



UNITY OF OAK PARK
March/April 2017

THE ETERNAL QUALITY OF LIFE

There is an eternal quality in life, an indestructibility and persistence to the life idea. It is only as we enlarge our view and lift up our concept of life that we are able to perceive our true nature. Man is an eternal creation of the Creator, moving forward in life, that is without beginning or end. Life can not be contained in a few years of existence, nor bound or held in a pattern of disease or deficiency.

Life is eternal in quality. Life is a living, moving, evolving, unfolding process,. Whatever we mentally see and spiritually comprehend, we may objectively experience, for life is not limited to any one experience. The invisible Presence is the Cause desiring self-expression through us; it is the insistent urge compelling us to move forward. The eternal quality of man and of life rises up again and again to overcome doubt and fear, to bring light in darkness, and to open the blind eyes, the deaf ears, and the closed mind.

When we seek light and Truth, when we try to comprehend man's place in the eternal, we see that despite appearances man is on an upward path. Even when the way seems full of twists and turns, progress is made. The Truth is that the soul is patiently and inexorably selecting its way, learning to put on the divine qualities of love, life, and power, transcending the experience of the moment, entering into new and higher ways.

The soul has many roads to take before it attains the full stature of the spiritual Self. Sometimes the road we are on seems difficult; happenings seem unfair or unjust; experiences are difficult to explain or to reconcile; it will change. We will learn and gain the needed good and move on to a new road of spiritual experience. We are more than the surface story. We are more than we seem. We look at life not as finite, but as infinite, without beginning or ending, part of the whole and perfect creation.

Our real story is found in the living of each day, in the overcomings, and in the way we persist in the eternal journey. Because of the eternal quality of life in us...*we are TRIUMPHANT!*

In loving service,
Rev. Helice Greene

YOUR INNER GUIDE

One of the big issues of the day has to do with PROSPERITY. It has come to me that throughout my life experience, some of the individuals with the least have demonstrated a consciousness of gratitude and thanksgiving for what they had. Money in itself is not a guarantee for happiness or joy. Often it becomes a worry bringing up all kinds of questions. How should I invest properly? What if I lose the money? It is a challenge for us to build a prosperity consciousness, not based on what we have in material possessions, but a state of consciousness.

It is a truth that until we learn to be happy with what we have, more will not change our thoughts and feelings. Security is within us, and with it there is a knowing that abundance is our birthright. Trusting what we need is always there, we will not continue in a poverty state of consciousness.

Prosperity is much more than the amount on a piece of paper. Look around at all the things you have which money cannot buy.

Realize that you have within you a prosperity guide; it is your inner self making the crooked places straight and preparing the way for success.

There is no separation between us and our desire except the blocks we set up through fear, lack of spiritual understanding, and the manner in which we use our creative thought processes. Believe in yourself and the POWER WITHIN. Know the universe is your greatest resource, and that you can bank on the truth that giving is the same as receiving. Take time daily to enter into the SILENCE in appreciation and feel a sense of oneness with all life cooperating for the good of humanity.

Rev. Richard Billings

THINGS OF THE WORLD PERCEIVED AS SETBACKS, LOSSES, DIFFICULTIES OR CHALLENGES ARE INDEED NONE OTHER THAN EXPERIENCES IN THE FLOW OF LIFE, LOVINGLY GUIDING US TO BUILD STRENGTH OF CHARACTER, REDIRECT OUR JOURNEY, TEACH US VALUABLE TRUTHS, AND GUIDE US INTO THE PATH OF RECOVERY.

MINISTRY SUPPORT SERVICES

Prayer Ministry. Unity is with you at all times—in person, by telephone, --to pray with you and to give you support. Our Prayer Team meets on Monday evenings at 7:30 pm and is facilitated by *Mary Ann Provenza* and *Caryl Rohlfing*, LUT. The third Monday of the month *Jalima Cuesta* plays her healing bowls. All are welcome.

Prayer Request Box. Near the entrance to Billings Chapel you will find prayer request slips and our Prayer Request Box. After a time of prayer, your request is sent to Silent Unity where it is held in prayer for 30 days.

Spiritual Counseling. Our work is to help the individual enter into a deeper relationship with the Inner Self and touch the healing presence and power within. This service is available on a Love Offering basis.

Chaplaincy Ministry. Chaplains are trained to support you and hold what is heard in confidence. Chaplains attend Unity of Oak Park services and are available afterwards to pray with those who ask for prayer.

CHAPLAINS	
Jalima Cuesta	Carl Nawrot
Stephen Hoxworth	Mary Pokorny
Marilyn Joy	Mary Ann Provenza
Mike Nash	Christine Randle
Sharon Wood (Coordinator)	

Licensed Unity Teachers.

ACTIVE LICENSED UNITY TEACHERS	
Irene Findley	Christine Randle
Ron Johnson	Caryl Rohlfing
John LaFruit	Mattie Simpson
Jaunita Lazenby	Bernie Thauland
Judy Lucas	Sharon Wood

Consciousness Club. This club meets on the first Sunday of each month from 12:30 - 1:30 pm to inspire, support, and encourage those who wish to further develop a higher consciousness and fully live the promises of Truth.

Tai Chi / Qi Gong. This class meets on Sundays from 10:15 to 10:45 am. Instructor *Gail Galivan* helps you relieve the tension and stresses accumulated during daily life, while cultivating energy, strength and balance.

Bookstore. Books provide an avenue for a deeper study and conscious awareness of the soul growing in knowledge and grace. We carry a wide range of spiritually-based books including children's books. The Sunday services are taped and available for purchase.

YOUTH EDUCATION

As we enter the season of "Lent," leading up to the resurrection, which we call Easter, we honor an earth tradition where we are compelled to give up something--an activity, action, habit, or even food--in recognition of the 40 days preceding Easter. However, as we allow prayer and meditation to guide us through this season, we gain the greater understanding that tells us this is not a season of "giving up" anything; rather it is a season of preparation for the great Christ-Resurrection within our own temple of the Living God. Just as the children of Israel lived in the desert for 40 years in preparation to enter the Promised Land, we honor the 40 days before Easter as a time of cleansing in preparation for the great Christ-Resurrection. This preparation includes our physical home or temple (cleansing and purifying the body), Biblical study (deeper study of God's Word), and mental/emotional awareness (self-examination of our thoughts and feelings). Lent is a journey from old to new consciousness by the "renewal of our mind": from mortal to spiritual consciousness. It is the season wherein the old heaven and earth passes away, and we are resurrected in holy consciousness to the new heaven and earth, in accordance to the Word of God.

Youth Ministry Services

Nursery (2nd Floor) - 9:00 am & 11:00 am
 Sunday School (Lower Level) - 11:00 am

Christine Randle, Youth Ministry Director

ONGOING EVENTS

Women and Men of Unity –Sat., March 11, and April 8, from 10:00 - 11:30 am. Join us on the second Saturday of each month for our special book study. Refreshments will be served. Facilitated by *Bernie Thauland*, LUT, and *Vernon Steele*.

Movie Night – Fri., April 21, at 7:00 pm. Join us on the third Friday in April when we will gather together to watch "Before the Flood." Popcorn and other refreshments will be available.

Coffee & Tea with Myrtle & Me – Every Thursday, from 10:00 – 11:00 am. This discussion group is intended to be very informal allowing people to ask questions and exchange ideas on different topics of interest. Drop in any Thursday.

Silence in the Solarium – Every Thursday, from 11:30 am – Noon. Join us as we set aside a time each week to reconnect our minds and hearts at this meditation service in the Solarium.

SUNDAY SERVICES

9:00 am and 11:00 am

Unity provides a teaching system in the unfoldment of the SOUL. In preparation for this season of spiritual growth and progressive unfoldment we invite you to join us as we consider the journey of Jesus which culminates in the great demonstration we celebrate at Easter: the RESURRECTION. Jesus reveals an extraordinary blueprint for overcoming seemingly impossible situations we experience in our journey as we move into deeper realms of mind and awaken latent spiritual energies within us. Join us as we travel our spiritual path that quickens within us the timeless Truth: "I AM the RESURRECTION and the LIFE."

MARCH 2017

- | | |
|----|--|
| 5 | Walking the Divine Path
<i>Rev. Helice Greene</i> |
| 12 | The Path of Prayer
<i>Rev. Linda Oglesby</i> |
| 19 | The Path of Healing
<i>Rev. Helice Greene</i> |
| 26 | The Path of Peace
<i>Rev. Nick Angotti, Guest Speaker</i> |

APRIL 2017

- | | |
|----|---|
| 2 | The Path of Love
<i>Rev. Helice Greene</i> |
| 9 | The Great Decision (Palm Sunday)
<i>Rev. Helice Greene</i> |
| 16 | The Great Demonstration (Easter)
<i>Rev. Helice Greene</i> |
| 23 | The Upward Path
<i>Rev. Patty Pipia, Guest Speaker</i> |
| 30 | The Flow of Life
<i>Christine Randle, LUT</i> |

WORKSHOP

Healing That Which Appears: Taking Control of Outer Circumstances - Sun., March 26, from 12:30 - 2:00 pm. Join *Rev. Nick Angotti* on an experiential journey of deepening our awareness of looking at life with spiritual understanding to realize that "I am in the world but not of it. All things in God are renewed . . . Conditions of the world are created in consciousness. What Mind has created Mind can change." This requires discernment, prayer and meditation to move beyond boundaries that have prohibited, blocked or denied access to higher revelations that open the way for our highest possibilities to come forth.

CLASSES

Jesus' Teachings - Wed., March 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29, from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. Teachings about the Gospels have usually portrayed Jesus Christ as the "Great Exception" to being human. However, by focusing upon his sayings, we can see Jesus as the "Great Example" for Spiritual Awakening, Empowerment and Transformation. By exploring the teachings of Jesus, rather than the teachings about Jesus, we can follow that example. Students will develop a deeper and more practical understanding of Jesus as Master Teacher and Wayshower through reflection upon his sayings and will continue building a strong spiritual foundation for "Christ Consciousness." *Rev. Patty Pipia* is the instructor for this class which may be taken for credit in our spiritual education program.

Unity Prayer - Wed., April 5, 12, 19, 26, from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. Affirmative meditative prayer is at the heart of the Unity spiritual path. The Unity way of prayer is ultimately aimed at experience of the Divine and Realization of the practitioner's Divine Potential. Along the way there are practical benefits, including guidance, healing and abundance. In this course, students are introduced to Unity's Five Step Prayer Process and supported in developing their daily prayer practice. This class is facilitated by *Christine Randle*, Licensed Unity Teacher, and may be taken for credit in our spiritual education program.

SPECIAL HOLY WEEK SERVICES

GOOD FRIDAY
April 14

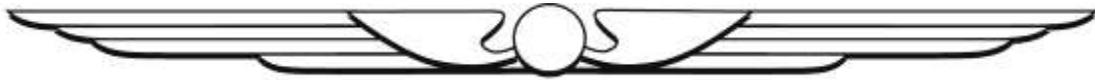
Prayer Service - Noon

Evening Service - 7:30 pm

It was given to only a few people to change the course of history. It was given to one man - Jesus Christ - to change the world. Join us as we travel back in time for this special dramatic presentation which takes place following the crucifixion that had occurred. Different characters will be sharing the story of how their lives had been touched by knowing Jesus. Presented by our Unity Players.

EASTER SUNDAY
April 16

Sunrise Service - 7:00 am
Hosted by our chaplains.



March/April 2017

Unity

405 N. Euclid ♦ Oak Park, IL 60302

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org. U.S. POSTAGE PAID Oak Park, IL Permit No. 55
--

Unity of Oak Park

405 N. Euclid Ave.
Oak Park, IL 60302
708-848-0960

Fax: 708-848-0158

E-Mail: unity@unityoakpark.org

www.unityoakpark.org

Dial-a-Blessing
708-383-4655

A 24-hour service of prayer to meet your needs.

MISSION STATEMENT
Unity of Oak Park is dedicated to teaching Spiritual Truth; awakening individuals to the indwelling Christ- I AM; and putting into practice Universal Laws of Love, Peace, Prosperity, and Healing.

Affiliated with Unity School of Christianity
Lee's Summit, MO

Member of The Association of Unity Churches