



Sunday Service 10:00 a.m.
 812-333-2484 (office)
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www.unityofbloomington.org

We offer practical, spiritual teachings that empower abundant and meaningful living.

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From the desk of Rev. Lauri

Fully Alive and Present

One of my favorite things about Unity is that we are encouraged to seek Spiritual Truth from many sources. A couple of weeks ago, I pulled out my copy of the *Tao Te Ching* for a talk I was working on. As I skimmed the pages, I was reminded why I love this little book so much. There is a wealth of wisdom packed into 81 short 1-page lessons. There are two central themes that run through the book. The first is wisdom about finding inner peace, and the second is wisdom about being a good leader. I find that I need healthy dollops of both in my day-to-day life.

For example, one little gem goes like this: "Fill your bowl to the brim and it will spill. Keep sharpening your knife and it will blunt. Chase after money and security and your heart will never unclench. Care about people's approval and you will be their prisoner. Do your work, then step back. The only path to serenity." Isn't this what we try to practice as we follow our Unity principles? Happiness is not to be found by focusing on the outer circumstances of our lives. No amount of food or drink, no amount of perfection in our work, no amount of money, no amount

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Reverend Lauri Boyd



Unity of Bloomington is a loving spiritual community welcoming all and celebrating the transforming power of Truth Principles

From the desk of Rev. Lauri

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of approval will ever fill our heart with peace. To truly find peace, we must release our attachment to things external and open our consciousness to an awareness of Oneness. It's not that we withdraw from life - quite the opposite. We are fully alive and present, knowing that all peace, all wisdom, all abundance is available to us from within. I love the image of the heart unclenching. I've felt both a clenched and unclenched heart at various times in my life. Have you?

Another favorite is: "Do you have the patience to wait till your mud settles and the water is clear? Can you remain unmoving till the right action arises by itself?" I'm an action-oriented person. Most of my training in life and in work has been to learn to identify and solve problems quickly and efficiently. See the problem, solve the problem. I view it as a major step up in my spiritual maturity and my maturity as a leader that I have finally learned how to wait. When I first entered the seminary, I was pretty sure that I was not going to be a church minister. I thought I was going to be a teacher. About mid-way through the program, I was researching potential schools for the further education I would need to follow that path, and I noticed that I couldn't seem to find just the right school. I spent a lot of time in meditation, seeking guidance about this. Frustratingly, the only answer that ever came to me was one word - "wait". Immersed in a deeply spiritual program, I was willing (finally) to follow that guidance. After several months of this, it became clear to me that I was being called to a different path - to church ministry. It was quite discombobulating at the time, but again, I was willing to follow the guidance. And I'm so happy I did!

The version that I have of the *Tao Te Ching* was translated by Stephen Mitchell. I've seen a number of other versions, but his is far and away my favorite. It may sound silly, but one of the reasons I like it so well is that it uses gender inclusive language. Sometimes Mitchell refers to 'the Master' as 'he' and sometimes as 'she'. It's so nice to feel included. One of the things we talk about quite a lot in our Unity metaphysics classes is the importance of language. By its very nature, language is imprecise. And...it is still worth our effort to choose our words carefully. In Unity we understand the power of words to affect our consciousness. Every time Mitchell refers to 'the Master' as 'she', I find myself feeling called a little higher. It's entering my consciousness in a different way. It feels more personal. It feels like it really means *me* and not some hypothetical person.

If you've never read the *Tao Te Ching*, I highly recommend it. It is a beautiful complement to our Unity teachings and practices.

*Blessings,
Rev. Lauri*



Rebeka Lee



Most of you know me as a singer/musician and it brings me great joy to sing the positive songs of Unity...but you may not know that I also wear many other hats. I feel that I am here to serve, and nothing makes me happier than helping. I am working hard to integrate all of my passions into my vocation.

- I have been a private educational therapist since 1997, teaching students of all ages who have learning challenges. My particular expertise is with dyslexia.
- I also am a visual artist and you can see some of my work at www.struckbell.com.
- I love language and learning-I write poetry, songs, and short stories-and really like reading aloud-making words come to life.
- Making art has been so therapeutic for me and for my students; I am currently in school full time with the goal of an MA in Art Therapy.
- I earned a BS in Natural Health studies, and I have been doing intuitive bodywork for animals for as long as I can recall. I learned about energy work in 1999, and it was a huge shifting in my spirit. I really enjoy doing intuitive body/energy work for people too.
- I have had a vision of opening a community Wellness and Learning center since I began teaching. I envision a place full of light and love where anyone can come and receive what they need for Body-Mind-Spirit.

I could go on...but if you want to know more, we'll have to have tea sometime. 😊 I am so blessed to be a part of this community. I love you.



Annual Meeting and Potluck

Sunday
February 19th
after the service

It's that time of year again – time for celebration and renewal! Each year in mid-February, Unity of Bloomington holds its Annual Meeting. During this meeting, we honor our accomplishments of the past year and set forth our intentions for the coming year.

Voting members have already received their ballots and will vote for our new Board of Trustee members, our new Board Development Ministry Team members and our 2012 Partners in Service.

Although only Voting members receive a ballot, everyone in our commUnity is invited to attend the Annual Meeting and Potluck and join in the celebration. The meeting this year will be on Sunday, February 19th, immediately following the service.



February Anniversaries:

Rose Pawlowski	21 Years
Norm Houze	17 Years
Paul Burt	16 Years
Dee Burt	16 Years
Jeff Drake	15 Years
Carol Mcguire-Audley	9 Years
Bob Audley	9 Years
Danielle Bachant-Bell	8 Years
Doug Clickenger	8 Years
Andy Alexander	5 Years
Mary Alexander	5 Years
Sheila Brunson	4 Years
Jackie Branaman	3 Years
Mark Szymendera	3 Years
Rev. Lauri Boyd	2 Years
Kirma Schulz	2 Years
Matt Schulz	2 Years
Janet Cheatham-Bell	2 Years
Jorja McGlasson	1 Year
Carol McCracken	1 Year



2011 Spiritual Baptism

Financial Summary

2011	December	YTD
Adjusted Cash Inflow	\$22,546	\$229,060
Adjusted Cash Outflow	\$21,268	\$233,812
Adjusted Net Income	\$1,278	(\$4,752)

As of December 31st,
our opportunity fund was \$3,270



Nickels and Noses

Sunday	People	Love Offering, Walk-ins/Mail-ins, ACH
Jan 1	61	\$3574
Jan 8	65	\$1844
Jan 15	56	\$1380
Jan 22	48	\$2281
Jan 29	67	\$929

We need an average of \$2200/week from Love Offerings to meet our expenses. Our average for Jan. was \$2002/week.

January Board of Trustees Meeting

The board met on January 18th at 7pm in the Cady Room. All were present except Terri Snow. Merridee Lamantia opened the meeting with prayer. After all read the Board Covenant and the Abundant Consciousness affirmation, the board blessed tithes of \$250 to Middleway House, our partner-in-service for this month, \$200 each to Association of Unity Churches, Unity School of Christianity, and Great Lakes Region Unity Conference; and \$150 to the Hoosier Hills Food Bank.

In the Treasurer’s report, we learned that for the year 2011, our income was at 99% of what was budgeted and our expenses were at 102% of what was budgeted. This resulted in a net loss of \$4,752 for the year, which was covered by money we had in our savings account. We received an update on the Roof project. There is only one item left to complete – adding guttering to the front porch roof – before the final payment will be made. All electrical work approved at the December board meeting has been completed. We are soliciting funds to help cover these costs.

In other business, Rev. Lauri updated us on the results of processes she has put in place to establish

contact with congregants we have not seen in a while. We continue to seek growth in this area. Dan Piekarsky updated us on the progress in planning for the 30th Anniversary event. One idea is a video created by Mary Ellen May. The board voted unanimously to authorize the expenditure of up to \$1700 for this. The board also approved a change in how revenue from the United With Love Preschool is shared with the Unity general fund which will result in a small increase in the amount shared and will spread it more evenly throughout the year to improve cash flow.

The bulk of the meeting was spent on the 2012 budget. After much discussion, the board approved the budget for 2012. The board also finalized the agenda for the 2012 Annual Meeting coming up on February 19th.

There were two new membership applications – from Carmela Senior and Jerilyn Dausch. The applications were enthusiastically and unanimously approved. The minutes for last meeting were approved. The next board meeting was set for February 22nd, 2012 at 7pm. in the Cady Room.

Rev. Lauri closed the meeting with prayer, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:58pm.

2011 Board of Trustees



Dan Piekarsky
President

Scott O'Bryan
Vice President

Glenn Moulton
Treasurer

Mary Norman
Member at Large

Merridee LaMantia
Member at Large

Terri Snow
Secretary



From the bookstore . . .

***'Ask Yourself This:
Questions to open the heart,
expand the mind and
awaken the soul'***

~ by Wendy Craig-Purcell

“Wendy Craig-Purcell has the gift of making simple, direct and useful the great insights of humanity. In this book she offers us vital guidance in realizing our full potential self - how to connect our Soul’s destiny with the emerging world. The essence of the message is that within each of us is an inner genius, the divine essence of the Life Force itself that is now pressing us to be more, to do more, to grow. No matter where we are in our journey, at whatever age or stage, this genius within is arising in all of us, and calling us to a fuller expression. Because it is time!”

~ Barbara Marx Hubbard, from the Forward

“On these pages are potent tools for discovering your inner greatness, along with the inspiration and motivation to propel you into a life of authentic being. Wendy’s mindful, approachable work is filled with valuable exercises and examples from her students, making this a book that will guide its readers on their journey from limiting thought forms to self-empowerment and self-love. The result is a return to a consciousness of wholeness and joy.” ~ Michael Bernard Beckwith, author of *Spiritual Liberation: Fulfilling Your Soul’s Potential*

A Moment with Our Children

We have had a great time this month learning about Cooperation. We are looking forward to our upcoming topics on Love and Peacemaking. I invite everyone who has any ideas about these topics and is interested in incorporating them into our lessons to please let me know.

*Thank you,
Edith Gingles*



February Sunday Speakers

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| Feb 5 | Rev. Lauri Boyd
'Quantum Gratitude' |
| Feb 12 | Rev. Lauri Boyd
'Empowered and Humble' |
| Feb 19 | Rev. Lauri Boyd
'Community of Unity' |
| Feb 26 | Michael May
'A Place Beyond Words' |

Evolutionary Youth Happenings – What’s Up Down Under

By looking at the fruit of the tree, you can guess at what is happening at the root, but you don’t really know until you get a good look at that root! This article gives some insight into the foundational work happening to nurture our blossoming youth ministry.

As a result of the Appreciative Inquiry Summit in November, seven action groups formed around areas of growth and are beginning to bear fruit!

- The social group has organized some family-inclusive bike rides on the B-Line trail, coordinated a group of folks going to see the play Annie, and hosted a family movie night in conjunction with the Uniteens.

- The volunteer attraction group is taking action to make volunteering with the youth more available, consistent, and in alignment with the strengths and passions of those volunteering. Check out the sign-up sheet of available opportunities on the double doors leading to the sanctuary - now it is as easy to volunteer downstairs or for the children’s moment as it is to bring something to a potluck!

- The curriculum group met with active Sunday volunteers to plan the themes, readings, and interactive activities for the upcoming 3-month season. Look for some children-led children’s moments coming in the Spring!

- As wonderful as it is to have the kids join with the adults in singing “Let There Be Peace on Earth” we are supporting their safety and the ability of their parents to socialize after the service by keeping the kiddos downstairs for parents to pick them up there. Unity provides up to one hour of free “aftercare” for the children each week. *Parents are encouraged to reinforce the idea of safety by keeping their children with them once they have picked them up from the classroom and by reminding them to “use their walking feet” in the hallways and stairwells.*

Do you have a passion, strength, or idea to contribute to the Youth Ministry? Maybe you have a poem or a call-and-response song that you find particularly powerful, or perhaps you want to lead a lesson or two connecting spirituality to the outdoors... Your interest is welcome here! Post your idea to the Unity Facebook page, or connect with Edith Gingles or Reverend Lauri to make sure your voice is heard.



Surprise Pie - Imagination



From the '12 Powers of Pie'

Used with permission of the author, Patricia Louise Klegg

Grapefruit, oatmeal, sweet potato . . . peanut butter, grape! Whatever pie you're now looking at, one thing is for certain . . . it is different. A surprise pie is whatever the creator thought would be fun to try. These pies require different ingredients and cooking processes but have one thing in common . . . they share being special, unique and interesting. Some people will absolutely crave the taste while others will never wish for it again. The future success of the pie is never really the issue; freedom to explore and experiment is the goal. Go create!



Your imagination keeps you flowing, choosing and manifesting differently from others. Perhaps the Creator gave us imagination to keep life flexible and adventuresome. We share similar thoughts and living processes, but we are each unique to our own ideas and expressions. When we share our imagination, some will like it while others will not. Being liked is not the issue; being free to experiment and explore with an open optimistic mind is the goal.

Co-create with life!