

February 2023

A Year of Grace & Gratitude



Dear Friends,

As I write this letter on the last day of January I am filled with a sense of completion. The much beloved and sacred property on Fern Street is recording today and it is no longer ours. We've been meeting at Temple Beth Hatfiloh for a full month and it's beginning to feel like home. Sunday mornings are filled with vibrant energy even as we continue to work through the challenges of change in our routines and physical setups. And sharing space with the TBH members after service on Sundays is somehow very satisfying.

February is the month we honor the power of Divine Love, as do many communities, whether they recognize the 12 Powers as innate or not. It is in love that we have been welcome into this new home. It is in love that we maintain our bonds of Unity with one another regardless of our physical location. It is in love that we have hope for a world that is one of justice and compassion.

Love is our theme this month and the affirmation is "I am loved and lifted up." Sometimes we use affirmations as a tool to remind ourselves of a truth that our conscious minds have forgotten, or to self-correct false beliefs. This month we can return to this affirmation repeatedly as a statement of gratitude for what is already made manifest through grace.

"Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind." 1 Peter 3:8

Beloved friends, I am filled to overflowing with love and gratitude for our community and each of you who participate through your love for one another with tender hearts and humility. Truly, we are practicing the Unity of Spirit.

Love & 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

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.

February Talk Titles:

February 5th: Divinity & Diversity, with Rev. Terry Murray

February 12th: Love in Action, with Rev. Terry Murray

February 19th: The Truth Shall Set You Free, with Rev. Terry Murray

February 26th: Lifelong Learners, with Rev. Terry Murray

U of O's Mission is to:

Celebrate

Meditate

Learn

Serve

Affirm the Divine in all

Our welcoming community Values:

Personal connection

Celebrating diversity

Authenticity

Evolving spirituality

Service



New Year, New Home!

Unity of Olympia is now located at

Temple Beth Hatfiloh

New Location: 201 8th Ave SE in Olympia.

New Mailing Address: PO Box 1523 Olympia, WA 98507

Our phone number and email address will remain the same:
360.943.5757 / office@unityofolympia.org.

Join us for our Celebration Services - Sundays at 10:00 am.

Hello Beautiful Souls--

What a blessing it has been to see so many shining faces joining us at Temple Beth Hatfiloh! Filling that room with our laughter, lesson and song has sure helped gentle the transition.

I wanted to say thank you for your patience as we learn the ins and outs of running sound in that room-- it's very different & challenging. Luckily, we have amazing sound technicians with patience and know how.

As winter progresses, I'm reminded of a William Blake quote:

"In seed time learn, in harvest time teach, in winter enjoy."

That's quite brilliant and I hope you are taking time to slow down and enjoy this thought-provoking season. I seem to still catch myself counting down the days till I can comfortably lake swim again. Lol

On the 12th of this month, Samuel Barnard will be bringing his amazing talent-- his heart is as rich as his voice. Come join us!

I wanted to mention our fabulous Sound Team, which includes sound techs, our live-streamer/camera operator and power point conductor-- they have worked so hard during this transition and each Sunday they are the foundation of our service. We are so blessed to have these amazingly talented volunteers. And Ted Clark... well, his service and knowledge has been truly outstanding! I may be the music director, but Ted is still my go-to guy for many things. Thank you, Ted for always having my back.

To those of you who join us online-- a big thank you! Your loving-kindness adds to the heart of our community and we hope you feel our appreciation.

The grace each of you bring to our Sunday service is what's making this transition go smoothly-- I am so proud of the loving community that we are. There is no challenge we cannot face within divine togetherness.

In Gratitude--

Janene Cummings

Music Director



2023 February YFM News

by Lisa Petrich, YFM Director, Unity of Olympia

Welcome February!

We have a new beginning and are starting to DREAM about what is next. So many opportunities open up with our new move. The students are appearing and the teachers are too.

Thank you, Karen Reddick and Malynda Murphy for offering to work with our youth on the 3rd Sundays of the month; and additionally, to Ann Chenhall and Karen Berg for continuing to work with our youth on the fifth Sundays of the month. Your support is greatly appreciated!

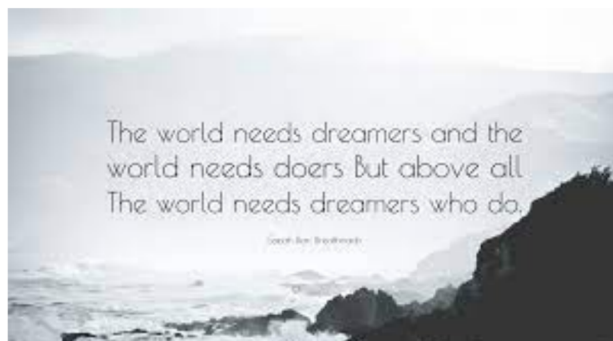
Please remember, all lessons are online and continue to be available for teachers, family, and other interested parties. If you'd like to help in our area by volunteering to work with our youth and families, then please let me know. There are two great reasons to volunteer - 1. You teach what you most need to learn! So many times there are lessons that I need to know, just as much as the students need to learn. 2. Our families are our future. The future of Unity of Olympia needs to embrace families to continue our growth and to share Unity Principles to help others in their daily lives. Please consider working with the youth this year, even if it is just for a few months.



Our new curriculum is adapted from Diane Venzera's, Be a Dreamer. Youth will look at what their dreams are and how God fits into their dreams through support and love. There

is also a lesson on creating a CHEST of dreams! Each week, participating youth will receive special gifts to remember to use what they have learned at home. These gifts will become our treasures to discuss! Looking forward to it!

Thank you for your continued support!



Board Chair's Report

As of this writing, the sale of our property on Fern Street is near its end. The initial closing was scheduled for December 30, but there were some delays. Documents are now being signed, and it will close on Tuesday, January 31. Yes! Thank you Spirit!

It appears that we are settling nicely into our new temporary home at TBH. We still have some 'bugs' to work out, but those are expected to smooth out soon. The Board agrees with Rev Terry that we need to spend the money to improve our sound system and streaming for Sunday services, so look for that in the months ahead.



Kudos to Rev Terry! She put in many extra hours this past year, using her managerial and organizational skills in overseeing the clean-up of the buildings and the move from Fern Street. Thank you Rev Terry. Also a big thank you to all the volunteers who showed up on the packing days to sort through a 48-year accumulation of stuff and pack boxes.

We (your Board) continue as a team to provide lunches for the homeless shelter every other month. This simple-to-do project meets with our value of providing service, and our aim is to set an example for the congregation. (Plus we like doing it.) It is our hope that others in our community will form their own groups to provide lunches as well.

Joy and Peace!

Nancy Camenzind
Board of Trustees

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!

10 Predictions About the Future Church and Shifting Attendance Patterns

<https://careynieuwhof.com/10-predictions-about-the-future-church-and-shifting-attendance-patterns/>

Reminders:

Unity of Olympia @TBH

Welcome to our new spiritual home at Temple Beth Hatfiloh! Unity of Olympia, lovingly dubbed "Unity of Olympia @TBH" while we call this building home, will hold Sunday service and other events at this location until we discover what is next for us. Here are a few things to keep in mind while we are in this space:

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

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!

OU Men's Breakfast

Wednesday, February 8th 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.



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 first time attending, plan to arrive 10 minutes prior to 6:00pm. Thank you!

Sacred Women's Circle: Connections, Prayer, and Meditation

Facilitated by Linda Ihrig

Thursdays from 5:00-7:00 PM at her home

It is not necessary to attend every week. Because of family needs and plans, I am unable to host every week. I will let everyone know on Sunday the week before via email whether the group is meeting or not.

The format will be a light dinner from 5:00-6:00, while we gather. I will provide the meal, if you want to bring something, just let me know. The actual circle will begin at 6:00, beginning with sharing, then followed by a sacred reading, prayer requests, music, and meditation.

I respectfully request that you do the following:

- Let me know if you are planning to attend.
- Be fully vaccinated against COVID. Let me know if you want others to wear a mask.
- Bring a journal, writing utensil (or colors), and a sacred object.
- Arrive prior to 6 PM. (We will then be in prayer or meditation.)

Please register on our website at www.unityofolympia.org/events to receive my address and contact information.



New Thought Bible Study Book Group

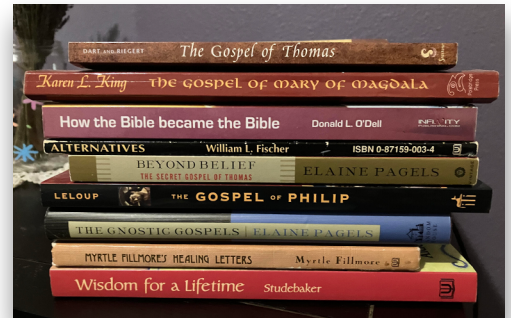
Saturdays, 9:30-10:45am via Zoom.

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!

The Gnostic Gospels – Elaine Pagels
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



SCAN ME

Spiritual Mind Treatment Workshop

Saturdays, February 4th & 11th from 1:00-4:00pm

Location: Center for Spiritual Living, 3437 Libby Road NE, Olympia, 98506

Facilitated by: Rev. David Robinson

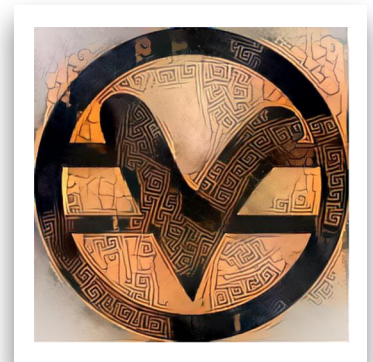
Cost: Suggested \$50 conscious contribution - pay what you are able, no one turned away.

The practice of affirmative prayer can transform your life as well as those you support! We invite you to join with Unity of Olympia's Prayer Team as well as members of Center for Spiritual Living in this class on affirmative prayer. Rev. David will lead this two-class series for you to dive into learning more about this powerful process.

Register online or scan the QR code for more details.



SCAN ME



Be My Valentine - Dinner for Leaders & Volunteers

February 15th from 6:00-8:00pm

Location: TBH Fellowship Hall

A special thank you to all the leaders and volunteers who have given of their time, talent and energy to serving our spiritual community. Please join me for this opportunity to practice our love for one another in Grace and Gratitude. Dinner will be hosted by Reverend Terry. If you're one who has waited for the opportunity to be of one-time service to this community, please consider showing your gratitude through service at this event. One time volunteer? Contact Rev Terry at minister@unityofolympia.org.



There's Room for One More - Dinners for 6 to 8

Would you like to be part of a monthly dinner group? The primary purpose is for personal connection over a meal.

Signing up means you believe you would like to participate, and you'd like more information. **We'll meet after service on February 19th in the sanctuary** - then together we will figure out how many people per group, how cooking will be divided up, meeting dates and other details.

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.



40 Days of Letting Go - Lent Booklet Discussion Group

Facilitated by Audrey Pitchford, LUT

Tuesday evenings from 7:00 - 8:30pm

February 28 - April 4th via Zoom

What is Lent all about in Unity? What are we letting go of?

Let's explore these questions and our ideas together! I invite you to join Unity of Olympia's Lenten Booklet Discussion Group, Tuesday evenings Feb. 28 - April 4 from 7:00-8:30pm on Zoom.

Booklets are available at the Sunday Service, or through the link below.

[40 Days of Letting Go Booklets](#)



Prayer Team: 40 Days of Letting Go

When February winds blow and rain pounds down, Spring might still seem very far away. But like me, you may have noticed the days growing longer minute by minute, which means Lent is on the way! This spiritual practice starting at the end of February reminds us of the coming Easter celebration, and the raising of spiritual consciousness available to all of us in each moment.



What is Lent? The word is related to the English "lengthen," referring to the amount of daylight increasing as we progress through the season. And the Lenten Season is the 40 days starting with Ash Wednesday on Feb. 22, ending with Easter Sunday on April 9. (Math experts will note this is technically more than 40 days -- the end of Holy Week and Sundays were traditionally excluded from the count.)

Fasting, or abstaining from certain foods, is a long-standing spiritual tradition in many cultures, and in Lent. A fast often helps us to better appreciate the feast! And we may fast from food, or from certain practices, or certain beliefs. Unity cofounder Charles Fillmore urged his students to use Lent to fast from error thinking, making room to feast on ideas of Oneness with the Divine.

At the start of Lent, I ask myself, what am I ready to let go of? What will help me make more room for my good? Fittingly, Lent begins in some darkness. Especially if I am letting go of error thoughts, I might find the process to be a journey. I gently remind myself I have 40 days to practice. I allow myself time and space, with compassion, to make room for my good.

This month, I invite you to pick up one of the Unity Lenten booklets, 40 Days of Letting Go, after the Sunday Service, or order a copy from the previous link. And if you want to discuss Lent and this booklet with others, I invite you to consider joining our Lenten Booklet Discussion Group, Tuesday evenings on Zoom from 7-8:30pm, from Feb. 28-April 4. Together, we will share, support each other, and compassionately explore the idea of letting go of what no longer serves us. Together, we make room for our good!

With peace and blessings, Audrey Pitchford she/her/ella, LUT

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.

Fundraising Opportunity from Build-A-Bus Home

Would you join us in fundraising with Flowers?
Select premium when checking out. This way it is all online, and the flowers are sent to your address.

Thanks for participating.

Our website for ordering flowers is:
<http://ShowerPower.fpfundraising.com>





*Social justice and peace
through interfaith understanding
and cooperation.*

Your Unity Involvement in IW

Not only does your congregation Unity of Olympia **contribute financially** to Interfaith Works support of homeless services, Unity members provide **Wednesday shelter lunches** and your representatives **attend community events** in person. We also help by passing on **information** you might not get otherwise by representing Unity on the IW Program Council.

Here's what's new and coming up in 2023:



*Figure 1 Observing a silent, meditative walk
around Capital Lake in observance of Martin
Luther King Jr. Day, January 15, 2023*

1. Save the Date!! The **Eye 2 Eye** fundraiser returns on February 11th with an in-person event of community connection and support of IW Homeless Services. Limited seating this year. Register [HERE](#).
2. Interfaith Advocacy Day with Faith Action Network is 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday, February 9th. Registration is limited this year! Register at the following link: <https://fanwa.org/interfaith-advocacy-day/> and check out their legislative agenda. There is no fee for registration.
3. Sergio's, a day shelter, will be opening soon at 3444 Martin Way as a limited hours services hub for houseless residents of our area. Neighborhood meetings are being held and a management team is in the process of being assembled for the opening. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is collecting donations for the day shelter.
4. The January Program Council hosted [Ryan Nakade](#) of the [CURE-PDX](#) project to discuss resilience in the face of violent extremism and polarization. Ryan works with governments, non-profits, and civic leaders to bridge divides and reduce violence. His organization offers workshops and training, which the Program Council will consider in the future.
5. An Interfaith Relations staff support position is opening; a pdf with the job description and a link to the posting is on the IW website <https://www.interfaith-works.org/>
6. The Islamic Center of Olympia hosts an open house the first Friday of every month at 1 p.m. For further information about this opportunity to expand our understanding of other faiths, see www.islamiccenterofolympia.org

Submitted by Sandy Crowell and Ann Chenhall



OLYMPIA'S 24/7

Supportive Shelter Program

FOR OUR MOST
VULNERABLE NEIGHBORS

Advancing the social inclusion and
empowerment of our neighbors
experiencing homelessness through
innovative practices of sheltering,
mental health and emergency basic
needs coordination.



Homeless Services Program

Unity Commons / Sergio's / Navigation Team

SIX YEAR CELEBRATION

Saturday, February 11, 2023
5-9 pm

5-6:30 pm Happy Hour and Meet and Greet

Hear Stories, Meet our Guests, Share a Meal with Us

LOCATION

The Lutheran Church of The Good Shepherd
1601 North Street SE
Olympia, WA 98501

Click for more information



Eye-2-Eye ***Celebration of Spring*** Raffle Basket Donations

Please bring donations for a flower
basket on Sunday Feb. 5!