

Glad Tidings

Unity Valley Church

October-November 2020

UNITY VALLEY CHURCH RECEIVES LOAVES & FISHES GRANT

Unity Worldwide Ministries' (UWM) **Loaves & Fishes Fund** was created in March 2020 as a way to respond to the financial effects of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic on our Unity communities.

The purpose of the Loaves & Fishes Fund is to "feed the hungry" by providing financial assistance to Unity ministries in the form of outright grants with no expectation of repayment, specifically for operating expenses in situations where there is a temporary shortfall due to circumstances outside the control of the ministry.

Grants from the Loaves & Fishes Fund can only be used for general operating expenses. Applicants for grants from the fund had to provide a budget for how the funds would be used.

On June 16, 2020 Unity Valley Church submitted the application for the grant with a request for \$2,000. The application required that we justify the need for the grant. Our response is as shown below:

To meet County and State standards for the reopening of the church will require substantial expense to our congregation. We would like to apply for the Loaves & Fishes Grant. Unfortunately, due to the mandated Covid-19 closure, we were forced to cancel our major fund-raising events for 2020. These included our Spring Tea and Rummage Sales. Additionally, we were unable to receive funding from a theatrical group that had to cancel a dinner theatre event in our church hall, and two other congregations that rented our chapel for their own Sunday services. Other small groups that regularly rented our hall were not able to utilize the space due to the government quarantine mandate. With the church closure we were also unable to allow the chapel/hall to be rented for any special services such as weddings, funerals, or other events.

Our church received approval for this grant in mid-July and have received and deposited the check. Unity Worldwide will require us to prepare a final report summarizing the utilization of the grant no later than July 1, 2021. We have been truly blessed to receive these funds to offset our operational costs.



Mark Balys

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION



While we've been staying home, staying safe, a few of our congregants have been continuing to volunteer their time at the church much to our mutual benefit!

Al Smith, who has been tending our gardens since 2002, faithfully shows up to trim, prune, weed and replace irrigation emitters. He also fixes other things that come up, as does

Eleanore Ruise. Eleanore has also worked in on our grounds with Al and Bonnie. She's spent many hours reorganizing the music on our office computer, labeled all sorts of items, and re-wrote the sound board training manual.

As most of you know **Pam Balys** works closely every week with our bookkeeper to manage our cash and pay our bills on time.

Mark Balys, in addition to being on the board as our Treasurer, has also worked in the gardens. His most significant accomplishment during our closure has been to write a grant proposal for \$2,000 from Unity Worldwide Ministries! We are proud to say that we did receive that grant which we deposited in our savings account.

Gloria Saporito is the secretary of our board and has loyally shown up weekly to verify our bank deposits and do organizing in the office.

Bonnie Januszewski has been assisting Eleanore in the gardens, watering by hand when the hot weather tried to bake our plants and also verifying the weekly bank deposits with me.

When we get back together, face to face, don't forget to thank these generous members for all they do for Unity Valley Church!

An Invitation to Meditation by Telephone

Are you interested to gather by phone to connect and commune with infinite Spirit, your inner light, and Oneness with All that Is. Unity will be offering a guided meditation facilitated by Lucinda Moss. (3x month, the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Friday at 11:00 am of each month).

Jesus, our Master Teacher declared that the Kingdom of Heaven is Within. Let us experience the the love and Joy of Spirit within through meditation.

Lucinda is a certified Prayer Chaplain Trainer through Light and Love Ministries Unity approved. She has facilitated meditation throughout the valley for over 10 years.

FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Greetings, Friends

With so much time to think and read and do whatever we choose, it seems strange that I still haven't tackled some of the jobs I used to think I didn't do because of lack of time! It turns out that we actually do what we want to do and time is something we can manipulate as we see fit. What a realization! I am a bit disappointed in myself for not accomplishing more but when I talk with others, I find many who are feeling the same. After I got over watching the news for the latest covid statistics, I did a few small projects but there are a couple large ones I still hope to achieve before this Covid-19 chapter of our history is over.

Recently on a television news magazine, details of a survey of 2,000 Americans were presented. 66% related that they felt they were better people now than when the pandemic began. I found this so interesting! I don't feel like a better person now than I was in March. In trying to find a way to achieve that feeling, I realized if I would establish a daily meditation or prayer habit, I'd feel improved. So, that's my new goal. I am starting small – a Daily Word reading followed by 10 minutes of meditation. I'll let you know how it goes in a month.



I did agree with the 70% of surveyed individuals who said they had learned more about themselves. While I feel I have learned about myself, I am not among the 35% who said they had established a new hobby, are you? I've enjoyed reading once again - something I'd let slide in the last decade or so - so that is not a new hobby. If some of you have found a new hobby, we'd love to hear about it!

Remember that **all is in Divine Order** – this is my challenge to myself and all of you. It is vital to remain positive, focused on improving, reaching out to others when possible. There is so much we can do!

Blessings to all,

Nancy Austin

We currently have two openings on our Board of Trustees. If you are interested in being able to guide Unity Valley Church forward into the future please contact Nancy Austin or any Board member for information.

FROM THE TREASURER --- MARK BALYS

Eric Butterworth in his essay “Abundance” stated that we are in an age of great change that requires calling for faith and vision and the need to tap into the universal flow of substance. His essay describes the word “prosperity” as coming from the Latin root which literally translates “according to hope” or “to go forward hopefully”. Thus It is not so much a condition in life as it is an attitude toward life. Prosperity is a way of living and thinking—not just money or things. This is more true today than it has ever been before.

Our church has been very blessed. We are blessed to have faithful congregants and volunteers. We are blessed to have generous contributors. We are blessed to have a welcoming sanctuary and meeting hall. We are blessed to have received the Loaves and Fishes Grant.

While all this is true, the Covid-19 pandemic has required us all to adjust. Government regulations for safely reopening our church and the necessary social distancing protocols have created new challenges. Some people are not ready to return to in-house church services. Others have grown accustomed to our conference-call Sunday services.

We have been doing our best to maintain a new equilibrium for our small church. Even without a full-time minister and office manager, our monthly expenses run about \$4,000. The efforts of our Board of Trustees and our president, Nancy Austin, have insured that Unity Valley Church is minimizing expenses while maintaining a presence in the Hemet Valley. As always, we have provided a tithe each month based upon our Sunday collection. At the end of each month, 5 percent of the donations are distributed between Unity Worldwide, Unity Southwest Region, and a local charity. During the first six months of 2020 our tithe amounts are as shown below:

MONTH	Unity World-wide	Unity South-west	Local*	Total	Description*
JANUARY	\$102.30	\$102.30	\$102.30	\$306.90	Salvation Army
FEBRUARY	\$ 63.00	\$ 63.00	\$ 63.00	\$189.00	Salvation Army
MARCH	\$ 61.72	\$61.72	\$ 61.72	\$185.16	Community Pantry
APRIL	\$73.00	\$73.00	\$73.00	\$219.00	Community Pantry
MAY	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$40.00	\$120.00	Valley Restart
JUNE	\$80.00	\$80.00	\$80.00	\$240.00	Valley Restart
JULY	\$78.48	\$78.48	78.48	\$235.44	NAMI Mt. San Jacinto Nat'l Alliance on Mental Ill- ness
TOTAL	\$498.50	\$498.50	\$498.50	\$1,495.50	

We could not have achieved these tithes nor maintained our operating expenses without the generosity of our congregants. On behalf of the Board of Trustees we extend our complete gratitude to each of you for your continued support. Your ongoing donations will ensure that Unity Valley Church continues as our spiritual home., helping us navigate this challenging period.

*Mark and Pam Baly*s

UNITY WORLDWIDE MINISTRIES

TOOLS for DIFFICULT TIMES

Spiritual Resources to Calm Anxiety in Times of Stress, Loss and Grief

The Unity Team has compiled a list of resources to help you overcome fear, find moments of courage and peace, and support you in times of change.

This will include:

Supportive booklets to request and articles to read

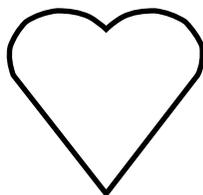
Soothing [audio meditations](#) and [video inspirations](#)

Affirming [printable coloring pages](#), for both kids and adults

Informative and reassuring [radio shows](#) with advice to guide you through this time

To access what is available go to:

<https://www.unity.org/resources/tools-difficult-times>



Hello Everyone,

Hope you are all well and safe.

I am doing great. Although my travel plans have changed I am still hoping to leave soon and get to see the newest member of our family. She was born on February 20 and, of course, she IS the most beautiful baby in the world. Fingers crossed.

It's been a busy spring and summer with lots of things going on around the house. Good time to get things done.

I continue to work in the office of the church and serve on the board. I have also joined the Board of my community here in Seven Hills. I've learned a new software program and that's been "interesting" and trying to learn Italian on line.

And I know that all things are possible with God's help. All I have to do is stop and listen.

Blessings to you and hope to see you soon.

Gloria Saporito

SURRENDER

I've learned to surrender, trust, and obey God even when it doesn't seem to make sense.

COVID's dance of chaos strengthens my faith foundation as I stay focused on *"For in Him we live and move and have our being."*

"Surrender," this one word mirrors my heart and soul.

Yes, **surrender** to God and His guidance because within Him I continue to dance in love, ignoring the delusion of divisiveness now so prevalent I stay anchored in the deep ocean of eternity always knowing God's reality..., we are all living and breathing the same air together on this spaceship Earth.



Clearly the connected consciousness of all living upon this planet are experiencing a transformation. A transformation and the birthing of a new Earthly consciousness giving us a much needed "swift kick" reminding us of our brothers and sisters and the reality of our interdependency to live in the spirit of love and togetherness because within our humanity we all share this Earthly planet as each of us journey and unfold within our spiritual destiny.

Along with COVID, my life is presented with my "Little's." A granddaughter of seven and her brother (aka spider monkey) 4 years. Their world was rocked by a divorce and I pray my love and presence has steadied their life as we share our love, lives, time, and giggles. I now consider myself an expert on Peppa Pig, Disney characters, tricycles, bicycles, scooters, battery operated kid cars, and home movies. Oh, and don't forget Baskin Robins.

God is always expanding - doing something new. Use spiritual discernment and stop following your own thoughts and feelings. Glance at your Earthly circumstance but spend more time focusing and dancing with God. After all, God's the author and finisher of your faith.

What I know is God is always my guide, placing me in the right place at the right time ...,

In His Service,
Rev. Donna Gandhi



Prayer for Expressing Gratitude

Gracious God, in the busy-ness of my day, I sometimes forget to stop to thank you for all that is good in my life.

My blessings are many and my heart is filled with gratefulness for the gift of living, for the ability to love and be loved, for the opportunity to see the everyday wonders of creation, for sleep and water, for a mind that thinks and a body that feels.

I thank you, too, for those things in my life that are less than I would hope them to be. Things that seem challenging, unfair, or difficult. When my heart feels stretched and empty, and pools of tears form in my weary eyes, still I rejoice that you are as near to me as my next breath and that in the midst of turbulence, I am growing and learning.

In the silence of my soul, I thank you most of all for your unconditional and eternal love.

Amen

REV. LEORA NASH

With great delight I join with each of you in prayer and the blessings of being a part of a Spiritual Community. Change is a mighty force; the act or instance of making or becoming different.



“For Such A Time as This”, taken straight from the pages of the Bible (Esther), let us recognize the power of prayer woven through the myriad aspects of change.

Yes, today’s gathering of “spiritual/church community” is different, however, a precious commitment as Consciousness in Action. As an Ordained Minister, steeped in faith consciousness, I am filled in willingness to serve as directed and guided by GOD.

Inasmuch as Unity Valley Church, always known in my heart as Unity Chapel - **LOVE IN ACTION**, speaks to my heart, once again I serve in spiritual service.

Such a blessing it is, the members of the Board of Trustees, you the congregation are steeped in the Spiritual values, teachings, Principles of Unity teachings. The strength of every action taken continues to strengthen the life of the Church, as well individual lives. Glory, glory, glory BE!

My commitment to be of assistance, once again, awakens my energy, skills, to benefit Unity at this time of change. It is an honor to serve as guest presenter occasionally on Sunday. The flow of Sunday presenters continues to deliver “The Word”, inspiring, guiding as a LIGHT within this community and beyond. How great, Faith in Action, demonstrating Love in Action.

In coordination with members of the Board, policy makers, please know engaging affirmative prayer engages an uplift of spiritual energy; The LIGHT OF SPIRIT draws seekers to this place. Time appropriate, a Spiritual Leader will arrive.

Being of outreach assistance, my ministry of heart, **Beyond Sunday Ministry**, encourages the return to Meditation led by Lucinda Moss, Chaplain Trainer. Lucinda is a member of Unity Valley; licensed Chaplain, facilitator of Meditation. The time is NOW, to prepare one’s BEing for the holiday seasons. Life is in session, let us rally together, give rise within Christ Consciousness **“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you.”** (John 14:27)

Tune in Sunday morning presentations; participate in activities (by phone until we are able to meet and greet heart to heart), remembering LOVE GROWS HERE! Love lives you, breathes you, is you! Let’s make a change, as we pray together! Prayer changes things!

Much Love,

Rev. Leora Nash, MCS

Supporting Unity Valley Church congregation

Hello to everyone reading this.

Feel free to give me a call.

Here is what I have been up to since the corona virus, covid-19 virus, pandemic; you choose which term makes you feel warm and fuzzy, alive, or comatose.

I have been doing yard work at home and at **Unity Valley Church**. There is a lot to be done at Unity. Just because the doors are closed does not mean that plants stop growing and that there is nothing to be done at Unity, quite the opposite. So please let me know when you can stop by and give **Al Smith** and me a hand. Raking leaves, pulling weeds and other odds and ends. I hope the virus fear will not keep you from helping us here at Unity or give you an excuse not to participate. Wear a mask or not while working outside. During the heat start early and leave before the heat gets too intense. Easy peasy.

I have been helping my neighbor Christina Kowalski with a mother cat and her 7 kittens (**4** males and **3** females.) **Want to adopt?** Let me know.

I have been organizing computer files at Unity. Man! It is taking forever.

The guys that I used to work with, tell me that because of the virus, for a while they got a temporary pay raise. For some of them the company is allowing them to retire. Lowering the workforce.

As far as the virus goes, it is not something that takes space in my thoughts. I do not dwell on things that bring fear or negative thoughts to me. I focus on the positive. Yes, at times it can be difficult, but life can be a rollercoaster. I happen to enjoy a rollercoaster ride every now and then. ☐

I have been doing longer sessions of meditation. I have noticed a few awakenings within me. Deeper connections to energy, fewer harsh judgements, more happiness, and joy etc.

I have been helping friends with their emotional needs and it has been extremely rewarding.

If there is anyone that wants to learn how to set up the laptop computer for Sunday service PowerPoint, now is the time to learn. **If you know how to read, you are qualified.** ☐ Believe in yourself and help us out when you can. Please don't leave it up to someone else to do it, because it won't always get done. Do something outside of your comfort zone. Thank you.

I have been getting a lot of pain **relief** using **HiDow TENS/EMS** unit. Thanks to my brother in Florida for blessing me with this gift.

This is only some of what I have been up to since the closure of our church. I think it is absurd. Being able to go to church is important to me and that right has been taken away from me because of fear. I look at things a little differently than most people.

I really don't believe that we should keep our church doors closed. At this time, I believe that our doors should remain open to give people a place that they can come and get an uplifting message and see people that they are familiar with. These are just my opinions, of course. They are not right or wrong, just my opinions.

I stand behind my opinions and I am happy to share them with anyone. With much love to all no matter what. May you all be healthy and have fun filled days. Smiles.

Eleanore (L for short)

Technology and Time

Since the quarantine began in March, I have developed new technical skills to stay in touch with both our Unity youth, Astreya's Girl Scout Troop, and many close friends. I've learned how to manage well enough on Zoom.us to either host or join weekly meetings which is an accomplishment for me. So the quarantine has given me a double blessing of learning a new skill and staying in communication with loved ones and friends.



Secondly, the chance to join in Youth Ministry Zoom calls each month has introduced me to some wonderful Youth Ministry Leaders around Southern California that normally I would only see once a year at a conference. But now we are becoming closer friends through these regular meetings online. The Regional Director, Angie Keyes, is doing a superb job of keeping the Unity Youth programs informed and connected. Angie arranges weekly Sunday services for our Uniteens and YOU through Zoom calls at 11:00 am.

If you have young people who are interested in joining other Unity youth for Sunday services and other youth events, email Angie to receive the weekly Zoom link. Her email is: angieunityym@gmail.com.

Also, the time at home has motivated me to start on projects that I have wanted to do for a while. A long desired scrapbook room is now coming into existence and I have started putting family pictures into albums that were being ignored for so long. Again, I feel blessed with time to catch up!

So, I have many thoughts of gratitude that have brought blessings into manifestation. I include all my family and friends in prayers of health and peace. Thank you, God!

Mitzi Carver

Sunday Service – on Free Conference call

**10:00 am – Call 712-770-4932, Use pass code
696361#**

To hear the past Sunday service,

Call 712-775-7479, same pass code

A PRAYER FOR THE WORLD

By Rabbi Harold S. Kushner

Let the rain come and wash away
the ancient grudges, the bitter hatreds
held and nurtured over generations.

Let the rain wash away the memory
of the hurt, the neglect.

Then let the sun come out and
fill the sky with rainbows.

Let the warmth of the sun heal us
wherever we are broken.

Let it burn away the fog so that
we can see each other clearly.

So that we can see beyond labels,
beyond accents, gender or skin color.

Let the warmth and brightness
of the sun melt our selfishness.

So that we can share the joys and
feel the sorrows of our neighbors.

And let the light of the sun
be so strong that we will see all
people as our neighbors.

Let the earth, nourished by rain,
bring forth flowers
to surround us with beauty.

And let the mountains teach our hearts
to reach upward to heaven.

Amen.



Positive Prayer Partner Program

Are you ready to experience the powerful benefit of praying with others in the comfort of your home?

Join other members of Unity Valley Church in Hemet to begin a 21 day prayer mastermind to light the way for peace, prosperity, well-being, purpose and healthy relationships to manifest in your life, the life of your prayer partners and the life of Unity Valley Church.

The process is simply this:

Twice daily meditate on and state out loud the following affirmation:

God within me is guiding, directing, inspiring and blessing me with peace, prosperity and wholeness.

God is also guiding, directing, inspiring and blessing Unity Valley Church and its members and friends with peace, prosperity and wholeness.

Holding in your heart the truth that God is all there is and that all things come together for good, we wait in grateful anticipation for the manifestation.



Unity Chapel has been such a blessing in my life and it is my commitment and pleasure to do what I can to pay this blessing forward. I hold in consciousness daily that “the best is yet to come” and give thanks for this manifestation of God’s love. With Love,

Rev. Donna Maurice



REMINDER!

Friday & Saturday

November 6-7

Can you volunteer?

Can you contribute?

Contact Nancy at 951-966-2015



A poem by Nan O'Hara

Thank you, Dear Father for
letting me see
How vast an improvement
is needed in me.

The Bible, it tells us
The Course is does too.
We are made in His image
So Love can shine through.

The challenge is often
our perspective and view.
When we find faults in other
then we're blocking what's true.

We have all been created
as we were meant to be
To go forward in patience
and joyfully see.

I too was created
as I'm meant to be.
So with shifted perspective
His Truth shines through me.