



Thriving in Unity

Special Events

November

- 8th** Y.O.U. Christmas Fundraiser
- 8th** Annual Meeting
- 11th** Ladies' Lunch
- 14th** Maggie Freel Healing Workshop
9 am - 3:30 pm
- 14th** Holacracy Workshop
11 am - 2 pm
- 15th** Thanksgiving Dinner
- 21st** Judy and Jo's Healing Circle
1 - 3 p.m.
- 19th** Board Meeting
- 22nd** Sunday School
- 29th** 1st week of Advent

December

- 6th** 2nd week of Advent
- 9th** Ladies' Lunch
- 13th** 3rd week of Advent
Christmas Dinner
- 17th** Board Meeting
- 20th** 4th week of Advent
Christmas Service
Sunday School
- 25th** Christmas
- 31st** New Year's Eve

THE LIGHT CONNECTION

UNITY CHURCH OF DES MOINES 2009 November/December

Dear Unity Family and Friends,

As we enter into the final months of 2009, it is a time to appreciate those that mean so much to us. A time to show gratitude for having time with family and friends, as well as thanking those that have helped us and touched us in a meaningful way during this year. How appropriate it is that when all is said and done for a season, it concludes with an expression of gratitude.

Here at Unity, there are so many thanks to go around. I would start my thanks with the Board of Trustees. Each of the people I get a chance to work with on the board has special talents – Lynn Staunton, Dan Svec, Dee Willem Craig Campbell and Jerry Rogers, who recently retired from the board. Even as this board was fairly new together five years ago, the time we spend together and the business we accomplish has been extremely special, because the whole has been greater than the sum of the parts. I know with a certainty that all of them have nothing but intentions of what's best for our spiritual community.

A time of transition can be very strenuous for everyone, but no more so than for the leadership. In having been in this position myself before, I am overwhelmed with the possibilities available to us as a spiritual community, and much of that starts with my admiration and appreciation for each of our board members. Some of you have shared those feelings with me as well, and those affirmations provide great strength for us all.

There are many others who I am grateful for their service to Unity Church of Des Moines. I know I could mention special things I know about each one of you that we share time with. I wanted to take a moment and mention so many folks that may not get as much attention, but are an integral part of our operation.

- Deb Jennings – she has been a wonderful vehicle for bringing us the right music for the right moment. We are excited to look for future opportunities with the music ministry. Thank you, Deb!
- The Bookstore/Office staff – there have been people that have helped as the occasion arose, and this group has been a great source of service to our community. Especially a Thank You! to Marilyn Peercy, Marilyn Larson, Chris Brown, Kristie Patterson and Craig Campbell.
- Morris Wright – he's a man that most of you have probably never met, but he puts a great amount of care into the custodial services he provides us. Thank you, Morris!

At this time of year, we also take time to look forward to the coming year or season. For many, this is a time of change and transition. We pause, and take a deep cleansing breath, as we each look for those opportunities for us to experience the highest and best.

We know that as we prepare for our next partner in ministry, we each bring expectations of what that relationship will look like. It will be an opportunity for us to measure each of our needs and wants with the mission of the whole community. The ministerial search team that will be forming shortly will focus on their part of providing the right partner for us.

As we also look forward to our new spiritual partner relationship, we want to provide that partner the best chance for abundance and success here in Des Moines. One of the ways the board believes we can help ensure success is through a financial nature. We recently presented our "New Beginnings" Fund for this purpose. It will help us prepare our church and manse physically, but also provide general funding for the transition items like bringing candidates to Des Moines and moving our new partner here.

Our goal to fund this transition season is \$30,000, and I'm excited to say that we're currently over \$17,000. We know that the universe is conspiring for us to experience abundance, and we are open and receptive to any of the avenues and paths.

As we prepare for the next step of inviting a new spiritual partner to share their lives with us, I ask you to take some time for a deep breath, and consider what is your role and part to play in our next great adventure. I know the courage you demonstrate in taking these steps will reward you fully.

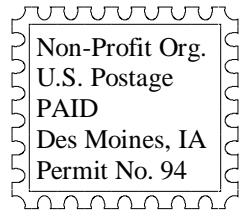
There are so many of you who appreciate the deep and personal connection we have with one another. We recently found that so powerfully when we received new members in a Sunday Service. Who would have thought that joining a spiritual community would have brought the standing ovation it did?

As I look forward to the next season we are entering, I know that the journey will be a special one. I truly appreciate the opportunity to work with and serve this spiritual community.

Blessings In Service—Brian Bertness



Unity Church of Des Moines
414 - 31st Street
Des Moines, IA 50312-4318



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Our Mission Statement

Unity Church of Des Moines
is a welcoming, diverse community offering
an opportunity for all to grow spiritually
as we affirm our oneness in God.
We are dedicated to teaching, loving
and empowering everyone to realize
their own Christ potential.

To Someone special:

If you no longer wish to receive this
 newsletter please check this box and
 mark: "Return to Sender"

November/December 2009

Church Hours

Sunday

Unity - Versity: 9:30 am - Upper Room

Worship Hour: 10:30 am - Sanctuary

Youth Education: 10:30 am - Harmony Hall

Nursery Provided for those 3 1/2 and under
during the 10:30 am service.

O.A. H.O.W. Meeting - Harmony Hall - 4 pm (weekly)

Tuesday

Common Thread Prayer Group - 5 pm (weekly)

A Course in Miracles - Upper Room - 7 pm (weekly)

Wednesday

Ladies' Lunch Bunch - various locations - 11:30 am

2nd Wednesday of each month

Al-Anon (Adult Children) - Upper Room - 7 pm (weekly)

Bookstore/Office Hours

Monday - Friday, 10 am - 3 pm

MUSIC MINISTER

Deb Jennings

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Brian Bertness, President	964-7221
Lynn Staunton, Vice President	457-8758
Dan Svec, Treasurer	246-8274
Dee Willemsen	255-3679
Craig Campbell	265-5082

Church	255-7757
Bookstore	274-2782
Fax	274-3560
Prayer Line	274-2745

E Mail: unitydesmoines@aol.com

Web site: www.unitychurchdesmoines.com

**Oh Christmas Tree,
Oh Christmas Tree,
How Splendid Are Your Colors?**

Join us on Sunday, November 29th to be part of our Special Service when we decorate the Christmas Tree with ornaments that represent our history and tradition.

It will also be the beginning of Advent on the 29th, with FAITH represented as our first candle. Each Sunday there after will be represented by PEACE, LOVE and then culminating in JOY the week of Christmas.

Be sure to get your Advent pamphlet from the Unity Bookstore. It is a great way to Spiritually get ready for Christmas!

**NEW PUBLIC
RELATIONS PERSON**

Lynn Laws has generously offered her time to take care of our publicity needs for upcoming events. She is especially skilled at doing this on the computer, but has some further plans for the future. Thank you Lynn !

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Lynn Laws for becoming a new grandmother and to Dr. David and Nancy Hall who are soon expecting their 3rd grandchild. Please let us know if you have something to celebrate with others!

**“COMPASSIONATE
COMMUNICATION”
WORKSHOP AND NEW CLASS
STARTING IN JANUARY**

What a great opportunity!

Deb Hill-Davis has arranged for Lori Woodley, an educator from Unity Village, to come give us a Workshop on the book “Compassionate Communication”. This has been described as a whole new way of thinking of things that can change our lives.



Deb will be facilitating a weekly class as a support group in the weeks following the workshop. We are so fortunate to have Deb so willingly share with us some of the Ministry-in-training class work she has had at Unity Village! Thank you Deb! Dates will be announced later.

**FLORENCE KISSINGER MUSIC
MEMORIAL FUND PLAQUE**

Some people’s names were inadvertently left off the plaque and therefore it has not been hanging up where it should be. Please let Lynn Staunton know if your name was left off as we plan to make a new one in the next month. The plaque may be viewed on the table at the back of the Sanctuary. Thanks.

LADIES' LUNCH BUNCH

Come and join us for the FUN

All ladies are welcome for fellowship, fun and good food. Please call the Bookstore for reservations.

Our plans are as follows:

Wednesday, November 11th

Tursi's Latin King:
2200 Hubbell Avenue, Des Moines,
ph: (515) 266-4466

Wednesday, December 9th

Cracker Barrel:
11701 University Avenue, Clive,
ph: (515) 226-9603

Please let the Bookstore know if you plan on coming. Thank you.

UNITY-VERSITY

This Sunday morning class is currently studying "The Essential Charles Fillmore: Collected Writings of a Missouri Mystic. It meets from 9:30 to 10:20 AM in the Upper Room. Feel free to join us at any time.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Sunday School will be offered every third week of the month, except in November, when it will occur in the fourth week, on November 22nd. Thank you so much, Naima Nicholson and Bridgett Barnes!

FROM OUR BOOKSTORE

We need another volunteer to run the bookstore when someone needs to be gone. Please contact Marilyne Hanson or Marilyn Peercy if you can help. Thanks.



COMING SOON!

Zulu Grass Jewelry — Unique jewelry, handcrafted by the Maarai women of Kenya. Purchasing this jewelry gives the women of Kenya the gift of opportunity.

The traditional, beautiful 2010 Unity Calendars are now available in the Bookstore.

REVIEW OF "UNVEILED MYSTERIES," BY GODFREY RAY KING

This is a book about times and events unfamiliar to the average person, and would seem to be unbelievable. It stretches your mind and imagination concerning history reported to be "factual," and I myself have trouble accepting the information given. But, in my 30+ years of study and research on metaphysical subjects, I have on many occasions found information matching what is reported here concerning the traditional "Garden of Eden" story.

Whether one chooses to accept this storyline as factual is not as important as understanding the "fall from grace" involved. This book gives practical information on how to reverse that process and begin the journey back to the "Father within." It is about bringing forth your Christ potential, and its suggestions are in line with Charles Fillmore's early writings. For these reasons alone, I highly recommend it to the true seeker. "Unveiled Mysteries" is available in the Unity Bookstore now.

Marilyne Hanson

A COURSE IN MIRACLES

Join us for A Course in Miracles!

This is a wonderful method to retrain your mind and eliminate negative, destructive thinking. It is possible to significantly reduce the time you spend with anger, guilt and fear, and fill your life with peace, joy and love instead. A Course in Miracles (ACIM) shows you how to create this wonderful change in your life. Come join us on Tuesdays from 7:00-8:30 for a study group, co-facilitated by Yvonne Farley and Lynn Laws, ph. 490-1428. Class re-commences Tuesday, November 3rd.

Judy and Jo's Drumming and Healing Workshops

Many have found these workshops to be very helpful to their healing and they are, therefore, very popular. They are free of charge, on a Love Offering basis.

Saturday, November 21st, 1:00 to 3:00 PM., in Harmony Hall

The date and time for December's workshop will be announced later.

Silent Unity's Affirmations for November and December

Inner Peace
I am grateful for life.
I am at peace.

Guidance
Spirit guides and directs me
In all my choices.

Healing
I am open and receptive to
The divine healing power within me.

Prosperity
I am blessed
By the goodness of God.

World Peace
I see God in every face.

Y.O.U CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER

NOVEMBER 8TH AND 15TH

Help send the Y.O.U. to the Bi-Reggie Conference.

Bring your extra or no longer needed Christmas items to church to donate to this sale. Thanks!



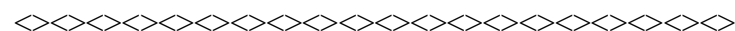
Notes from the Board:

August Board Meeting - August 27, 2009

- Deb Hill-Davis was a guest at our August meeting
- We spent time discussing a book that Deb had read - Compassionate Communication. We are working at having Lori Woodley from Unity to come in early 2010 to present a workshop on this.
- Jerry Rogers resigned from the board effective September 1. We are working on a replacement, and Dee Willemsen will become our new Secretary.
- We finalized the New Beginnings Fund, which will help us with capital improvements and preparing for a new ministerial partner.

September Board meeting - September 24, 2009

- Our computers have been presenting a challenge for us. Thanks to Dan Svec, we now have both computers back up and running at full steam.
- We've had a positive income/expense for the year. We have more cash on hand than we have had all year.
- The ministerial search team will have eight to ten people with two board members.
- We need to replace the answering machine, so we have a remote capability to retrieve messages.
- Orientation for new members will held on October 18, New members being received on Sunday, November 1.
- There were names left off the Sound System plaque. Lynn will have the plaque replaced with all the names.
- Our annual meeting will be held on Sunday, Nov. 8.



GRATITUDE

Thanks to the following people:

Chris Brown, Marilyne Hanson, Marilyn Peercy and Mary Davis for helping to prepare and clean up after the Memorial Service for Margaret Schultz. You did a beautiful job and were so appreciated by the family and all.

Gerry and Gerald for scrubbing, preparing walls, and painting in the Manse. The Master Bedroom is especially Gerry's "baby," from top to bottom!

Pat and Butch McClintic for the gift of a whole "new" basement, including a new laundry area and shelves.

Deb Hill-Davis for sharing your knowledge with us and teaching the new class "Friends From High Places." For your love, enthusiasm and all that you do. We will never forget your great take-off on Julia Child!

Go to the wonderful, generous people who have donated to our New Beginning Campaign. We are over half-way there!

Gerry Rogers for all the years of dedicated, loving service to Unity Church. May your retirement be all that you envision, with lots of great traveling. We all appreciate you so much!

We wish to honor with God's blessings those who have birthdays in November and December. A very happy birthday to you all!!

NOVEMBER —

Anita Petersen
Mary Upton
Inger Anderson
Dee Kurt
David Myers
Alice Wolf
Joan Adams
Tim Gambrall
Neil Hanson
Jennie Clark
Eldon Friis



DECEMBER —

Jerry Rogers
Marilyn Peercy
Dennis Kain
Shelby Bertness
Kyle Bertness
David Hall
Sarah Hill
Thomas Smith
Nancy Hall

SPIRITUAL SOCIAL ACTION

We continue to find ways to put feet to our faith.

We recently donated 46 food items and \$190 cash to the DMARC Food Pantry as one of our Spiritual Social Actions,

You can contribute to the Food Bank at any time you'd like by putting your items or cash in the shopping cart in the atrium. And keep in mind that cash has **four** times the purchasing power for the Food Pantry.

**THANKSGIVING DINNER
and
“NEW BEGINNINGS” FUNDRAISER**

Sunday, November 15th after the Service



Although we are grateful so much of the time for our Bounty, this month is set aside to especially express our Gratitude.

As a result, we felt it would be an excellent time to extend our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner into a “New Beginnings” Fundraiser also. We are all so grateful for what this church has given us and for the future to yet unfold.

We have done the work of transitioning and now we feel it is time to move forward with finding a new Minister. Everything is in place except the financial component. We will need to have the funds necessary to actually bring prospective Ministerial candidates to us for their interviews and then to relocate the chosen Minister here.

We can certainly use your help, however small your contribution. No amount is too little to invest in our new Minister.

The turkey, dressing and gravy will be provided. Please bring your favorite side dishes to round out the meal! A sign-up sheet will be at the back of the Sanctuary. We are looking forward to the Fellowship and to seeing you there.

**CHRISTMAS DINNER
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13TH**

Let's have a great time together in celebration of Christmas to come! Bring your friends and family for a time of seasonal fellowship together. See you there!

**TREASURER'S REPORT
SEPTEMBER 2009 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
BOARD MEETING 10/29/09**

1.) September 2009 income and expense:

Income	\$7,199.29
Expense	<u>\$7,706.17</u>
Difference	-\$506.88
Principal on Mortgage	<u>\$379.41</u>
Cash Flow	-\$886.29

2.) September 2009 YTD income and expense:

YTD Income	\$90,407.71
Expense	\$89,944.17
Difference	+\$463.54
Principal YTD on Mortgage	<u>\$4,440.38</u>
YTD Cash Flow	-\$3,976.84

THANK YOU GOD!

MAGGIE FREEL HEALING WORKSHOP

Saturday, November 14th 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM

“MEDITATION FOR DAILY LIFE”

We are so grateful to be having this wonderful Healer back again, thanks to Jo Adams. Many of you know that Maggie is knowledgeable in so many forms of healing. This time her emphasis is on Meditation.

The workshop is free of charge, on a Love Offering Basis, with the money going back to our church.

Joint Statement for Peace

Association of Unity Churches International

Unity stands for peace in the presence of conflict; for love in the presence of hatred; for forgiveness in the presence of injury. Unity honors the many names for God, the many paths to God, the many ways to worship God; for there is only one power and presence of God and that God loves each one of us equally. It is therefore the position of The International Association of Unity Churches and Unity to urge all nations, their leaders, and their people to turn to God, by whatever the name, for guidance during these challenging times and pursue peace, not war, for this is what honors the God of all our faith traditions.
Unity stands for peace in our lifetime.

Honoring Diversity Within the Unity Movement

We believe that all people are created with sacred worth. Therefore, we recognize the importance of serving all people within the Unity family in spiritually and emotionally and caring ways. We strive for our ministries, publications and programs to reach out to all who seek Unity support and spiritual growth. It is imperative that our ministries and outreaches be free of discrimination on the basis of race, color, gender, age, creed, religion, national origin, ethnicity, physical disability or sexual orientation. Our sincere desire is to ensure that all Unity organizations are nondiscriminatory and support diversity.

In our effort to reach out to all people as did our Way-Shower, Jesus Christ, we support the modification of our facilities to make them accessible to all people, regardless of physical challenges; the translation of our materials into Braille and other languages; and respect for the wonderful variety of human commitments and relationships.

We encourage ministers, teachers and others within Unity to honor the strength of diversity within their spiritual communities. It is with love and in celebration of our unity, in the midst of our wondrous diversity, that we affirm this position.

**Adopted by the Association of Unity Churches and Unity School of Christianity
January 23, 1995**

“UNITY CARES”

The members of the “Unity Cares” team are available to give comfort and support in cases of illness or loss, or to share your joys and triumphs. If you or someone you know could benefit from the services of these angels, please call Mary Brandenburg at 252-1459.