

November 2021

The
UNITY
Issue 11
Messenger

Unity Church
of Peoria
3127 N Avalon Place
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Peoria, IL 61604

Thanksgiving Edition

As we observe our national holiday of Thanksgiving, we can expand the gratitude to include whoever comes to mind between now and Christmas. As we hold an attitude of gratitude for whoever and whatever is in our minds and hearts we release abundant blessings upon the past, present and future.

Pausing in the flurry of holiday preparation and breathing in gratitude which is then released in the atmosphere is a great Christmas gift to our world, and it is free.

One of my breaths of gratitude is coming your way. I love you. I bless you and I appreciate you.

"Be positive, happy, optimistic in your thinking, and you will be transformed by the renewing of your mind." -Myrtle Fillmore, Letter (1930)

After many years of great service the elevator has major mechanical problems. Contact is being made to provide a sure remedy.

In the meantime the elevator is out of service.

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
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 12:30pm
in the Center!

In this newsletter...

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Unity's WELL OF ABUNDANCE
"Ask and you shall receive."
WE ARE ASKING FOR...

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

Do you love to clean? We are requesting volunteer assistance, as we are no longer employing someone to clean the church.

A new musician to play the piano for Sunday Services.
This is a paid employment situation.

Even though Rev. Linda is on salary now for half-time work she is your best contact person for any of the above.
Rev's cell 309 253 6443 Office 309 682 8554

I Give Thanks for Grandmothers

As the holidays begin to roll around, I get nostalgic, remembering Thanksgivings and Christmases with my family. That meant my extended family, always including both of my Grandmothers, Grandma Freda and Grandma Leola. Both grandmothers, widows at 50, were a constant influence on my brothers and me as we grew up. The food, time, and religious instruction they gave helped mold us into pretty decent adults.

Grandmas were always cooking or had just taken a "nice piece of roast" out of the oven whenever we stopped by to visit. Sunday dinners were held at one or the other grandmother's house after church - and we always took home bags of leftovers and other groceries that would ultimately help to extend our family budget. We made traditional holiday recipes together - the same ones I pass along to my daughter Emily and granddaughter Gemma. And then, there were the birthday cakes that Grandma Freda would make special for each one of us. Mine would usually have a china doll on top. I have taken on the cake responsibilities in the family now and love it.

I wasn't aware of it then, but now that I look back, I realize that my grandmas always had time for us. It didn't matter the weather, they would always show up for concerts and sporting events. They became somewhat infamous for being the "two little old ladies sitting in their car at the end of the football field!" Throughout my childhood, each grandmother would keep my 3 brothers and me for a week while we attended Bible School in their little town. They would take us swimming and shopping some afternoons, or we would be left to spend time with our cousins who lived in the same small town. I look back now and wonder just how they did it! Especially considering the activity level of my 3 brothers, and the fact that there was only 6 years between the oldest and youngest of us!

Grandmas made sure we knew God. Grandma Leola always helped us learn our Bible verses for the final night of Bible School. I swear she knew the Bible backwards and forwards. She also made sure we got to Bible School and Sunday School on time every Sunday - Church services after, too. Funny, how those verses come to mind at just the right time! Grandma Freda wasn't such a vocal Christian. As a matter of fact, she didn't attend church very often, except when she went with me to Lenten services when I was in high school. I have a sneaking suspicion, though, that she knew Jesus very well. She lived a life as close to his teachings as anyone I have ever known! Grandma Freda loved unconditionally and we knew it! That love has lifted me and my brothers up so many times, even after her passing. And now that I'm a grandma, I understand just what the other side of that unconditional love feels like.

So, here's my thanks for my grandmothers, the ones of my blood and the ones adopted (and we didn't even talk about those!). I am so thankful for all the influences they have had on my life. They have certainly had a part in making me who I am. And, boy oh boy, do I love being on the other side of grandma hugs! Thank you Grandmas!

Light and Love,
Teresa

