



**unity**  
in Edinboro

May—June  
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](mailto:joanne@unityinedinboro.com)

Rev. John Brown-Pastor Emeritus

Unity on the web at [www.unityinedinboro.com](http://www.unityinedinboro.com)



# Spring is a Time of Active Growth

## Joanne's Perspective

By REV. JOANNE ROWDEN

Spring has sprung! I am writing this article on a warm spring day. The leaves are popping on the maple trees. The daffodils are in full bloom. The tulips are budding. The breeze is warm. We have made it to that time of year abundant with growth and life!

This time of year reminds me that growth is an active part of living. Growth does not end with adulthood. Our bodies might stop growing taller. We may no longer be in a program of formal education stretching and growing our mind. But growth is a natural part of life. Stop growing and you are sure to start dying.

I invite you to consider how you are growing

today. How are you opening yourself to new growth today? Are you allowing yourself to shed thoughts, words and actions that do not serve you? Are you allowing yourself to experience each moment and each individual in that moment as completely new? Are you allowing yourself to express forgiveness and understanding? Are you taking the time to be still each day? Are you reading books that are inspiring, uplifting, and stretch your mind?

I find that I am personally growing and stretching in so many ways. Often times that growth comes with a sense of discomfort. There may be a period of darkness associated with that growth. I think about those spring bulbs which

spent the winter underground, in the dark, being restored and filled for actively pushing through the soil to get to the light on the surface in spring. For myself, I never know when I am going to break through the darkness into the light. I only know that the way through it all is to grow...to stretch...to move towards the light.

One of our core values at Unity in Edinboro is learning. In the process of learning we grow and transform. We are making the choice to learn together. We are supporting each other in growing in love and acceptance. Like a bouquet of spring blooms, our colors are varied and our spirit is bright. I celebrate each of you for the unique one that you are!

## Unity Correspondence Course

An Ongoing Discussion Facilitated By

Rev. Joanne Rowden

May 12 & 26, June 9 & 23

7:p.m.

Join us for our conference call!

Call in number: (712) 775-7000

Access Code: 897564#

Each call is recorded. Listen to previous call by visiting us online at:  
[www.unityinedinboro.com](http://www.unityinedinboro.com)

## Sundays in May...

### May 1—The Sacred Silly

The Sunday after Easter is traditionally known as Holy Humor Sunday. We will discuss humor, joy and the sacred silly! Bring your funny stories and come join us.

### May 8—Birthing a Greater Reality

We examine our individual intentions of birthing a greater reality at Unity in Edinboro. We will also honor our current Prayer Chaplains in a commitment ceremony.

### May 15—Huh?

Have you ever had one of those moments when you heard a Unity teaching and thought...Huh? Rev. Joanne will be fielding your questions. All questions welcome! Come get the answers to your Huh? Moment.

### May 22—Now What?

As Joseph mentions in his Chaplain's column, there is a group which believes May 21 will bring the second coming of Jesus. With the arrival of May 22 we ask, "Now what?" What does the 2nd coming mean in Unity?

### May 29—In Memory of...

What is this thing called death? Where do we go? Do we continue? What does Unity teach about life after death?

## Sundays in June...

### A Look at Urban Legends

### June 5—Leaving God Out

### June 12—Prayer Banished

### June 19—Sex and Jesus

### June 26—This Muslim World



# Give Your Cross To God To Bear

## MasterMind Column

By REV. JERRY BRITTON

Easter is a wonderful time of the year. For me, it's a time when we can take our burdens to our God and give them to Him. It's as if we can get closer to God at Easter than at any other time.

We are all carrying our own crosses. There are so many things happening to each one of us. Some of us have someone who is sick, or we don't know where we are in life, or where we want to go. It's like we're being left behind and our life is passing us by; we think nobody is there for us.

But there is!

The Bible says: if you call on Me, I will answer you. And that means every time you need your God, He is there for you. You can turn over to Him that cross you are carrying right now. Your God will take it to the cross with Him, and will set you free.

We don't have to carry our cross alone. We might not have a human person down here with us to help us, but that

doesn't mean we're alone. Always remember, you are not alone. Your God is always there by your side. You just have to remember and trust yourself, and trust and know that your God is there for you. He is always there.

We're the ones who think He is not with us, but He is *here* with us in all times. This is one of the things we talked about in our Master Mind Prayer Group – how we see some people who feel they have nothing in this world to live for, that life is a very hard place for them. They have people around them, but yet they feel alone.

You might ask these people: "Do you read your Bible?" and they'll say, "Yes." Then you might ask: "Do you believe what you read in your Bible?" and they'll reply, "Of course, I do."

It is natural to then ask: "Then why do you think that you are alone?"

We look to man to make us whole, but work is done on the inside, the

God-Self of us. We are the ones to make us whole. And this is a time when we can start reaching out to our Father-God to give us the strength and to show us how to open ourselves up to find that God-Self of us inside of us.

Easter is a wonderful time to start this work for ourselves because He is going to the cross and He will carry all of our burdens there. When He arises again, we will be free of all the things that are hurting and causing us pain. But we have to believe and trust our God, and trust ourselves as He trusts us.

We can do these things because He is taking them on the cross with Him. I'm asking you to try this for yourself. I am not special but this has worked for me many, many times. We have crosses to carry all through our lives, but we can still give them to God, and He will carry them for us.

You don't really have to wait for Easter to do this.

I used Easter simply as an example. You can take that cross to Him any time. It doesn't matter to Him because He will always be there for you.

*May there be peace within your walls and security within your citadels.*

~ Psalms 122:7

*The LORD replied, "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.*

~Exodus 33:14  
*... I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.*

~Matthew 17:20

Join us at 9:30 a.m.  
Every Thursday  
814-450-6090 for more information.

**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

How are you allowing your light to shine?



# As Divine Beings We Are Amazingly Capable & Powerful

## Chaplain's Corner

By JOSEPH BRIGGS

Last weekend the chaplains had the opportunity to attend a retreat presented by Rev. Diane Scribner-Clevenger of Pray Attention Ministries.

Rev. Joanne and all of our chaplains were joined by several chaplains and a minister from churches in the Cleveland area. It was a terrific experience of praying together and strengthening our connections with each other.

One of the important messages that Rev. Diane delivered was that every thought is a prayer. Since we are always connected to the God within us, whatever we are thinking is being put out to the universe as a prayer. We are attracting to ourselves what we are thinking. This is especially important to remember when we notice that we are doing the type of thinking in which we are putting ourselves

down. When we discover that we are engaged in negative thinking, we can take a breath and make the choice to engage positive thoughts.

We are never alone on the spiritual path. God is with us every step. God exists in us as us. No matter how dark it may seem, we have the light of God available to us. Even if we walk in the valley of the shadow of death, God is with us. We believe that God has the quality of omnipresence. God is in everyone and in everything. God is in the finest palaces and the poorest slums. God is in the tranquil forest and in the battle zones. There is no place that God is not. We only need to be aware of our connection with God to know the peace of not being alone.

If we focus on the stories in the newspaper or on the television news, it is

possible to feel small and helpless. Stories of natural disasters like the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, or of wars and people rising up against their governments or of environmental concerns such as global warming and pollution of the air, land and water may lead us to feel hopeless. In addition there are countless stories of man's inhumanity to their fellowman and stories of disease and individual suffering. It is enough to make people think of the Great Tribulation from Revelations. In fact I have some friends who think that is exactly what is happening. They see this as the end of days. They have even selected the date, May 21, 2011, when Jesus will come back to call the faithful to heaven.

I know that there are people who are suffering and I feel compassion for all of

my fellow creatures who are enduring hardships. My prayers are with everyone who is experiencing illness. It is possible to become focused on negative events and feel hopeless and powerless. This is just not the truth of who we are. As divine beings living a brief human existence we are amazingly capable and powerful. We can rise above the chaos of our modern society

and remember who we are. Being a part of Unity in Edinboro is a way of helping one another remember.

As chaplains we are there to assist members be in touch with their divinity. We are available to pray with members at any time. It is amazing how much a timely prayer is in helping us feel our connection with God and with one another. We are all part of the One.

I encourage you to come join us on Sunday mornings. Come together to encourage and support each other. There is great spiritual growth taking place at the church. Be a part of this. In closing I ask you to love one another, be kind to one another, and always see God the Divine Self in everyone and everything.

Just ask! That was the thought that moved through my mind at our board meeting this past Sunday. I reminded our board of directors that there are many people who will respond to our request because I know that Unity in Edinboro has touched their lives. We are a Spiritual Community charged with the purpose of supporting each one in awakening in Oneness. Now we are writing to ask your support.

We are so blessed to have a beautiful church building to call home. While we know that the church is not the building, we also know that it is our responsibility to care for the

building we have! There are two important projects that must be completed in the next six months.

- Our bell tower roof needs to be repaired
- Our sidewalk and driveway entrance needs to be replaced

We estimate that we need \$3000 to cover the cost of these repairs. We know that God is the Source of all of our good. We also know that you are one of the channels by which we receive that good. We are asking for your support in making a financial donation today by mailing a check to Unity in Edinboro, 130

Meadville St., Edinboro PA 16412

Knowing that God works in, through and as us in mighty ways, we also know that there may be additional ways that you can help. Do you have a skill that you can share with us by offering your time and talent to help complete either of these projects? Do you have a Divine Idea of how we can raise additional "fun"ds for this or future projects? We would love to hear from you! You can call 814-450-6090 and let us know.

Centered in the great fullness, we are grateful for you and the way you show up in support of Unity in Edinboro.

# May 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> "Bug Club" Meeting	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Noon Conversation	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Awaken- ing Mind	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Correspondence Course	<b>13</b> Awaken- ing Mind	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Board Meeting	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Noon Conversation	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Awaken- ing Mind	<b>21</b> Community Spring Cleaning Day
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Noon Conversation	<b>26</b> Correspondence Course	<b>27</b> Awaken- ing Mind	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				

## In 2011 we shift our attitude...

### May 1—The Sacred Silly

Speaker: Rev. Joanne Rowden  
Worship Asst.: Rick Cauffman  
Chaplain: Becca Lesik  
Daily Word: TBA

### May 8—Birthing a Greater Reality

Speaker: Rev. Joanne Rowden  
Worship Asst.: Connie Walker  
Chaplain: Gordon Abernathy  
Daily Word: TBA

### May 12—Unity Correspondence Course Conference Call (See page 2)

### May 15—Huh?

Speaker: Rev. Joanne Rowden  
Worship Asst.: Joseph Briggs  
Chaplain: TBA  
Daily Word: TBA  
**Board Meeting**-12:30 p.m.

### May 21—Spring Cleaning Day

(see page 7 for more details)

### May 22—Now What?

Speaker: Rev. Joanne Rowden  
Worship Asst.: Connie Walker  
Chaplain: TBA  
Daily Word: TBA

### May 26—Unity Correspondence Course Conference Call (See page 2)

### May 29—In Memory Of...

Speaker: Rev. Joanne Rowden  
Worship Asst.: Joseph Briggs  
Chaplain: TBA  
Daily Word: TBA

# June 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> Noon Conversation	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Paranormal Program	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Noon Conversation	<b>9</b> Correspondence Course	<b>10</b> Awakening Mind	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Awakening Mind	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Noon Conversation	<b>23</b> Correspondence Course	<b>24</b> Awakening Mind	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		

by focusing on our be-attitudes!

**June 5-Urban Legends—  
Leaving God Out**

Speaker: Rev. Joanne Rowden  
Worship Asst.: Rick Caufman  
Chaplain: TBA  
Daily Word: TBA

**June 3-Paranormal  
Educational Program 7 p.m.**

**June 9-Unity Correspondence  
Course Conference  
Call (See page 2)**

**June 12- Urban Legends—  
Prayer Banished**

Speaker: Joanne Rowden  
Worship Asst.: Rick Caufman  
Chaplain: Joseph Briggs  
Daily Word: TBA

**June 19-Urban Legends—  
Sex and Jesus**

Speaker: Rev. Joanne Rowden  
Worship Asst.: Rick Caufman  
Chaplain: TBA  
Daily Word: TBA

**June 23-Unity Correspondence  
Course Conference  
Call (See page 2)**

**June 26-Urban Legends—  
This Muslim World**

Speaker: Rev. Joanne Rowden  
Worship Asst.: Rick Caufman  
Chaplain: Joseph Briggs  
Daily Word: TBA

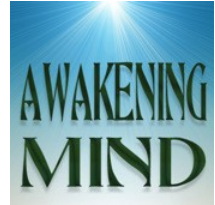
Wake Up...It's Wednesday at Unity

Conversation Cafe  
You're invited to Pull Up A Chair...  
Meeting in Fellowship Hall  
at 12 p.m.  
each Wednesday  
No conversation on May 11, June 8, 15, & 29

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.

Every Friday!

Exploring the Awakening Mind  
With Jim Bickel  
Meeting in Fellowship Hall  
each Friday at 7 p.m.



Unity AV "Bug" Club Ministry  
Organized by Shelly Ropp  
Introductory Meeting  
Sunday, May 1  
Following Service

Come find out more about joining this ministry in supporting audio and visual inspiration for our Spiritual Community.



The Annual Pastoral Care Seminar  
Assembly Hall of  
Meadville Medical Center  
Saturday, May 14  
9-12

The annual Pastoral Care seminar will be held Saturday, May 14 in The Assembly Hall of Meadville Medical Center, Grove Street facility, Grove and Pine in Meadville. It starts at 9:00 and runs to noon with luncheon provided. John Brown heads up the event which is partly retreat, partly music and mirth. The morning session will feature end of life issues and The Bible, 101. A look at Islam will be the theme for the stay later crowd. The event is free to the public. Make your reservations by calling John Brown at 814 724 6431.

Pennsylvania Paranormal  
Investigations Presents...

An Educational Program  
Friday, June 3  
7:00 p.m.  
Tickets—\$10



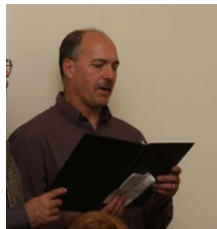
Join James McCann of the A.P.G./E.C.P. Paranormal Investigations Group of Erie, PA for an educational evening as James introduces the exploration of Paranormal investigation pertaining to Ghosts , Spirits , And Haunting. Find out how its become popular. Learn about the equipment used and the evidence gathered. Everyone is welcome. A portion of the proceeds benefits Unity in Edinboro.

	“Be-Attitude” I Am	Rationale (Why)	Individually	Community
A	Acceptance	The Christ Presence shows up uniquely in each individual	I behold the Christ in others , and I look for the good in each one	We welcome a diverse community recognizing that nothing or no one is against us
L	Love	God is Love	I center in Christ Consciousness, and I am love in expression	We empower individuals to move beyond restrictions and limitations
L	Learning	Spiritual Growth allows for a shift and change in mind	I open to Spiritual Growth, and I freely step into awareness of God	We raise the Spiritual Consciousness of our community through Spiritual Growth
O	Oneness	God is the only Power and Presence in the Universe	I am aware that God is my Source, and I create from a consciousness of wholeness.	We center in harmony and co-create the Sacred Space of Possibility
W	Wisdom	Seeing God in all things, we take what we have learned and apply it in new ways	I discern the application of spiritual principles in my life	We use our understanding to develop good relationships within our community
I	Inspiration	Divine Mind inspires Divine Ideas which result in Divine Actions	I am inspired to enlighten and comfort by being peace and love	We are transformed by Divine Inspiration
N	Now Here	God can only be experienced in the present moment	I know that every moment is an opportunity to be Christ in expression	We act for the benefit of all recognizing the importance of being fully present with one another
G	Grateful	In the great fullness of creation there is no lack or limitation	I share all I give and all I receive joyfully	Our joyful sharing leads to an ever increasing spiral of growth, harmony and fullness

# Progressive Thought Helps Resolve Issue

## View From the Board

By BARRY HARDMAN



As you know, we started the year with a new board of directors.

Through open and flexible communications with all of you and your board, we resolved an issue that had been a weight on all of us: the house next door, which we own.

We discussed, deliberated, and prayed about the decision to sell the house, which would allow us to pay off the mortgage. We also considered, and

discussed, keeping the house and using its rental income now and in the future.

Many of you and many of my fellow board members expressed viewpoints. The divine resolution was the one that we voted on: we will retain the house and its ongoing revenue.

As a board member, I enjoy being a part of the progressive thought and the collaborative process (which involved all of us) in resolving church issues and making important decision.

**President:**

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

**Vice President:**

Barry Hardman  
814-734-5162

**Secretary:** Shelly Ropp

814-734-1170

michel-  
eropp@yahoo.com

**Treasurer:**

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

**Director:** Open

**Director:** Open

Do you feel called to serve on the leadership team of our spiritual community? Let Joseph or Joanne know today!



## Unity in Edinboro Spring Cleaning Day

Saturday, May 21

9:00 a.m.

Join with us as we clean out the old to make room for the new! Your time and talent is greatly appreciated!

# Heartfelt Thanks To Bill Empson



“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 Bill Empson.

## **How long have you been a member of Unity In Edinboro?**

I’ve been going to Unity for just about a year. I was looking for a church and friends of mine told me about Unity In Edinboro, so I wanted to try it.

## **What attracted you to Unity In Edinboro when you first attended?**

Right away, I found the people were all friendly, nice, and they didn’t hide anything – they were sincere. I also like the messages Joanne gives us, every one of them. One I especially liked was what she called the “golden key,” which is to stop worrying about everything and let the Lord handle

it. That was exactly what I needed to hear at this time in my life.

## **Please share some of the activities you have been involved with during that time?**

I’ve decided to be a chaplain and I’m now in chaplain training. Jim Bickel mentioned to me that I have a way of talking to people and he thought I should check out the chaplain’s program. I do like talking to people, so I decided to take the training.

## **What would like to say about our church to fellow members and friends of Unity?**

I’d say they’re honest – everybody I’ve met at Unity is honest. I’ve found it a warm and caring place.

## **Tell us about yourself: your family, hobbies and interests, community activities, etc.?**

I live in Cambridge Springs. I’m not able to work anymore so I spend a lot of my time restoring old cars. Right now I’m working on a

1950 Dodge Wayfarer, and also a ’64 Chevy SS. I also help my girlfriend, who has some health issues, and her son. I’ve helped raise him; he’s now 15 and we’re pretty close.

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

## **Holding the Sacred Space of Possibility for our Children!**

Join us as together we are holding the sacred space of possibility for our Youth Program, an abundance of children, and the transformative power of Unity to make a difference with the youth in our community! We are intending spiritual growth, joy, enthusiasm, love, transformation, peace, a sense of self for people of all ages... including our young people. Thank you for helping us to hold the space for the greatest good

# Helping Others Through Prayer

By Charles Roth

Is there someone you would like to help? Is a loved one going through a difficult time?

How great is the love the human heart can hold, and how great is the ache when that love seems frustrated in its attempts to help a loved one in need!

Feelings are powerful forces. A strong feeling of love and a deep desire to help someone who is experiencing difficulty can be powerful forces for good when they are properly channeled through prayer.

Let's consider how to channel the power of our love and deep concern for a loved one into effective prayer.

Prayer is a dialogue between you and God, but prayer is also a "party line" through which another person can be reached and blessed.

The first thing we need to know about praying for others is that we must begin by praying for ourselves. By that I

mean you must place the "call" and make the connection with God.

You do this by going to a quiet place where you won't be disturbed. Become still and conscious of the sea of life in which and out of which you have life and being. Get under the surface of life to the depths that support the surface.

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*Every person is a stream of consciousness, a stream of life which originates in God.*

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You can help yourself reach this realization with a prayer thought such as: there is only one Presence and one Power—God, the good, omnipotence. In God I live, move and have my being. I am grateful.

Stay with this prayer thought for several

moments until you experience a sense of peace and oneness.

This is making the connection. Now you are locked into that universal field of life energy which supports and sustains you.

As mentioned before, prayer is not only dialogue, it is also a party line. Through your connection to God, you are also in prayer communication with all that radiates from God.

So, softly, gently, think about the person you wish to bless in prayer.

Know for this person what you have just realized for yourself—that he or she is much more than the physical form you see; he or she is a spiritual being. Every person is a stream of consciousness, a stream of life which originates in God.

To be continued in our next newsletter!

Unity in Edinboro  
130 Meadville St.  
Edinboro, PA 16412

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Edinboro

Sent With Love To

Erie Paranormal Group  
Educational Program  
(see page 10)

Unity Correspondence  
Course Conference Call  
(see page 2)