

Unity Lincoln
P.O. Box 30209
Lincoln, NE 68503

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 319
Lincoln, NE

Blessings To:

«AddressBlock»

*The light of God surrounds us
The Love of God enfolds us
The Power of God protects us
The Presence of God watches
over us.
Wherever we are ...God IS
And all is well.*

February 2021

OUR CORE VALUES

LOVE

We are a nurturing community connecting with all from caring hearts and compassion.

SPIRITUALITY

We consciously connect with Spirit and allow it to guide us. We affirm this Divinity within all creation.

JOY

We delight in and encourage our deeply centered happiness.

GRATITUDE

We recognize, rejoice in, and give thanks for all of God's gifts.

INCLUSIVENESS

We embrace each person as a unique expression of God.

Please join us at [Facebook.com/UnityLincoln](https://www.facebook.com/UnityLincoln)

Or Unity Lincoln [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Visit us at www.unitylincoln.org,

email office@unitylincoln.org,

or phone (402) 476-6887

www.unity.org/prayer/request-prayer

OUR VISION FOR UNITY LINCOLN

- We have a beautiful facility that is receptive and responsive to the needs and desires of our congregation.
- We have an abundance of resources to accomplish our mission with ease.
- We support a minister who exemplifies the Unity Principles and our Core Values, with the capacity to recognize and maximize the strengths and talents of congregants and stimulate individual spiritual growth.
- We have an equally shared, healthy, and productive relationship between the congregation, board, and minister resulting in effective governance of our community.
- We provide transforming and positive programs for people of all ages for increased spiritual development.
- We practice our spiritual awakening through service and action within the congregation, community, and beyond.
- We are well-known in the Lincoln area as a healthy, thriving, spiritual community that welcomes all.



1941 N. 68th
Lincoln, Nebraska

February 2021

MINISTER'S LETTER

Hello Unity Friends!

I always think of the month of February as "Heart" or "Love" month because of Valentine's Day right in the middle of it. When I was in school and younger, it seemed like a most important time; yet today, I realize that my thinking was just because I hadn't been around long enough to know that "Matters of the Heart – and Love" are important all the time. There is no day that shouldn't be a Love Day!

In a similar way of theme thinking, I used to consider January to be the month of Peace. Yet, today I realize that Peace is a necessary awareness for every day of every month! I love our new Board President, Connie's letter sharing her thoughts on peace. Being a Unity person, I have learned that all the Twelve Powers are critical elements to develop in our lives. While we may focus on different ones at any given time, to be a healthy, thriving spiritual person, we need to use all: Faith, Strength, Wisdom, Love, Power, Imagination, Understanding Will, Order, Zeal Elimination (or release), and Life. These are the powers presented by Unity founder, Charles Fillmore. Over the years, people have debated adding words like Joy and Peace.... The conclusion has always been – that Joy and Peace are intrinsic and by products of the original twelve. I invite you to think about it...

In a similar vein, there is much discussion about creating: "A World That Works for All," in fact, the statement is part of many New Thought and Interfaith organizations' vision statements. The statement is implied in our Unity Lincoln Vision and Mission statements. Going deeper, the question arises: How will we recognize it; how will we know it when we achieve it? I invite you to investigate this question for yourself then format a plan of action to achieve it, to activate a world that works for all in your life.

Here are some thoughts on how to recognize such a world from Rev. Sharri and me: nobody goes hungry; nobody is homeless; no one lives in fear; no one is without a good education; no one is without meaningful work to do; nobody feels alone; no one feels unheard; no talent is unrecognized; no person lacks adequate medical care; no violence is endured; no skill is wasted; no spiritual path is denied; no joy is withheld; no compassionate love is restricted or withheld. We will know when we get there because no one will need to ask this question any more. A world that works for all will be the new normal. We will live in a perpetual state of gratitude.

Friends, Meister Eckhart said: "If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, it will be enough." I say, "Thank you, God. And so it is, Amen."

I hope you will be joining us in our Lenten Season. This year it will be overlapping the Season of Non-Violence, as Connie shared. They are easily compatible. During Lent we will be developing our spiritual practice of release and renewal and during The Season of Non-Violence we will consider matters of peace-making. February, my old season of the "Heart and Love," is a perfect time of preparation. Be sure to get your copy of the Unity booklet, **Release and Renew**, for free from unity.com or call or email Unity Lincoln and ask. We will get you your copy so you can follow along. As in past years, I was blessed to get to write pages 26 & 27 to release lack and claim abundance for us all. Enjoy!

In the spirit of abundance, hold with me the thought that we will soon be able to meet together in our Unity Lincoln building, share hugs and howdy's and move forward in health.

Blessings, Rev. Toni

President's Letter

Welcome to My World,

I would like to remind you of the Season of Non-Violence, beginning January 30, 2021 and ending on Easter April 4, 2021. This season has special meaning for me as my Mom was a non-violence believer. At a young age I watched as she orchestrated these principles. When she passed, I bought a peace pole. It goes into our garden area every spring. Some of the words are *Peace to All Creatures, Peace* and *Shalom* in several languages that I can't read.

So, this prayer for peace: Mother Father God, who created the heaven's and earth, please hold safe all creatures and bring a non-violent conclusion to our current conflicts around the world. Let all unnecessary suffering end in peace and understanding. May Peace prevail in the heavens and earth for all eternity. Thank you, God; Thank you God; Thank you God and so it is, Amen.

As new board president, I am looking forward to 2021 as a turnaround year. I have some ideas to include us into the Lincoln community. Once Rev Toni and I have had a chance to discuss we will share details in a timely fashion.

Peace to you all and have a safe and prosperous year, *Connie*

For a Laugh

From Dr. Tom Shepherd in Unity Magazine: A priest, a minister and a rabbit walk into a bar. The bartender asks the priest, "What can I get for you?" The priest answers: "I'll have some sacramental wine." Then the bartender asks the minister, "And for you?" "I'll have some grape juice," said the minister. Then the bartender asks the rabbit, "What can I get for you?" The rabbit says, "Oh, nothing. I'm just here because of spellcheck."

World Peace Meditation

Perceive
Each
Atom
Connected
Eternally

Science of Mind teaches, and quantum physics confirms, that every atom is connected in some way to every other atom. Every part of me is connected to the entire universe, to the trees, the mountains, the oceans, to the sun and moon, the stars, and to every part of you! We are all expressions, manifestations of the same energy. The forms are different, the appearances vary, but the essence is the same. This is the definition of oneness, and the only condition for peace is an awareness of that oneness.

Please take 15-20 minutes to sit in this awareness and feel your connection to all that is. You are part of the stars, the planets, connected to all animals, plants and people. In that connection is the source and experience of perfect lasting peace. Soak it in and spread it around.

Love and blessings, Rev. Sharri



One Heart Retreat Center
185 White Acres Lane
Marshall, AR 72650

Magic Pennies Report

Keep it up!
You're doing great!



Magic Pennies Accounting

2016	\$132.22
2017	\$615.80
2018	\$290.31
2019	\$226.06
2020	\$7.21
	\$1261.60

Remember the competition is on. Who will have the most pennies when we get back into the building? Prize will awarded!!!

Unity Lincoln logo t-shirts

now available-see Rev. T
Teal with embroidered white logo -
\$18 each M, L, XL
(others can be ordered pre-pay)
(note on check: T for Building Fund)



Monthly Attendance

Celebrate!!!
Our online count has gone to
1000

Finances- 2021

Total Income: \$ 8039.44
Total Expense: \$ 6022.12
Net \$ 2017.32

Tithes Given \$ 507
Classes: \$ 28
Building Fund: \$ 660

BULLETIN BOARD

New Members

Would you like to be a member of Unity Lincoln? We invite you to join us! Are you returning to Unity Lincoln after a time away? We welcome you back!
Kindly RSVP to Unity Lincoln (402) 476-6887 or minister@unitylincoln.org.

Talk to the Board

If you would like to present an item to the Board of Trustees in person, please let a board member know. The Board will then reserve the first 10 minutes of its next monthly meeting to listen to you.

Email List

If you would like to receive emails of breaking news and last-minute schedule changes, send an email to us at office@unitylincoln.org and ask to be added to our weekly email list.

Online Tithing

You can contribute to Unity Lincoln online via the www.unitylincoln.org PayPal account. Log onto <https://www.paypal.com> and send your contribution directly to the Church's Online PayPal account by whatever method you like — credit card, checking account, or savings. Click on "Friends & Family" to waive the Paypal fee so that your entire gift goes to UL.

Ministerial Services Available

Personal and family services including the rituals: marriage, christening, baptism, blessings of various kinds as your heart directs. Memorial services. Counselling by appointment. Call: 402-432-8108.
Email: minister@unitylincoln.org. Some services by fee and some on a love offering basis.

When you write to us

Though we are located at 1941 N. 68th St., mail you send us must include our P.O. Box.
Send mail to: Unity Lincoln P.O. Box 30209 Lincoln, NE 68503

To unsubscribe from this Newsletter

Write to us at the above address, or email office@unitylincoln.org. Please refer to the printed Newsletter in your note, with your name and address for confirmation.

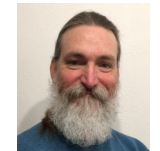
BOARD MEMBERS



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Liane Schmidt,
Vice-President



Paul Fox,
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Secretary



Janet Carlson,
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Ministry Team Leaders:

Hospitality—Dee Tonniges, Liane Schmidt
Leadership/Coaching—Kris Thaller
Licensed Unity Teacher—Rev. Evan Coleman
Music—Rev. Evan Coleman
Prayer—Connie Rose
Recording Team—Paul Fox, Bob Kaenel, Connie Rose, Janet Carlson, Adeline Mickens
SCRIP—Paul Fox
Website—Paul Fox, Rev. Evan Coleman
Worship Team—
Carol Cunningham
Worship Leaders—Fred Berry, Merry Ford, Kris Thaller, Rene Eveland

Staff:

Minister—Rev. Toni Stephens Coleman
Associate Minister—Rev. Evan Coleman
Speaker—Rev. Fred Berry
Music Director—Rev. Evan Coleman
Pianist—Svetlana Yashirin
Office—Sharyl Klawitter

Taoist Prayer

All we need is the morning.

As long as there is sunrise, then there is the possibility that we can face all of our misfortunes, celebrate all our blessings, and live all our endeavors as human beings.

Spirituality is something that has become necessary in these troubled times.

Yet it is inherently superfluous. We need it to remind ourselves, to bolster ourselves, to integrate ourselves, to fulfill ourselves.

If we could simply acknowledge the mystery of night and the glory of morning, we would need neither civilization nor spirituality.

At its simplest, life begins with dawn. That is blessing enough. All else becomes fullness immeasurable. At dawn, kneel down and give thanks for this wonderful event.

We may think mornings are so common they are unworthy of veneration, but do you realize most places in the cosmos do not have mornings? This daily event is our supreme goodness.

Greet the dawn.

- That is your miracle to witness.
- That is the ultimate beauty.
- That is sacredness.
- That is your gift from heaven.
- That is your omen of prophesy.
- That is knowledge that life is not futile.
- That is enlightenment.
- That is your meaning in life.
- That is your directive.
- That is your comfort.
- That is the solemnity of duty.
- That is inspiration for compassion.
- That is the light of the ultimate.

-Deng Ming- Doa

Gandhi King Season for Nonviolence

The 24th Annual Gandhi King Season for Nonviolence is January 30–April 4, 2021, the "season" to bring our consciousness of peace to a new level of spiritual maturity. The Unity Movement has been part of the "season" since the beginning over the course of almost a quarter century. AGNT (Association for Global New Thought) initiated the idea with first gatherings at Unity Village.

Since then we have offered a variety of paths to practice the "64 Ways in 64 Days" between the memorial anniversaries of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. Go to agnt.today/season-for-nonviolence to select ways to practice peace and non-violence and expand your awareness in the larger spiritual world. Free materials and tools are ready for you.



Friendship Home

Since Thanksgiving we have been collecting food items for the women and children at Lincoln's Friendship Home shelter. Recently their director came to pick up the bounty and deliver it. As you can see in the photo, it was plentiful and wonderfully received! Because of the success and the continued great need we are continuing to receive food items. Just call Rev. Toni if you need to deliver to the church or come by Friday or Sunday when we are there. Thank you all for making this food drive a continuing success!

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 18 boxes of cereal | 8 servings of Ramen | 2 syrup |
| 12 boxes mac & cheese | 9 bags of sides | 2 pancake mix |
| 2 hamburger helper | 3 bags egg noodles | box brownie mix |
| 3 bags dry beans | 10 cans tuna | can ravioli |
| 6 boxes corn muffins | bag of snacks | 3 cans fruit |
| 2 dry milk | 2 evaporated milk | 2 oatmeal |
| 15 cans soup | 42 cans vegetables | 2 toothpaste |
| 2 cans chicken | 2 pasta sauce | jar peanut butter |



WORD SEARCH

N V A L E N T I N E G A
 D O Q T H P R W Y O M F
 E C N E O A E T N E E F
 N C A V D G I A D D R I
 Y R N I I N E I C Y U R
 T R A A U O T T G E T M
 T N O M R A L R H B A A
 T N M T T E E E Z E N T
 G O E I S N L R N J R I
 C L O L E I Z O H C K O
 U N I T Y Y H S T U E N
 P I H S D N E I R F G U

- AFFIRMATION
- COMMUNITY
- FRIENDSHIP
- ENERGY
- HEART
- HISTORY
- LENT
- NATURE
- NONVIOLENCE
- MEDITATION
- PEACE
- TOGETHER
- TOLERANCE
- UNITY

The Teachings Of Jesus, Not About Jesus

By Rev. Toni Stephens Coleman

Every Sunday you hear me say it: Unity "is founded on the teachings of Jesus, not about Jesus." What exactly do I mean by this? As we move into this Lenten season, this is a good place to start.

When I was in seminary a great deal of study went into answering questions about Jesus. It has long been known that most of what traditional religions teach about Jesus comes from the many letters written by the Apostle Paul (Paul of Tarsus). It is also well known (from Paul's own writing) that Paul never knew Jesus. His ministry was from 30 AD (or CE - "Common Era") to 50 AD (CE). Paul's ministry was about Jesus and he did much to initiate Christianity, its teachings, beliefs and rituals. He personally founded many early Christian communities. However, I believe it is important to remember that he was not a disciple except by his own election. He interpreted what he found as the teachings of Jesus already being shared by Jews and Non-Jews of the day.

It is believed that there was already a written collection of what scholars call: **The Jesus Sayings**. This collection was shared by the writers of the gospels. Mark, the first writer, had a copy, as did Matthew and Luke when they wrote their later books. This accounts for the similarities in all three gospels.

A great deal of scholarly work has been done, a kind of biblical archeology, by a group called **The Jesus Seminar**. They are about 50 critical biblical scholars and 100 laymen of all faiths and skills, founded in 1985 by Robert Funk of the Westar Institute. The seminar was very active through the 1980s and 1990s, so it was very current to my time in seminary. We had several of them visit the school and conventions with workshops. Although Dr. Funk has passed, the group remains engaged in the 21st century.

The research, discussion and sharing of scholarly skill was intense. **The Jesus Seminar** used a colored bead voting system to decide their collective view of the historical likelihood of the deeds and sayings of Jesus of Nazareth. Information was then transferred into clear statements of their discernment. Using the earliest written documents that we have, (remember the relatively recent Nag Hamadi and Dead Sea finds), they produced new translations of the New Testament and apocrypha to use as textual sources. The sayings of Jesus were graded as "most likely said," "may have said," "possibly said," and "unlikely spoken by Jesus." The grading and other results are published in three reports: The Five Gospels (1993), The Acts of Jesus (1998), and The Gospel of Jesus (1999).

For Unity, studying the work and findings of **The Jesus Seminar** is right in keeping with our founder, Charles Fillmore, his passion and thinking. He always wanted to be at the forefront of discovery, science and what he called Truth. So, when I say: "is founded on the teachings of Jesus, not about Jesus," I am referring to using the best available knowledge of what Jesus truly said. Things that are consistent with the language of Jesus' time, his possible life experiences, the thinking contemporary with others at the time when he lived.

Among scholars it is often said that they teach what Jesus of Nazareth taught or showed not Pauline Christianity in the name of Jesus. The desire is not to take away from those things that are good and true that may come from (Spirit though) any source, but to have clarity as much as possible about what Jesus actually taught. Many things have been attributed to Jesus throughout history to give them credibility - sometimes some very manipulative things. Jesus was inclusive, loving and compassionate. When we go through our Lenten booklet, my hope is that we will have a deeper awareness of who Jesus was and where his teachings come from.

February 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
BLACK HISTORY MONTH...	1	2 Friends Book Club <i>Return to Love</i> By Marianne Williamson 6:30pm	3 6:30 pm Unity Café	4	5	6
7 <i>Friendship Sunday</i> 9:00 am - 9:55 am Metaphysics 10:30 am - Service <i>A World that Works For All</i> Silent Prayer 12:00	8	9 Friends Book Club <i>Return to Love</i> By Marianne Williamson 6:30pm	10 6:30 pm Unity Café	11	12	13
14 <i>Friendship Sunday</i> 9:00 am - 9:55 am Metaphysics 10:30 am - Service <i>Step by Step, Side by Side</i> Silent Service 12:00 Valentine's Day	15 President's Day	16 Friends Book Club <i>Return to Love</i> By Marianne Williamson 6:30pm	17 6:30 pm Unity Café Ash Wednesday Beginning of Lent	18	19	20
21 <i>Friendship Sunday</i> 9:00 am - 9:55 am Metaphysics 10:30 am - Service <i>First Living Word: Forgiveness</i> Silent Service 12:00	22	23 Friends Book Club <i>Return to Love</i> By Marianne Williamson 6:30pm	24 6:30 pm Unity Café	25	26	27
28 <i>Friendship Sunday</i> 9:00 am - 9:55 am Metaphysics 10:30 am - Service <i>Second Living Word: Now</i> Silent Service 12:00						