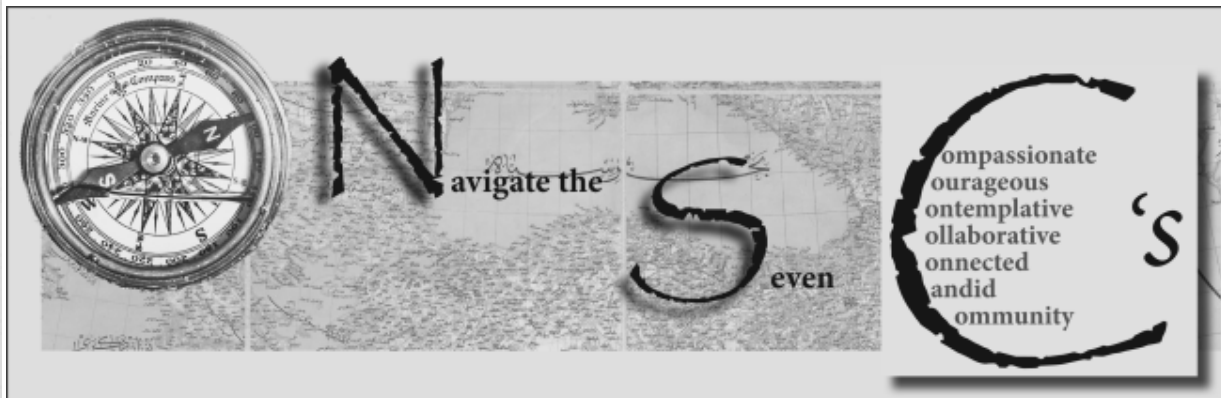


# First Unity Church of St. Louis

2020 Volume II

Issue 6

## FIRST UNITY THEME FOR 2020 Compassionate, Courageous, Community



### Minister's Corner

#### In **ALL CIRCUMSTANCES?**

In the book *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe, the protagonist who is shipwrecked on a desert island, creates two columns in his journal listing the "GOOD" and "BAD" of his situation. He is cast on a desolate island with no hope of rescue; but unlike his shipmates, he is alive. He is alone with no human support, but he has access to food from the destroyed ship. He has no clothes, but he is in a warm climate with no need of them. He has no means of defense, but no wild beasts threaten him. Crusoe concludes that in setting "the good against the evil," no worldly condition is so miserable that one cannot find something for which to be grateful.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, Paul writes, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." This might work for fictional characters like Crusoe, but are we in the real world really expected to give thanks in ALL CIRCUMSTANCES? How can we possibly give thanks for the loss of a loved one, a life-threatening diagnosis, a personal financial crisis, or a pandemic?

Eric Butterworth calls us to notice that Paul does not say, "for all circumstances but in all circumstances." No matter what shows up in the outer world, we realize the omnipresent Power, Presence, and Love of God in the midst of it. Because God is always present, goodness is always present. Time and time again, Jesus gave thanks before the good was manifested. In feeding the multitudes, he did not give thanks for hunger or for the lack of loaves and fishes. When raising Lazarus, he did not give thanks for the lack of life. Jesus looked beyond appearances to ever-present substance in all life. Like the fictional Robinson Crusoe, we can observe and accept the outward condition and use our perceiving power of faith to find the good outer conditions or to bring good to them. Discord, inequity, and COVID-19 are not the will of God. The will of God is for our ever-unfolding good.

Paul gives us three, clear directives. In all circumstances, we can:

**Rejoice** - Turn away from victim, "poor-me" consciousness and joyfully claim all the powers of the Christ for ourselves and all humankind.

**Pray without Ceasing** - Consciously align in Oneness with God and all humankind, understanding that we are on this earth to express the Divine and to embrace infinite possibilities of good.

**Give thanks** - Show genuine appreciation for the allness of life, our joy and sorrow, laughter and tears, dreams and disappointments.

True gratitude, like prayer, is causative energy. Our co-founder Charles Fillmore wrote, "Pronounce every experience good and by that mental attitude, you will call forth only the good." Especially during this holiday season, we have the power to look beyond challenging circumstances to a Greater Reality. In *all* circumstances, an attitude of gratitude enriches our lives, uplifts others, and causes a global shift in consciousness. With grateful hearts, we envision a world awakened to infinite possibilities of love, compassion, and peace.

Holiday blessings,  
Rev. Jan

## ***First Unity Church of St. Louis Newsletter***

**Nov/Dec 2020**

### **In This Issue:**

**Minister's Corner**

**Special Announcements**

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## **Special Announcements**



### **POINSETTIAS**

Christmas Poinsettias are available for purchase in honor of a loved one. Cost is \$7; orders are due by December 6 and flowers will be available on December 20, 2020.

### **FEED MY PEOPLE FOOD DRIVE**

Saturday, November 7, 2020  
from 11:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.,  
bring non-perishable food  
items to donate to Feed My  
People. Just pull into the  
parking lot, open your trunk,  
and your donations will be  
unpacked. Our food  
donations will help many families enjoy a Thanksgiving meal.



### **TOILETREE DONATIONS**

Our Youth Education group is sponsoring a Toilet Tree Drive again this year. Bring personal care items from November 29, 2020 through January 10, 2021.

## **Minister, Jan Mourning**

### **Board of Trustees**

John Young - President  
Rick Emmett - Vice President  
Betty Jean Kofron - Secretary  
Hope Dodson - Treasurer  
Betty Ponzar - Trustee  
Mary Tumminello - Trustee

### **Prayer Chaplain Team**

### **Prayer**

## **Updates for Events**

### **Ladies Night Out**

**Chaplain Coordinator**

Anne Hartupee,

**Prayer Chaplain Trainer**

Mary Tumminello

**Prayer Chaplain Admin,  
Coordinator**

Linda Harr

**Prayer Chaplains**

Lance Baugh

Hope Dodson

Paul Henley

Lynn Mark

Betty Ponzar

Gladys Young

**Platform Assistants**

Hope Dodson

Linda Harr

Mary Tumminello

**Bookstore Managers**

Betty Jean Kofron

Mary Grace

**Webmaster**

Carol Ellerman

**Office Manager**

Sara DeWitt

**Music****Music Director**

Anne Hartupee

**Soloist**

Dean Wiegert

**Youth Ministry Team**

Denise Halbert-Raggio, Director

Glenda Gebhardt

Cindy Gibbs

**Facebook Admin**

Kathy Boyd

**Photographer**

Roy Vaisvil

**Newsletter Editor**

Patricia Riess

riess@htc.net



**Ladies Night Out** will remain suspended until all restrictions are lifted.

Please contact Mary at [jtpres5111@gmail.com](mailto:jtpres5111@gmail.com) with any questions.

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## Book Club



Our Book Club meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 2 – 4 pm. During this time we are meeting via the Zoom platform.

Nov 10 - *"When Crickets Cry"* - by Charles Martin

Dec 8 - *"The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek"* - by Kim Michele Richardson

Jan 12 - *"Olive Kitteridge"* - by Elizabeth Strout

Please contact **Carol** at [cabullock48@yahoo.com](mailto:cabullock48@yahoo.com) for instructions on joining the Zoom meeting and future updates.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Book Club!

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## Unity Basic Principles

We encourage you to explore and apply Unity teachings based on your own spiritual understanding. We believe this spiritual understanding is enhanced through reflective prayer and meditation.

The five basic Principles that make up the Unity belief system are:

- **Principle One**

God is the source and creator of all. There is no other enduring power. God is good and present everywhere.

- **Principle Two**

We are spiritual beings, created in God's image. The spirit of God lives within each person; therefore, all people are inherently good.

- **Principle Three**

Human beings create their experiences by the activity of their thinking. Everything in the manifest realm has its beginnings in thought.

- **Principle Four**

Prayer is creative thinking that heightens the connection with God-Mind and therefore brings forth wisdom, healing, prosperity, and everything good.

- **Principle Five**

Knowing and understanding the laws of life, also called Truth are not enough. A person must also live the Truth that he or she knows.



**One of our core values for First Unity Church is: ACCEPTANCE**

Practicing Jesus' teaching of love and understanding, we unconditionally honor the Divine Essence of each person.

## COMMUNITY BEHAVIORS

- We rejoice in the individuality of each person and the richness this diversity brings to our spiritual community
- As an inclusive community, we prayerfully support and consciously recognize the sacred worth of all people
- We celebrate life together knowing that we are all made in the image and likeness of the omnipotent, omnipresent, omniscient God

## INDIVIDUAL BEHAVIORS

- I practice self-acceptance and monitor self-talk to ensure I am saying only affirming, loving Truths to myself
- I challenge myself to reach out to others who appear different from me
- I listen mindfully and extend appreciation for others' ideas and opinion

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## HOLIDAY SERVICES SCHEDULE

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### All-Unity Thanksgiving Service

Cancelled for 2020.  
First Unity will host this event in 2021.



### Candle Lighting Service

Dec. 20, 2020  
Reservations will be taken for this service.  
Two services will be held if necessary.  
Lunch and visit with Santa is cancelled.

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### Burning Bowl Service

January 3, 2021



### White Stone Ceremony

January 10, 2021

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## HUMOR

### Christmas Shopping

It was Christmas and the judge was in a merry mood as he asked the prisoner, "What are you charged with?"

"Doing my Christmas shopping early," replied the defendant.

"That's no offense," said the judge. "How early were you doing this shopping?"

"Before the store opened."

## Christmas Service

It was a cold and misty Christmas morning in the very depth of winter after a heavy fall of snow. Only one farmer and the minister managed to arrive at the church for the morning service.

"Well," said the clergyman "I guess there's no point in having a service today."

"Well that's not how I see it," said the farmer. "If only one cow turns up at feeding time, I still feed it."

## A Miracle?

Father O'Malley was driving down to Boston on Christmas Eve when got stopped for speeding in Medford. The highway patrol officer smelled alcohol on the priest's breath and then saw an empty wine bottle on the floor of the car.

He said, "Father, have you been drinking?"

"Only water," replied Father O'Malley.

The policeman asked, "Then how come I can smell wine?"

The priest looked at the bottle and said, "Good Lord! He's done it again."

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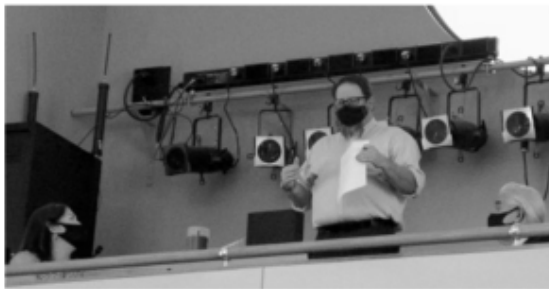
Visit our website to  
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*Thank You for your support in making Jan's Ordination a reality!*

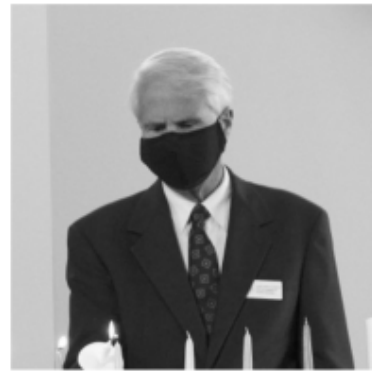
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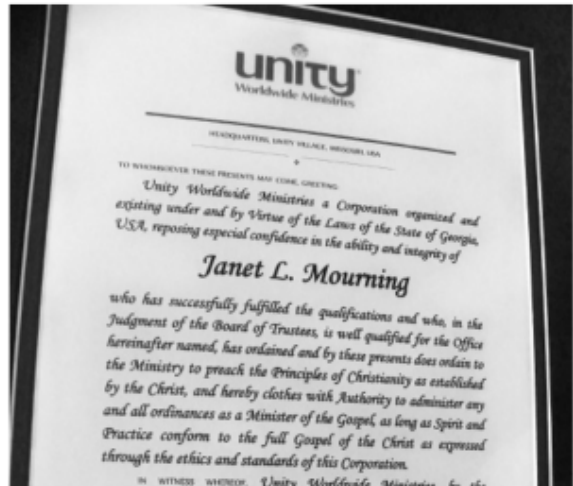
***Let's Begin ~ Ordination Has Arrived!***


















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**Website:** [unitystl.org](http://unitystl.org)  
**SilentUnity** prayer support  
 1.800.NOW PRAY (669.7729)  
**uPray** is a [free mobile download](#)