



November—December 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



Lessons Learned in a Month of Travels

Joanne's Perspective

By REV. JOANNE ROWDEN

October flew by in a blur for me. The first week in October I was at Virginia Beach for our Eastern Region Conference. I was home for 6 days, enough time to get caught up with my work, before flying out to Las Vegas for a wonderful vacation with my beloved, Gary. Home for just a day filled with catching up on work again, I left the following morning with a group of 7 others from our Spiritual Community for a weeklong Nehemiah Retreat at Unity Village. Each of these activities was a unique experience, and in the process I had the opportunity to learn more about how I have grown.

I knew that October would be busy early in the summer when I committed to each of these activities. I kept affirming that all was

Divinely unfolding. Each time that I would think ahead to the time away, I would affirm that all was unfolding exactly as it should and that I had all the time in the world that I needed to get everything done that I needed to do. I kept reminding myself to trust the process and not get caught up in worry and concern.

As a result, each week that I was away was a week in which I was able to immerse myself fully in the moment. The week at Eastern Region Conference was a glorious opportunity to Birth a Greater Reality with our facilitator, Robert Brumet, and the wonderful music of Daniel Nahmod.

The week of hiking in the beautiful national parks around Las Vegas reminded me that I am part of the ever evolving process of change that

has given life to the natural beauty that surrounds us.

The week of service at Unity Village reminded me that I am a part of something greater unfolding through the Unity movement. What began over 120 years ago continues to evolve to this day. The vision that Charles and Myrtle Fillmore had has not reached an end, but requires each of us to ask how we fit into the greater vision of Unity.

The month of October reminded me to catch a greater vision, realize that life is a process that is unfolding forever throughout time, and simply be in the question of what is mine to do and be in each moment. Join us each Sunday in November as we explore taking just one step each week in allowing our expanded vision to unfold.

Rev. Joanne has served for two years as Treasurer of Unity Worldwide Ministries Eastern Region. This year she will serve as Vice-President of our region. The experience has allowed her to grow and learn greater skills as a Spiritual Leader working with others on the path of enlightened leadership.

Sundays in November and December...

November 6—One Step Toward—Mystery

A new series begins as we examine taking just one step toward our expanded vision.

November 13—One Step Toward—Risk

**November 20—One Step Toward—
Commitment**

**November 27—One Step Toward—
Authenticity**

**December 4—A Celebration of Light—
The Light of Darkness**

Our Advent Series—A Celebration of Light—Begins!

**December 11—A Celebration of Light—
The Light of Divine Order**

**December 18—A Celebration of Light—
The Light of Life**

**December 25—A Celebration of Light—
The Light of Illumination**

This spiritual community is solely supported by your tithes and love offerings. We appreciate your continued financial support which makes it possible for us to support your spiritual growth in discovering, experiencing, expressing and celebrating God's good.

Consider making a tax deductible donation today!

**Send your check to:
Unity in Edinboro
130 Meadville St.
Edinboro, PA 16412**



Learning from the Book of Ruth

MasterMind Column

By REV. JERRY BRITTON

Naomi's journey sounds so familiar to a lot of our story. Go to the book of Ruth to get a better understanding. Naomi's husband and two sons died. All that she has left are her two daughter's-in-law. Naomi tells them to go back to their own mothers. But Ruth makes the decision to stay with Naomi. Naomi and Ruth came together by struggle and love and an overflowing obligation to each other. Such friendship has traditionally been called chaste or loving kindness or unconditional. I am with you, I am you.

Are we with friends like that? In this story, Naomi has lost her whole family, and yet she is thinking about her two daughter's-in-law. In times of such loss, would you be thinking about anything or anyone if you had lost your whole family?

This story is about being at the crossroads of life. It is about making choices and letting go of all the loss and pain. It is about choosing not to

stay there because there are people that need you.

When Naomi decides to return to Bethlehem, she tells the two young women that they should return to their people. Orpah does what she is told, but Ruth will not leave Naomi's side. "Where you go, I will go." How many women today would stay by their mother-in-law's side like that?

It was barley harvest time when the women return to Israel. Boaz, the owner of the barley field, heard about the two women and told the workers to leave some barley on the ground for Ruth and Naomi to "glean."

Naomi came up with a plan for Ruth to go to the field one night and lay at the feet of Boaz. When he awakens, there she is. "What are you doing here child?" Ruth answers that she is there for him. Most men of today would have taken her, it was free, and she was willing to give her-

self to him. But not Boaz! He told her to come up and lay beside him and tell him her story. Read the story in the Book of Ruth and find out what happens.

Does that sound like some of our lives today? Everything is going along fine, and then the bottom falls right out from under us. We may lose our faith and our trust in ourselves, and most of all in God. We may ask, "Why did you do this to me?" Naomi didn't do that. Although she hurt in losing everything, she held onto her God and showed the way out for her and her daughter-in-law. Naomi knew that God put them together for each other as he said, "I am with you, and I am for you." He is

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

there for us the same way.

I was at a one day retreat last week, and this is where this story came from with a little of me in it. Read the story in the bible and learn from it. See some parts of you in it.

Join us for our Mastermind Prayer Group on Thursdays as we learn what it is to love, support and encourage each one in our community to know the God of our own being.

Love to all of you.



Gifts for children in Erie

We will once again be providing Christmas gifts for children in Erie. We will have gift tags available at our December 4 service. Please let Joanne know if you would like to provide a gift but will be unable to attend our service.

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!



Sharing An Abundance of Happenings

View From the Board

By CHERYL WENSLOW

This is an exciting time to be a part of the board at Unity in Edinboro. With the recent election of Bill and Carol we again have a full six member board. This will give us more minds to contribute ideas to solve the challenges that arise in the life of the church and lend their energies to work for the congregation.

We are also enthusiastic about the quarterly meeting with the congregation to get input and feedback on what is wanted in the life of the church. The board is working with Reverend Joanne and other groups like the chaplains, the core visioning counsel, and the choir to bring you the best Unity worship experience pos-

sible.

We feel that Spirit is at work in the church making it possible for all of us to transform our lives. We only need to tap into the energy of The Spirit here to make it work for us. There are many resources in the church to help us with our liberation from suffering. Reverend Joanne and the prayer chaplains are always available to aid us on our spiritual journeys, but our main resource is one another. That is the function of a congregation to be there for others so that we can all advance on our spiritual paths.

The board would like to thank everyone who gives their time and energy to make the church function. A special thanks goes out to Den-

nis Boyer for his efforts to improve the kitchen area. Look around the church and see ways that you can improve on what it is. It is only through the efforts of the congregation that the church is able to grow and improve.

These are indeed the best of times for us for no matter what challenges are in our path, these are the times that we have. It is up to us what we will make of them. We encourage you to love one another, to be good to one another, and to always see God, the Divine Self, in everyone and everything.

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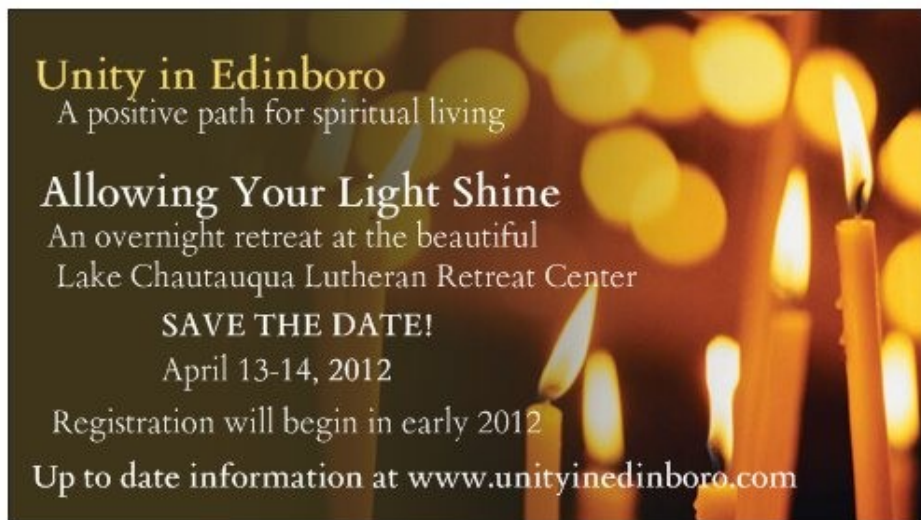
Director: Caroll Boyer
814-450-2360

Allowing Your Light To Shine
An Overnight Retreat
Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Retreat Center
SAVE THE DATE!
April 13-14

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.
- Includes 8 facilitators and a music ministry team!
- More information, including registration, coming in early 2012!

We want you to know now so that you can save the date and join us!



Unity in Edinboro
A positive path for spiritual living

Allowing Your Light Shine
An overnight retreat at the beautiful
Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Retreat Center

SAVE THE DATE!
April 13-14, 2012

Registration will begin in early 2012

Up to date information at www.unityinedinboro.com

November 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Conversation Cafe	3	4	5
6 Gathering begins at 10:25	7	8	9 Conversation Cafe	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Conversation Cafe	17	18	19 Movie Night
20 Thanksgiving Potluck	21	22	23 Conversation Cafe	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Conversation Cafe			

In 2011 we shift our attitude...

**November 2—Wake up It's
Wed Conversation Café
Returns!**

**November 6—One Step
Toward Mystery**
Speaker: Rev. Joanne Rowden
The Gathering—A group
meditation and prayer process
begins at 10:25

**November 13—One Step
Toward Risk**
Speaker: Rev. Joanne Rowden

**November 19—Bug Club
Movie Night** at 7 p.m.
Film is The Ultimate Gift
(See page 11 for more info)

**November 20—One Step
Toward Commitment**
Speaker: Rev. Joanne Rowden

**November 27—One Step
Toward Authenticity**
Speaker: Rev. Joanne Rowden

Members have
been sharing their
own personal
stories! You can
watch their videos
online now. Check
it out at

www.unityinedinboro.com

December 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Conversation Cafe	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Conversation Cafe	15	16	17 Movie Night
18 Christmas Potluck	19	20	21 Conversation Cafe	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

by focusing on our be-attitudes!

December 4-A Celebration of Light—The Light of Darkness

Speaker: Rev. Joanne Rowden
This will be an out of the ordinary service!

December 11-A Celebration of Light—The Light of Divine Order

Speaker: Rev. Joanne Rowden

December 17-Bug Club Movie Night at 7 p.m.

Film is The Nativity
(See page 11 for more info)

December 18-A Celebration of Light—The Light of Life

Speaker: Rev. Joanne Rowden

December 25-A Celebration of Light—The Light of Illumination

Speaker: Rev. Joanne Rowden

January 1-Burning Bowl and White Stone Ceremony

Speaker: Rev. Joanne Rowden

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!

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.



Our Community
Celebrates...

Thanksgiving Dinner
Sunday, November 20
Immediately following service

Christmas Dinner
Sunday, December 18
Immediately following service
Including our annual gift exchange
and singing of Christmas carols!

Join us for both of these potluck dinners. Meat will be provided. Please plan to bring a dish to pass. We will also be discussing, "What's working?" and "What would you like?" at the Christmas dinner.

Our Holiday Services...

Christmas Service—December 25 at 11 a.m.

New Year's Service—January 1 at 11 a.m.

Come join us this year as we have the glorious opportunity to gather together ON Christmas and New Year's Day for our 11 a.m. Sunday service.



Unity AV "Bug" Club Ministry Presents...Movie Night 7:00 p.m.

November 19 —The Ultimate Gift
December 17— The Nativity Story

A freewill offering will be received

Join Shelly Ropp and Unity's AV Bug Club Ministry for our monthly movie night at Unity in Edinboro. In our November movie, **The Ultimate Gift**, when his wealthy grandfather (James Garner) finally dies, Jason Stevens (Drew Fuller) fully expects to benefit when it comes to the reading of the will. But instead of a sizable inheritance, Jason receives a test, a series of tasks he must complete before he can get any money.

Our December Movie, **The Nativity Story**, shares the story of Mary (Keisha Castle-Hughes) and Joseph (Oscar Isaac) make the hard journey to Bethlehem for a blessed event in this meticulously researched and visually lush adaptation of the biblical tale of the Nativity from director Catherine Hardwicke (Thirteen). The film follows the pair on their arduous path to their arrival in a small village, where they find shelter in an innkeeper's stable and deliver baby Jesus to the world.



Repositioning Yourself Chaplain's Corner By BECCA LESIK

Bishop T.D. Jakes talks about living life without limits in his book, *Reposition Yourself*. Bishop Jakes believes there is nothing more important than your next decision. So what "tools" does one need to reposition oneself? Bishop Jakes talks about staying connected to God as the only way to reposition yourself.

Eric Butterworth in *The Call of The Universe* asserts that our fundamental concept of God must change before we can experience true connection with the Divine. Rev. Butterworth addresses the growing need for understanding and clarity regarding the function and nature of prayer.

You are called to come up higher, to take charge of your life, to release your hidden splendor. He states in prayer you

are hearing the call of the universe and responding to it. As you alter your concept of God, from a God outside to a God within, and begin praying from a shared consciousness of God, you begin to realize your endless possibilities.

As we spend time listening, so we begin to develop principles that enable entrance into the stream of God-consciousness and change both interpersonal communication and spiritual living. Until then, we may just continue as we are.

Some will say, "I'm ok." Others, content. Some may state they are downright stuck, others hold thoughts of seeking more. If you have found you want more answers, it takes commitment to spend time with God, listening.

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!

The prayer chaplains have been doing that in the time after service as they "gather" in prayer and meditation. Spending time listening and growing, absorbing the truths that are being revealed. This commitment has led to many things. Just ask them how the "time spent with God" has grown from just once in a while to

walking in a Christ-consciousness continuously throughout the day. You are invited to join them as the time slot shifts from after service to before service. The prayer chaplains will bring The Gathering to you from 10:25-10:50 each Sunday morning.

Time spent in a commitment to capture every thought and bring it into the steam of God-consciousness. Time spent in quiet listening. Time spent in joyous understanding that Oneness in Christ-consciousness releases the power within us all. Time spent repositioning oneself in the ever unfolding Truth of God's love.

At first it is not easy setting aside time. As you begin to develop new principles and techniques, you will discover there is no beginning or ending to your prayer consciousness. You may have an "ah-

ha" moment as the Truths reveal themselves ever deeper in your growing awareness of who you are.

None of this will happen if you don't begin. If you don't challenge yourself to allow the stream of endless possibilities to empower your life. So I ask you to come join us on Sunday mornings as we hold that sacred place of possibility; as we pray and listen.

The universe is calling. Can you hear it? Can you feel God's presence?

Namaste'.

You are invited to join the chaplains for The Gathering every Sunday before service from 10:25-10:50 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.

We are grateful for each of our prayer chaplains

Gordon Abernathy
Jerry Britton
Barry Hardman
Becca Lesik
Julie Uhlman

Joseph Briggs
Bill Empson
Priscilla Hardman
Cindy Walk



Heartfelt Thanks To The Unity Movement



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 the Unity Movement! After participating in the Nehemiah Retreat at Unity Village, it seems appropriate to give thanks for the rich history that we share.

How long has the Unity Movement been unfolding?

Unity was founded in 1889 in Kansas City, Missouri, by Charles and Myrtle Fillmore. After Mrs. Fillmore’s remarkable healing using prayer and affirmations, many friends became interested in how she accomplished this healing. Unity grew from small prayer circles in living rooms to the worldwide movement it is today.

Please share Unity’s perspective of our Spiritual Journey.

Unity is a positive, practical, progressive approach to Christianity based on the teachings of Jesus and the power of prayer. Unity honors the universal truths in all religions and respects each individual’s right to choose a spiritual path.

Tell us something about the core values of Unity.

Unity is a center of spiritual light for people of the world. We are dedicated to letting this light shine so brightly that people become more aware of their spiritual nature and express it in their daily lives. We address physical, mental and emotional needs through affirmative prayer and spiritual education. We serve those who seek inspiration and prayer support as well as those who use Unity teachings as their primary path of spiritual growth.

Tell us something about the two organizations that make up the Unity Movement.

In a little over 100 years, Unity, based on the teachings of Jesus and the healing power of prayer, has grown into a worldwide movement.

Unity is made up of two sister organizations, Unity School of Christianity and the Association of Unity Churches International. Both jointly oversee the day-to-day activities of Unity.

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 Participates in The Nehemiah Retreat at Unity Village



*You can join us
next year
(Oct 21-26, 2012)
Call TODAY to
make your
reservation:
866-34-UNITY*



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Join us for our Holiday
Potluck Dinners. See
page 10 for more
information.

Check out the pictures
of our Nehemiah
Retreat at Unity Village
on page 15.