

September 2021

The Messenger

UNITY

Issue 9

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

Celebration Services continue at
10:30 every Sunday
Mask wearing and social
distancing are in practice.
It is a JOY to come together!

Tuesdays class is exploring "A
New Way of Thinking"
10:00 in Fellowship Hall

NEW CLASS Thursdays at 7pm
Our New Testament study: the
Gospel of Mark (the first written
after Jesus' death). Handouts will
be provided. Bring your Bible or

*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!**

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UNITY CLASSES

Tuesdays (Beginning July 6th) 10:00am in Fellowship Hall

“A New Way of Thinking” by Charles Roth (This title speaks for the content)

NEW CLASS Thursday 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



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.

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.

Greetings, Fellow Friends of Unity!

I am a new member of the Board of Trustees of Unity Church of Peoria. (I was elected by the Congregation at the annual meeting this past March, and I was subsequently elected by the Board to be the Board Secretary.) Since I am new to this Board (even though I'm not new to the Congregation), I thought that I should use this opportunity to share with you a little bit about myself and what circumstances brought me here.

I was born and grew up here in Peoria. I was raised Catholic, and I went to parochial schools through high school. Though I will always value the excellent education that I received, I became disillusioned with that church and was searching for a different spiritual foundation. I researched some religions, but nothing seemed to fit.

I was introduced to Unity by my mom (some of you may have known her: Teddi Nelson (later Brown)) in late high school or early college. Like many others who found Unity, I felt that I had finally "come home", that my search was over. I became a member of this church in the early 1970's, and I attended regularly, until John and I got married in 1976 and moved to St. Louis. During that time, I attended occasionally, when we came back to Peoria to visit. It was such a wonderful experience to go to church because I wanted to and felt better afterwards, rather than to go because of a feeling of obligation.

After living and working in St. Louis for three years, John and I moved to Coralville, Iowa, to go to graduate school at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. During that time, partly because we were not able to travel to Peoria as often, due to our school and work schedules, we became active members of the closest Unity church, Unity Church of Cedar Rapids (a city similar to Peoria, that was about thirty miles north of where we lived). We were members of numerous committees over the years, and I was on the Board of Trustees for a couple of terms, even leading the Sunday service or meditation a number of times, when the Minister was not available.

One of our Minister's favorite topics was Divine Order, or simply "D.O.", so I thought about it a lot and became more aware of recognizing it at work. One verse frequently quoted in reference to Divine Order is Ecclesiastes 3:1: "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven." This was especially meaningful at our church, as Cedar Rapids is known as "The City of Five Seasons". Another verse is Romans 8:28: "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."

John and I loved our Church and Church family, and we loved the Iowa City/Cedar Rapids area. After we both completed our graduate (and, in my case, post-doctoral fellowship) training, we were both offered jobs at the University (in the Cytogenetics Laboratory (Assistant Director) for me and in Pharmaceutical Service for John). We built a house in Coralville and assumed that we were staying in Iowa indefinitely.

However, even though I loved my work and the Division of Medical Genetics, circumstances (primarily the personality of the Cytogenetics Lab Director, my boss) changed for me, suggesting that, for the sake of my mental health, I needed to leave that laboratory. Since that was the only Cytogenetics Lab in the state of Iowa, that meant leaving our new home and our Unity church family.

I had not yet started to look for a new position, when, "out of the blue", a technologist who used to work in our lab (who had also left because of the Director and for whom I had written a letter of recommendation) contacted me. I knew that she had ended up obtaining a position in the Cytogenetics Lab at OSF St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria, Illinois. As it turned out, the Director of the Cytogenetics Laboratory had left. They had temporarily closed the lab, and the pathology group was wondering what to do. They wanted to look for a new Director, but they also knew that it would be hard to recruit a Cytogeneticist to come to central Illinois. That is when the technologist said she knew of a person board certified in Clinical Cytogenetics who happened to be from Peoria, who might possibly be willing to return, so they gave her their permission to contact me.

As you would guess, I did end up interviewing for, being offered, and then accepting the Cytogenetics Laboratory Director position. However, when John and I had moved away in 1976, we would never have anticipated ever moving back to the Peoria area (since there were no employment opportunities in either of our anticipated fields of work at the time).

Nevertheless, after being away for twenty-four years, we found ourselves moving back to the Peoria area (Dunlap) in July of 2000. After getting settled in our new jobs and selling our house in Iowa (so that we weren't making trips back to Iowa on many weekends), we started coming back to Unity Church of Peoria and became members at some point. We were happy to see that Rev. Linda was still the Minister here. We had met her after my mom passed away in 1995 when she had agreed to officiate at her funeral.

In recent years, I've struggled to balance my desire to become more involved and to volunteer more here versus not wanting to become "over-committed", due to my already busy work schedule and other parent/family commitments. Even though I'm still quite busy, I felt lead to agree to be nominated to be on the Board this year. Though there have been some time commitment issues, I feel that, right now, I'm where I'm supposed to be.

Thus, it feels like things have come "full circle" and that things were always in Divine Order, even if I didn't recognize it at the time. How many times do we forget to "Let Go and Let God" and to have faith that things are in Divine Order? Or, in non-Unity terms, to believe that, "When God closes a door, He opens a window"? In spite of experiencing many times that, after a "bad thing" (or at least an apparent bad thing) occurred, a really good or better thing happened that would not have been possible if the apparent bad thing had not happened, I still sometimes initially get caught up in the stress of the situation and have to remind myself that everything is in Divine Order.

Many principles and practices in Unity are simple, but not necessarily easy. As we grow in faith, we more quickly allow Divine Order to operate, without getting in the way and feeling the need to control and fix the situation ourselves. The full acceptance of the principle of "D.O." is difficult to achieve, but it is a worthy goal that will help to bring a feeling of peace and serenity to our hectic lives.

Blessings,

Diane K. Jordan
Board Secretary

