

April 2023

A Year of Grace & Gratitude

Dear Friends,

The beauty of spring is witnessed in the increase of sunlight, even as rain makes the soil soft and fertile. It's in the glorious gold of daffodils in full bloom, and in the primroses blooming in such vibrant colors that the only authentic response is awe. And gratitude.

Our theme this month is abundance and surely nature is the greatest example of abundance that ever was. After a dark and cold winter, in which all life appears to be gone, Life suddenly reappears in multitude. Like the earth, I too have found new life and enthusiasm springing forth where it had been challenging to find. And it fills me with gratitude. And awe.

The Bible quote offered by Unity World Headquarters this month comes from 2 Corinthians 9:8 "And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." This is a positive affirmation of truth for us. Once we understand that we can rely on God, we want to share that with others.

Myrtle Fillmore found that to be true as well. In her book *How to Let God Help You* she provides clear instruction on how to forge an understanding relationship with Presence that meets all our needs. She found that she could rely on God for a new life, and she wanted to share the "how to" with us. Myrtle refers to the Bible quote that immediately precedes the one offered to us this month, and says God loves a cheerful giver, meaning God loves a giver of cheer.

This month I invite everyone in our community to be a giver of cheer. Stay awake and notice the new life being born again – in the world and within your heart. Clean up the yard and sweep away the doubts from your consciousness. Commit once again to honoring the growth that change brings. And show up for all that you are called to do by Spirit within, that you too may experience abundance in all things.

Join me in this month's affirmation: I am grateful that all my needs are met.

Love and Laughter – Awe and Gratitude – Reverend Terry



Sunday Celebration Services 10 a.m.

Broadcasts & recordings are available on our website under the Media tab

Rev. Terry Murray, Minister

Board Members:

Nancy Camenzind, Chair Paul Swanda, Vice-Chair Greg Psaltis, Treasurer Susan McClure, Secretary Addie Robinson, Member Nancee Gordana, Member

Staff Team Members:

Janene Cummings, Music Director Lisa Petrich, Youth Education Indira Goins, Office Administrator Marlisa Hollinger, Bookkeeper Karen Reddick, Social Media

Unity of Olympia @TBH
Office hours:

By Appointment Only

201 8th Ave SW Olympia, WA 98501 (360) 943-5757 fice@unityofolympia.or

office@unityofolympia.org www.unityofolympia.org

Sundays in the Sanctuary

Please note: As there are many in our community with chemical sensitivities, we ask you please leave your scented lotions, perfumes, and other fragrances at home. Thank you.

Sunday Services | 10:00am

Masks are no longer required, but encouraged when attending in-person. The Sunday service is being streamed online through our website at www.unityofolympia.org and on FaceBook at 10:00 on Sunday mornings. It continues to be available for viewing on Facebook and YouTube following the service.

April Talk Titles:

April 2nd - Palm Sunday

April 9th - A New Life

April 16th - Life Appreciates

April 23rd - Noble Moments

April 30th - Enough for Everyone

U of O's Mission is to:

Our welcoming community Values:

Celebrate

Meditate

Learn

Serve

Affirm the Divine in all

Personal connection

Celebrating diversity

Authenticity

Evolving spirituality

Service



Sundays in the Sanctuary cont.

The Lord's Prayer interpreted by the Unity community on March 26th

Universal Presence in my heart

Holy is your Nature.

The fullness of life be manifested;

As within, so without.

You are our Source.

I love: and see love in return.

Help me make wise choices;

Free us from separation -

For thine is the fulfillment of Good,

Always in my awareness.

So it is.

Music News

Happy Spring, Unity Family--

I hope you are all finding great joy amid these sunny days! I don't know exactly what it is about being at river's edge that is such a draw for me-- but on days loaded with sun, I nearly run to slip my feet in the cool water as the warmth of the sun kisses my grinning face.

This time of year, we begin a visceral sense of renewal as our zeal for life quadruples, and nature seems to accelerate that delicious frequency. I love how Bishop Reginald Heber describes spring:

"Spring unlocks the flowers to paint the laughing soil."

And I expect that's what spring's invitation is about— a chance to unveil more of our inner goodness while walking more firmly from our colorful, divine nature.

On the 23rd of this month, Mike and Caryn Mercker will be filling our hearts with their beautiful harmony—their vocal blend is exquisite.

This spring, may each of us continue stepping into the kind of renewal that makes our awakening heart sing!



In Joy--

Janene Cummings Music Director

Youth and Family Ministries

April 2023 Youth and Family Ministry, Lisa Petrich -Director

Greeting the Youth and Family Ministry!

We just successfully completed our BE A DREAMER curriculum! Our youth and adults



Thank you to all who participated and supported our lessons.



As we approach Easter and dive into Spring, we are reminded of new growth opportunities and new starts to life. As we adjust to our new space, we are shifting and changing our perspectives on what we have done in the past to what we want to create now. That being said, we will have fun activities for children on Palm Sunday and Easter during service, but we will not have an egg hunt this year. Thank you for your support and understanding.

As we move forward, our lessons will continue to be online and serve the children. I am currently researching what we are going to do next. I'm thinking we will work on some basic Unity teachings. If you have any feedback or anything you'd like to see the youth cover, please let me know.

Thank you for your continued support. Happy Easter!





Envisioning Our Future

Open hearts, open minds...

As a community, we have come together to envision a future where we are both serving and served by the space we inhabit. We made the bold choice to not only move our physical beings to a new church home, but to also be brave enough to embrace the unknown. To be open to new ideas and infinite possibilities. In this spirit, we would like to share interesting and thought provoking information through various articles we read or threads we come across. Join us in expanding our understanding of what a spiritual community looks like, and what our future could hold. Click on the hyperlink below to read an article on this very topic. Have an article like this you'd like to share with the community? Email office@unityofolympia.org and let us know!

Future Church: 8 Church Trends to Watch in 2023

https://careynieuwhof.com/future-church-trends/

Business News

Board Chair Report

The annual meeting for members of Unity of Olympia is fast approaching! It will be held April 30 following Sunday service, so please mark your calendar. Lunch will be served to those members who stay for the meeting. We'll be voting on new board members, and currently we have three candidates but are still looking for a fourth. If you are interested, please contact one of those on the Nominating Committee: Addie Robinson, Rev Terry Murray, Cynthia Dallas or Betty Bailey.



Unity of Olympia is required to update memberships yearly. We accomplish this task before the annual meeting, in order to have an accurate list of the governing members. Thanks to all who responded to their email or postcard notifications.

Larry Berg has been volunteering his time weekly to pick up the mail and take care of some office tasks. Thank you Larry!

Some improvements have been made to resolve the sound and streaming issues in the sanctuary – thank you Ted!

We'll see you at the annual meeting!

Nancy Camenzind

Board Chair

Business News cont.

Board Nominees

Diana Ehri - 3 year position

I enjoy spending my time with my husband, Ric, and our 2 dogs Bernie and Saige, our son Ben and daughter-in-law Liz, my family, and our close group of friends. I have a passion for traveling, gardening, cooking, sewing, needle work, camping, and clamming.

I have a master's degree in organizational systems from Pacific Lutheran
University. I retired from state service after working at the Department of Health for 30 years. I continue to keep active in public health volunteering as a site reviewer for the Public Health
Accreditation Board. I have been an active member of Unity of Olympia for 3 years. During this time, I have helped with the lunch program, the welcoming committee, and the finance committee.

Susan McClure - 3 year position

I was born the 3rd child of 4 on a dairy farm 7 miles south of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania where I graduated Gettysburg elementary, jr and sr high schools. The farm was a lovely place where I was able to connect with spirit in nature and have the benefit of fresh air, organic vegetables, and grass fed beef. I graduated from The University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia where I majored in Medical Technology. I then pursued a career in hospital clinical laboratories ending as the Laboratory Manager at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.



I then graduated from Wharton School of Business at the Univ of PA where I majored in Health Care and had a 5 year career in Hospital Administration. After a spiritual awakening in 1986 that resulted in sobriety, I eventually realized that a different career would make better use of my skills and abilities. After moving to Olympia in 1993 I started a Financial Planning business which I built over the ensuring 29 years. I sold the business and retired in June of 2021. In my next act I have joined Unity of Olympia, joined the Peace Choir, and learned to play pickleball with my husband. I continue to enjoy gardening, hiking, travel, sponsoring women, and facilitating a spiritual release technique with individuals.

Larry "L. Mo" Modes - 2 year position

I was born in Artesia, NM. Went to high school in Manhattan Beach, CA. Attended UCLA and graduated with a BS in Civil Engineering. I have a PE licence in 11 states including WA. I am retired and for the last 5 years have toured small towns around the USA. On my third tour of Olympia, my van had an engine fire. God is good all the time. It lead me here, the most beautiful place in my travels. And forced me to stop. I got the hint and am here to stay.



Announcements

Unity of Olympia @TBH

While we are here holding Sunday service and other events at this location until we discover what is next for us, here are a few things to continue to keep in mind:

TBH is a secure location. This means that the doors to the building remain locked at all times.

- Access to the building is granted based on event attendance. Please be prepared to state the name of the event you are attending, as this will be required before you will be admitted.
- It is very important to always be on time for every event including Sunday service. Once the service or event begins, you may not be able to enter and participate.

We are grateful you are here and deeply appreciate your cooperation and assistance in this.

Event Information & Sign-Ups

Thank you for your flexibility as we revamp our Classes and Events sign-ups. This has been working well. As a reminder: we have a new process for event registrations! All classes and events will be listed on our website at unityofolympia.org/events. Where possible, we encourage you to help us save paper and sign-up online!

There is an easel located in the fellowship hall that will have flyers for upcoming events, along with a single sign-up sheet should you be unable to utilize the website. Please be sure to clearly write your name and information and indicate the specific event you are registering for.

Where possible, we are introducing QR codes to aid in the registration process. These black and white square symbols can be accessed using your smart phone's camera setting. When you point your camera at the code, your phone will recognize it as a QR code and when you tap on your phone screen on the highlighted square, it will take you directly to the registration page on our website! Give it a try!

Flower Donations Appreciated

The Flower Team is looking for some help. During the summer months, members Karen Berg and Addie Robinson very generously share the abundance of their beautiful gardens. But in the wintertime, flowers are purchased between the 4 members of our team. If there is anyone out there who would like to bring flowers on a Sunday throughout the remainder of the winter and into spring, or donate funds to help offset these costs, please text Terry (360-464-5715) or email her (t9obtl@comcast.net). Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Events

Getting to Know U of O

Facilitated by Rev. Terry Murray
Sunday April 16th from 1:00 - 2:30pm @TBH

If you are relatively new to our community and would like to know more about who we are and what we do, consider joining us at our next Getting to Know U of O on April 16th!



This gathering offers a way to connect to current members of our community, learn a little about the history of Unity of Olympia, as well as what we are all about as a spiritual center.

There will be a mix of new faces and long-time members present to mingle with and get to know us a little better.

You are welcome to register on our website, scan the QR Code or just show up! You are welcome here - please join us!

SCAN ME

SpiritGroups Are Forming!

Beginning the Week of April 23rd!

Small Groups provide a safe space for expression of our authentic selves and to question everything!



SpiritGroups are a commitment to your spiritual well-being and the health of our larger community. We're moving beyond the traditional video series and open to INFINITE possibilities for topics to dive into. This is an exciting time for small groups at Unity of Olympia and we're excited to have you join us! Please sign-up in the lobby or online!

There's room for one more...Dinners for Six

Would you like to be part of a monthly dinner group? The primary purpose is for personal connection over a meal. Groups will decide their own operational format and meet for about 4 months at a time. Additionally, groups will be encouraged to have enough food so that an extra person (or maybe 2) new to our spiritual community could be invited for a single evening to get acquainted with more people and to see if Unity is a fit for them.



Groups are meeting now - we invite you to sign-up on our website and join us!

Events cont.

OU Men's Breakfast

Wednesday, April 12th at 8:00am

River's Edge Restaurant 4611 Tumwater Valley Golf Course Tumwater WA 98512

The OU Men's group meets the 2nd Wednesday of every month. We'd love for you to join us! Questions? Contact us at office@unityofolympia.org.

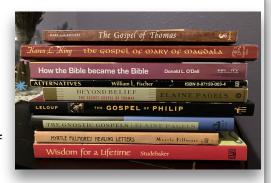


New Thought Bible Study Book Group

Saturdays, 9:30-10:45am via Zoom.

For the curious, the doubtful and the wishful thinkers. Drop-ins always welcome.

Many people believe the best way to study the Bible is to read the Bible but maybe it's not. Unity teaches that the Bible is the story of the evolution of consciousness; the changing awareness of humanity's relationship with God and one another. The Fillmore's



(Unity's founders) were more interested in the meaning behind the stories than whether the stories of the Bible were factual or not. Current biblical and archaeological scholarship offers us information that just wasn't available a hundred years ago, or even fifty years ago. Join Rev. Terry on a new adventure in 2023 as we read texts from and about the Nag Hammadi library, the history of the Bible, and a few alternatives.

Register online under "Events" to receive the Zoom login. Join us according to your schedule and interest! When you sign up you will also receive info on the current book and chapters we are working through.

Books in this series:

Beyond Belief - The Secret Gospels of Thomas – Elaine Pagels The Gospel of Philip – Jean-Yves Leloup The Gospel of Mary of Magdala – Karen L. King How the Bible became the Bible – Donald L. O'Dell Alternatives – William L. Fischer



Events cont.

Weekly Meditation Sangha (Community)

Wednesdays 6:00-7:30 pm

This is an open invitation to join in community to simply enjoy the moment of now, and sit together in meditation.

- 20 minutes of sitting
- Short walking meditation or mindful movement
- 10 minutes of sitting
- Dharma sharing, reading wisdom of Thich Nhat Hahn or his students.
- Mindful sharing about your practice

This event takes place at Temple Beth Hatfiloh and is facilitated by Nije' Pinder. Donations are accepted. Questions? Contact office@unityofolympia.org. Please note: if this is your fist time attending, plan to arrive 10 minutes prior to 6:00pm. Thank you!



A mini retreat has been scheduled for Saturday, March 18, 2023 at the Olympia Timberland Library (313 8th ave) and plan to begin at 10:15am to 1:15pm for 3 hours of practice. We will be sitting and walking, and listening to a supportive Dharma Talk. More information will be provided in the next couple of weeks. We hope you will join us.



Save the Date

Mariners Baseball Game - Faith & Family Day

Saturday, August 26th at 1:10pm

Join us for a ballgame! Details regarding potential group transportation are being worked out, but the second registration deadline is coming up on June 30th. If you are interested in attending, please register on our website. If you would like to help sponsor a scholarship fund for this event, you may do so via the website as well. Here's what's included:

- * \$26 per person (100 level)
- * T-shirt
- * Post-Game Concert
- * Panel discussion as well following the concert



Within Our Ministry

Prayer Team

One of my favorite names for God is the Dream Maker, the Divine Illumination, the Source, the Creator. In Springtime we experience a renewal, a time of rebirth in ourselves and the world around us. Dreams are bursting to life and the world is a magical place. You are invited into an Easter experience of all things, even those we don't want, leading to transformation, when something has died in you and is raised to life again. The key is to stay aware of the sacred presence of each moment. What dream are you looking for?

Moments with the Dream Maker: By Linda Ihrig February 2023

In the void of the sky are endless imaginings, Reflected in the brilliance of a glinting black eye, Studying, wandering, seeking. From the Dream Maker the light arose.

Amid the incoherence of words. Stories within the night's dream are muddled, Yet somehow understood. From the Dream Maker the symbols emerged.

At the stretch of sand, heart shaped rocks are found, Cinnamon red splashed over the gray edges, Worn smooth by waves and hands. From the Dream Maker the peace arrived.

With strained, crooked hands, Poignant lines are crafted, At first illegible then opened wide. From the Dream Maker words take form.

Out of the crescent of a triple rainbow, Colors flow from inside the drops of rain, Tickling an evening sky. From the Dream Maker beauty thrives.

Within the immovable bars of self, Truth presses open with a nudge, The dawning of insight. From the Dream Maker awareness sings.

In the unstill heart. Life is beating, beating, beating, Christening a life anew.

Newness. New thought. New age. New view. New time. New Dream. Born from within the Dream Maker.

From the Dream Maker birth is given.



Unity Northwest Region





The Youth of Unity (YOU) Rally is a 3-day communion with Spirit outside of Randle, WA. Daily activities include large group workshops, small group discussions, singing, meditation, dancing, prayer and vespers. At this event we will explore and discuss the spiritual faculties of Faith, Strength, and Power.



Register via the QR code or on our website at https://unitynwregion.org/event-5185883

Unity Northwest Region



Summer Unitreat 2023

Camp Cedar Ridge in Vernonia, Oregon August 21-26, Monday through Saturday Cost: \$450.00

Who is Unitreat for? Unitreat is open to all Uniteens ages 11-14 and their sponsors or counselors.

What is Unitreat? This 6 day, 5 night retreat includes a hillside Slip'n'Slide, a Challenge Course, trails to explore, a swimming pool, camp fires, creative expressions, silence & prayer in nature, along with meditation. All while making friends with Uniteens from throughout the Northwestern Region.

Questions? Contact Chris via email at cbchris.2010@gmail.com.



Register via the QR code or on our website at https://unitynwregion.org/event-5152366



Community Outreach

Thurston County Food Project

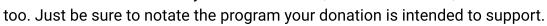
Sharing Food. Building Community.

You want to help. We make it easy!

You are invited to join with us in partnering with the Thurston County Food Project to provide food for our community via donations for the Thurston County Food Bank. Unity of Olympia member,

Karen Reddick and her three children have been involved in this project for several years in her own neighborhood and they are hoping to extend their reach even further by collecting bags of food from our Unity Community as well.

Here's how it works: When you sign-up, you will receive a Thurston County Food Project "Green Bag" to fill with food donations. Then on the first Sunday of every even month (February, April, June, August, October, and December) you bring your filled green bag to church with you and Karen and her children will exchange your bag with a new one, and take the food to the Food Bank for you. It's that simple! And if you'd rather support either of these donation-run institutions with a monetary donation instead, that is welcomed,



Below is a link to a recent Thurston Talk article that was written by Mary Ellen Psaltis about this project as well as a link to the Thurston County Food Project website if you'd like to learn more. If you are interested in signing up to be a neighborhood coordinator to collect food from your own neighborhood, you can do that too!

Ready to join with us in June? Sign-up on our website! Questions? Email socialmedia@unityofolympia.org.

Thurston County Talk Article: https://www.thurstontalk.com

/2023/03/16/food-friends-fun-create-heartfelt-connections-through-the-thurston-county-food-project/

TCFP Homepage: https://thurstoncountyfoodproject.org/

Community Outreach

Lunch Service for the Homeless Shelter

The ongoing service project that Unity of Olympia has been participating in, known as the Wednesday Lunch Service, is still in full swing and it is easier than ever to participate in this shared community service project. We invite you to consider joining our efforts to serve the hungry.

You can create your own "community group" or volunteer on an individual basis and a group will be created for you. Here are the important details:

- Lunch service is for 30 individuals (although there are options for up to 60 any one day for either lunch OR dinner)
- There are no long-term commitments, help when you can
- We currently serve twice a month.



If you are interested in donating money, you can write a check to IFW and add "for shelter meals" in the memo line. The funds will be used to buy groceries for guests to use (ie milk, bulk rice, pasta, pasta sauce etc.).

Another option could also be getting gift certificates/cards from a restaurant (like Dominos pizza) that can be stored in the IW office for when they don't have a meal scheduled. Are you in? Please contact the official chairperson for this project, Cathy Evans, by email at evanscl@earthlink.net or by phone at (360) 489-0885.

Interfaith Works



Social justice and peace through interfaith understanding and cooperation.

Interfaith WORKS

April 2023

Thank you, Unity members, for your donations to Celebrating Spring baskets for the Eye-to-Eye fundraiser for Interfaith Works Homeless Services. The event raised nearly \$50,000, thanks in part to grassroots donations from people like you!

Shout out to our members who provide monthly lunches to Unity Commons as well.

Did you know...?

- Interfaith Works has two parts, the Interfaith Relations Program Council represented by 30-some faith communities; and Homeless Services.
- Providing ministry and recognition to those who have passed away outside, sometimes unidentified, the Program Council offers a memorial service of prayer on 3-31 near their place of death. Four people have made their transition alone and unsheltered in Thurston County recently.
- Homeless Services oversees the new Unity Commons, which houses 58 formerly unsheltered people. It now has over *60 employees* in this mission.
- A day shelter named Sergio's will be opening soon at 3444 Martin Way as a limited hours services hub for houseless residents of our area. It will have showers and laundry facilities.

News from and about IW:

- **1. Interfaith Earth Day**, "Reconnecting with Our Sacred Earth", a collaboration between Restoring Earth Connection, Greenfaith of Olympia, and Interfaith Works. Sunday, April 23rd, from 1-2 p.m. at Decatur Woods Park. Opportunities for interactive reflection on our celebration and connection with Earth.
- **2. Youth Sleep Out for Homelessness**. May 6th is coming soon! Please help by sharing a blurb about the event for teenagers from the description on the following pages.
- **3**. **Thurston's Hunger Walk**. May 7th, 3 p.m. Huntamer Park in Lacey. Please consider a donation on our Unity of Olympia page to fund Food Bank & Community Kitchen.

https://app.99pledges.com/fund/thurston2023/unity-church

Check out these events and other information at https://www.interfaith-works.org/events.html

Submitted by Ann Chenhall and Sandy Crowell

Interfaith Works cont.



Our Sacred Earth

You are invited to come and celebrate our connection with our sacred Earth.

We will gather, sing, and engage in interactive opportunities for reflection as we celebrate Earth and our joy of Earth.

SUNDAY
April 23, 2023
1–2 pm
FAMILY-FRIENDLY, FREE

LOCATION
Decatur Woods Park
1015 Decatur St SW
Olympia, WA 98502

THIS EVENT IS SPONSORED BY







FOR MORE INFO VISIT ONLINE Interfaith-Works.org/Events

Interfaith Works cont.



AN OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH

Build community and awareness for people experiencing homelessness in our region through empathy-building exercises facilitated by trained staff from Interfaith Works' Homeless Services.

SLEEP OUTSIDE IN IMPROVISED SHELTERS

Youth will sleep outside in temporary shelters they build from materials they bring to the event (tarps, cardboard, etc.). They are welcome to bring sleeping pads, pillows, and sleeping bags, but not tents (more details on this will be supplied).

SAFE AND SUPERVISED

The shelters will be in the grassy lot on the north end of Westminster's property with on-site supervision and access to the facilities in the church at all times.

6 pm - 7 am

A FREE EVENT FOR YOUTH, GRADES 9-12

LOCATION

Westminster Presbyterian Church 1925 Boulevard Rd SE Olympia, WA 98501

REGISTRATION

Information and Regsiration at Interfaith-Works.org/Events



