

Wings



FIRST UNITY CHURCH – Serving the spiritual needs of the St. Louis community for over ninety years.

The Newsletter of
First Unity Church
Of Saint Louis

April, 2018

- ❖ *Inspiration*
- ❖ *Information*
- ❖ *Illumination*

Inside this issue:

- News and events
- Truth Thoughts
- Quotable Quotes
- Truth Articles
- Calendar
- Humor

There Is No Place Where God Is Not

By Gregory Barrette

The birth of Jesus was a radical new awakening in the God-thought of humanity. He was born into a culture that expected a highborn warrior-king to deliver it from oppression, yet He had no army to march with Him. His rigid society did not understand Him. It did not deal kindly with heretics. He was called a glutton and a drunkard because He did not follow the prescribed rules of ritual fasting. He was called a person of loose morals, for He was seen publicly with prostitutes, street people, and cheats. He was called a threat to those in political power for, like Socrates before Him, He taught people to look at things differently. He was seen as a threat to the religious establishment because He was actually able to demonstrate spiritual power and authority.

Even the manger scene cries out: "Let go of your old way of looking at things! The past cannot be dragged into the present. The old, worn-out patterns of the past simply must be changed! Let go of what you thought once served you and awaken to new possibilities."

A manger is a humble feeding trough, neither pretty nor clean. It is not where a king is born. The animals there were not a royal court. The

shepherds were unable to be included in the religious life of the community, since they were ritually unclean and not able to break away from tending their sheep long enough to fulfill the ritual requirements of Judaism. The magi were foreigners! Mary was accused of being wantonly unfaithful to Joseph. The family was far from home, stuck in the back barn of what we would call a tavern, a bar!

To those of us who live two thousand years later, the meaning is clear: there is no place where God is not. The birth of the Christ is an inner experience, not a pompous outer show or a rigid religious ritual. The circumstances of life, exactly as they are, can provide the time and place for our spiritual awakening. Our new awakening is now!

"They Shall Name Him



**Which Means,
God Is With Us."**



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Wings

April, 2018
Page 2

Flocknotes Updates

First Unity has implemented our new Flocknote program to keep you posted on upcoming events via text or email. If you would like to receive regular updates, please call the church office or send an email to firstunity@firstunitychurchstlouis.org.



Third Thursday Quilters

For information contact Jane Vondruska (636 226-4562) or Sandy Etheridge (314 309-8136).

Ladies' Night Out: April 16 at 5:30 pm at Maggie O'Brien's, 3828 S. Lindbergh, 63127.



April 10: The Last Days of Night by Graham Moore

May 8: Nightingale by Kristen Hannah

June 12: The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World by Dali Lama and Desmond Tutu

July 10: Before We Were Yours by Lisa Wingate

August 14: Origins by Dan Brown

Sept 11: Killer Of The Flower Moon by David Grann

Oct 9: Kommandant's Girl by Pam Jenoff

Nov 13: A Higher Standard by Ann Dunworthy

Dec 11: This Time Together by Carol Burnett

eScrip News – Remember to use your eScrip card at Schnuck's. Go to www.escrip.com, or look for the link on the First Unity website to earn money for First Unity as you shop. Thank you!

Youth Education



Calling all kids to join our incredible Sunday School Classes. Also we welcome extra adult hands. If you could help just one Sunday a month, it would make a difference.

Stop by Our **Lending Library** and check out an inspirational title from among a wide selection of books written by some of Unity's greatest authors.



Crochet/Knitting Group now meeting the first & third Tuesday of each month, 11am-1pm. Bring your supplies and lunch. Relax and enjoy some fun time together creating projects for Newborns in Need. We are also accepting crocheted or knitted newborn items, yarn, & diapers.

Ukulele Concert & Dinner: May 3.

Tickets \$15 for adults, \$7 for children under age of 10. Doors open at 5 p.m., dinner at 5:30 p.m., concert at 7:00 p.m. Menu - mostaccioli, salad, & dessert.

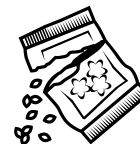
Save These Dates:

- April 19: Women's Interfaith Conference
- April 21: Ministry Co-chair Meeting
- April 24: *Divine Audacity* six-week class begins
- April 29: Annual Meeting & Potluck

Choir rehearsals meet on Friday afternoons at 4pm. Our rehearsals are open to everyone. If you enjoy singing with others, we'd truly love to have you in the choir!

Feed My People

Every year Feed My People gives out produce seeds and encourages their clients to grow some of their own food. All types of produce seeds are appropriate, although tomato seeds are especially popular. Because everyone can use a little beauty in their lives, flower seeds are also welcome. Food is, of course, always useful and this month protein items will be much appreciated.



www.feed-my-people.org

If you miss a Sunday lesson, you can listen to it from our website: www.firstunitychurchstlouis.org

April Affirmations



Inner Peace: I express the peace and love of my Christ spirit.

Guidance: I seek the guidance of Spirit, and I move forward confidently.

Healing: I am renewed in mind, body, and spirit by the healing power of God within.

Prosperity: I am in the flow of infinite abundance.

World Peace: I walk in harmony and acceptance with all beings.



Easter Is Eternal

If Easter means anything to modern man, it means that eternal truth is eternal. You may nail it to the tree, wrap it up in grave clothes and seal it in a tomb. But truth crushed to earth shall rise again.

Truth does not perish. It cannot be destroyed. It may be distorted. It has been silenced temporarily. It has been compelled to carry its cross to Calvary's brow ... but with an inevitable certainty, after every Black Friday dawns truth's Easter morn.

—Donald H. Tippet

The Prayer of Faith *By Hannah More Kohaus*

God is my help in every need; God does my every hunger feed; God walks beside me, guides my way Through every moment of the day.

I now am wise, I now am true, Patient, kind, and loving, too. All things I am, can do, and be, Through Christ, The Truth that is in me.

God is my health, I can't be sick; God is my strength, unfailing, quick; God is my all, I know no fear, Since God and love and Truth are here.

Misery be gone!

On the Sunday after Easter, some churches celebrate "holy humor." Laughter is a gift from God, who wants us to be joyful. A happy disposition is also an effective — and infectious — way to share our faith.

"I cannot think that when God sent us into the world, he

had irreversibly decreed that we should be perpetually miserable in it," said John Wesley. "If ... taking up the cross [implies] bidding adieu to all joy and satisfaction, how is it reconcilable with what Solomon expressly affirms of religion, that 'her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace'?" (Proverbs 3:17, KJV)

Following God's Lead

Jazz musician Thomas Dorsey traveled an unlikely road to become the "father of black gospel music." At age 11, he dropped out of school to be a vaudeville performer and blues pianist. While Dorsey recovered from a nervous breakdown at age 21, his mother urged him to serve the Lord with his talents. It took several years, but the musician committed to composing spiritual songs — rejected by many mainstream churches as "the devil's music."

In 1932, after Dorsey's wife and infant son died during childbirth, he channeled his grief into the piano, writing "Precious Lord, Take My Hand." Known to be a favorite song of Martin Luther King Jr., it ends with these lyrics: "Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light. Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home."

Are you a Christopher?

Do you know what the word Christopher means? Well, it means Christ-bearer.

There is a Christopher movement made up of Christians who vow and practice to be "little Christs" to others and to make the

world a better place, one person at a time. They are givers, servers, lovers and devout souls who take Christ seriously. Founded by Father John Keller, the movement "encourage[s] each individual to do something practical and constructive to raise the standards of private and public life because ... in God's plan every person has a part to play.

The personal responsibility of a Christopher is to go into the workplace, carrying truth, love and light in the face of dishonesty, hatred and darkness. There are neither dues nor official membership to be part of the Christopher movement, but we can all ask ourselves, "Am I a Christopher?"

Be an April fool

Essayist and poet Charles Lamb (1775-1834) once joked, "Here cometh April again, and as far as I can see the world hath more fools than ever."

April Fools' Day is best known as a day for practical jokes, but it can be used in more beneficial ways. It can be a day of faith and fun - a day to thank God for the joyous times of life, for the days of laughter, for funny stories, for the antics of children and for other things that bring smiles to our faces.

There is opportunity for laughter every day. Laugh! Laugh heartily and often. You will find healing in mirth and levity. And remember, "He who sits in the heavens laughs ..." (Psalms 2:4, NRSV).

The Relationship Revolution

By Eric Butterworth

The world, once considered so vast, has shrunk in size to a "Global Village." And in a global sense, we will have to get along with or destroy one another. Prejudice and intolerance are still very rampant in America, and there are wars of "ethnic cleansing" being waged in the world, revealing the ugly extremes to which the "race problem" can take us.

There really are no race problems-only *people* problems. Jesus said, "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Mt. 19:19). Honestly, now, do you "love your neighbor as yourself?" If you do not, you have a problem. Solve your problem, and to that degree the race problem is solved.

Falling Away From Our Spiritual Roots

One of the best-known stories of the Bible is the Genesis account of Noah and the Flood. It is chiefly allegorical. However, mention of the Flood occurs in the literature of many cultures, so it is likely that something of the kind did happen. At any rate, one of the great enterprises of all time was the building of the Ark to preserve the best of life on earth. Humans were an endangered species!

Noah did his job well and they all rode out the storm, but in the end Noah missed the boat. His purpose was to eliminate a profligate human race and start over-but to no avail; for as soon as the waters subsided, Noah planted a vineyard and made some wine and got drunk. So the human race was right back where it had been.

In the story, the descendants of Noah journeyed

East, where they found a plain and settled. But modern Bible scholarship agrees that this is a mistranslation. It should be, "The people journeyed *from* the East." This makes a tremendous difference, for the Bible message is veiled in symbolism. "East" refers to the inner, the spiritual, the divine. "West" refers to the outer, the material, the sensual, the worldly.

So when the sons of Noah journeyed *from* the East, they were falling away from their spiritual roots, setting materialistic goals. This was evidenced as they began to build a tower-the famous "Tower of Babel"-which they wanted to reach all the way up to God.

They were feeling the "upward pull" of the divine potential within. They wanted a relationship with God. But they were thinking of God "up there" and "out there." They were trying to have a relationship, but in a totally superficial way. And it says, "But the Lord scattered them abroad from upon the face of all the earth, and they ceased from building the city."

Bringing the People of the Earth Together

A great goal for the people of planet Earth in the New Millennium is to resolve the confusion that sets us apart and find the way to communication between people of diverse backgrounds. The word Babel literally means "confusion."...

In our preparation for the Third Millennium, there is a great need to return to the "East," to get re-centered in the Presence within, to remember that we are spiritual beings growing through a human experience. Now we are not calling for a "return to religion." That is a cliché that often justifies building more towers of

Babel. Religions are all too often gaudy lamps with no flame, humanistic theologies that skirt or deny the Spirit ...

The need is for people, one by one, to make the journey from the West to the East-to return to the awareness of the Spirit in every person. It is not a question of church or religion or creed. The lamps may be many and varied in shape and design. But when the oil is kindled in the lamps, the many flames give off the same illumination. We need lamps that are lit, not just owned and looked at. This was Jesus' call: "Let your light shine." While we strive to find ways to solve the conflicts between nations and individuals, we must be sure that we bring a light instead of simply cursing the darkness....

Finding Within You the Flow of Love

Getting along with people is not so much dependent on them as it is on your *going along* with the flow of love. It could be said that getting along with another person is only 2 percent about what he is and does, and 98 percent about how you react to what he is and says and does....

The question is, what do you do when people are *not* loving? How can you love someone you don't even like? But love is not an intensive of the verb *to like*. You may think that your love is in scant supply when it comes to those people. You may say, "I have tried very hard to love, but I just can't." Of course you can't! For to try to love is not to love. Love is not trying--It is being. ...

Love is not a commodity that is passed from one person to another. You don't love just because you are loved, and *only* if you are loved. You love because "He first loved you." Because God is love within you and you are created as an outlet for its flow, love always flows forth from within you to the

degree that you let it. And there is no limit.

There is always enough love to go around. In any relationship it is your nature to love, unless something in your consciousness blocks the flow. Love comes as naturally from you as radiation from uranium. Prejudice is normally the culprit. I believe that prejudice is the strongest single cause of upsets and upheavals in man's inhumanity to man.

The original meaning of *prejudice* was "preconceived opinion without knowledge." It is being positive about something negative without good reason—a lazy person's substitute for thinking. A Sunday School teacher asked her class for a definition of prejudice. A little girl said, "It means deciding some guy is a stinker before you even meet him." Since no one is born with prejudice against anything or anyone, it follows that these feelings are unwittingly passed on by parents and other adults. In his *South Pacific*, Oscar Hammerstein wrote of prejudice, "somebody taught a child .";

Here is a statement that I have used [as an affirmation] to keep a balanced perspective among all casual or intimate contacts with people: "If I knew you and you knew me, we would love one another, regardless of who I am or who you are."

You simply cannot hate a person you really know, but you can't really get to know a person whom you view only through a haze of prejudice. Hitler was a German, but so was Goethe. Mussolini was Italian, but so was Michelangelo. The great, significant differences between us are not racial; they are individual.

Each one is a person, and we must so treat them. I like to restate the Golden Rule in this way: "I will treat others as I like to be treated; I will treat them as individuals, as people, as children

of God. I will take time to get to know them, to respect their ways, their limitations, even as I expect others to have patience with my own weaknesses."

Under all the differences that we allow to separate us, there is a unity that binds all persons into one great whole. The essential fact in human history is the slow awakening all over the world of a sense of unity, the gradual unfolding of a feeling of community between all persons and between all nations, and between all races, nationalities and ethnic groups.

Humankind has been dispersed to the far corners of the planet, but through modern means of communication, the human creatures are coming back into one great whole. This will increase dramatically in the New Millennium in a veritable *relationship revolution*.

The unity of all humankind is scientifically true. The human race with all its differentiations goes back ultimately to one common source. From that source, through prehistoric times, early peoples wandered to and fro, extending their migrations ever farther across the earth. And the differences that exist today between the various races of humans—differences in color, in physical characteristics, in manners and customs, in language, in religion, in dress, in government—all developed gradually through long periods of time and due primarily to differences in environment, climate, food, soil, etc. But difficult as it may be for some persons to accept, the biological basis of humanity is one; the same blood flows in all our veins. It has been said before, and it should be said today and at all times to come: It is one world!...

The world is on the march for unity. It is a march that can never be long repelled, only understood. Communism was a part of this

basic march, but it was a principle misapplied. Christianity was essentially a unity movement, but it lost its way in the development of "churchianity."

People have imagined—wrongly—that they are private selves, living separate lives, and having separate fates and destinies. This is the grand illusion that has given rise to all the disunity in the world since civilization was born. The great challenge, then, is for *everyone* to look beneath the externals and recognize the Super Self in all those whose paths cross ours, rather than beholding and reacting to the surface selves with which we are constantly coming into conflict.

Someone might say, "But if I held this attitude toward all people, it would leave them free to take advantage of me, since they are still living in surface consciousness." As a matter of fact, if we would only dare to treat people not as they appear to us, but as they really are in their deeper selfhood, it would do more to help them to discover their true self than all the preaching or lobbying or social action in the world.

In the next hundred years, when the dust has settled from the relationship revolution, the world will be a kinder and gentler place. The age of violence will be dissolved in the healing energy of transcendental love. Resolve to be a part of a new age (Now age) of gentleness.

From *Positrends or Negatrends? Dealing Positively With the Third Millennium* by Eric Butterworth (DeVorss Publications, 1998).

God's Work May just Be "Chemistry"

By Philip White

Mr. Hicks, my high school chemistry teacher, adjusted his thin, black four-in-hand knot, tightly embedded in his highly starched collar. His sharp eyes surveyed us—a collection of awkward youths from the streets of Detroit, thrown suddenly into this strange world of valences, isotopes, atomic weights, and periodic tables. He was seeking evidence, as all good teachers must, that some of his charges were developing a working relationship with beakers, Bunsen burners, test tubes, and smelly chemicals. He knew that if such a relationship formed in one of us, there would be a bonding, and he might produce from our rowdy rabble—a chemist.

It never happened to me. Instead, I was disciplined once for breaking a beaker, again for inhaling helium and talking funny, and, finally, for having a weenie roast with my Bunsen burner. Yet, in the intervening years, I have reflected on that class and Mr. Hicks more than once.

Of all the sciences, it is chemistry that has shown us that the world is made up of relationships. Chemists looked into the heart of the water molecule and found two parts of hydrogen and one part oxygen happily relating to one another to produce water. Millions of other molecular relationships have formed the world we see. Can we avoid the conclusion that the foundation

of God's creation is a great cooperative symphonic team of relationships?

From nuclear fission to the world of entertainment to space exploration, the last 200 years have seen new relationships that have dazzled us, in some cases producing new "elements." Creative "chemistry" gave us Burns and Allen, Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy, and the Beatles, and inspired the Apollo mission team that put a man on the moon.

Democracy is still the great example of the strength and chemistry of relationships. Those who try to go it alone, the kings and dictators of the world, are inherently weak. Crowns always sit precariously on the heads of such leaders. Democracy increases the "chemistry" of society, enhancing its strength.

So God's work may just be chemistry—helping us form new relationships that take us forward spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically. From marriage to corporate success, the right "chemistry" means the art and wisdom of teamwork. Just as chemists discovered new elements by bringing the right atoms together, so new life elements—health, abundance, peace, love—are precipitated in our lives out of new relationships of thought, attitude, feeling, and action.

And here is the point, the

new world that is coming for all of us can only appear from relationships still yet to be formed. Like new elements that exist but have not been discovered the "kingdom" awaits the "chemistry" of new relationships lying dormant in us all.

When Jesus says: "Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you" (Lk. 6:37-38), He is telling us that old "chemical reactions" are no longer useful. We like to think we get the best results when we bring condemnation and our enemy together. But you get the best results when you bring love and your enemy together. You get "good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over" (Lk. 6:38).

You might say that we are chemists of the soul, fulfilling God's work of forming new relationships that change the world.

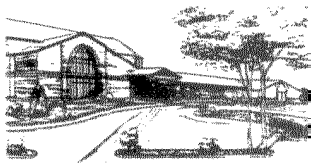
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 <i>Easter Sunday</i></p> <p><i>Sunday Services,</i> <i>10:30 AM</i> <i>Youth Ed,</i> <i>10:30 AM</i></p> <p><i>Easter Bake Sale</i></p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 <i>Knitting/Crochet</i> <i>Group, 11AM</i></p>	<p>4 <i>A.A.Men's</i> <i>Group, 10 AM</i></p> <p><i>C.A., 7PM</i></p>	<p>5 <i>Ukulele</i> <i>Practice, 7PM</i></p>	<p>6 <i>Choir</i> <i>Rehearsal, 4PM</i></p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 <i>Sunday Services,</i> <i>10:30 AM</i> <i>Youth Ed,</i> <i>10:30 AM</i></p>	<p>9 <i>Prayer Chaplain</i> <i>Meeting</i></p>	<p>10 <i>Book Club, The</i> <i>Last Days of</i> <i>Night, by</i> <i>Graham Moore</i> <i>at Bread. Co.</i> <i>2PM</i></p>	<p>11 <i>A.A.Men's</i> <i>Group, 10 AM</i></p> <p><i>C.A., 7PM</i></p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 <i>Choir</i> <i>Rehearsal, 4PM</i></p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 <i>Sunday Services,</i> <i>10:30 AM</i> <i>Youth Ed,</i> <i>10:30 AM</i></p> <p><i>Spiritual Gifts</i> <i>Workshop,</i> <i>12:30 PM</i></p>	<p>16 <i>Ladies' Night</i> <i>Out, 5:30 PM at</i> <i>Maggie</i> <i>O'Brien's, 3828</i> <i>S. Lindbergh,</i> <i>63127</i></p>	<p>17 <i>Knitting/Crochet</i> <i>Group, 11AM</i></p>	<p>18 <i>A.A.Men's</i> <i>Group, 10 AM</i></p> <p><i>C.A., 7PM</i></p> <p><i>Planning Mtg,</i> <i>6PM</i> <i>Board Mtg, 7PM</i></p>	<p>19 <i>Third Thursday</i> <i>Quilters, 10AM</i></p> <p><i>Women's</i> <i>Interfaith</i> <i>Conference</i></p> <p><i>Ukulele</i> <i>Practice, 7PM</i></p>	<p>20 <i>Choir</i> <i>Rehearsal, 4PM</i></p>	<p>21 <i>Co-Chair</i> <i>Meeting,</i> <i>9:30 AM</i></p>
<p>22 <i>Sunday Services,</i> <i>10:30 AM</i> <i>Youth Ed,</i> <i>10:30 AM</i></p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 <i>Wings</i> <i>Production Day</i></p> <p><i>Divine Audacity</i> <i>Class, 6:30 PM</i></p>	<p>25 <i>A.A.Men's</i> <i>Group, 10 AM</i></p> <p><i>C.A., 7PM</i></p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 <i>Choir</i> <i>Rehearsal, 4PM</i></p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 <i>Sunday Services,</i> <i>10:30 AM</i> <i>Youth Ed,</i> <i>10:30 AM</i></p> <p><i>Annual</i> <i>Meeting/Potluck</i></p>	<p>30</p>					

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THE APRIL, 2018 NEWSLETTER OF
FIRST UNITY CHURCH OF ST. LOUIS

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The light side -- A little holy humor

I will turn 71 years old in 2018,
and I still have so many
unanswered questions!!!!

I still haven't found out who let
the Dogs Out?

Where's the beef?

How to get to Sesame Street.

Why Dora doesn't just use Google
Maps.

Why all flavors of fruit loops taste
exactly the same, or how many
licks does it take to get to the
center of a tootsie pop?

Why eggs are packaged in a flimsy
paper carton, but batteries are

secured in plastic that's tough as
nails.

Why "abbreviated" is such a long
word, or why is there a D in
'fridge' but not in refrigerator.

Why lemon juice is made with
artificial flavor yet dish-washing
liquid is made with real lemons.

Why they sterilize the needle for
lethal injections.

Why you have to "put your two
cents in" but it's only a "penny for

your thoughts." Where's that extra
penny going to?

Why DID the chicken cross the
road, and which came first, the
chicken or the egg?

Why do The Alphabet Song and
Twinkle Twinkle Little Star have
the same tune?

Why did you just try to sing those
two previous songs?

And just what is Victoria's secret?