

GoodNewsLetter

Unity Community Church

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SUNDAY SERVICES, 10:00 a.m.

Dear Friends,

For the first time in the history of our church, we have no events to list at the time of this newsletter preparation.

Our Board of Directors wisely decided to cancel all our church services after March 15, due to the corona virus epidemic. We surely looked forward to April to celebrate Palm Sunday and Easter, but restrictions still prohibited our gatherings. We were sure we'd be back together in May to celebrate Mothers Day, but that didn't happen either.

The other groups that meet in our church decided to follow our lead and cancelled their meetings as well. Some began conducting their meetings online, using ZOOM.

As of the middle of May, all activities are still cancelled at Unity Community Church, except for A Course in Miracles. They resumed their meetings at the church on May 8. Since it's a smaller group, they are able to use safe-distancing and other health measures, such as wearing face masks and using hand sanitizers. As soon as government restrictions are lessened and we can figure out a safe way to come together again for church services, we'll let you know right away with phone calls, emails, Facebook posts and on our website: www.unitydunedin.org. Please feel free to phone me or any board director if you have questions, concerns, or ideas.

Beginning on Easter, we made videos of Sunday lessons to post on our church Facebook page and on website each week. We sincerely appreciate Stuart Walker for volunteering to do this work, which takes a lot of his time, often figuring out the process along the way.

Our Prayer Chaplains have been contacting our members by phone each month to see how

they are doing and offering prayer support. If you don't have a prayer chaplain assigned to you, and you would like to have one, please let me know.

Marge Klingman, our Treasurer, has been working many extra hours managing our money, paying our bills, and taking deposits to the bank every week. Our Board President, Thersa McComber, made us a beautiful new runner for the sanctuary back table. JM Gibbons is researching how our board (church) can use ZOOM for future meetings, if necessary. All of our Directors have done all they can to keep things running as smoothly as possible.

During the time our church has been closed, we've had all the carpets cleaned and sanitized. We appreciate Diane Starr being there while the work was done and keeping our facility clean. Dan Stemmler has kept our lawn and front garden trimmed nicely.

We've reduced or eliminated our church expenses as much as possible during this uncertain time. We most sincerely appreciate the love offerings and tithes that many of you have continued to give our church. Because of you, we've been able to pay all our bills on time, every time. We recommend sending checks by mail. It's very safe and our mail box is locked and checked several times a week. We are having some difficulty with the PayPal account at this time, most likely because they are short-staffed, like everyone is.

All who attend our church community, all who serve in many and varied capacities, are our most valuable assets. You are deeply loved and appreciated. Thank you.

.....Elsie Huebner, Spiritual Leader



Our Offertory Prayer Blessing: Divine Love, in and through me, blesses and multiplies all that I have, all that I give, and all that I receive. Thank you, Father-Mother, God.

FINANCIAL REPORT

March

Income	\$2,930.00
Expenses	4,133.28
Difference	-\$1,203.28

April

Income	\$6,960.00
Expenses	1,297.91
Difference	+\$5,662.09

The Month of March caught all of us by surprise. Income dropped with the sudden cancelling of two Sunday services and all other activities. But expenses more or less stayed the same.

We were exceedingly blessed by the month of April. Even though all church services and activities were still cancelled and many expenses reduced, but it was your exceptional and generous love offerings and tithes that made all the difference. Thank you most sincerely.

THANKS FOR YOUR THOUGHTS!

About 35 percent of our current membership, and a few non-members, responded to our January survey. The survey touched on several areas, including your interest in holding classes, the nature and quality of our Sunday services, and the adequacy of our physical facility, among other topics.

The survey results were organized, tallied and presented to our Board of Trustees at their March meeting. While the responses were overwhelmingly positive in most areas, there were several constructive suggestions offered as well. The Board will be organizing a prioritized list of actions we can take to make our Unity Community even better. You'll probably notice some changes before very long.

Thanks to all survey respondents for sharing your time and insights with us. Next time we hope for even greater participation, including more non-members, who often have a unique perspective to offer. Remember - no one of us is smarter than all of us!

....JM Gibbons

How I Wrote the "Prayer for Protection"

(James Dillet Freeman)

Silent Unity came to me and asked me to write a protection pamphlet that we could send to people. They told me they wanted affirmative prayers for protection on the back page. Among these was the verse from the 23rd Psalm: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me." (Psalm 23:4 KJV).

One of the young women who worked in Silent Unity was reading my manuscript as I wrote it, and as she finished it, she came up to me and said: "Jim, if I were a woman in England and someone was pointing a loaded gun at me, I wouldn't want to feel like I was walking through the valley of the shadow of death. Can't you do better than that?"

I thought, *You want me to do better than the 23rd Psalm? You have to be out of your mind.* But rolling around in the back of my mind was the little verse I had written as a prayer for protection at Christmas. I had written it just for Silent Unity, but now it came rolling up to the front of my mind and demanded that I pay attention to it. It enticed me to see what I could make of it. First I took the rhymes from it. I felt it would be more universally received if it was not a rhyme. Then I changed Christ to God. It had been Christ because it was a Christmas prayer, but I felt if we were going to send it around the world, God might be more acceptable to more people. So the little prayer became:

"The light of God surrounds me. The love of God enfolds me. The power of God protects me. The presence of God watches over me."

That is the way we first printed it. Then a line came to me that I felt would make the prayer even more powerful. The line was: *"Wherever I am, God is."*

(...from Unity's booklet, "30 Days to Fearless Living")

It's Time to Meet our "Music Man!"



Bob Groves, our very special and talented pianist, was born in Evansville, Indiana. (For those of you who are not familiar with Indiana geography, Evansville is located in the southwest corner of the state on the Ohio River.) His father worked in his mother's family automobile business, dealing in Pontiacs and Cadillacs. Bob was one of six sons, all born within a ten-year span; he recalls that they were "good" kids but typically rambunctious! Two of his brothers, Tom and Alan, still reside in Evansville while two others, John and Steve, live in Indianapolis. Bob especially appreciates that his parents taught them the value of hard work and allowed them to be independent.

After attending Plaza Park Elementary School for eight years (no middle school or junior high then) Bob attended and graduated from Harrison High School. He went on to earn a Business Degree from the University of Evansville. His business career began in the Office Supply Department of a local retailer, and Bob spent the remainder of his career in the Business field, albeit in other locations. Bob and his wife, Diane, have three children. Steven, Ashley, and Cathy.

Steven lives in Evansville, where he works as an Office Manager. Grandson, Daniel, age 14, is described by Bob as an "interesting teenager!"

Daughter Cathy also resides in Evansville and earns her living restoring houses. She has two stepsons: Noah and Jacob, ages 19 and 17, respectively. She also has two other children, Kaedin, age 17, and Kylie, age 8.

Son Andrew lives with his family in San Jose, California. He and his wife are both employed by Apple Inc.; they have a son, Oliver, who talks a lot! He and Bob enjoy visiting with each other on the Video Channel.

Bob's interest in music began when he was age 4. He was first introduced to music by his grandmother, who was an excellent pianist, playing for churches and also silent movies. Music came so naturally to Bob; he loved it! He took piano lessons from Grades 3 – 8. While in high school, he played with the chorus, and throughout his life has played for churches of all denominations. At one point he played in a pizza place, "The Pourhouse," where he actually MADE the pizza as well as provide the music for customers! Bob currently plays for the two shows put on each year at Top of the World, in addition to blessing us with his music at Unity Community.

Besides music, reading and travel are also of interest to Bob. He has cruised all over the Caribbean, visited states on both coasts, and has a special love for Hawaii (at one time considered moving there.) Bob also enjoys his roommate's pet parrot, Ava, who is quite talkative! He loves technology and uses it to keep in touch with not only his immediate family, but also his many cousins and other extended family. He enjoys going back to Evansville to reunite with them usually once a year.

When I asked Bob about achievements he is most proud of at this point in his life, he didn't take long to respond: "My children and my music!"

As for now, Bob is content. He enjoys his many friends at Top of The World, and enjoys the simple things of life. "Que sera, Que sera!"

Bob became connected with Unity Community through a friend of Elsie's, Nadine Giani, who lived at Top of the World, where Bob lives. Bob enjoys playing at Unity Community because he really enjoys our people and he knows most of the music we like!

Bob, we greatly appreciate you and your music! We feel very fortunate to have you as our pianist, and we look forward to having you with us for a long time to come!

~ Marilyn Renner

CHURCH NEWS



Dorothy Balakas, a long-time beloved member of Unity Community, made her transition in January of this year. Some of us remember how lovely she was when she attended church, often wearing a beautiful hat. She had been ill for several years with cancer recurrences. Her son phoned Elsie in April to let us know of her passing. There wasn't a memorial service for Dorothy. We bless beautiful Dorothy on her new journey of eternal life. We will not forget her.

Bonnie Hermann, a member of our church, lost her beloved brother, Tom, to the covid-19 virus on May 3. He was Bonnie's only sibling, and lived in Texas. Bonnie visited him often during the years. She was heart-broken by his sudden demise. We pray that Bonnie is blessed with comfort during her sadness. We know her brother, Tom, is safely on the "other side" now, having a reunion with ones who arrived before him.

Mary Lou Thomas's daughter-in-law, Nancy Thomas, made her transition on May 11, after an 8 year struggle with cancer. Nancy had said she hoped to live long enough to see her son graduate from high school. After a few days under Hospice Care at home, the graduation ceremony was brought to her bedside by the school Principle and teachers. Nancy's son wore his cap and gown. Nancy peacefully died shortly thereafter. Our deepest sympathies to to all the family and especially our beloved Mary Lou.

We learned that our beloved member, **Flora Costello**, a good friend of Celia Blum, made her transition a few weeks ago. At this time, we have no other details. Bless you always, dear Flora.

PILGRIMAGE ENERGY HEALING

TREATMENTS again once the church re-opens. There is no charge, but love offerings to the church are appreciated. Call Diane Starr (727) 542-5455, Katina Demas (727) 237-1452 or Pat Rivera, 305-546-2714, for an appointment.

AMAZON SMILE. Sign up with Smile Amazon.com and then select Unity Community Church in Dunedin as one of the charities listed. We will be credited a small percentage of the purchase price of your orders.

A Course in Miracles, meets every Friday 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. at our church, led by Martha Landry. Love Offering.

Dunedin Toastmasters Club meets at on Tuesdays, 7:00–8:30 p.m. They are meeting via ZOOM during church closure.

Dunedin Food Pantry. Please bring unopened packaged and canned food of all kinds to church. Leave your donations in the baskets in lobby and in fellowship room. Thank you, Bill Baird, for delivering our food to the Pantry.

Prayer Box. Every written request in the prayer box at church will be given prayer treatment at Unity Community, and then sent to Silent Unity for an additional 30 days of prayer.

Stamp Project. Bring your used postage stamps to church and leave in the basket on the table in the sanctuary. Income from stamps goes to prepare, publish and distribute Spanish Sunday school programs in Latin America.

Notary Public. Elsie is a Notary. During this ongoing pandemic, several of our members got "their affairs" in order, preparing wills and directives. Elsie served as Notary and/or witness. If you need a document notarized, let Elsie know. We'll meet at the church, practicing safe-distancing, etc. No cost to members of our church.

Sailor

(a poem by James Dillet Freeman)

By ways I never charted
and hardly wished to go,
I have sailed an unknown course
on a sea too wide to know.

I have drifted lost at times,
not sure where the shore might be;
I have searched through storm-tossed nights
for a light I could not see.

But a Higher Wisdom than my own
has had me in its hand,
and I shall trust that it will bring
me safe at last to land.

HAPPY SPECIAL DAYS



Birthdays

- June 4 – Bob Groves,**
June 28 – Gloria Cunningham,
July 5 – Katena Demas,
July 7 – Steve Spathelf,
July 12 – Catherine Montez,
July 16 – Toni Cina,
July 22 – Cathy Daumen,
July 23 – Lynotte Cruickshank,
July 25 – Harry Kletcher,
July 28 – Joel Bancroft,
Aug 18 – Mary Lou Thomas,
Aug 19 – Joyce Paterson,
Aug 20 – Kimberly Plazewski,
Aug 21 – Mary Schroeder,
Aug 24 – Skip Quinn,
Aug 26 – Elsie Huebner,

Anniversaries

- July 24 – Joel and Peggi Brannen,**
Aug 7 – Helen and Skip Quinn,

Mary Lou Thomas is in charge of our Card Ministry. She sends cards from our church for birthdays, anniversaries, "Thinking of You," condolence, etc. If we missed anyone's special day, or if someone is ill or has had a death in the family, please let Mary Lou or Elsie know. We appreciate Mary Lou for her dedication to this Ministry.

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What was going on at our church first part of May?

Our parking lot was closed with red cones and there were workmen and trucks of all kinds all over the place. Seems some company was trying to run an underground cable on the empty lot next door and it broke through the water main and sewer main pipes. So, for over a week, we had no water at the church, nor could we use the restrooms. The same was true for nearby homes and businesses. In a way, if it had to happen, it was good timing for us; we were closed anyway. The City of Dunedin did a superb job getting water/sewer restored, putting in a new fire hydrant, repairing our parking lot and front sidewalk where they had to dig. But we did lose a parking sign and two trees on the edge of our property. Also the telephone pole at the street was knocked down in the process and we lost use of the phone. That still hasn't been fixed at the time of this writing. If you call the church number, it's automatically switched to Else's number, for the time being.