



**UNITY OF OAK PARK**  
**May/June 2017**

**WHOLENESS**

A sense of well-being is one of life's greatest blessings. Because Unity believes in healing through spiritual and mental means by prayer, we are often asked if we believe in doctors and medical help. The answer is that we believe in people getting help in every way they can, and we bless and give thanks for everyone who helps people find health.

Unity began as a healing movement. Its founders had physical disorders that had been pronounced incurable. So the Fillmores sought to heal themselves by spiritual and mental means, by prayers. When they succeeded in doing this, it was natural that they should teach that the source of health lay in prayer. Prayer, helping us to change our thinking, to change our inner state, to call forth our inner power – this is the work of Unity, and it is natural that this is what we emphasize.

However, through the years, Unity has come more and more to realize that man truly is a unity. Who can say where body ends and mind begins, or where mind ends and spirit begins? The vital Unity teaching is that health and wholeness come from within you, where the Spirit of God – life itself – resides.

Charles Fillmore said, "Health, real health is from within and does not have to be manufactured in the without. It is the normal condition of man, a condition true to the reality of his being." What a remarkable insight! Though medicine, surgery, and doctors are wonderful expressions of healing energy, they are not the source of healing. We know that only God is the source of healing.

We cannot limit ourselves to the mental side of life. We must expand our spiritual understanding of the Life idea in Divine Mind which is the source of wholeness. "Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily." (Isa. 58:8).

*Rev. Helice Greene*

**INVESTMENT IN PRAYER**

Each morning, if we choose, is a new beginning. Let us consider how we start our day. Hopefully, for most of us, it has its foundation in prayer. Each morning ushers in unlimited potential for us to be expressions of light and joy. We accept joyfully the gift of "abundant life" and to the best of our ability are living it moment by moment.

Life is enriched to the degree we live in the present moment. We free ourselves from the wastelands of yesterday and look to "the fields white unto harvest." Today belongs to us, and we have choices as to how we will invest our time, talent, and gifts.

For some, it is time to reassess our value system. Do not allow guilt or regret to darken this process, but fill it with LIGHT as the power of God opens the way for us to find healing, prosperity, and peace. Know that which is true, real, permanent, and eternal can merit a place in our thoughts and feelings. Take guidance from the Creation Story as the sequence of life is order. Step by step allow time for the evolution of thought to bring forth under law God's good. Focus on what has value on the journey . . . be kind and compassionate with life as the unfolding good is made manifest in daily living. Acknowledge the divinity within and trust the guidance of Infinite Mind.

"Unto every one that hath it shall be given, and they shall have abundance." To every one that has developed the consciousness of abundance the "All-providing" Spirit of God will bring the increase with our cup running over, blessing us individually and collectively.

As expressed in the scriptures the windows of heaven will be opened and blessings will pour out into our lives. Let us take the following affirmation to express our appreciation and gratitude for the good filling our lives. I daily praise and give thanks for a strong healthy body and abundance to fill every need.

*Rev. Richard Billings*

## 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
Allan Jorges	Christine Randle
Mike Nash	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

Undeniably, one of the most powerful phrases recorded in the Bible is, "I AM THAT I AM," which was spoken to Moses on what is called "the mountain of God" (Exodus 3:14 KJV). In his recognition that, of his human self, he had not the power to deliver the children of Israel out of slavery in Egypt, Moses asked God what shall he say when the children of Israel ask—"What is the name of God." Understanding Moses' concern, God told Moses to tell the children of Israel, "I AM hath sent me unto you" (Exodus 3:14 KJV). Like Moses, when we recognize that we do not have the power on a human level to resolve a matter that troubles us, we must hear the Word of God in recognizing that the "I AM" presence within our body temple is the power that can do all things—even that which seems impossible. In stillness and silence, we must call on the "I AM" presence to do that which only God can do. We need not be haughty in words of prayer; simply allow our thoughts to resonate with the phrase, "I AM." It is at this time of inner quietness, we feel inexplicable peace and hear the promise of the risen Christ ..... "lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20 KJV).

### Youth Ministry Services

Nursery (2<sup>nd</sup> 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., May 13, from 10:00 - 11:30 am.** Join us on the second Saturday of May for our special book study. Refreshments will be served. Facilitated by *Bernie Thauland*, LUT, and *Vernon Steele*. No meeting in June.

**Movie Night – Fri., June 23, at 7:00 pm.** Join us in June when we will gather together to watch "Henry Poole Is Here." 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 is a worldwide movement that continues to share the transforming message of prayer, healing and prosperity to people from all walks of life. During the next two months we will concentrate on Unity's teaching of "Universal Spiritual principles For Successful Living." Join us as we seek to deepen our insight into the spiritual foundation underlying successful living and how to incorporate into our lives universal truths which can expand our understanding for living a joyful, fulfilling life.

MAY 2017	
7	Unwavering Faith in Oneness <i>Rev. Linda Oglesby</i>
14	Transforming Power of Love <i>Rev. Helice Greene</i>
21	Power of Prophecy <i>Rev. Helice Greene</i>
28	Expanding Your Vision <i>Rev. Helice Greene</i>
JUNE 2017	
4	Father Always Knows Best! <i>Stanley Griffin</i>
11	Pay Attention to the Obvious <i>Rev. Helice Greene</i>
18	Embracing the Life Force Within <i>Ryan Priestler</i>
25	There Is No Age in Spirit <i>Rev. Helice Greene</i>

## VOLUNTEERS

**Volunteer Tea - Sun., May 21, at 12:30 pm.** Join us for the celebration honoring our many dedicated volunteers at Unity of Oak Park. All current and potential volunteers are invited to attend.

UPCOMING EVENT: QUICKENING OF THE SPIRIT 2017 Sun., Aug. 6 - Fri., Aug. 11
Unity of Oak Park is hosting a special week of Spiritual Education and Enrichment (SEE) classes from Sun., Aug. 6 through Fri., Aug. 11. One or more classes may be audited or taken for Spiritual Development or Post Graduate credit. Reduced rates are available if you register by July 15. Contact our center or watch our website to obtain a registration form and information about the classes being offered.

## CLASSES AND EVENTS

**Spiritual Swimming Lessons - Wed., May 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31, from 7:00 - 8:30 pm.** "Just go with the flow" is one of the most common phrases offered in response to struggling with seemingly adverse circumstances. But, just what is the flow? What if it is headed in the opposite direction of your plan? And most importantly, what if you cannot swim? The inlet and outlet of the infinite flow of God are within you. With extraordinary clarity, Eric Butterworth reveals life-transforming spiritual principles to keep you in the flow. "In the Flow of Life" calls you to live from the exhilarating and empowering realization that you are the expression of God flowing forth into the world. Living in the flow of God will change your life forever! Join *Ryan Priestler* for Spiritual Book Club Discussions on Eric Butterworth's "In the Flow of Life."

**Fifth Annual Day of Culture - Sun., May 7, at 12:30 pm.** Unity of Oak Park has a very diverse congregation with many different cultures. We would like to celebrate with everyone so after the second service on May 7, show your talent, share your stories, and bring your favorite dish that is prevalent to your culture and perhaps has been handed down through the generations.

**Father Always Knows Best! - Wednesdays in June, from 7:00 - 8:30 pm.** "The Father does not expect us to solve the world's problems. He expects us not to create them." "I and My Father Are One" (John 10:30). The class schedule is as follows:

June 7	The Father's Good Pleasure To Give You the Kingdom
June 14	In My Father's House
June 21	Image Is Everything
June 28	The Work of the Father: The Starting Point of All Creation

This class is facilitated by *Stanley Griffin*. Stanley's path has included University Graduate Studies and serving as a public school educator/administrator as well as a member and Dean of the Johnie Coleman Institute where he taught New Thought Principles.

**The Secret Behind the Secret - Transformation Series - Sun., June 11 & 25, from 12:15 - 1:15 pm.** Using the foundations of the law of attraction set forth in "The Secret," this class focuses on personal transformation. For those looking to take their finances, relationships, career, health or all of the above to the next level, this is a can't miss event! *Steven James* is the instructor.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board of Trustees of Unity of Oak Park met for its regularly scheduled meetings of January and February. The meetings were opened with prayer in the usual manner and all minutes and reports were approved or tabled to the following meeting.

The January meeting centered around updates on the succession plan, our social media status and the silent auction event. The Board reviewed the proposed FY2017 budget, made plans for the March Annual Meeting and was informed that the recordings of the services are now back in proper order.

The February meeting opened on very sad notes of the passing of Trustee Joe Todero and the resignation of Trustee Oglesby. Rev. Linda Oglesby indicated her appreciation for having the opportunity to serve on the Board but felt she had over-extended herself and needed to step down. The Board is grateful for the valuable input she provided and looks forward to her continued support of our ministry as time allows. Trustee Joe Todero will be so missed, not only for his work on the Board but for his friendly smile and beautiful presence throughout the center. Please continue to keep Joe's family and friends in your thoughts for healing as he continues on his journey.

Business at the February meeting included continued discussions on the budget, the succession plan, social media and the silent auction event. The Board

unanimously approved four new members: Charisse Arrington, Kelly Shepard, Fred Uhter and Amy Tamez. Please introduce yourself to them allowing them to feel the love we bestow upon them. The Board also approved to discontinue the recording of cassette tapes when stock is depleted and the paper-based newsletter beginning with the **July/August publication** (see insert). These actions allow for an annual savings of approximately \$3,000.00. Please contact the administrative office should you need to receive a hard copy of the on-line version of the newsletter.

It is with great sorrow that we say good-bye to a dear friend, Member Margaret Singleton. Her constant joy and lovingness will be truly missed as she too continues on her journey. With the efficient arrangement of her memorial service, even through her passing she has shown us the need for continued improvements. The Board has recognized the lack of an urgent response system within the center and will work towards creating a system to notify all who may be affected by unforeseen events. Again, please continue to keep Margaret's family and friends in your thoughts for healing as she too continues on her journey.

All meetings are closed with prayers of affirmations and thanks for all the blessing bestowed upon us.

May the new beginning that is Spring bring about the beauty of a new Summer.

Minister..... Helice Greene  
Minister Emeritus..... Richard Billings  
Administrator.....Gretchen Otten  
Youth Education Director.....Christine Randle  
Maintenance Director.....Doug Hernbrott  
Music Director.....Peter Saxe  
Assistant Music Director.....Danuta Berger  
Soloists.....Kucha Brownlee  
Crystal Drake, Wanda Louis  
Regina Conway Phillips  
Cathy Robel  
Sound Technicians.....Jo Crawford & Juanita Thomas  
Book Room.....Terri Iacopelli

### Board of Trustees

Chairperson.....Mike Nash  
Vice Chairperson.....Marilyn Joy  
Secretary.....Lindsay Ambrose  
Treasurer.....JoAnn Murphy  
Members.....Terri Iacopelli, Allan Jurges  
Sheila Swann-Guerrero

## Sunday Services

9:00 am & 11:00 am

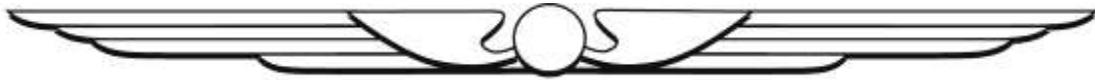
### Child Care

9:00 am - all ages

11:00 am – Children under 3 years

### Youth Education

11:00 am – Children, ages 3 to 18



May/June 2017

# Unity

405 N. Euclid ♦ Oak Park, IL 60302

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## Unity of Oak Park

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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

