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

Non-Profit Org.

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Permit No. 319

Lincoln, NE

#### Blessings To:

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.

«AddressBlock»

## *Apríl* 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

*Or* Unity Lincoln YouTube channel Visit us at <a href="https://www.unitylincoln.org">www.unitylincoln.org</a>, email <a href="mailto:office@unitylincoln.org">office@unitylincoln.org</a>,

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. 68<sup>th</sup> Lincoln, Nebraska

# Apríl 2021

#### **MINISTER'S LETTER**

Dear Unity Family and Friends,

The first Sunday of April we complete the Lenten process of release and renew on Easter Sunday. In Unity it is our tradition to release what no longer serves us and claim more good for our lives. We affirm: *I release old habits and ways of thinking and joyously accept the good*. May this process support and bless you throughout the coming year and years!

Spring has arrived at Unity Lincoln! Today, when our church secretary, Sharyl, arrived she came face to face with this big turkey at the west side of the building! What do you think about that!?

Outdoor garden clean-up has begun. I hope you will join us in honor of Earth Day on April 24<sup>th</sup>, to rake, weed and pick up sticks to help. Would you like to select an area of the gardens to tend this year? This can be individual, with family or with friends. Also, we would welcome someone who would like to put in a vegetable garden back where the clothes line is. This can be a shared project but we need an organizer with the vision and energy. Water and space are provided. If you are that person or know that person, please contact Rev. Toni.

Friends, we need to enjoy all the good around us. See the loving presence of God – The Good and focus our attention there, causing it to multiply. There has been such a focus on the pain and problems of the world that those experiences are what we find multiplying. After a year of social distancing and all the losses of pandemic, this past week, two young people exploded in killing sprees leaving 18 people dead and many hurting. Please join me and join with us to send healing, loving prayers to all who hurt. Enfold your fellow humans, young, old and in-betweens, in loving compassionate Presence. See our leaders led to do what needs to be done to make it more difficult for those suffering to explode in violence. We pray for peace, one by one, one to one.

Unity Lincoln is a spiritual community, striving together to call forth goodness in the world. As we all get our Covid vaccinations in order, we will begin meeting again in person on Sundays. New cameras have been installed clearing the floor for chairs once again. We are still in the process, but we are moving closer to being ready to "re-open" completely. If a few folks show up for Easter Sunday, we are ready. I hope you were one of the people who joined us for zoom Soup Supper on the third Sunday afternoon. It was a lovely and fun gathering, getting us ready to reestablish our Potluck Sundays once we re-open completely. April 17<sup>th</sup> we will have our annual Pet Memorial Service. After the virtual online service we will join in the Fireside Room in person to pray, share and bless our beloved pets with any people who are present. We are following our hearts and Divine Guidance as we move through this time of adjustment.

We want to thank all of you who have devotedly shared your gifts and tithes throughout this difficult year. We are so grateful for you! As Covid support checks have been arriving, we have recognized and acknowledged the \$140 amounts as tithes. We bless them and you, the gift and the giver, and see prosperity multiplied ten-fold according to God's Law of Supply. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you! And Thank God. Amen. Be Blessed, Dear Ones, Rev. Towi

#### **World Peace Meditation**

World Peace is an observable phenomenon in the same way that the Milky Way is an observable phenomenon. The Milky Way exists and is visible only because of the millions of stars and planets that give it form, substance and shape. World Peace exists and is made manifest only because of the millions of peacefilled human hearts and minds that give it presence and expression. No single person can manifest world peace alone, but each heart lit with love and peace becomes a point of light in the galaxy manifesting as World Peace.

If this resonates with you, you might take 15-20 minutes to sit with this idea and light your own star, let your own peace catch fire and shine, so that its glow ignites a consciousness that knows only peace. See the galaxy of World Peace expand.

Love and blessings, Rev. Sharri

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

#### Season for Nonviolence

"Religions are different roads converging upon the same point. What difference does it make that we take different roads, so long as we reach the same goal." – M.K. Gandhi

The Gandhi-King Season for Nonviolence, Jan. 30 through April 4, is an international, educational, media and grassroots campaign dedicated to promoting nonviolence as a powerful way to heal, transform and empower our lives and our communities. The Season for Nonviolence began in 1998.

Through his written reflections and his public pronouncements Gandhi teaches us to live a life of nonviolence, one choice at a time, one action at a time, one day at a time. This is how we learn to practice nonviolence. Whatever our spiritual paths may be, Gandhi's words can guide us to a more meaningful practice of Ahimsa (nonviolence). Gandhi's "quality of the heart" can become our quality of the heart and can change our lives and the world we are co-creating.

The Gandhi-King Season comes to a close until next year...But, let us NOT forget the lessons these two men lived, tested, proved and demonstrated for us! What they taught is very alive for all of us today in this country and the world. We absolutely have to take the evolutionary step towards honoring and loving each other, accepting each other and learning to live in peace and harmony. We must carry forward what they began and it only happens person to person.

#### Pet Memorial Service – Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> – 1:00 pm

Join us online at Unity Lincoln YouTube and Facebook to remember and celebrate our pet friends who have passed to the other side – often called "Crossing the Rainbow Bridge." It is a reality of our lives that most of our pets don't live as long as we do, yet, in truth, they live on in our hearts for all time. We will take this time to consciously hold them again in our minds and honor the precious moments and great experiences we shared with them.

Grief is not a once and done thing. It is an unwinding physical and emotional process that takes time and can come in waves, often combining with the other losses we grieve. It is so important to recognize, acknowledge and experience the feelings.

You are welcome to join Rev. Evan and Rev. Toni during the service in the building if you would like to share in the Circle of Memories at the conclusion of the service. Masks and social distancing, please.



Contact the office and leave your contact information to help pass out flyers to your friends. community and vets. Please post on your social media to invite others to join, share

#### **Magic Pennies** Report

Keep it up! You're doing great!

**Magic Pennies Accounting** \$132.22 2016

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

the building? Prize will

## on. Who will have the most pennies when we get back into awarded!!!

Remember the competition is

## 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: \$ 4761 Total Expense: \$ 2669

**Net** \$2092

\$ 271

Tithes Given \$ two next month

Classes: \$ 136

#### **BULLETIN BOARD**

**Building Fund:** 

#### **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**









Member –at-Large

#### **Ministry Team Leaders:**

Hospitality—Dee Tonniges, Liane Leadership/Coaching—Kris Thaller Licensed Unity Teacher—Rev. Evan Music—Rev. Evan Coleman Prayer—Connie Rose Recording Team—Paul Fox, Bob Kaenel, Connie Rose, Janet Carlson,

Adeliné Mickens SCRIP—Paul Fox Website-Paul Fox, Rev. Evan

Worthship Team—

Carol Cunningham Worthship Leaders—Fred Berry, Merry Ford, Kris Thaller. Rene Eveland

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

-7-

#### **One Heart Retreat Center is a Real Retreat Center**

One Heart Retreat Center, created and hosted by former Unity Lincoln member, Rev. Sharri Johnson, is a place of great beauty and spiritual retreat. Google maps says it is 7.75 - 8.5 hours from Lincoln to One Heart. About an hour and a half before One Heart you pass right through Branson, MO.

In the big house, view a panoramic rural scene through the wide windows. Look across flowers and birds to pasturing cows in the foreground out to layered pastel colored hills and mountains as you enjoy your meals or sit on the big porch. An ample kitchen is available for your use. The house sleeps one to many, so you can plan a get-away in solitude or with your family and friends or plan a relaxed conference meeting.

Enjoy walking on the rural acreage and fishing in the catfish pond at One Heart. There are also many bike and hiking trails all around; and One Heart is only about 15 minutes from the Buffalo River National Park with tons of canoeing and floating places along the way. One Heart is located in Marshall, Arkansas, an hour and a half from Harrison for regular shopping.

Rev. Sharri is a trained teacher and CSL minister. She offers several classes and workshops if you are looking for such for yourself or your organization. For more information go to: <a href="https://oneheartretreatcenter.org/">https://oneheartretreatcenter.org/</a>. You can take a virtual tour to have a look-around. With questions or to make reservations, call 501-825-0108.

We thank Rev. Sharri for her continued contributions to Unity Lincoln. Every month she provides a Peace Meditation for our newsletter. She has shared zoom classes with us over the past year and she is a continual prayer partner with us. When you get a chance, say "hello" for everyone at Unity Lincoln!

#### **Prayers for – A Supply Angel**

You might wonder: Who buys the toilet paper, paper towels, soaps and other supplies for the church?? How about you!? We need a smart shopper who will keep track of what is needed and purchase in a timely way the needed basic items. Keep the receipts and submit for refund. If you can put Unity Lincoln on your shopping list, you are the perfect person for the task. Call Rev. Toni.

#### Mark Your Calendar

<u>Spring Cleaning</u> at Unity Lincoln is scheduled for <u>Saturday</u>, <u>May 15<sup>th</sup></u>. Let's clean and dust and wipe away the cobwebs! Soon we will be able to return to meeting together.

<u>Garden Clean-up</u>, beginning in honor of Earth Day, <u>Saturday</u>, <u>April 24<sup>th</sup></u>, adopt an area of the garden to care for. There's still time to help design a special Earth Day memory. What would you like to do?

As needed, we will continue to wear our masks and social distance, working in our living pods or family units. We can still accomplish a clean building and a tidier garden. Please plan to join and share. Both activities will probably be from 9 am to noon or 1 pm.

#### April 20<sup>th</sup> – Adeline's Friend's Book Club

Back from their break, The Friend's Book Club starts the new book: *A New Earth* by Eckhart Tolle on Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM. The subtitle of *A New Earth* is: *Awakening to Your Life's Purpose*.

In *A New Earth*, Tolle, author of the best-selling *The Power of Now*, asks, "Is humanity ready for a transformation of consciousness, an inner flowering so radical and profound that compared to it the flowering of plants, no matter how beautiful, is only a pale reflection?" He asks: "Can human beings lose the density of their conditioned mind structures and become like crystals or precious stones, so to speak, transparent to the light of consciousness?" You are invited to explore the possibility of building a new more loving world. Explore these questions and many more with a group of like-minded, positive seekers.

Until further notice, the group meets via zoom. To get the contact link, email: <a href="mailto:office@unitylincoln.org">office@unitylincoln.org</a> and ask. You may also call, but the link needs to be sent via email.

#### Virtual is Nothing New!

In Unity we have been practicing virtual prayer and meditation since the earliest days.

The word "virtual" means: "almost or nearly as described, but not completely or according to strict definition." Virtual can mean "in effect or in essence, if not in fact or reality."

We use a process or tool called: Visualization, Creative Visualization and Guided Meditation. It is founded in the awareness that our individual minds are the microcosmic image of God Mind, the Macrocosm.

In *The Revealing Word*, our book of every day words metaphysically interpreted, we read this definition of mind: "The starting point of every act, thought and feeling; the common meeting ground of God and man... The mind is the seat of perception of the things we see, hear, and feel. It is through the mind that we see the beauties of the earth and sky, of music, of art, in fact, in everything. That silent shuttle of thought working in and out through cell and nerve weaves into one harmonious whole the myriad moods of mind, and we call it life."

We also learn that "God Mind" is "the universal Principle, which includes all principles." And our own minds are the "offspring" of the one Mind and bring forth (create) in the same manner. We can transmute our thoughts into ideas and accomplish the seemingly impossible. In Unity we call this The Law of Mind-Action. What we think about we bring about.

Our Maundy Sunday Service this week will be virtual. We will be with you "in effect if not in fact." We will invite you to use your mind to visualize with us the entire service, from dedication and purification to serving the elements of communion. Before the 1990's in Unity the communion was always virtual by means of creative visualization. In our conversations about the service we have invited you to assemble the sacred elements, if you like. Our ministry desires to honor people where they are and appreciate that some require reminders in the manifest world.

In fact, whether you use manifest elements or virtual, it is in your mind that the transformation and transmutation take place. True communion is between God Mind and your mind in the sacredness of your being. Communion is the act of knowing your oneness with the Divine. The ritual is important because it reminds us of who we truly are and the gift of our own sacredness. However you join us in the ritual, your body, mind and spirit will experience the effects of God's love for you. ~ Rev. T

#### **Friendship Home**

Since Thanksgiving we have been collecting food items for the women and children at Lincoln's Friendship Home shelter. As you can see in the photo, it was plentiful and wonderfully received! Thank you all for making this food drive a success!

6 boxes of cereal 24 of Ramen 8 cans of fruit 18 boxes mac & cheese 18 bags of sides 4 bags sugar

16 meal helpers 1 bag chips 1 box jello

17 cans tuna 1 cinnamon applesauce 3 bags flour

2 boxes crackers 5 cans diced tomatoes 1 bag marshmellows 29 cans vegetables 6 jar peanut butter 4 can red beans rice

20 boxes pasta

6 can ravioli

4 cans soup

2 pasta sauce

2 oatmeal



#### **Pandemic Testimonials Coming Up**

Plans are underway for you to sign up to share a testimonial about your experience during the past pandemic year. What has the past year been like for you? What losses have you experienced? What discoveries have you made? What rewards have you received? Have you used your Unity – New Thought Principles? What will stay with you and what do you plan to release as quickly as possible? We are looking for transformative stories. Stories you can share that will be inspiring to someone else on their journey.

We believe that everyone has something of value to say – and we know that everything people say may not be of value. So, this should be your best sharing. Testimonials can be from 3 to 5 minutes or up to talk length, 12 to 15 minutes in a few cases. Content counts! All should be written down, spelling is not so important as content. Rev. Toni will build the rest of the talk around your message. Please consider what you will call your talk. We need a talk title for each Sunday.

We will record for earliest presentations (like the Easter readings), due to social distancing. When we move into occupying the sanctuary either live or recorded will be available. The gift of recording is that you can repeat as many times as you like and videos can be corrected and edited for you. Also, captions can be added.

Rev. Toni and Rev. Evan are here to help and support you. Rehearsal is good!

Testimonials may begin as soon as Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> if you are ready. It would be great if everybody would like to tell everybody else about their year! Let's document this experience together. Be aware that this will be a record that will be posted on the web for all time. Your experience counts and can be a gift to others who have lived through this experience.

Janet will be calling to create a schedule. If you are ready or have questions, call Rev. Toni or Janet. If you don't hear from someone, call Rev. Toni or Janet. We would like to hear and have the opportunity to learn from everybody. Yes, tell your friends about it. Yes, they can share also. Does your daughter, son or grandchild have a special experience to share about the year past that others can gain from? They also may share. Have them call Rev. Toni at church and leave their phone number.

#### **Needed – Recycling Champion**

Unity Lincoln needs someone to step up and serve as Recycling Champion. If you care about recycling and have it figured out, you are the right person to serve as our Recycling Champion. We collect a lot of paper recycling in the two offices and plastic bottles, aluminum cans and miscellaneous in the kitchen recycling bins. After potluck and special events is the best time to collect and clear. As we begin to restart church gatherings we need your help! Please consider doing this sacred service for you church.

Contact Rev. Toni.

#### Wanted – Event Advocate – Host or Hostess

Do you want things to happen at Unity Lincoln? Do you love the activities? Want to see more? Outside Game Day? Circulation Day? Sound Meditations? Guest speakers? Movies? Children's Church? Every activity requires someone to facilitate; phone calls, scheduling, meetings... Your minister can't do it all. We need a dedicated helper to provide ideas and the effort to help manifest. Position requires ability to communicate ideas clearly, plan and organize and help follow through to the event. Offers great satisfaction to the right person!



Talk to Rev. Toni.



# **April 2021**

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Maundy Thursday Virtual Ritual Hand Washing & Communion Ser- vice 6:30 pm	2	3
4 Easter Friendship Sunday 9:00 am - 9:55 am Metaphysics 10:30 am - Service Surrender Silent Prayer 12:00	5	6	7 6:30 pm Unity Café	8	9	10
11 Friendship Sunday 9:00 am - 9:55 am Metaphysics 10:30 am - Service Family Silent Service 12:00	12	13	14 6:30 pm Unity Café	15	16	17 Pet Memorial Virtual 1pm
18  Friendship Sunday 9:00 am - 9:55 am Metaphysics 10:30 am - Service The Gift of Earth Silent Service 12:00 Soup Sunday 1PM virtual	19	20 Friends Book Club New Book Starts 6:30pm  A New Earth By Eckhart Tolle	21 6:30 pm Unity Café	22	23	24 Garden Clean-up 9am to 1pm
25 Friendship Sunday 9:00 am - 9:55 am Metaphysics 10:30 am - Service Covenant with the Life Force Silent Service 12:00	26	27 Friends Bool Club A New Earth Eckhart Tolle 6:30pm	28 6:30 pm Unity Café	29	30	Happy Easter