

# GoodNewsLetter

Unity Community Church

December 2017- February 2018 • UnityDunedin.org • UnityDunedin@aol.com

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Dear Beloved Friends,

In the midst of holiday preparations and endless activities, let us remember the simple beginning of this annual celebration: a baby's birth, one that changed the world.

The prophets had proclaimed the arrival of this baby, naming him "Immanuel," which means "God is with us." This is the simple truth; the Christ Spirit of God lives within each of us. The birth of the inner Christ is an awakening to an indwelling awareness of our own divine nature.

Especially during this busy season, let us express our inner Christ by loving God and being kind to one another.

We invite you and your loved ones to join our spiritual family as we celebrate Christmas with our unique Unity services.

We appreciate your loving prayers, financial support and participation in this ministry throughout the year. Thank you in advance for your holiday gifts, which will be carefully dedicated to our ministry of God's work.

May this season bring you all the joy and fulfillment that you desire and may the New Year bless you beyond your wildest expectations. You are a beautiful expression of God.

In His Love and Light,  
Elsie Huebner, Spiritual Leader

## Sunday Service, 10:00 AM

Dec 3 – Lorna Blake (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent)  
Dec 10 – Valleri Crabtree  
Dec 17 – Christmas Sing-along  
Dec 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
Dec 31 – Burning Bowl and Letter to God Service

Jan 7 – Dr. Cathy Zeph, "Row, Row, Row Your Boats"  
Jan 14 – White Stone Ceremony, Elsie Huebner, Spiritual Leader  
Jan 21 – Terence Young  
Jan 28 – Rev. David Florence

Feb 3 – Rev. Eleanor Bentley. Meditation Seminar after church service (11:30)  
Feb 11 – Elsie Huebner, Spiritual Leader  
Feb 18 – Lorna Blake  
Feb 25 – Terence Young

More information on about speakers and events on page two.

## Add To Your Calendar

**UC Angels Luncheon;** Saturday, Jan 13, noon. Please bring a dish to share and a wrapped gift to exchange.

**Meditation Workshop** – Sunday, Feb. 3 (11:30) with Rev. Eleanor Bentley. Love offering basis.

**Annual Membership Meeting;** Sunday, Feb 18, after church service

**First Wed. of Each Month,** 7:00 p.m. Prayer, Healing and Meditation Service.

**A Course in Miracles,** Every Friday 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Class led by Martha Landry on a love offering basis.

**Lorna Blake, our guest speaker on Dec 3 and Feb 18,** is a Trainer/Coach, a best-selling co-author of several books, and guest speaker at many organizations, including several Unity churches in this area.

Lorna was born to a poor teenage mother on her grandparent's farm in Jamaica and in her early life experienced rejection, poverty, abuse and violence. She developed a love of reading early, which allowed her to find an escape in books and the word of God. She imagined herself in faraway countries. Through a series of miraculous events, she made her way to Canada alone as a teenager gaining permanent residence and citizenship there. She got married at a young age and was discouraged when her first marriage ended in divorce leaving her with two young sons. But she dreamed of finding her divinely appointed partner and didn't give up. Ten years after her divorce, through another series of miraculous events, she made her way to South Korea with her two sons where she met her life partner/husband. That was 11 years ago and they've been together since. Their passion for helping others has led them to live and work in five different countries where she has taught and inspired thousands of people.

Lorna lives by the admonition in Matthew 5:16 and shines her light to brighten the path for others

**Christmas Sing-along service – Dec 17.** We will include as many Christmas songs as time allows!

**Christmas Eve Service, December 24, 10:00 a.m.** New Unity Candlelight Service created by Rev. Kelly Isola. **Twelve Living Lights** is a way to remember the Twelve Powers of humankind as twelve living lights – always expressing, always unfolding.

**We will not have a church service Christmas Day.** Enjoy this beautiful day celebrating with your family and friends.

**New Year's Eve Burning Bowl and Letter to God service, Dec 31, 10:00 a.m.** After a time of contemplation, you will be guided to release the past and lay hold of your good in the future. We will each write down all the things we wish to release from the past. Then the paper is set afire in the Burning Bowl, symbolizing the cleansing fire of the Holy Spirit. As part of the service, we will write a letter to God, expressing the good things we want to manifest in the New Year. The sealed, self-addressed envelopes will be sent to Silent Unity for six months of blessings. In June, they will be mailed back to us unopened. It's very exciting to receive your own letter in the middle of the year to see which of your prayers have been answered. For many of us, this is an important ritual to help us on our spiritual path.

**We will not be having a church service New Year's Day.** But please join us for our prayer and meditation service on Wednesday, Jan. 3, 7:00 p.m.

**White Stone Ceremony – Sunday Jan. 14, 10:00 a.m.** This is an ancient ritual where you will receive a new name during meditation and write it on your white stone. It will have deep meaning for you and provide guidance for the New Year. (The stones we use in this service come from the Holy Land.)

**The Miracle of Meditation Sunday, Feb 3. 11:30 – 1:00 p.m.**

The past year was difficult and many of us are feeling stressed, overwhelmed in this era of chaos and confusion. If this is true for you, you are not alone. There is hope. Join us as we explore the practice of Meditation in our Sunday Service and Seminar entitled "The Miracle of Meditation." Rev. Eleanor Bentley brings her many years of ministry and the advantages of meditation as a lifestyle, to us in an experiential format that will keep you on the edge of your seat. (Love Offering Basis).

**Dunedin Food Pantry.** Please bring your donations of unopened packaged and canned food and leave them in the baskets (one in the lobby, one in the fellowship room). We appreciate Bill Baird for delivering our donations to the Pantry for us.

**Prayer Chaplains.** Our dedicated team of Prayer Chaplains pray with our members, holds them in sacred space, visits them when they are ill, and makes wellness telephone calls each month. If you do not have a Prayer Chaplain and want one, please let Elsie know.

**Prayer Box.** Every written request you place in the prayer box at church will be given prayer treatment at Unity Community, then sent to Silent Unity for an additional 30 days of prayer. Your prayer requests are held in confidence and are important to us.

**Stamp Project. Save the stamps from your Christmas cards** and bring to church. There is a basket for them on the table in the sanctuary. The income from selling the stamps goes to prepare, publish and distribute Spanish language Sunday school programs in Latin America for 40 different denominations in 19 countries. For more information, please speak to **Toni Cina.**

**Notary Public.** Elsie is a Notary. If you need a document notarized, let Elsie know. No cost to members of our church.

## CHURCH NEWS

**New Members.** Harry Kletcher, Joanne Griggs, Margaret Klingman and Jerilyn Fraser were welcomed as members of our church on October 22. If you would like to be a member of Unity Community, fill out an application card and speak to Elsie, Spiritual Leader.

**Condolences** to Christine Oberst. Her beloved father made his transition recently and was buried with military honors.

**Baby Grand Piano** found its way to our church almost immediately after we gave our church organ away. **Treasure Maps** and the **Spoken Word** do work! We treasured mapped a new home for the organ and spoke the word for getting the baby grand piano.

**Hurricane Irma** threatened our area in September. We are thankful the only damage was to a couple of back fences, heavy with vines that got tilted. Marilyn Renner, our board president, has prepared an emergency notification list of members who will check our property and take necessary action in future storms.

**Help Wanted:** Greeters/ushers for church services; Volunteers to help with fellowship hour; Members to open and close church when the condo associations meet in our building; Members to help count offerings on Sundays; Members to put hymnals on the chairs once a week before Sunday service; Musicians.



Our new church sign should be installed by the time you receive this newsletter. Thank you, Marilyn Renner, for all your work on this project.

**Big Surprise Birthday Celebration for Elsie** was given by the church in August, with music, gifts, food, decorations, old and new friends. Elsie is so very grateful. Who knew an 80<sup>th</sup> birthday could bring so much joy?

**Our church website** now has podcasts posted for **"Lessons in Truth"** and **"Prosperity."** If you want to brush up on basic Unity teachings, go to [www.unitydunedin.org](http://www.unitydunedin.org) and click "podcasts" on the menu.

## Getting to Know Pat Crogan!



Born and raised in Whitehall, New York, young Pat lived there in the Adirondack Mountains until she was thirteen. She was the middle child of the family, along with sister, Maureen and brothers, Vincent and Jerry. Pat recalls a very happy childhood, describing herself as mischievous, adventuresome, and loving to explore the rural setting in which she lived. She and her siblings enjoyed walking "all over the place" including frequent trips to the General Store for goodies!

While Pat's mother was a "Stay-at-Home Mom;" her father worked as a supervisor for the D & H Railroad. In fact, his father, brother, and grandfather before them all worked for the railroad company. Pat related that the greatest gift her Mom and Dad gave her was their sense of humor and showing kindness towards others. Pat shared that her mother was so popular with her past boyfriends that they often came by to visit her mother long after their relationship with Pat had ended!

When Pat was 13, her father made a job change which took them to Watervliet. Pat was okay with the move. She liked school, took the business program, and after graduation worked as a data processor at a bank in Albany. Soon she married and had her daughter, Jill Marie. She loved staying home and taking of her.

Eventually Pat got back into banking, working for Citibank in mortgage processing. She enjoyed this job and her career with Citibank lasted 33 years before the company moved out of Albany. Meanwhile Pat had met John Crogan. They grew to know each other slowly, having had a "sort of comically contentious" beginning, and were married on Sand Key Beach.

They decided to move to Florida. Pat says that next to her daughter, Jill, her marriage to John is the best thing in her life.

Pat was raised Catholic, but when she was not allowed to stand on the altar with her daughter on her First Communion Day due to her divorce; she became very unhappy with the Church. A girlfriend of hers introduced her to Joyce Myers, and her television ministry. Pat attended a Joyce Meyers conference and during the closing prayer she had an amazing "cleansing" experience! Pat says she felt all her past "sins" disappear! Her spiritual path took another new turn when her hairdresser recommended she attend a Unity Church. Pat became a member of Unity Clearwater and was there for several years. She found her way to Unity Community Church in Dunedin with her friend, Grace Debella. Pat loves UCC, where she serves as a Prayer Chaplain, Member of the Board of Directors, and is in charge of Fellowship after our Sunday Service.

Pat enjoys helping her daughter, Jill Marie, in her Pet Grooming business in Largo. She works there twice a week, and loves it as it ensures that she gets to spend time with Jill on a regular basis.

Pat says her goals for the future are simple - to stay happy and healthy!

We are so happy to have you in our Unity Family, Pat, and we're so appreciative of all you do to help make Unity Community Church the wonderful place that we love! We affirm that Spirit will continue to bless you abundantly!



.....by Marilyn Renner

## HAPPY SPECIAL DAYS



### Birthdays

- Dec 2 – Sharlene Hale**
- Dec 10 – Darcy Ann Potts**
- Dec 18 – Pat Gannon**
- Dec 25 – Marge Klingman**
- Dec 25 – Jesus Christ**, in your heart.
- Jan 7 – Bette Wood**
- Jan 13 – Steve Brewer**
- Jan 14 – Celia Blum**
- Jan 23 – Patricia Rivera**
- Jan 31 - Phyllis Grace DeBella**
- Feb 2 – Pat Crogan**
- Feb 3 – Pat Frantz**
- Feb 10 – Brenda Renee George**
- Feb 11 – William Robinson**
- Feb 15 – William Frantz**
- Feb 17 – Joanne Griggs**
- Feb 20 – Dee Kuncz**

### Anniversaries

- Jan 1 – Pat and Bill Frantz**
- Feb 22 – Mary and Robert Sutherland**

*Mary Lou Thomas is in charge of our Card Ministry. If we missed anyone's special day, please let Mary Lou or Elsie know.*



According to the Alaskan Department of Fish and game, while both male and female reindeer grow antlers in the summer each year, male reindeer drop their antlers at the beginning of winter, usually late November to mid December. Female reindeer retain their antlers 'till after they give birth in the spring. Therefore, according to every historical rendition depicting Santa's reindeer, every single one of them, from Rudolph to Blitzen had to be a girl. We should've known! Only women would be able to drag a fat man in a red velvet suit all around the world in one night, and NOT GET LOST.