

*A welcoming spiritual community advancing a positive message that teaches people of all ages and faiths how to thrive in a changing world.*



*Rev. Cherie Larkin*

## Monthly Message

### How to Have an Enchanted Christmas

***Let Christ be born anew in me this day, hallowed be this presence within me!***

It is with a joy-filled heart that I express my enthusiasm in joining the beautiful spiritual community that is Unity of Auburn. Thank you to the Board, search team, leadership team and to all who contributed prayers, love, and service to the unfolding of this divine appointment.

It is such a miraculous time to be embarking on a new spiritual journey together. Isn't it inspiring to start off together with the Advent season where we celebrate with faith, peace, love, and joy a renewed awareness of the Christ presence within?

In Unity we share the symbolism of the Christmas story and how it relates to us spiritually. The places, characters, and events in the story represent typical experiences encountered along the road to self-awareness and self-realization for all people of all times.

This Christmas season, my Sunday lessons will highlight the metaphysical meaning of the symbols so that each time you see one, the deeper significance of your own Christmas story and spiritual awakening can come alive in you.

In a conversation with the late Bishop John Shelby Spong, he was asked "If the story of Jesus' birth is not real, not factual history, then what is it?" Bishop Spong, a retired Episcopal priest, answered, "Why is it that people think that something has to be historically accurate in order to be portrayed dramatically?"

He shared, "Of course it is not history that a star announced Jesus' birth. It's not history that a star can wander across the sky so slowly that men can keep up with it or that this star can stop over where the men

are supposed to dismount. It's not history that Magi followed a star to the birthplace of a new king, who in fact is said to be the son of a carpenter. Neither do angels sing to hillside shepherds in the middle of the night to tell them about the birth of a baby in Bethlehem. And the shepherds do not abandon their flocks to immediately go to find this baby with no clues other than that the baby is wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

He continued, "It may not be history as you or I know it, but the symbolic meaning is the history of us all. Spiritually, the Christmas story is profoundly true and significantly important. The gospel writers knew that they were not writing history; they knew they were creating an interpretive portrait of the birth of the universal Christ Consciousness that takes place in every one of us. But none of it matters unless it gives birth to the Christ Spirit within you."

So, suspend your ordinary awareness for a while to enter the world of the miraculous where stars do wander, and wise men follow, and angels sing while shepherds keep watch, and a baby is born in a manger who is the Christ child.

You're invited to choose one of your favorite Christmas symbols to be your own messenger of hope; and together we'll uncover its very special meaning just for you. Then, each time you see it in holiday décor, on a Christmas card, or hear its name in a song, let its spiritual message deepen your understanding of the re-birth of the Christ Spirit that is taking place in you.

Merry Christmas!

*Rev. Cherie*

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### Inside this issue:

<i>Monthly Message</i>	1
<i>Chaplains Corner</i>	2
<i>Sunday Service, Classes &amp; Counseling</i>	3
<i>Events</i>	4
<i>FYI</i>	5
<i>Food Drive &amp; Board Members Wanted</i>	6
<i>Calendar</i>	7
<i>Financial Picture</i>	8
<i>Board Message</i>	9
<i>1212 High Street Thrift &amp; Gift Shop</i>	10

### Special points of interest:

- **Variety Show Thank You**
- **Candlelight Vigil**
- **New Year's Service**

## Chaplain's Corner



*Patty Davis*

### The Joy of Ordinary Moments

One of my favorite Christmas traditions is going with my family to pick out our Christmas tree, and bringing it home and decorating it with tiny, twinkle lights and special ornaments we have picked out or been given over the years. I treasure the smell of the evergreen needles and the beauty of the adorned tree after we are finished. But what I especially love is looking at the tree at night and becoming mesmerized by the sparkling lights. I can feel the joy spread through me as I breathe in the stillness.

In “The Gifts of Imperfection”, author Brene Brown writes: Twinkle lights are the perfect metaphor for joy. Joy is not a constant. It comes to us in moments – often ordinary moments. Sometimes we miss out on the bursts of joy because we’re too busy chasing down extraordinary moments. Other times we’re so afraid of the dark that we don’t dare let ourselves enjoy the light.

A joyful life is not a floodlight of joy. That would eventually become unbearable.

I believe a joyful life is made up of joyful moments gracefully strung together by trust, gratitude, inspiration and faith.

When we give ourselves permission to live in the present, to become mindful of what we’re thinking and feeling, to let go of our struggles (“Let Go and Let God”), and to trust life with a fierce determination to live it richly and fully, we are more apt to become aware of the joys ordinary moments can bring. Imagine living each day thinking of every moment as a unique, precious gift and every experience we have with one another as sacred. We would live life from a state of reverence, gratitude, and wonder. Every moment of our lives has the capacity to awaken us to the power and magnitude of the points of light within us.

May the ordinary moments of Christmas bring you peace, joy and wonder, and may you experience this holiday season in full awareness of how precious you and your life are.

With many blessings and much love –

*Chaplain Patty Davis*



## *Sunday Service, Classes, Counseling*

### **Sunday Service**

*Sunday Service In Person and Via Facebook Live Stream*

*Every Sunday we will be meeting in person and via Facebook Live for our 10 AM service. If you have not been vaccinated, we strongly recommend wearing a mask for your own health and safety.*

Live stream link on our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Unity-of-Auburn-114140051995464/>

If you do not have a Facebook account, you will need one to watch the service. This link will tell you how to create a Facebook account:

<https://www.facebook.com/help/188157731232424?helpref=topq>

### **SISTERS OF GOOD will return on January 4th**

The group has voted for the book *From Congirl to Congress, Journey of a Suffragist on the Front Lines* by the local author, Mila Johansen. This book presents the life of Jesse Haver Butler who rose from life on a Colorado ranch to become lobbyist for the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment which granted voting rights to the women of the United States. The book is available through Amazon – paper \$17.95 new, \$9.99 used. Kindle Unlimited free. The book can be ordered through Unity of Auburn by contacting Carrie at [admin@unityofauburn.com](mailto:admin@unityofauburn.com).

### **Frontiers of Consciousness**

This class is being offered in person and on Zoom *December 27, 2021*. The topic will be Brain Plasticity. If you would like to attend, please send an email to Jacob Walker at [Jacob.walker@gmail.com](mailto:Jacob.walker@gmail.com).

### **Rev. Joe Sloan Available for Spiritual Counseling**

During our transition process, the Board has hired Joe Sloan to be the Church's Spiritual Advisor. In this role, Joe will hold the spiritual space for the ongoing success of the ministry, will support the prayer chaplain team, will support the Board and Leadership Team by holding the high watch and will be available for spiritual counseling for all members and congregants. Spiritual counseling is available from Joe on a love offering basis and can be scheduled through Carrie Deterding during regular office hours and by contacting Joe directly at (530) 575-2262.

## Events

### Unity of Auburn Variety Show November 12th

#### THANK YOU, BEAUTIFUL UPLIFTERS OF SOUL

Jerry and I had such a wonderful, uplifting evening (Nov 12th) Friday night. We came to give our support to all dear people who volunteered for the talent show. We left with our Joy Buffers overflowing. You were great-each and every one of you who performed or helped in other ways. When I start seeing too much darkness in the world, I only have to think about everyone there Friday night to have my Faith and Joy restored. Ann, thank you for getting Basil there also. A most entertaining evening, so good for the soul.

P.S. For myself, I appreciate 90-minute events such as Friday. I am an intent absorber, listener, watcher of things like this. After 90 minutes, I can't absorb any more. So thank you for the perfect evening-each of you and those I didn't have email addresses for.

This letter is indeed an echo of my sentiments regarding the Unity Performing Arts Teams efforts. It was a pleasure to work together with all of you. Looking forward to our next event!

Heavenly Hugs,

Ann Schafer  
(Coordinator, Emcee)



### *Christmas Candlelight Service and Christmas Potluck*



**Sunday, December 19th, 10:00 am**

This year, our Christmas Eve Service will be celebrated during our regular 10:00 am service.

### **New Year's Service**

**Sunday, January 2nd, 10:00 am**

Our New Year's Eve Burning Bowl Service will be included in our regular Sunday Celebration at 10:00 am on January 2nd.

The Burning Bowl Service is a time to relinquish anything that burdens your mind. We will be writing a letter to ourselves about those things we wish to occur in the coming year. We will put them in a self-addressed envelope and they will be sent back to you around Thanksgiving in 2022. It's always interesting to see what manifested from the letter.



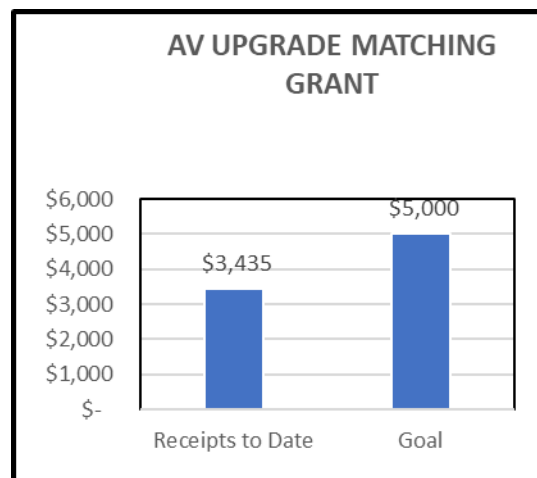
## FYI...

Unity of Auburn needs a volunteer to administer our Facebook Live Stream and run the audio-video equipment on Sundays. If you have been looking for a new way to support your ministry, this could be just for you! It is a great job for co-coordinators, so if you and a friend, or friends, would like to split the duties that's also a good option. Please talk to Dave Langley if you are interested. This is one of our most important volunteer positions, so please give it some strong consideration. No prior knowledge of training is necessary.



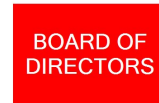
### Status of the Matching Grant to Upgrade our AV Equipment!

A generous donor has agreed to provide a matching grant on a dollar-for-dollar basis of up to \$5,000 for the purpose of upgrading our audio-visual equipment. To date we have collected **\$3,435** towards this effort. As we move into the new reality of streaming services, Zoom and improving our on-line presence it has become critical for us to upgrade our cameras, computer and sound system and to hire someone who knows how to run them. The donor requests that you only put "new" dollars toward the match and continue your normal contributions to our general fund. To distinguish the donations eligible for the match, we ask that you use the envelopes in the sanctuary or Manning Hall for cash donations and mark them for the matching grant. If you choose to donate by check, PayPal or via on-line banking, we ask that you add a memo stating that the donation is toward the match. Donations as small as \$1 are welcome. Please help us qualify for the entire match - and please stay on your honor to donate only new money to the cause. *Thank you for your donations!*





Christmas is a time to bless others with hope and joy. We are welcoming Christmas Donations for the Interfaith Food Closet from December 5-19th. There's a donation basket prepared for your food items at the front of the Sanctuary. Lets see it filled to overflowing.



### Board Member Wanted

We are so pleased that Kathleen Demontigny and Bill Hamre have joined the Board this year. We are still seeking one more member to round out the group. Church membership is requires to be on the Board. This is a spiritually active group of people who care deeply for Unity of Auburn. They meet at least monthly to ensure the ministry is taken care of and that we remain financially healthy

If you've been wondering how you could donate your time for the good of our spiritual community, we ask that you contact Sharon Hardie (530.222.7928). She can provide you with more information on the exact duties of the board.

## Board of Directors



### Board of Trustees

- Patty Davis.....President
- Dave Langley.....Vice President
- Sharon Hardie.....Treasurer
- Natalie Kimball.....Secretary
- Kathleen Demontigny.....Member
- Bill Hamre.....Member

## Staff

### Unity of Auburn Staff

- Rev Cherie Larkin.....Minister
- Carrie Deterding.....Office Manager
- Mary Lou Banahan.....Youth and Family Leader

# Unity of Auburn December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Office Closed 4:00 pm Sisters of Good	2 Office Open	3 Office Closed	4 10:00 Decorate For Christmas
5 10:00 am Celebration Service	6 Office Closed	7	8	9 Office Open	10 Office Closed	11
12 10:00 am Celebration Service	13 Office Closed	14	15	16 Office Open	17 Office Closed	18
19 10:00 am Candlelight Service Christmas Potluck (after service) Last Day For Food Closet Donations	20	21	22	23 Office Closed	24 Office Closed Christmas Eve	25 Christmas
26 10:00 am Celebration Service	27 6:00 pm Frontiers of Consciousness	28	29	30 Office Closed	31 Office Closed	Upcoming In January January 2nd New Year's Service Burning Bowl

## Our Financial Picture

UNITY OF AUBURN FINANCES		
JANUARY-OCTOBER 2021		
INCOME AND EXPENSES	JAN-OCT 2021	OCTOBER 2021
Love Offerings	54,339.13	6013.75
Rent	15,276.00	2,317.90
Adult Ed./Fundraising	4,332.04	1,687.00
Youth Education	0	0
Miscellaneous (\$9,000 SBA Grants & AV Funds)	12,694.35	619.95
Thrift Store Net Income	11,084.45	1,210.26
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$97,725.97</b>	<b>\$ 11,848.86</b>
Building	13,593.44	2,208.66
Adult Ed./Fundraising	(Netted in Income)	
Ministry/Mission	51,166.75	647.26
Mortgage	23,816.40	2,381.64
Office Administration	16,514.23	2,747.44
Sunday Music	4,350.00	450.00
Tax/Insurance	9,378.08	3,239.32
Unity Organization Offering	0	0
Youth Education	0	0
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$118,818.90</b>	<b>\$11,674.32</b>
<b>NET ADJUSTED INCOME</b>	<b>21,092.93&gt;</b>	174.54

SBA Loan balances 2020 income deficit....Funds portion of 2021 budget...Funds Roof/HVAC contingency set-aside

**We are especially grateful to everyone who responded to our request to make offerings via PayPal, mail in, credit card and bank transfer.**

**Your generosity is inspiring!**

**And we again affirm that there are no obstacles, only opportunities as we continue to manifest the abundance that will allow us to continue our mission and make our vision a reality.**



## Board of Directors



Natalie Kimball

As most of you know, the Board and Search Committee were thrilled to announce that Reverend Cherie Larkin had accepted our offer to be the new Senior Minister at Unity of Auburn effective November 28, 2021. Our hard work really paid off because we found the right and perfect minister to lead us into the future. Rev. Cherie (to pronounce it right think of Stevie Wonder’s “Ma Cherie Amour”) brings the perfect balance between tradition and a capacity for forward thinking that may just make you head spin a little. In other words – just what we asked for. I’d like to give you a bit more information about Rev. Larkin to help you get to know her a little better.

Rev. Cherie was born in San Francisco and grew up in Sacramento. She is California native and a native daughter of our area. She graduated from California State University at Sacramento with a Bachelor of Science in Finance. Cherie and her biological brother were blessed to be adopted together by Paul and Hazel Van Hoey. She describes her childhood and loving and happy.

Cherie has been involved in the Unity movement for more than 50 years. She was ordained by Unity Worldwide Ministries in 2000 and spent 14 years as Senior Minister at Unity of Nashville in Tennessee. Upon her return to California (home, as she would say) she spent time participating at Capital City Unity in Sacramento, helping Reverend Phil Pearson navigate his transition to another ministry out of state. During this time, Rev. Cherie also started an online ministry where she offers an array of spiritual classes, seminars and tools. To learn more about her online ministry (which she intends to keep active) go to [Cherielarkin.com](http://Cherielarkin.com). You may also wish to check out her free “spiritual gathering” on Zoom every Monday morning from 10-11. You can also become an insider of her “Spiritual Growth Studio” by enrolling on the website. Rev. Cherie is also a professional fundraising coach and advisor, having assisted many Unity ministries to raise over \$11 million to support growth and capital improvements.

So, put on your seatbelts. Rev. Larkin is looking forward to helping us grow and prosper and she’s already making some exciting changes. She’s going to need all of us to help her, so don’t be surprised if you hear from her soon to solicit your input and ask for your assistance.

On behalf of the Board, Search Team and all of us at Unity of Auburn, I say “Thank You, God” for bringing us Rev. Cherie Larkin!

### Unity Office Hours in December

**Closed Mondays — December 6 & 13**

**Open All Tuesdays**

**Closed Wednesday — December 1**

**Closed Thursdays — December 23 & 30**

**Closed All Fridays**

## Unity of Auburn

Offering practical, spiritual teachings that empower abundant and meaningful living!

1212 High Street  
Auburn, CA 95603

Phone: 530-888-6489

Email: [admin@unityofauburn.com](mailto:admin@unityofauburn.com)

Pray with Silent Unity: 800-669-7729

### Join our Facebook pages:

- Unity of Auburn
- Unity of Auburn Events
- Unity of Auburn-High Street Thrift and Gift

## Lessons and Soloists

### December 2021 Talk Titles

December 5, 2021 —  
Talk: How to Have an Enchanted Christmas –  
Starlight and Wisemen  
Soloist: Dennis Cain

December 12, 2021 —  
Talk: How to Have an Enchanted Christmas –  
Angels and Shepherds  
Soloist: Kellie Garmire

December 19, 2021 — Candlelight Service  
Soloist: Clint Ritchie

December 26, 2021—  
Talk: How to Have an Enchanted Christmas –  
Joseph, Mary, and Jesus  
Soloist: Kellie Garmire



*A loving heart is the  
truest wisdom.....  
— Charles Dickens*



Unity of Auburn

**1212 High Street  
Thrift & Gift Shop**

**Donations:** *Now* taking donations.

*Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday & Saturday  
from 10:00a.m.-2:00p.m.*

Check us out on Facebook : Unity of Auburn - High  
Street Thrift and Gift