



## September—October 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)



# Being in Relationship

## Joanne's Perspective

By REV. JOANNE ROWDEN

Two years ago I became very clear about getting myself out of the way and allowing God's vision to unfold in my life. If anything was going to happen, it was going to be because I was open to the process of allowing what was organically arising to be demonstrated.

In practical terms, this understanding has led to my getting out of my own way. When I think I know what is best, I can be attached to the results. I can feel like I have to force something to happen. I can find myself convincing others that my way is the best way. Naturally, this way of 'doing' life leads to a great deal of stress and often times disappointment.

Once I finally got that this wasn't working for me, I knew I had to find another way. What was

that way? It was to open to God's vision for my life. I know that this can sound like God has a predetermined plan for me, but that is not what I am talking about. I am talking about living in the Sacred Space of Possibility. Opening myself to the greatest possibility to unfold in this moment. This is a co-creative process that I undergo with the God of my being.

You may be wondering how that has changed my life. I have found that as I let go of the way I think things ought to be, I have been challenged to accept situations and people just as they are. When I am less attached to the outcome, I feel more at peace with what is unfolding. It seems that I am more open to creative and outside of the box ways of thinking. I find joy in each day and wonder at all that is

occurring.

Not surprisingly, as I have grown personally in my understanding, it has been reflected in my experience at Unity in Edinboro. I find that God's vision is unfolding in our Spiritual Community as well. Allowing things to organically arise, deep and authentic relationships are forming. People are serving in ways that are exciting to them. Members are speaking about our Spiritual Community with understanding that we are so much more than a church.

Getting back to teaching what you wish to learn, I am ready to take my understanding of allowing God's vision to unfold more deeply by sharing a series of messages on Expanding Our Vision. Are you ready to allow God's vision to unfold in your life? Come join us!

Rev. Joanne begins a 4 week class on  
The Manifesting Power of Love!  
Begins September 7 at 7 p.m.  
(See page 10 for more information)

# Sundays in September and October...

September 4—Sacred Service

September 11—Lessons Learned

A reflection of lessons learned over the past 10 years

September 18—Expanding Our Vision—To Me

We begin a new series this week based on the evolution of our consciousness as we expand our vision to reveal God's greater vision for our life.

September 25—Expanding Our Vision—By Me

October 2—Expanding Our Vision—Through Me

October 9—Expanding Our Vision—As Me

October 16—A Special Message with Rev. John Brown

October 23—Surprise!

October 30—One Step Toward—Forgiveness

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

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**



# May All Beings Be Fully Awake and Free

## MasterMind Column

By REV. JERRY BRITTON

I awoke this morning and looked out and saw the sky as so many of us see the same morning sky. That same energy that was coming into me was coming into you and into your workplace.

God is there with people that are down and out, and people that are sick in hospitals. God is love, and he is there. Isn't that wonderful.

New born babies come into this world with that same energy and they let it go as they grow older. But it is always there and they have not lost it because they are God's children. Every one of us, no matter what color, every nationality and every ethnic group has the same energy flowing into them as it is flowing into you.

Let us all pray this prayer to help the world to heal. Pray it in your own words, not anyone else's' to add your energy to God's energy to heal this world of ours. We all need to believe and really trust that it will

happen deep down in your whole being.

I am with you at all times, says the Lord. We as a group can send out prayers for the world, and add to God's prayers to help this world to be healed. In our work places to make it a more peaceful place for us to work.

Let's all of us reach out to each other to become more with his love, God's love, in all of us. He will never let us go. For he is inside of us. We just have to remember that and reach out to that. Replace the fear that is inside of us with love, peace and joy. And become more caring for each other. You can do this by just sending your prayers up to your God to add to his. So we can make this world a better place for all.

So each morning look up to the sky and send your prayers up to make this world a better place for all.

He so loved all of us, no matter where we are or

what we are doing. Reach out and know he has the whole world in his hand. And that he is holding every one of us.

May all beings be free from fear and pain. May all beings live with love and compassion. May all beings be fully awake and be free.

As you continue this prayer, this radiant state of love and kindness, imagine countless beings joining in with you extending this love of God and blessings to you and to all beings everywhere.

May all beings be happy and peaceful. May all beings be free from fear and pain. May all beings live with love and compassion. May all beings be fully awake and be free

### **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



Unity in Edinboro  
Community Flea Market and  
Pancake Breakfast!  
\$5—AUCCE  
Saturday, August 27

Join us for a community flea market and pancake breakfast. Flea Market tables are still available and being offered to you for a 10% donation back to Unity in Edinboro. To reserve your table, call Joanne at 814-450-6090.



Come and join us for this day of fun, fellowship and circulation.

**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

Greetings from the board. Much has happened at Unity during the last two months. Shelly Ropp has the Bug Club up and running. Unity has already had two movie nights and a wonderful "winter scene" presentation on one of the hottest Sundays of the summer. Keep up the great work Bug Club, we are all looking forward to more of your inspiring movies.

Many have been busy with repairs and maintenance. With funds from the building and grounds fund, many improvements have been accomplished around the church. A new sidewalk and gravel for the parking lot are just a few of the updates

made. The house is also getting much needed improvements. Much needed painting has been done to get the house ready for the fall semester. Thanks to all for their time and donations.

Our newest board member, Bill Empson, has also been busy with planning the community yard sale and pancake breakfast. The event will take place on Saturday August 27th, starting at 8a.m. We are all thankful to Bill for organizing this and see it being a great success. Anyone that would like to help please contact Bill.

Finally, all board members attended board training with Rev. Pat Bessey. Pat was very informative and

inspirational. We covered much material in our two days of training that helped all of us better understand our roles and responsibilities as board members, so that we can better serve our church and the community. We also discussed having a quarterly community day. On September 18th after service. we ask that you stay and participate in our first community day. This is where you can discuss any plan, visions or ideas you may have for the church. Hope you will join us!

Annual Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, Oct 2  
Immediately following Sunday service

**President:**  
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:** Open

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



A Community Gathering  
Sunday, September 18  
Following Service  
Soup & Salad Luncheon will be  
provided!

Join your board of directors on Sunday, September 18, following our 11 a.m. service for our Community Gathering. The board will provide a soup and salad luncheon downstairs in fellowship hall. During the gathering we will be hearing from you on:

“What’s Working?”  
“What do you Want?”

This is OUR community, and your input is invaluable. Together we create the sacred space of possibility as we share with open hearts, minds and spirits, allowing God’s vision of greater good to unfold.

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Annual Congregational Meeting  
Sunday Oct 2  
Immediately following service

Join your board of directors on Sunday, October 2, for our annual congregational meeting. During this meeting we will be sharing information on our Spiritual Community’s accomplishments and finances for this current fiscal year. We will also be holding board elections. Currently we welcome the following individuals who have stepped forth in their willingness to serve on the board:

William Empson  
Caroll Boyer

If you would like to submit your name for nomination, be sure to let one of our board members know as soon as possible.

# September 2011

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Wake up It's Wednesday	8 World Day of Prayer Service	9	10
11	12	13	14 Wake up It's Wednesday	15	16	17 Bug Club Movie Night
18 Community Gathering	19	20	21 Wake up It's Wednesday	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Wake up It's Wednesday	29	30	

## In 2011 we shift our attitude...

### Sept 4-Sacred Service

Speaker: Rev. Joanne Rowden

**Sept 7-Wake up It's Wed  
new evening class begins  
(see page 10 for more info )**

**Sept 8-World Day of Prayer  
Service at 7 p.m.**

### Sept 11—Lessons Learned

Speaker: Rev. Joanne Rowden

### Sept 17—Bug Club Movie

**Night** at 7 p.m.

Film is What Would Jesus  
Do?

(See page 11 for more info)

### Sept 18—Expanding Our Vision—To Me

Speaker: Rev. Joanne Rowden

**Community Gathering**  
following Sunday service (See  
page 7 for more information)

### Sept 25-Expanding Our Vision By Me

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](http://www.unityinedinboro.com)

# October 2011

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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2 Annual Meeting

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15 Bug Club Movie

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30 Board Meeting

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## by focusing on our be-attitudes!

**Oct 2-Expanding Our Vision—Through Me**

Speaker: Rev. Joanne Rowden

**Annual Congregational Meeting**

following Sunday Service. (See page 7 for more information.)

**Oct 9- Expanding Our Vision—As Me**

Speaker: Joanne Rowden

**Oct 15-Bug Club Movie Night**

at 7 p.m.

Film is Standing Firm

(See page 11 for more info)

**Oct 16-A Special Message with Rev. John Brown**

Speaker: Rev. John Brown

**Oct 23-Surprise!**

**Oct 30-One Step toward Forgiveness**

Board Meeting at 9 a.m.

**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**  
**(No Conversation Café in October)**

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.

**Group Meditation**  
**Meeting in the Sanctuary**  
**at 6:15 p.m.**  
**each Wednesday in September**  
**Begins September 7**

Join Joanne each Wednesday evening at 6:15 in September for a half hour group meditation in the silence. We will come together as a group and sit in the power of the stillness.

**The Manifesting Power of Love**  
**at 7:00 p.m.**  
**each Wednesday in September**  
**A 4 week class**  
**Beginning September 7**



Join Joanne each Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in September for a class on the greatest manifestation principle in the world—Love! Together we explore the real secret to creating the life of your dreams by centering fully in the power of unconditional love. This is a 4 week class. A free will offering will be received.



# Unity World Day of Prayer Thursday, September 8 7:00 p.m.

We will be praying the peace prayers of the 12 major religions

During this meditative, candle-lit service we will be praying the peace prayers of the 12 major religions. One prayer is given every 5 minutes. This hour long service allows for meditative reflection on the desire for peace in all religions

Hindu Prayer  
Buddhist Prayer  
Zoroastrian Prayer  
Jainist Prayer  
Jewish Prayer  
Shinto Prayer

Native African Prayer  
Native American Prayer  
Muslim Prayer  
Baha'i Prayer  
Sikh Prayer  
Christian Prayer



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

September 17 —What Would Jesus Do?  
October 15— Standing Firm

*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. Our September movie, **What would Jesus Do?** shares the story of a charismatic drifter who galvanizes a local church and its dispirited pastor against a politician bent on seizing the church's property in order to build a casino. Our October Movie, **Standing Firm**, shares the story of Dave Corwin who loses his wife, plunges dangerously into death, and gives up on everything until his son is determined to restore his father's belief in a benevolent God.



## The Power of The Gathering Chaplain's Corner By CINDY WALK

The prayer chaplains are starting a book study, but it's not your ordinary book study. We're not going to just sit around and talk about it; we're going to DO IT!

When we had our initial training to become prayer chaplains, the best piece of advice we got was to "keep prayed up." This was encouragement to grow our own prayer life with regular prayer and meditation. It was suggested to us that if we developed a prayer consciousness, or a deeper consciousness of God, we would not only grow within ourselves, but we would be more present when someone came to us with a prayer request.

Many of us have been told that praying is talking to God, and meditation is listening for the answer. Perhaps this is one reason we might

feel disappointed when "nothing happens" during our meditation time. I know that I have asked for guidance many times, knowing that it could come in various ways, yet I felt that I was left on my own to figure out how to handle a situation.

The book is **The Gathering** by Jim Rosemergy, a Unity minister. This book has a whole new perspective on prayer. The first step is to set aside our human needs. I can hear you saying: What! But I have needs! I had the same reaction, and at the same time I had a Wow! moment. I thought: Something about this makes sense. I couldn't wait to read more.

The author provides a simple way to set aside those human needs that we like to cling to, then asks us to meditate simply by "sitting in the Silence" and experiencing the presence of God. If the mind drifts, gently

bring it back to the silence with a word or phrase or by focusing on the breath. This may sound just like what many of us already do, but I know that I, for one, frequently do it with a sense of expectation.

*You are invited to  
join the chaplains  
for The Gathering  
every Sunday  
following fellowship  
for a 20 minute  
period of meditation.*

This may sound simplistic, but I can't count the number of times I've sat in meditation wondering if maybe this time I'll be guided to the right job, or maybe I'll feel healing energy pouring through me, or any number of other things. We've all done it.

We had our first Gathering last Sunday (July 31). It felt truly

powerful. When we had a prayer chaplain retreat in April, Rev. Diane Scribner Clevenger talked to us about how every thought is a prayer. This idea kept returning to me all this week. It occurs to me that if we're communing with God all through our day, he already knows that our car is in bad shape, that our loved one is ill, or that our financial situation is critical.

Joanne has talked to us about paradoxes. The paradox here is that when we release the need and don't make it the focus of our prayer time and we consciously choose to feel the presence of God, the need might be fulfilled or our ideas about it shift. I believe this happens because as we experience the Silence, we are more receptive to Divine Mind, more receptive to inspiration. As the author puts it, "Could it be that human conditions and challenges lose their power and even disappear when our spiritual nature appears?" (p. 12)

I hope I've piqued your curiosity to know more about this simple, yet effective practice. More importantly, I hope you'll want to experience it. We will be meeting every Sunday after lunch. The meditation itself is 20 minutes. Currently we are discussing one chapter of the book each week after the meditation to gain a fuller understanding of each step. When we complete the book, we'll decide what the next step is. It's summer and everyone is busy. You might prefer to meditate with us and not join the discussion group for now. It's all good. Do what works for you. You don't have to be a prayer chaplain. This is open to everyone.

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!

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 Norb Dennis

maintenance at Unity and yard sales and flea market at Unity in Edinboro.

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

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.”

**What keeps you coming back to Unity in Edinboro?**

I have three sons. My pets include my dog Dougie and a cat Miss Kitty. I enjoy gardening, landscaping, woodworking and furniture making and restoration. I also enjoy making ornamental birdhouses.

This month’s HeartFelt Thanks honoree is Norb Dennis.

Mostly the people. I like the intellectual approach to spirituality and the constant quest for truth. Most of Joanne’s messages are deep and profound and meaningful in my life. (Editor’s note: Norb is also an active participant in Wednesday Conversation Café. Here we have the opportunity to delve more deeply into the spiritual message for the week and share our thoughts, questions, success and struggles with applying the message in our life.)

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

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

I have been a member of Unity in Edinboro since 1998. I first came to Unity because I was invited by a friend.



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

I have been involved with the Erie Food Pantry, American Legion Pool, Meadville Soup Kitchen, VA Hospital, Military Core Memorial Burial Details. I also have done yard

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

Unity is nondenominational, eclectic, and informal

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

# Helping Others Through Prayer

By Charles Roth

**Continued from July/  
August newsletter**

## *Have Faith*

Sometimes a loved one has an important decision to make, and in your concern, you want to help. You can help. First, assure your dear one that you have faith he or she will make the right decision. You will be surprised how much it helps when someone says, "I have faith that you will make the right decision. You think it over, and when you make your decision, it will be the right one.

The fact is that we often have more faith in others' faith in us than we have in ourselves. And when someone who cares for us expresses a positive faith in us, our own faith in our abilities is greatly reinforced..

Loving reassurance by letter or telephone is especially helpful when there is a geographical separation. Even though you may be worried, always let your general tone be one of "You can do it. I have

faith in you and in your good judgment. Everything is going to work out just fine. I know it."

Humanly, we tend to sink into the depths of despair with the person who is in trouble or feels helpless in making a right decision. We naturally don't know the perfect answer. Bit it is the other person's life, and he or she must

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*The best thing we can do is to reinforce our loved one's faith in his or her ability to make the right choice.*

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make the ultimate decision. The best thing we can do is to reinforce our loved one's faith in his or her ability to make the right choice.

Here is a prayer you can use as you bless the letter you send or as you end a telephone conversation with a loved one: *You are one with God. You have*

*instant access to God's light and wisdom.*

This is knowing the Truth. The facts might be that your loved one is confused, tense, worried or indecisive. But existing simultaneously with the present, yet changeable, facts is the Truth: each of us is one with God. And each of us has instant access to God's light and wisdom.

Once you know the facts, your next job is to know the Truth.

There are many times when you want to help a loved one so much that it almost hurts. Your aching to help is actually spiritual power welling up in you. Don't shor circuit it by letting thoughts of fear fill your mind, because they will short circuit it, and the backlash may make you feel ill or nervous. Instead, channel that power into a constructive prayer statement of Truth. Fill your mind with such thoughts as *You are one with God. You are undaunted in your faith and victorious in all life's experiences!*

Unity in Edinboro  
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Edinboro, PA 16412

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Sent With Love To

The Manifesting Power  
of Love—a 4 week  
class offered in  
September

Join us for our pancake  
breakfast and flea  
market on August 27!