



January-February Newsletter

Supporting you in living more fully
and abundantly through greater
Spiritual Awareness

Sunday Services – 11:00 a.m.

Rev. Joanne Rowden
814-450-6090

joanne@unityinedinboro.com

Rev. John Brown-Pastor Emeritus

Unity on the web at www.unityinedinboro.com



The Eternal New Year

Joanne's Perspective

By REV. JOANNE ROWDEN

As I write this column, 2011 is quickly coming to a close. I was thinking this morning about how the very idea of one year ending and another beginning is simply a collective illusion that all of us have agreed to! In reality, we decided when one year will end and another begin. The truth is that there are many new years including the Chinese, Jewish and Islamic New Year just to name a few.

No matter what date is listed on the calendar, every moment of every day offers us a new year opportunity. We do not need to wait until the start of the calendar year to make changes in our lives. We do not need to wait until the end of a calendar year to choose to let things go that are no longer serving us.

Happy new year can occur in the eternal

moment that is always unfolding before us! The main thing to remember is that we choose to be made new over and over again.

Consider what your life was like one year ago. How have you changed over the past 12 months? How have your relationships deepened? How have you stretched outside of your comfort zone? What have you discovered within you that you did not know was there before? Have you chosen to forgive the wrongs that you have perceived over the past 12 months? Have you moved more deeply into trusting God? Have you allowed yourself to be inspired in ways you never imagined? These are just some of the questions to ask yourself as you review the past 12 months.

Every moment offers us the opportunity for change. If you keep

doing what you have always done, you can expect to get what you have always gotten. You make the choice to change. Your life will not be different until you embrace change in some way.

With the end of 2011, I encourage you to consider how you want to change over the next 12 months. However, I want to assure you that this change takes place moment by moment with the choices that you make. The calendar holds no power over the changes that you make. The only point of power for change to occur is this moment, right here,, right now.

At Unity in Edinboro, we support one another through the changes that we make. Together we stretch and grow and as we encourage one another to allow our light to shine!!

New Message Series Begins January 15: The Great Original Design



Allowing My Light
To Shine
An Overnight Retreat
Lake Chautauqua
Lutheran Retreat Center
April 13-14
Register online today!

Join your Spiritual Community as we gather for a sacred overnight retreat at the Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Retreat Center.

- Begins Friday, April 13 at 7 p.m.
- Ends Saturday, April 14 at 7 p.m.

Facilitators include:

- Shelly Ropp
- Joseph Briggs
- Jerry Britton
- Grace Austin
- Diane Crandall
- Rev. Hank Roth
- Rev. Bettse Bruich
- Rev. Tony Senf
- Gary Rowden
- Rev. Barbara Hribar

Join with us for this transformational retreat experience as you gain new understanding of Unity through an exploration of being Acceptance, Love, Learning, Oneness, Wisdom, Inspiration, Now Here and Grateful. You will grow in your understanding of creation and how you uniquely fit into life's unfolding expression.

Discounted Registration until March 1:
Double—Just \$75
Single—Just \$110
Includes meals, lodging, and retreat!

Details online at www.unityinedinboro.com or call 814-450-6090

Wake Up...It's Wednesday at Unity

Conversation Cafe
You're invited to Pull Up A Chair...
Meeting in Fellowship Hall
at 12 p.m.
each Wednesday

Join Joanne each week as we discuss basic Unity Principles relating to our Sunday morning message. Bring a brown bag lunch and come join us.



Community Breakfast

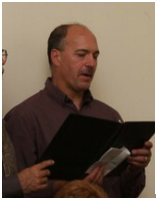
A Fundraiser for
Unity in Edinboro

Sunday, February 12
7 a.m.—10:30 a.m.
Cost—\$5

Breakfast includes:

- Eggs
- Pancakes
- Sausage
- Homefries

Invite a friend and come join us as we look at the Great Original Design of Community! We begin our day with a delicious community breakfast. This will be an opportunity to support Unity in Edinboro, engage in uplifting fellowship, and eat a delicious meal. Support us in a successful event by joining us on Sunday, February 12!



The Blessings Discovered in 2011

View From the Board

By BARRY HARDMAN

Truly we have been blessed in the year 2011. Besides adding two more members to the board, we have made some changes to Unity in Edinboro that will last for many years to come.

Gary Rowden and Dennis Boyer put in a new sidewalk. This allows for easier access to the church and functions. They provided the labor, and your financial donations provided the funds for the project.

William Empson and Dennis Boyer were able to get 3 sides of our steeple coated. The fourth side was unable to be completed due to the wet ground. However, there are plans to complete that side in the spring after

the snow melts and the ground hardens.

Several repairs were also completed to address water leaking into the Sunday school room. The drywall in the Sunday school room and upstairs in the loft was all repaired for the water damage.

This year, we voted on keeping the house we own next door as a part of Unity in Edinboro. At our congregational meeting last spring, Gary Rowden spoke logically about keeping the house. Cheryl and John Wenslow provided financial figures, and we decided to keep the house as our money maker.

The Core Vision Council has been meeting to help answer the question of how we can

create a culture of caring at Unity in Edinboro.

The council has been considering how we, as members, can become more familiar with one another. Perhaps name tags will help as we are an extended family. I certainly want to know my neighbor.

We are losing a member, Gordon Abernathy. He will be missed by all.

We as a church board continue to work wll together. Rev. Joanne continues to be involved and we are all learning to be flexible with one another.

When I first started here, I felt as comfortable in this community as I feel now. Good people with good intentions. I look forward to the year 2012. And so it is.

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Joseph Briggs
814-838-9911
rooka8@yahoo.com

Vice President:
Barry Hardman
814-734-5162

Secretary: Shelly Ropp
814-734-1170
micheleropp@yahoo.com

Treasurer:
Cheryl Wenslow
814-756-3942
cwenslow@alltel.net

Director: William Empson

Director: Caroll Boyer
814-450-2360

January 2012

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Burning Bowl	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Conversa- tion Cafe	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Conversa- tion Cafe	19	20	21
22	23	24	25 Conversa- tion Cafe	26	27	28
29	30	31				

In 2012 we make the commitment to ...

January 1—Burning Bowl and White Stone Ceremony

Speaker: Rev. Joanne Rowden
The Gathering—A group meditation and prayer process begins at 10:25

January 8—A Gathering of Friends

Facilitator: Joseph Briggs

January 15—The Great Original Design—Divine Mind

Speaker: Rev. Joanne Rowden

January 22—The Great Original Design—The Design of Destruction

Speaker: Rev. Joanne Rowden

January 29—The Great Original Design—The Design of Self

Speaker: Rev. Joanne Rowden

Our Prayer Chaplains are available for confidential prayer every Sunday immediately following our service.

February 2012

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1 Convers
ation Cafe 2 3 4

5 6 7 8 Convers
ation Cafe 9 10 11

12 13 14 15 16 17 18
Breakfast
Fundraiser Conversa-
tion Cafe

19 20 21 22 23 24 25
Conversa-
tion Cafe

26 27 28 29

Allowing Our Light To Shine!

February 5—The Great Original Design—The Design of Relationships
Speaker: Rev. Joanne Rowden

February 26-TBA
Speaker: Rev. Joanne Rowden

February 12—The Great Original Design—The Design of Community
Speaker: Rev. Joanne Rowden
Community Breakfast
begins at 9. Cost \$5

February 19-How's That Working For You?
Speaker: Rev. Joanne Rowden

Unity in Edinboro is solely supported by your tithes and love offerings. Did you know you can financially support Unity in Edinboro online? Check out the donate now link on our website:

www.unityinedinboro.com



Making the Choice for Joy

MasterMind Column

By REV. JERRY BRITTON

Yesterday was Christmas, one of the most wonderful times of the year. And for some of us it was a very sad day too. We may have just lost someone that was so very important to us and our hearts are heavy.

Although it is hard, stop and let your God come in. Allow his energy to let you feel that person that was so wonderful to you and that you have lost. They are not lost. You can never lose that love. It is deep down in every fiber of your body. It is with you every step that you take. Your God is there too.

You can talk to the one you lost. You can talk to God too. Feel that human love that's inside of you. You can't feel their human body anymore, but you can touch

and feel them deep down inside of you. Every time you want to feel it, they are there and God is there.

God has given you that power. The power to hold them deep down inside of you. He gives us himself to hold inside of us and to help us any time that we need it. We haven't lost anything. We have only lost that shell that housed them. So feel that pain as long as you need to. Then let it go.

Go inside of you and feel all that love, joy and peace that they gave to you. It's still there. They are with you forever as your God is. Don't ever forget that.

I know I have been there. I know the feeling, but that feeling won't last forever.

Let the sadness go. Let the peace and joy come in and be with you for the rest of your life.

Let yourself be happy. You may say, "I'm going to try." Instead say, "No, I am going to do it."

Now the God of hope fills you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

**The MasterMind
Prayer Group**
Meets every Thursday
At 9:30 am.
Rev. Jerry Britton's
home
ALL ARE WELCOME
814-450-6090 for more
information

You are invited to join the chaplains for The Gathering every Sunday before service from 10:25-10:50 OR after fellowship for a period of prayer and meditation. Jim Rosemergy's book, The Gathering, is also available for the discounted price of \$9 so you can come to a deeper understanding of the Gathering Process.



Becoming a Prayer Chaplain for One Another Chaplain's Corner

By JOSEPH BRIGGS

When Joanne and Marilyn started the prayer chaplains' program at Unity in Edinboro, I was eager to join. I thought that this would be a wonderful way to serve the congregation. Actually, I was not comfortable praying with others or even praying out loud. It took practice and a change in my attitude toward prayer before I began to feel at ease doing prayer chaplain tasks.

All of the chaplains had a list of congregation members that we called on a monthly basis that first year. The idea was to just be in regular contact with people and to offer our prayers if they felt a need. I never really felt comfortable calling people so when this was discontinued, I did not miss it. However, there was something that I did miss. It was getting a call from my prayer chaplain, Jerry Britton. It

seemed that many times when I was in some state of crisis, the phone would ring, and it would be Jerry calling to see if I needed a prayer. I can not express how helpful it was to have Jerry pray with me at those times. My spirits were lifted, and I felt that whatever the problem was, that I could meet it.

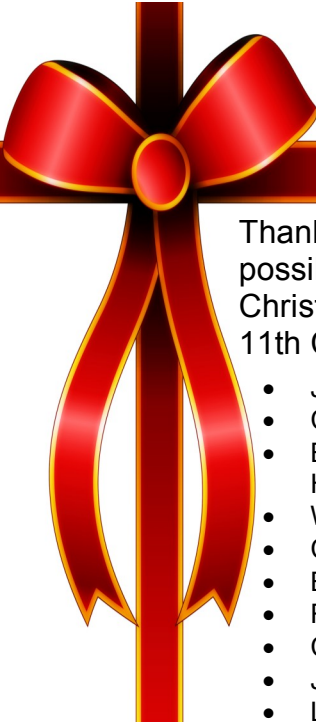
When you are experiencing a need to have someone pray with you, it is always permissible to call one of the prayer chaplains and express that you want someone to pray with you. Chances are that one of the chaplains will be available and will welcome the opportunity to serve. Sometimes we are in a situation when someone is experiencing a need and there is no chaplain there. I encourage each of you at these times to become a prayer partner for the person needing prayer. It doesn't have to be a complex or flowery prayer. It is recognizing that the person needs prayer and knowing that God

Unity in
Edinboro Prayer
Chaplains are
always available
every Sunday to
pray with you.
..whether the
prayer is to
support you in
meeting a
challenge or in
giving thanks!

already knows what the other needs. It is recognizing that this good is already flowing from God's abundance, and expressing gratitude for it.

The prayer chaplains are here to serve, but we should always remember that as a congregation we are also to minister to one another. Don't be reluctant to ask for prayer or to offer prayer to others. We are here to love and care for one another, and to see God in everyone and everything.

Gifts for 26 children in Erie



Thank you to each one who made it possible for Unity in Edinboro to provide Christmas gifts for Erie children for the 11th Christmas!

- Joseph Briggs
- Connie Walker
- Barry & Priscilla Hardman
- William Empson
- Cindy Walk
- Becca Lesik
- Rick Cauffman
- Caroll Boyer
- John Brown
- Leona Bickel
- Jean Osterman
- Ted Daggett
- Shelly Ropp
- Cheryl Wenslow
- Don Bryant
- Joanne Munzert
- Bev Andrews
- Nancy Sicari
- Deborah Herbel
- Faye
- Lois Pearo

See page 11 for our interview of Lester Howard, founder of Visions of Hope, who provides us with the children's names each year.

Our Purpose: The purpose of Unity in Edinboro is to promote a peace filled community where spiritual seekers are becoming deeply committed to awakening our oneness in God.

Our Vision: Together we create the Sacred Space of Boundless Possibility. We radiate and live the presence. We simply Be.

Our Be-attitudes:

- Acceptance
- Love
- Learning
- Oneness
- Wisdom
- Inspiration
- Now Here
- Grateful

Together we let our light shine!

Heartfelt Thanks To Lester Howard



Heartfelt" is a sincere, honest and deep feeling. That is what we at Unity in Edinboro believe about those we honor each month with our "HeartFelt Thanks Award."

This month's HeartFelt Thanks honoree is Lester Howard. Lester is the founder of Visions of Hope, a non-profit supporting families in Erie. For 11 Christmas seasons Unity in Edinboro has worked with Lester to bring Christmas gifts to children in Erie. This month we honor Lester Howard and the opportunity he has provided through the years to let us shine our light.

Tell us something about yourself and how you are involved with the children who have received toys throughout the year.

Case management for 2 corporations and my own. We work with the families in many areas. We support them with

needs such as rent, utilities, clothing.

What is one way you see that someone can have an impact on helping create a better world in their community?

Make yourself visible within the community and with the people in the community. If you make yourself visible, they respond to your differently. Always be an advocate and let them know that you are their voice.

Tell us something about your own personal interests. What do you enjoy?

I enjoy helping people. That is my enjoyment. Watch a smile come to a child's face. Watch them get cleaned up from a dirty nose to a neat haircut. From a smile on their face rather than tears on their face. Serving God. Carrying out his will. Making sure he is put first in all missions. To let people know where it comes from.

I am a recovering drug addict for 26 years. Now I' dealing with the kidney failure and I am on dialysis. I have put all faith and trust in God's word that what happens will happen. Whatever will happen he will carry me.

If you know a person you would like to see honored as a HeartFelt Thanks recipient, please call Rev. Joanne at 814-450-6090.

We are so grateful to each one in this community for the ways you show up and share yourself!

Unity in Edinboro
130 Meadville St.
Edinboro, PA 16412

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Join us for a special
overnight retreat April
13-14. Details on page
3.