



UNITY OF OAK PARK
March/April 2012

I AM THE WAY

Do you have a hill to climb, a summit of faith to reach? Have you been affirming and praying, “God show me the way.” At Easter time, with confidence and integrity, we can make a leap in faith and know, “*I AM THE WAY.*”

When Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life” (Jn. 14:6), he was giving us a most important key to overcoming. When we are searching for a way, God within, the Christ Self in us says, “*I Am the Way.*”

The way of the I Am, the Christ in us, is the way of light, the way of wisdom, the way of overcoming. When we affirm “*I Am the Way*, even when there seems to be no way, light dawns and answers appear. When we begin with faith in the Christ in us as the way, outer support and avenues appear.

“I Am the Way” makes us equal to any demand, strong enough to walk the roughest path, wise enough to let go of the yoke of burden, and loving enough to forgive unconditionally, If the way to healing has been a long journey, or healing seems to have been blocked by some appearance or condition, let us make our leap of faith and declare: “*I am the way, and the truth, and the life.*”

Life is a path that leads us on to greater heights. Listening deeply to this inner Revealer, we shall find our footsteps more and more continuously guided.

“*I am the way, the truth, and the life.*” This realization fills us with limitless possibilities and Divine purposes. We are illumined by an eternal Presence of love, intelligence, wisdom, and right action.

Rev. Helice Greene

UNDERSTANDING ABUNDANCE

Understanding, one of our twelve faculties, is an important factor in developing a prosperity consciousness. Inner focusing is more than just thinking or reacting. Understanding helps us look at thoughts and feelings to see if they are only responses dictated by habits, customs, or traditions. It is with understanding we seek inner spiritual guidance and inspiration. God-Power is translated into energy that is creative and prepares the way for successful living.

Individuals must be clear regarding their desires and use this creative power in an affirmative manner. Once we affirm our prosperous way of life, we must trust the process, remaining steadfast in our faith. In the event doubt enters our mind, remember the concept of seeds . . . seeds of all kinds including seed ideas. These seeds hold within them the potential of what they will become. There is a difference between wishful thinking and desire. A desire is a strong longing with deep emotion behind it . . . based on feeling.

Understanding tells us wishful thinking and random daydreaming are not productive for results. Remember decision is choice; it is a selection that leads to accomplishment or results for abundant living.

Our purpose is to set the objective, develop the plan, some call it goals, for the fulfillment of our vision, our desire. We are called to have order in our thinking and to build a network for living the abundant life.

Sooner or later we discover the faculty of order and its value in effective living. It is a wise person who fully develops the faculty of understanding giving us dominion and authority over all the forces around us.

Order tells us our travels are not in vain, for like the prodigal we realize we have never left the Father’s Kingdom for we live in Divine Mind and it is always the here and now.

Rev. Richard Billings

Prosperity Sundays: March 11 and April 8.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

The committees below always welcome help from interested volunteers. Attend the Volunteer Tea on April 15, (see details in the Events section) or call the church if you are interested in volunteering for one or more of these committees.

Choir. The choir welcomes those who can carry a tune to attend rehearsals (most Sundays from 12:15 to 1:15 pm) and to perform about six times a year during Sunday services and holiday concerts. We take summers off.

Daily Word. After attending one training session, we open the Sunday services by reading an excerpt from Unity's *Daily Word* magazine.

Garden. The garden committee takes pleasure in making the grounds around Unity welcoming, and over the past few years we have expanded or created new garden areas around the building. One of our greatest joys has been to enhance the meditation garden, hopefully making it into a peaceful, relaxing place to spend a few quiet moments. We are a group of women and men with varying levels of gardening knowledge, who actually enjoy a bit of sweat on our brow and dirt under our nails now and then.

Greeters. We welcome people to our Center and distribute bulletins to them as they enter the sanctuary for Sunday morning services.

Hospitality. We help set up food and beverages for the coffee hour that takes place after both Sunday morning services. We also help with cleanup afterwards.

Special Events. We provide assistance with food and decorations at special events.

Unity Friends of Animals. We pray with congregants who request prayer for animals and organize special services such as our annual Animal Blessing Service and Animal Remembrance Service. We also host educational presentations and other events.

Welcome Table. We staff the Welcome Table in Friendship Hall on Sunday mornings to welcome newcomers, provide flyers and other literature, and register people for upcoming events.

Youth Education. People who enjoy working with children are welcome to help during youth education activities on Sunday mornings at 11:00 am.

YOUTH EDUCATION

As the winter months begin to take their rest and spring comes to life, we too begin to feel the spring of new life within our minds and bodies. We become as children filled with joy and enthusiasm for life. This joy and enthusiasm increases as we see nature magnificently remove the covers of the past seasons and blossom into radiant arrays of color---earth life being restored in the "now" moment.

With deliberate intent, we examine ourselves and remember that we are the precious love of God; precious children created in God's image and heirs to the kingdom. With this wonderful memory our consciousness blooms with new hope and faith everlasting. We then reaffirm with joy, "I AM A CHILD OF THE LIVING GOD," and we become open to sharing this exuberant joy with others we love, and many we do not know.

It is with this reawakening and elevation of our consciousness that the Youth Ministry Program staff and volunteers joyously embrace our youth and families in their spiritual development. We recognize we are all one spiritual family in the mind of God, and we give thanks for this everlasting truth. Therefore, we pray that each of you embrace and hold precious the changes that spring forth in your lives.

Peace and Blessing to ALL!

Christine Randle
Youth Education Director

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
Daylight Saving Time begins Sun., March 11.

ONGOING EVENTS

Unity Light – Fri., March 9, and April 13, at 7:00 pm. The focus of "Unity Light: Illuminating a New Vision" is to experience great movies, movie clips, and robust discussions that are facilitated by *Jun Mhoon*, LUT Candidate. Suggested Love Offering: \$10.00.

Women and Men of Unity – Sat., March 10, and April 14, from 10:00 to 11:30 am. Join us for our special book study. Refreshments will be served. Facilitated by *Bernie Thauland*, LUT.

SUNDAY SERVICES

9:00 am and 11:00 am

In a true sense life is all about remembering. Rev. Helice and Rev. Richard share their story of remembering by sharing their relationship with the Unity Classics. Unity has a long history of individuals who have devoted and committed themselves to the living TRUTH. Authors such as Eric Butterworth, Vera Dawson Tate, Martha Smook, May Rowland, and many more have left a legacy of rich material for the nourishment of the soul. Charles and Myrtle Fillmore spent the later years of their lives in prayer, writing and counseling people from all walks of life. This work is carried forward through our Unity Churches to continue to bring the message of hope, healing, and prosperity to its congregation. This worldwide movement makes a statement for PEACE to all humankind. Join us as we celebrate life looking at the past, preparing for the future, and living in the present moment.

MARCH 2012

- | | |
|----|--|
| 4 | Unwavering Faith in Principle
<i>Rev. Helice Greene</i> |
| 11 | Walking the Divine Path
<i>Rev. Richard Billings</i> |
| 18 | I Claim Divine Possibilities
<i>Rev. Helice Greene</i> |
| 25 | The Whisper of Spirit
<i>Rev. Helice Greene</i> |

APRIL 2012

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Palm Sunday – I am More than My Challenges
<i>Rev. Helice Greene</i> |
| 8 | Easter – Free Expressions of God
<i>Rev. Helice Greene and Rev. Richard Billings</i> |
| 15 | Every Person a Potential Christ
<i>Rev. Helice Greene</i> |
| 22 | Stars, Numbers, and Me
<i>Gail Minogue – Guest Speaker</i> |
| 29 | I Will Say to this Mountain
<i>Rev. Richard Billings</i> |

SPECIAL SERVICES

Good Friday Services
Fri., April 6, at Noon and 7:00 pm

Easter Sunrise Service
Sun., April 8, time to be announced

CLASSES AND EVENTS

Annual Meeting – Sun., March 4, at 1:00 pm. All members and friends of Unity of Oak Park are invited to attend our Annual Meeting. There will be an election of Board members for the Board of Trustees. Only members of Unity of Oak Park can vote for these Board positions. A light lunch will be served after the 11:00 am service for those attending the meeting.

Jesus' Teachings in the Bible – Wed., March 7, 14, 21, 28, April 4, 11, 18, 25, from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. We will look deeply into the POWER of unrestricted Supply based on books by Unity authors. Jesus understood, used, and taught the mental and spiritual laws of abundance. Not only did he know the great, eternal truths about universal supply, he revealed how each one of his time – or any time – could develop an inner consciousness of supply that would tap universal substance. All those taking the class for credit must register with the teacher and meet the requirements from Unity Institute. This class will be taught by *Rev. Helice Greene* and *Rev. Richard Billings*.

Volunteer Tea – Sun., April 15, at 12:30 pm. Join us for this special celebration honoring our many dedicated volunteers here at Unity of Oak Park. This event also provides an enjoyable setting for learning about volunteer opportunities at our Center. All current and potential volunteers are invited to attend.

Numerology Workshop – Sat., April 21, and Sun., April 22. As soon as we have more information on *Gail Minogue's* visit with us we will keep you informed. Gail always brings valuable information to us and is a blessing in her specialized field. Sign up sheets will be available in the Book Room. Unity is happy to sponsor Gail who is a professional in the field of numerology and the evolution of consciousness.

ANIMAL MINISTRY

Animal-Facilitated Therapy – Sun., March 25, from 1:00 - 2:00 pm. *Ina Jacobs, M.A.*, will share her experiences with animal-facilitated psychotherapy. She will also describe animal-facilitated therapy practices at hospitals, nursing homes, schools, and rehabilitation centers. In addition, she will discuss the temperament and aptitude necessary for therapy animals.



March/April 2012

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