, in Fellowship Hall,

“The Prayer Way to Health, Wealth, and Happiness” by Lowell Fillmore

The son of Unity’s co-founders offers a commonsense approach to problem solving through prayer and the activity generated by listening for answers to our prayers.

## NEW Tuesdays 10:30am in Fellowship Hall

### “Revelation”

Join us as we explore the historical, literal and metaphysical messages in the final book of the New Testament. “The stuff movies are made of.”

## NEW 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.

### **Twelve Step Support Groups**

Meetings are held in the Center for Creative Living

#### **Al-Anon**

Wednesday 7:00 pm

#### **Cocaine Anonymous**

Tuesday 6:30 pm

#### **Narcotics Anonymous**

Friday 7:00 pm

#### **Overeaters Anonymous**

Monday 5:30 pm,

Wednesday 10:00 am

Thursday 6:00 pm

Friday 5:30 pm

Saturday 9:00 am

### **We continue to receive CLEAN aluminum beverage cans (please — NO aluminum foil or other food containers!)**

These cans are sold to recyclers, with proceeds from this ongoing fundraiser being applied to the center mortgage fund.

**Please rinse the cans,** and crush them if possible. You may leave your donations in front of the Center’s garage door. They are stored in the garage until there is a truck load, and are then taken to the scrap dealer.

### **UNITY Prayer Support**

Prayer is the heart of all we do in Unity. Your Prayer Ministry Team is available to pray with you, family or friends. You may make your prayer request in 3 ways:

1) E-mail [unitypia@sbcglobal.net](mailto:unitypia@sbcglobal.net)

2) Call the office: 682-8554

3) Use the prayer request on our website at [www.unitypeoria.org](http://www.unitypeoria.org)

**Prayer requests are confidential.**

### **SILENT UNITY**

### **24/7 Prayer Ministry**

Someone is always praying at Silent Unity, at Unity Village. YOU may request prayer at any time, by phone **1-800-669-7729**, or at the website: [www.silentunity.org](http://www.silentunity.org)

## The New Growth Of Spring

Spring urges us to plant some, grow some and bloom some. Even before the earth and air really hint at warmth, green shoots push up through the brown ground with encouragement. “You can do it,” they say. “Look at us!”

With all the newness unfolding around us, we may begin to wonder if there might not be something new we'd like to see in our lives. There may be a new skill we have always wanted to learn or a healthier habit we feel would improve our life. We may long for closer connections to those around us—our family, friends and co-workers. We may find ourselves looking for ways to contribute to our community and make a difference in the world.

So then it is up to us. We cannot wait expectantly for our lives to change if we are unwilling to take some action. As we begin to hear old familiar songs in our head, it is easy to ignore the nudges to grow and blossom. “I don't know how,” “I am too old,” “I am too young,” or “I don't have time or money.” Sometimes we just don't know what we want. So we take no action at all.

Anytime is a great time for spiritual growth, but there is an urgency to grow especially in the spring. The warmer weather inspires us to cast off what we no longer need, whether it is a sweater or an old habit. We may clean debris from a flower bed or a closet—or we may want to “clean out” our minds.

What are the limiting thoughts that come up most frequently in your mind as you consider beginning a new project, relationship or adventure? Take time to find the root of those thoughts. Ask yourself, “Why do I think that? Where have I heard that idea before?” As you find the root you can begin to transform your thoughts.

There is a part of you untouched by all the outer judgments and criticisms. There is a spiritual essence of your being that is strong and wise and loving and powerful.

Buried beneath the debris of those limiting thoughts, the truth of your being is pushing up in new growth. There is a divinity in all of us that we may call the “Christ” of our being. As we pull out those unhelpful thoughts, we can replace them with the powerful truth of who we are and what we are capable of. “I am a perfect expression of the Divine Infinite, worthy of all of God's good.”

Take just a moment to be still. Close your eyes and breathe gently. What is longing to be expressed in your life? Can you hear a quiet voice, maybe in the distance, speaking the desires of your heart?

Pick just one thing to bring into expression in your life and trust that when you choose in alignment with your highest good, the Universe conspires to support you. Hold the chosen intention in your mind like a tiny seed. Take one small action and the seed grows.

Celebrate the courage to take that action and watch for the signs of growth. Notice how opportunities arise and support is revealed. Observe that as you give, you receive in unexpected ways. Make a commitment to serve and be ready for the growth that happens in you. Discover the ways that spiritual well-being shows up in every area of your life when you are grateful for even the smallest things. Before you know it, you are off and growing.