



Dear Beloveds,

As we continue to live in this strange new world, I give thanks for your faith in the indwelling Christ Presence that is the very source of our lives. I am grateful for our community at Unity of Olympia and I feel honored to be a part of your spiritual home.

More than anything, I think I should love to see your faces all in the same room with me in our beautiful sanctuary, singing, praying, laughing, smiling. It's a picture I conjure up in my imagination (thank you God for the power of Imagination!) every week when we livestream our Sunday services. And when I think of you, I remember who we are: Spiritual Beings Having a Human Experience. And what an experience it is, huh?

Emilie Cady wrote this in Lessons in Truth in 1895 -

“You think you want better health, more love, a brighter, more cheerful home all your very own. In short you want less evil (or no evil) and more good in your life.

This is only God pushing at the inner door of your being saying

“My child, let me in, I want to give you all-good, that you may be more comfortable and happy.”

Desire in the heart for anything is God's sure promise sent beforehand to indicate that it is yours already in the limitless realm of supply.”

As spiritual beings, expressions of God itself, we are family. We are connected by a bond of love and shared values. We are bound by our common beliefs and by our deep and abiding respect for one another. We celebrate our diverse understandings of God and spirituality. And like any family, we are connected by a shared experience of home.

**My search for home is already mapped;
the way is written on my heart.**

Our spiritual home is more than the buildings and grounds that belong to Unity of Olympia. Our hearts connected one to another in an awareness of the Holy and Sacred nature of our lives: this is our home.

This is Unity. I call on each of you to renew your commitment to the relationships you've built at Unity of Olympia. Make a phone call. Check in with someone. Send an email. Send a card. Come home to Unity.

Love, Laughter and Peace to you this day.

Reverend Terry

My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quite resting places.

Isaiah 32:18

Sunday Celebration Services 10 a.m.

Live Stream and recordings are available on our website under the Media tab

Rev. Terry Murray, Minister

Council Members:

Nancy Camenzind, Chair
Betty Bailey, Vice-Chair
Carolyn Hendricks, Treasurer
Mark Delaplaine, Secretary
Dolly Hansen, Member
Dennis Godwin, Member

Staff Team Members:

Janene Cummings, Music Director
Lisa Petrich, Youth Education
Marlisa Hollinger, Bookkeeper
Indira Goins, Office Admin.

Unity of Olympia Office hours:

*The office is currently closed
Please email us if you are in need of assistance.*

1335 Fern Street SW
Olympia, WA 98502

office@unityofolympia.org
www.unityofolympia.org

Sundays in the Sanctuary

At this time, our building is closed. We invite you to join us on Sundays at 10:00a for a live stream of our Sunday service, or view the recording at your convenience. Both of these services are available on our website at www.unityofolympia.org under the Media tab.

We also invite you to learn more about the activities and services we that are available to you during this interim time. They can be found on our website at:

<https://www.unityofolympia.org/interim-services-activities-beginning-march-2020>

Music News

Hello Unity family--

As summer winds down, I am reminded of the spectacular fall colors that are on their way. What a beautiful region we are blessed to share; I'm looking forward to that eye-popping, autumn palette!

This summer I've really enjoyed walking the Chehalis Western Trail-- and luckily, I've encountered a few of you! I give it daily credit for keeping me sane amid the twists and turns of the pandemic. I trust that each of you have been finding new, joyful experiences to carry you through this challenging time as well.

This month we are so blessed to have John Stringer bring his uplifting gifts on the 20th! You wont want to miss this-- and you can bet I will be one of the first to join the Livestream. What a joy it has been to bring so many amazing guests to each of you over the summer.



Terri Charles and I will be sharing our love through music the rest of the month-- she and I get such a kick out of singing together! Thank you Terri for being a divine, musical blessing to our community.

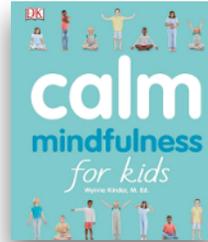
And thank you, Paul Swanda for your sound expertise-- it's so nice to see your smiling face first thing each Sunday!

May each of us find new ways to connect, share, thrive and serve within this wonderful world!

My love to you all--
Janene Cummings,
Music Director

Youth and Family Ministries

What was your favorite part of summer? This question will be asked as a get to know you question as children return to school through remote learning. This summer hasn't been the usual summer, but hopefully there is something good your family can share. This week, someone said to me - in order to transform grief and sadness, one must find gratitude in the small things. This doesn't mean that you don't validate the grief or allow yourself to feel it, what it means is that when you are ready to release, start with gratitude. Start listing everything you are grateful for, from the family and friends to the favorite foods, to nature's beauty. This isn't meant to make the grief go away, it is meant to help process the grief and ground yourself where you are so you can shift the energy. So instead of complaining about everything you couldn't do - put your focus on what you could do. For example, I was able to work with plants in my garden and got extreme pleasure from each bloom!



In gratitude we honor our homes. Home is the theme for Unity for the month of September. Karen Drucker shared a quote in her newsletter. Hafiz said: "The words you speak become the house you live in." As we mindfully move forward with our Finding Your Zen series on Mindfulness and Self-Realization for children and teens, please remember to find the time each week to honor your home and then send some prayers to each Unity family in their homes. Saying the Prayer for Protection for yourself and others is an easy way to do this spiritual routine.

Our YFM September Lessons:

September 6 - Breath Awareness and Faith

September 13 - God Walks and Growth

September 20 - Calm and Owning Who We Are

September 27 - High Five Breaths and Your Lucky Life

Our MINDFULNESS boxes were a HIT!! Children received tools for mindfulness in the mail that included snacks, handmade jewelry with crystals and/or beads, a bag of crystals with their meanings, Kool-Aid play dough, a flashlight, a dream catcher, and more! Each item had a purpose to help children connect to their spiritual powers along with an affirmation. Thank you, Unity of Olympia, for supporting this project. Twenty-eight boxes were mailed for each month, July and August! Mr. Petrich and I put many hours into creating these for the children and teens visualizing their smiles as we worked. As we move forward, the tools sent in the boxes will be used in the YFM video lessons each week.



If there is anything I can do to support a spiritual practice at home with you and your family, please let me know. Truly, a good spiritual practice will follow your children and they will remember the foundation because it starts at home.



Lighting a candle, saying a prayer, drawing a picture, and listening to a song that provokes a positive vibration or oneness in the world, are examples of ways to start.

Lots of LOVE, Lisa Petrich, your YFM Director

Treasurer Report

The Finance Team is taking this opportunity to thank everyone who has generously contributed to Unity of Olympia over the past 6 months. Our income has remained consistent and we continue to closely monitor expenses to assure a healthy monthly balance. Through all the turmoil, our staff has been dedicated to working safely (in and out of the building) and we continue to improve ways of staying connected.

In addition to tithing and love offerings, we received financial assistance to replace the roof on the Bishop Wing. The families of Sam Raynor, who passed in July, and Mellie Melville, who continues to live at Olympics West, contributed funds in honor of their lives.

The Finance Team is also working on several fundraising events including, Summer Sizzle on August 30 after Sunday Service (see weekly emails for details) and a 30-day Challenge similar to the event earlier this year.

If you would have questions or would like to assist with any fundraising events, please contact Carolyn Hendricks (bellplayer1@comcast.net).

We sincerely appreciated your kind and generous spirits as we work our way through this uncharted territory called Covid-19.

Carolyn Hendricks
Council Treasurer

Survey Says...

Earlier this month the Council of Trustees asked you to complete a survey. Sixty-six of you responded. In the world of surveys, that is a very high response rate. We appreciate each of you taking the time to complete the survey.

The survey was composed of two parts. The first part was about virtual services and re-opening the building again for in-person services. The second part was about hosting the BABH Shower Trailer on Unity property. The following address the results of the survey and the next steps to be taken by staff and the Council of Trustees.

Return to In-Person Services

The intention behind this set of questions was to poll the numbers of people in our community who are attending our livestream services and which mediums are working best for the greatest number. We're also interested in collecting data that would allow us to create an implementation plan for returning to in-person services. Here are the survey results:

1. In general, do you currently watch our live-stream or recorded broadcasts of our Sunday service? Please choose what best fits your situation. (66 responses)

- Yes - I watch the livestream broadcast 67%
- Yes - I watch the recorded broadcast 12%
- No - This format does not work for me 15%
- No - I do not have access to watch at this time 6%

Business News *cont.*

2. If you answered “yes” to the above question, which platform do you generally use or prefer to view the Sunday service? (55 responses)

- Live-stream on Unity of Olympia's website 64%
- Live-stream on Facebook 26%
- Recording on Unity of Olympia's website 4%
- Unity of Olympia's YouTube channel 4%
- other - “all of the above” 2%
- Recording on Facebook 0%

The first two questions are an attempt to gauge the effectiveness of providing online streaming services and to obtain information regarding the methods preferred for our members. The majority responded that they're watching the livestream on our website with a large minority viewing the livestream on Facebook live. Those who are watching the recorded service at a later time are viewing it through Unity's website and NOT through the Facebook recording. And one respondent replied that they watch it in a variety of ways depending upon their schedule. Additionally, we find that 21% of the respondents said that video church doesn't work for them or they have no access to the Sunday service. This takes us to questions 3 & 4:

3. When the time comes to re-open for our limited-seating, in-person Sunday services, please choose the answer that best fits your current opinion: (65 responses)

- I would like to attend Sunday service in-person. 33%
- I am not comfortable attending in-person yet. I will continue to participate in the livestream broadcasts or watch the recordings from my computer/device. 21%
- I am interested in a hybrid approach. 21%
- I am undecided at this time. 16%

4. If you are interested in attending Sunday service in-person, please rank the following staggered approaches in the order that best aligns with your current opinion: (51 responses)

- I would like to sign-up for a specific Sunday of my choosing. 3.00
- I am ok being assigned a consistent Sunday rotation that I can plan around. 2.60
- I would like to attend as many times as possible, please add my name to any available Sunday. 2.47
- I am ok with a lottery system where I am assigned a Sunday that best fits with the community needs. 2.20

Questions 3 was intended to help us figure out how many people might be returning to services immediately upon opening and how we would manage social distancing in our facility. In this case, 22 people have stated that they'd like to attend in person services and 13 people are interested in a hybrid approach, attending in person sometimes and attending online at other times. That's a total of 35 people who wish to attend on Sundays when we open.

Business News *cont.*

The answers to question number 4 were ranked on a scale of 1 to 4, 1 being the most desirable and 4 being the least desirable, by the participant. The assigned scores (**above**) are calculated based on the aggregate opinions cast.

In response to this information, our staff has set up a registration page so that those who know they will be attending as soon as we open will be invited first. If the registration is for fewer than 25 people when we get to our Phase 4 opening, all who are registered will be welcome on any Sunday. If and when the registration list exceeds 25, we'll assign folks to a specific Sunday, likely alternating Sundays.

We're excited about the eventual certainty of returning to our services 'in the building' and are working to be prepared the moment we move to Phase 4.

BABH Shower Trailer

Addressing the question of hosting the BABH Shower Trailer on Unity property.

The intention behind the questions on the survey was to assess potential risks of hosting the shower trailer and measure the support from the congregation. As many of you know, the Unity property has been the subject of vandalism. Many congregants have expressed an interest in having some presence on the property as a deterrent to vandalism. The first question was intended to gauge the congregants' perception of whether the shower bus would provide that deterrent.

Will the shower bus serve as a deterrent to vandalism (61 responses)

- Less likely: 22%
- More likely: 22%
- Same likelihood: 54%

These results clearly indicate that you believed it would make no difference on way or another. The second question was intended to gauge from the congregants the perception of the cause of the vandalism; neighborhood teens, or homeless people in the areas.

Which group is most likely to cause damage at the church property (61 responses)

- Neighborhood teens: 64%
- Homeless: 1%
- Don't know: 19%

The responses to the second question clearly indicated that the respondents believe the cause is from neighborhood teens.

The third question was intended to determine whether the congregants believed hosting the shower trailer was likely to attract homeless to the church property.

Business News *cont.*

Will the shower bus attract the homeless (62 responses)

- Less likely: 0%
- More likely: 56%
- Same likelihood: 43%

The results indicated that congregants believe that the presence of the shower trailer would attract homeless to the church property.

One of the principles of strategic planning is to ensure that an organization is only taking on initiatives that are consistent with their strategic plan. Unity of Olympia has been operating under a strategic plan since 2014. One of the focus areas for the strategic plan is social action:

“Goal: Increase involvement and promote social service projects.”

The fourth question was intended to gauge the congregation’s perception of whether hosting the shower trailer was consistent with Unity of Olympia’s strategic plan.

Does the bus advance the strategic goal of increasing involvement and promoting social service projects (61 responses)

- Yes: 81%
- No: 18%

These results show an overwhelming agreement that hosting the shower bus does advance the strategic goal of increasing involvement and promoting social service projects.

Finally, the last question directly asks whether the congregation supports hosting the shower bus.

Do you support hosting the bus (62 responses)

- Yes: 77%
- No 22%

The results from this question show strong support from the congregation for hosting the shower bus.

In summary, the congregation believed that hosting the shower trailer was not likely to affect the incidents of vandalism, would likely attract homeless, yet believed that the homeless were not the likely cause of vandalism. The congregation also believed that hosting the bus would advance the strategic goal of increasing and promoting social service project and supported hosting the shower bus.

This feedback gave the council of trustees confidence that they were acting in the best interest of Unity of Olympia to continue to pursue hosting the shower bus.

Special Events



September 9-10 | Virtual Event on Facebook and YouTube | *Hosted by Unity World Headquarters*

We believe World Day of Prayer 2020 will be especially meaningful for you. With its events broadcast live on Unity World Headquarter's Facebook and YouTube pages, we look forward to sharing this important prayer experience with you and thousands of others around the world.

We affirm together:

Standing in Truth, I move from fear to faith.

During World Day of Prayer on September 9-10, you and your loved ones will be reverently held in prayer in our 24-hour prayer vigil.

As you may already know, the Silent Unity® prayer ministry is always here for you, 24 hours a day, every day of the year. It's our sacred privilege to walk with you on your spiritual path and share resources that encourage your personal growth and discovery.

John Stringer: Guest Speaker & Musician



Sunday, September 20, 10:00a

How Do You Sweat it? Desperation, Perspiration & Inspiration

Now is not the time to give into desperation. Now is not the time to lay down and do nothing. Now is the time to go within / align with Source(God), and ask what is ours to do; to move from desperation to inspiration and to act upon that divine guidance when it is our time. Join life teacher, healer, author and Billboard charting singer John Stringer, as we discuss "How do you sweat it?"

Evergreen Vista School Supplies



This is a year filled with many challenges for parents of school age children. The supplies needed to support school activities can be very costly as well as difficult to acquire.

Unity Members, your generosity blessed many children at Evergreen Vista! To be exact, 48 families and 15 individuals received our support. In the two days that school supplies were collected, over 585 items arrived. Needed items for elementary children like crayons, scissors, markers, glue and caddies and to the middle-high schoolers receiving notebooks and paper, portfolios, composition books, hi-liters and so much more. There were also money donations totally \$210. Indira, knowing that laptops would be used at home, decided to purchase HEADPHONES! Perfect!!! 35 pairs were added to our donation.

WE are living our truth...To Be of Service. Thank you to all that were able to contribute.

With gratitude and love, Cathy

Within Our Ministry

Prayer Team

World Day of Prayer is Sept 10 this year. Unity's prime principal is Oneness. We know that there is One Power and One Presence; An Infinity of Power and Presence. The theme this year for WDOP is Infinite Presence, Unlimited Potential. We will be guided by the affirmation: I celebrate the vast possibilities for my life.

This is a time for us to join with other minds and hearts around the world to affirm our wholeness, our health, our vitality, our strength, our gratitude, and most of all our Oneness.

Together we can contribute to a transformation of the planet to a higher conscious awareness of Oneness. We are all connected one to the other. This is the Truth of our Being. No matter who we are, or where we are, what we believe, what we don't believe, we are still connected and One. What affects one of us, affects all of us in some measure.

Yes, there is a pandemic, political unrest, protests, poverty, the list is endless. That is out in the world. It affects all of us in some way whether we are aware of it or not. And, we need to remember that we are all spiritual beings having a human experience. Sometimes it is a rocky road, challenges arise, life happens. Prayer is the most powerful tool we have and prayer works. As let go of attachment to outcomes, we pray and know that Divine Timing and Divine Order is always unfolding in our lives, in the lives of loved ones, our friends, and indeed the lives of everyone on the planet. We pray for wisdom to recognize when we are in our own way. We pray to be gentle with ourselves and know that we are enough. We are powerful beyond measure. We pray to let ourselves just Be with what is in acceptance and love. When we can let go and accept what is now, we find many times that change happens because we aren't fighting it. God knows the big picture. So we let go, trust, and our lives unfold in grace and beauty. We are grateful and we celebrate the vast possibilities for our life. And so it is.



Namaste - Penny Parsons

From The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel:

“It will all work out in the end, and if it hasn't worked out, it's not the end.”

Within Our Ministry *cont.*

Community Outreach

There are several ways we can help the 2 homeless shelters operated by Interfaith Works:

- Money donations through www.interfaith-works.org
- Donating supplies at Interfaith Office 110-11th Ave., basement of United Churches. Monday-Thursday 9-4:00. Call 360-357-7224 first.
 - twin bed blankets
 - towels
 - personal products like hotel soaps & shampoos
 - Homemade cloth face masks
- Unity of Olympia donation of meals will be coordinated through our Community Coordinator. Please let her know if you can do this: at (360) 489-0885 or communitycoordinator@unityofolympia.org



Our meal donations to the shelter have become very creative from sandwiches and pizza to spanish rice and lasagna.

The staff and residents look forward to our Wednesday donations knowing it comes with love.

The summer months were a grand success; fall months completed, too. There are only a few weeks needed in the months of November and December. I welcome a hosting group, family, or individuals.

Sandy and I hope to confirm another year serving a meal to shelters. Hold in consciousness another opportunity to serve.

Blessing our community with love and hope,

Cathy

SpiritGroups

Watch for upcoming news of our Fall Spirit Groups!

Plans are underway to launch the Fall series of Spirit Groups the week of October 1st. Watch for details such as topic, hosts, dates and times. This series will likely also be held via Zoom. Participants of our Summer series were very complimentary of the topic. Also feedback showed that the Zoom format worked quite well for everyone.

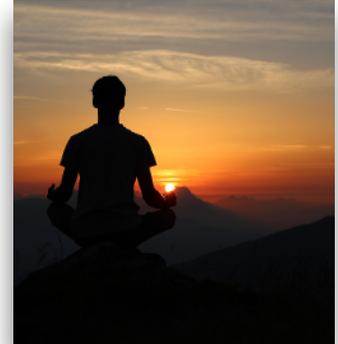


Within Our Ministry *cont.*

Prayer Circle

At Unity we believe that prayer works. We are honored to offer prayer to our community members and anyone who would be supported by positive, affirmative statement of truth at this time. Unity of Olympia will facilitate this prayer circle knowing the truth of the Divine in all circumstances and all people.

Please register if you would like to participate in this prayer circle, currently being held via Zoom. Once you register you will be sent a link to join. Registration closes 1 hour prior to each prayer circle start time. Please visit www.unityofolympia.org/prayer-circles to register



Prayer Circle Offering: Rev. Terry Murray | Thursdays, 10:00-10:40 AM

Community Connection: Wednesday Alternative Service

Come rest, refresh and renew among gentle souls for your mid-week revitalization.

Join Reverend Terry Murray & Janene Cummings in this secular, nurturing space for the Olympia community to gather in group singing and expansive conversation.

- 40 minutes of speaking circle
- 20 minutes of meditative music

Please join us - you are welcome here!

Wednesdays | 5:30p - 6:30p



This event is taking place via Zoom. Registration is required. Please visit our website at <https://www.unityofolympia.org/community-connection-alternative-service> to register.



*Social justice and peace
through interfaith understanding
and cooperation.*

Interfaith Works will be having a Peace Day Festival... by Zoom!

Monday, September 21 at 5:00 pm

This year's event will feature regional, organizational leaders speaking to the relationship of peace with the ongoing work of justice. There will also be a guided mindfulness practice and an opening and closing prayer offered from the Baha'i and Buddhist traditions.

September 21st is recognized annually by the United Nations as International Peace Day. It is a day devoted to: "commemorating and strengthening the ideals of peace both within and among all nations and peoples". Please join Interfaith Works as we welcome regional organizational leaders and spiritual practitioners for a time of reflection on bringing forth peace in our world.

Interfaith Really Works!

Mark your calendars for Monday, September 21, at 5:00 pm for the Peace Day Festival and Zoom in for speakers, mindfulness practice, and strengthening the bonds of peace worldwide.

- Gratitude for all those who provide lunches for the Interfaith Works (IW) emergency shelter on Martin Way. The response has been amazing! We are now booked through mid-October.
- The emergency shelter on Martin Way needs to find a new space. That building will be demolished to make way for the new 5-story shelter construction, beginning this Nov. 1. IW is asking the community for ideas of possible temporary locations.
- Good news! The IW Community Thanksgiving celebration is on! Corey Passons, community liaison, led the first zoom planning meeting for the annual event. Possible title: "Virtually Together, Genuinely Thankful."
- The virtual Thanksgiving will be November 22, at 3:00 pm. It will feature performances by musicians and speakers, while tech experts from faith communities pool their skills to put it all together. This will then be shareable on IW website, FB, etc. We want Zoom breakout rooms afterward for socializing.
- A community forum, Lean in Olympia, will be held on September 15 with Meg Martin, Executive Director of IW, addressing issues of local concern. Watch E-Blast for particulars.
- For further information contact <https://www.interfaith-works.org/>

Submitted by Ann Chenhall and Sandy Crowell