

A welcoming spiritual community advancing a positive message that teaches people of all ages and faiths how to thrive in a changing world.



Revs. Mark & Karen Schindler

Ministers' Message

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The Christmas season is upon and with it comes the longest night of the year, the Winter Solstice. In this time of increasing darkness, lights go up on most homes and businesses which is one of the best parts of the season. One does not have to be religious or even spiritual in order to enjoy it. We are invited to step out of our usual way of living and create a world of light and fantasy that everyone is welcome to participate in, both religious and secular.

At a time of year when we are dealing with increasing physical darkness, we counteract the tendency to withdraw and hibernate. It's a good thing, it's healthy and life affirming; even more so during this time of distancing due to the pandemic. There was a time when I resisted the winter darkness but now I welcome it as an opportunity to better appreciate the light.

Our Christmas traditions really have a depth of meaning and can provide a great sense of stability in our changing world. And those traditions change and evolve as well but the most important thing is that we set aside this season of the year to revisit our traditions and to celebrate certain values and ideas that we tend to neglect most of the year and that's a good thing.

Unlike other holidays, Christmas invites us to focus on the true, the good and the beautiful. We celebrate truth with myths and stories from the Bible, TV shows and movies. The Grinch, Charlie Brown, Scrooge, George Bailey and even Bad Santa have something to teach us as do Luke and Matthew. Stories can communicate truth without having to be historically factual.

We celebrate beauty in more ways than we can count, not just with lights but with all sorts of decorations that transform our

living and public spaces. Even the music and songs are different, designed to evoke thoughts and feelings that are not so often acknowledged the rest of the year.

We celebrate goodness by daring to voice the hope that human beings are capable of bringing about peace on earth. More people practice generosity than at any other time of year. For some the season becomes too materialistic. I choose to see the good in all of it knowing that I define my own boundaries so there is no need to judge what others do.

Christmas is no longer just for Christians but for those who insist that we need to put Christ back in Christmas, at the very least that should mean that we fully embrace and live the values found in the beatitudes where Jesus said blessed are the poor in spirit meaning those who reject consumerism and the accumulation of wealth at the expense of others.

Blessed are the peacemakers who reject violence as a solution to our problems. Blessed are the meek, those who are humble and have learned to keep the ego in check. There are more but these give us the general idea.

But once again world events, especially in this country, would lead one to believe that those values have been selectively edited out of the Christmas story. This would be a great time to put them back in. Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Super Solstice to all!

Chaplain's Corner



Donna Vetromile

In this season of gift giving, we may not think of focusing on denial, yet this can be a very powerful tool...one of my favorites...

Denial is one step in our affirmative prayer process. (After deep breathing, and relaxing, then connecting with spirit and opening to the powerful silence deep within. Then we go to spiritual denial. This means releasing concerns, doubts and worries.

Some of my favorite examples of denial are:

- I am not my circumstances.
- Nothing can stand in the way of my Divine Nature.
- Knowing circumstances can be challenging, I recognize and release fearful feelings that constrict my way of being in this moment.

Another for inner peace:

- I release any anxiety I feel around this situation. I feel any tension draining from my body.
- Nothing can disturb the calm peace of my soul.
- Nothing can disturb the cool, calm pool of serenity that lies within me at the core of my being.

Next we affirm. We can affirm that we have everything we really need to meet the challenges of this situation. As part of affirming, we can claim a divine power of the 12... either: faith, love, strength, power, wisdom, understanding, imagination, will, order, zeal, life or release. Each has gifts and special strengths that enhance the process. Following this, we end the affirmative prayer with gratitude. What a powerful process! And denial, this spiritual denial, is an integral part of "the magic" (my words) of affirmative prayer.

I challenge you to create your own, or rewrite your favorite denial. I extend to you, blessings of this special season. I am trusting that you are finding many ways to relax into prayer, and to enjoy yourself this month.

Ongoing Classes, Study Groups and Adult Education

Sunday Service Change

We are back to Sunday Service Via Facebook Live Stream (NO in person services until further notice).

Live stream link on our Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/Unity-of-Auburn-114140051995464/>

If you do not have a Facebook account, you will need one to watch the service. This link will tell you how to create a Facebook account:

<https://www.facebook.com/help/188157731232424?helpref=topq>

Sisters of the Good

We are meeting on Zoom every Wednesday at 4:00pm to 6:00pm. You can join us with video or call in. If you are not on the email list and want to attend, email Rev. Karen at iwishupeas@aol.com.

Frontiers of Consciousness

This class is being offered on Zoom only *December 28, 2020*. If you would like to attend, please send an email to Rev. Mark at mark@unityofauburn.com

E-mail Prayer



If you would like an email prayer from one of our Chaplains, please send your prayer request to:

auburnchaplains@gmail.com

Our Chaplains are available to join you in prayer if you are having a challenge or in gratitude and joy!

Our Financial Picture

UNITY OF AUBURN FINANCES			
JANUARY-OCTOBER 2020			
COVID REVISED BUDGET 7/1/2020			
INCOME AND EXPENSES	JAN-OCTOBER 2020	OCTOBER	2020
Love Offerings (Under revised budget to date <\$7,409>)	74,051.45	<\$3,358>	4,809.00
Rent (Under revised budget to date <\$1,849>)	17,594.00	<\$741>	1,202.90
Adult Ed./Fundraising (On target with revised budget)	2,952.42		55.00
Youth Education (On target with revised budget)	25.00		0
Miscellaneous (Includes SB Grant)(On target)	6,504.34		.85
Thrift Store Net Income(On target revised budget)	5,710.95		566.20
TOTAL INCOME	\$106,838.16	\$	6,633.95
Building	13,276.78		1,223.59
Adult Ed./Fundraising	(Netted in Income)		
Ministry/Mission	63,129.39		6,222.50
Mortgage	23,816.40		2,381.64
Office Administration	12,117.63		766.11
Sunday Music	6,050.00		400.00
Tax/Insurance	7,787.11		441.17
Unity Organization Offering	0		0
Youth Education	500.00		0
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$126,177.31	\$	11,435.01
NET ADJUSTED INCOME	<\$19,339.15>	< \$	4,801.06>

SBA Loan balances 2020 income deficit....Funds portion of 2021 budget...Funds Roof/HVAC contingency set-aside

Message from our Board of Directors



Dear Unity of Auburn (UOA) Folks,

As we enter the holiday season, I find I'm reflecting on what has been an unprecedented year. Almost any way you look at it, 2020 has been a challenging year worldwide, and UOA has been no exception. Your ministers and board have worked diligently to keep services available and church functions running.

In this holiday season I am grateful for so much effort by so many folks to make this happen. Many churches have not been as fortunate and we are blessed here at UOA. From developing the capability for online services to cost cutting measures, many people have worked to keep UOA spiritual community available.

As we celebrate the holidays the best way we can in this difficult year, please remember to share your treasure with UOA to help us keep our community prosperous.

To everyone in our UOA spiritual community, a very Merry Christmas and the hope for a more prosperous new year.

Dave Langley, VP

Board of Directors



Board of Trustees

- Patty Davis.....President
- Dave Langley.....Vice President
- Sharon Hardie.....Treasurer
- Natalie Kimball.....Secretary

Staff

Unity of Auburn Staff

- Karen and Mark Schindler.....Co-Ministers
- Carrie Deterding.....Administrative Assistant
- Mary Lou Banahan.....Youth and Family Leader
- Ken Kligerman, AFM.....Keyboard/Piano

Unity of Auburn

Offering practical, spiritual teachings that empower abundant and meaningful living!

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Pray with Silent Unity: 800-669-7729

Join our Facebook pages:

Unity of Auburn

Unity of Auburn Events

Unity of Auburn-High Street Thrift and Gift

Lessons and Soloists

Talk Titles December 2020

December 6, 2020

Lesson: A Very COVID Christmas

Music: Dennis Cain

December 13, 2020

Lesson: The Christ In Christmas

Music: Kellie Garmire

December 20, 2020

Lesson: Comfort and Joy

Music: Jon Dufour

December 27, 2020

Lesson: Keeping Christmas

Music: Clint Ritchie



Wishing you peace and joy this holiday season and throughout the coming year



Unity of Auburn

**1212 High Street
Thrift & Gift Shop**

Donations: *No* donations at this time.

Tuesday—Thursday from 10-2 p.m.

Check us out on Facebook : Unity of Auburn -
High Street Thrift and Gift