

FLYING HIGH NEWSLETTER

Volume 8 Issue 6

November/December 2018



Holiday²⁰¹⁸ Schedule

NOVEMBER

Thanksgiving Service	November 18th	10:30 a.m.
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DECEMBER

Remembrance Service	December 9th	10:30 a.m.
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Youth Christmas Service	December 16th	10:30 a.m.
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Unity Christmas Luncheon	December 16th	12:00 p.m.
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Unity Holiday Concert	December 16th	2:00 p.m.
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Christmas Eve Candlelight	December 24th	4:00 p.m.
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Rocket Intention Launch	December 30th	10:30 a.m.
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New Year's Eve Chakra		
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Centering Reflective Service	December 31st	4:00 p.m.
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JANUARY

Burning Bowl Service	January 6th	10:30 a.m.
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Annual Financial Meeting	January 13th	12:30 p.m.
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Annual Membership Meeting	January 27th	12:30 p.m.
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A MESSAGE FROM OUR MINISTER

“A Messiah is Born”

By Rev. Angela Denton



Historians, theologians, and biblical scholars have debated for years what is fact and what is fiction regarding the birth of Jesus. If Jesus's birth was so significant and believed to be an anticipated and miraculous birth, why do only two of the gospels, Matthew and Luke, include a birth story, whereas, earlier writings like Paul's letters and Mark, of the New Testament do not include any details about the birth of Jesus? How can Mary have conceived a virgin birth? Was Jesus really born in a manger on the twenty-fifth day of December? These are just a few questions pondered and argued in the fact or fable discussion concerning the birth of Jesus by Christians and those from other faith traditions.

In a lecture given by Charles Fillmore, Unity co-founder, on December 24, 1911, he states, "Now, as history we know that the birth of Jesus Christ did not occur at this season of the year. There are no records that tell definitely when he was born, not even the year. We are told he was born in either March or April—some time in the spring." As he continues, he calls students of Truth to reflect instead on the rich symbolism of the season. Marcus Borg and John Crossan, authors of *The First Christmas*, concur with Fillmore's assertion and explain that prior to the year 350 Christians all over the world celebrated the birth of Jesus at different times of the year. Some celebrated the birthday of Jesus in March, some in April, some in May, and some in November.

Marcus and John state, "Around the year 350 Pope Julius of Rome declared December 25 as the date, thereby, integrating it with a Roman winter solstice festival celebrating the Birth day of the Unconquered Sun."

Fillmore, Borg, and Crossman agree that the narratives depicting the birth of Jesus, like all biblical text, not only must be viewed through the historical context of the time period, but also be viewed metaphorically, metaphysically, and symbolically. One of Jesus's favorite methods of teaching was through parable to convey spiritual and moral lessons to the disciples and his followers. The "Good Samaritan" and the "Prodigal Son" are just two of the renowned parables reported to be spoken by Jesus.

Therefore, it would be natural that the authors of Matthew and Luke would create parabolic birth stories over 60 years after the death of Jesus. The birth narratives of Matthew and Luke differ significantly, however, the symbolism of new life, light against darkness, joy, and hope are themes that can be extracted from the narratives.

The birth of Jesus in an outdoor, meager manger on a cold, bleak, "dark" winter night as told in Luke creates the perfect setting and mood for the birth of a messiah.

Additionally, study of this time period reveals that the peasant class, the majority of the population, lived under harsh rule, discrimination, and oppression. During the height of his teaching and preaching days, Jesus brought a new, fresh, hopeful message to the people as he proclaimed, "The Kingdom of God is within" and "I AM the Light of the World". His message of Truth, joy, hope, and love inspired people to rise above bleak circumstances by seeking their guidance, power, and wisdom from within, and by joining in solidarity with their neighbors to support one another in Love.

Isn't Jesus's message relevant and words to live by today? We are going through challenging and dark times. Regularly, we witness corruption, violent mass shootings, a weakening of our 3 branches of government, and acts of racial, religious, gender, and sexual, intolerance. Like the peasants centuries ago, are you waiting for a "messiah", a new congress, a new president, a new governor, etc., to save you and our country from the darkness? Or are you claiming and realizing your Christ Light within as you take bold, courageous, actions to change your life and to be of service to your neighbors. When the majority of the people of this nation stand in solidarity as the Light of the World it is then we will collectively experience a miraculous and holy new birth. For we are the ones we have been waiting for. Bring joy, hope, love, and light to the world. I call you to bring it!!!!

Love and light,

Rev. Angela Denton MA; PD MFT; LUT

SPIRITUAL LEADER, UNITY BY THE SHORE

OUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

“A purpose of human life, no matter who is controlling it, is to love whoever is around to be loved” ~ Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.

By Thomas Sciro

Zeal. That's always been a word that intrigued me. One of those words you hear as a child, but don't really understand until much later. The Oxford Dictionary defines it as "Great energy or enthusiasm in pursuit of a cause or an objective." One of the 12 Powers, Unity defines it as "The ability to be enthusiastic, be passionate, start, motivate."

My latest read is Fermat's Enigma by Simon Singh. Inspired by an episode of PBS's "Nova", I purchased the book and couldn't put it down. In 1637, while reading a copy of Diophantus' Arithmetica, the definitive work on mathematics at the time, Pierre de Fermat came upon the famous Pythagorean formula that we all learned in high school geometry, $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$ (the sum of the squares of the sides is equal to the square of the hypotenuse for all right triangles). Fermat scribbled a note stating that no three numbers a , b , and c satisfy that equation for any integer value of n greater than 2, and also stated that he had a proof but it was too large to fit in the margin. Thus began a 358 year quest to find the mathematical proof to what became known as "Fermat's Last Theorem." Prior to its proof, it was in the Guinness Book of World Records as the "most difficult mathematical problem", one of the reasons being that it has the largest number of unsuccessful proofs.

In 1963, 10 year old Andrew Wiles, the son of a Chaplain at Cambridge, came across Fermat's Last Theorem on his way home from school when he stopped at his local library where he found a book about the theorem. Fascinated, he decided to be the first person to prove it. However, he soon realized that his knowledge was too limited, so he abandoned his childhood dream, until it was brought back to his attention at the age of 33 by his discovery of an attempted proof of the Theorem. Zeal found itself another taker! While completing his studies, raising a family, and holding a position at Princeton, Wiles worked on proving the theorem. As with any great discovery, Wiles



relied on the help of others and finally, in June 1993, he presented his proof to the public for the first time at a conference in Cambridge. After review, it was discovered that there was a flaw in one area of his proof. Rather than giving up, he published a second paper which circumvented the problem and thus completed the proof. Both papers were published in May 1995.

Of course I am leaving out the grueling technical details of how Wiles came up with his proof, but the message here is that we all have been given this amazing power of Zeal which we can apply to our daily lives, no matter what we are doing. We owe it to ourselves to follow this drive wherever it leads us, and who knows, we can change the world.

On another note, our participation in the voting process is crucial to the survival of our democracy. Several states are making it hard for eligible people to participate in the voting process. If an eligible person is denied access to voting, The Help America Vote Act of 2002 guarantees that in most states, the voter can cast a provisional ballot if the voter states that he or she is entitled to vote. Please share that information with everyone you know who may be affected.

Finally, I'd like to inspire the Zeal within you to consider stepping up as a Board member. Our candidate search for 2019 has begun. Contact any Board member if you wish to apply. Detailed requirements to become a BOT member will be provided shortly. And all of our members are reminded that our annual membership renewal is in process!

I am also very excited about our upcoming Alan Wasserman and Friends Concert on November 10 and hope you will be able to attend and experience this wonderful program.

Tom Sciro
BOARD PRESIDENT



UNITY EVENTS

Alan Wasserman and Friends 2!

Saturday, November 10 at 8 p.m.

An Evening of Classical Music, Jazz and Pop!



Please join us on November 10th, 2018 at 8p.m. for a fun evening of music as Alan and Friends return to showcase many styles from “Beethoven to Brubeck and in-Between!” Last year’s concert was such an exciting event, and we know you won’t want to miss this year’s concert.

In addition to the great music, we’ll also be serving wine and cheese. Alan has prepared another eclectic program which will include Beethoven, Chopin, Prokofiev, Debussy, Puccini and Gershwin, along with many exciting jazz and popular music numbers!.



Tickets are \$25, available at UBTS or at www.unitybytheshore.org.

Special VIP tickets which also include a meet- and-greet with Alan after the performance and guaranteed first row seating are available for \$60.



UNITY EVENTS

Unity Holiday Concert

Sunday, December 16 at 2 p.m.



On Sunday, December 16 at 2 p.m., our final concert of the year will be held after the service in the sanctuary. The first part of the concert will consist of jazz standards and a second part will contain seasonal holiday music. The concert will be performed by the Sounds of Joy Jazz Quintet with guest vocalist Collette Thompson.

Based in Manhattan, The Sounds of Joy Jazz Quintet has been performing for over twenty years. All members also play in other groups ranging all the way from a blues band to a seventeen-piece big band. Led by trumpeter Dr. Peter Silver, the Red Bank Holistic Dentist, Sounds of Joy includes drummer Jose Reyes, electric bassist John Herman, pianist Tommy Rosenstein, and saxophonist Travis Peace. Collette Thompson has directed or performed in over eleven vocal ensembles, has performed or recorded with Leonard Bernstein, Peter, Paul & Mary, and James Levine and is a billboard-ranked singer/songwriter.

Please join us and share the Holiday Spirit!

Tickets are \$20 and will be available at UBTS
Also available online at www.unitybytheshore.org.

**Wear your PJ's Family Movie Sunday !
December 23rd at 10:30 a.m.**

OUR CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



We held our breakfast fundraiser on September 16th and raised \$395 which went towards sending Anani, Trinity and myself to Maryland for the "Chain Reactions Fall Youth Rally." It was incredible and inspiring to be with these beautiful teens and sponsors. It gives us hope for our future! Thank you Lisa, Orsini and Dina for all your help preparing the breakfast and thank you to everyone who donated food items! Our next breakfast fundraiser

will be on Sunday November 4th. So come hungry, fill your belly, and continue supporting our Youth. We love you and we thank you!

Thanksgiving and Christmas are just around the corner and I am so thankful to have Unity in our lives. May your Thanksgiving be blessed and we hope you can join us on December 16th for our Youth Christmas Service :)

With much Love and Light, Sally XO

GOOD FRIENDS ENJOY OUR UNITY PICNIC



OUR ENVIRONMENT

Toxic Fragrances

By Ingrid Justick

We know that outdoor air pollution can cause health problems, but who would think fragrances, perfumes and thousands of other personal care products represent a health hazard — to us and our environment?

Flowers and herbs have pleased our senses for thousands of years. Today however, fragrances with a few exceptions are made from a cauldron of synthetic compounds usually derived from petroleum — including known toxins capable of causing cancer, birth defects, central nervous system disorders and allergic reactions.

Personal care might more accurately be called chemical care. Few products have been tested for safety; they need not carry warning labels. There are approximately 5,000 chemical materials used in fragrances; less than 1,500 have been safety tested by industry. According to the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, 884 toxic substances used in fragrances are capable of affecting our health.

For example, methylbenzene is known to trigger asthma attacks. This chemical was detected in fragrance samples collected by the EPA. It attacks the nervous system, eyes, blood, liver, kidneys and skin. Methylene chloride, listed by the EPA as being among the 20 most common toxic chemicals, found in 31 tested fragrance products (also



found in septic tank cleaners and pesticides) is a known animal carcinogen and a suspected human carcinogen. According to the National Institute of Health, 72% of asthmatics report their asthma is triggered by fragrances.

Air fresheners, too, can cause adverse health reactions. Ironically, they do not freshen the air. Instead, they mask one odor with another, coat our nasal passages with an undetectable oil film or diminish our sense of smell with a nerve-deadening agent. Artificial fragrances linger in a

myriad of products including tissues, household cleaning products and candles. In fact, 95% of scented products are synthesized from petrochemicals, many with known health risks.

So please with your next purchase consider products that contain natural fragrances beneficial to your health and our environment. The FDA Citizen's petition 99P-1340 provides information on inadequately tested chemicals from which artificial fragrances are made. (It is available from the Environmental Health Network: <http://www.ehnca.org>)

With each new day, let us dedicate our thoughts to improving the quality of not only our, but all life surrounding us. For environmentally friendly information: call 732-922-2935



**OUR
WHOLENESS
FAIR WAS A
GREAT
SUCCESS**



3508 Asbury Avenue
Neptune, NJ 07753

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

UNITY BY THE SHORE is a vibrant community, supporting spiritual growth through awareness of God's presence within and the teachings of Christ Jesus.

OUR CORE VALUES

SPIRITUALITY

We are centered in Christ consciousness

ONENESS

We are one in spirit

INTEGRITY

We act with honesty, openness, and commitment

LOVE

We embrace all people as expressions of God

SERVICE

We are joyful stewards of God

CONTACT US

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Church Service and Children's Church
at 10:30 a.m. on Sundays

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Unity By The Shore is a member of the Unity Worldwide Ministries and is affiliated with Unity School of Christianity, publishers of *The Daily Word*.