

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



Revs. Mark & Karen Schindler

## Ministers' Message

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### Special points of interest:

- **Donate to Auburn Interfaith Food Closet**
- **Board Members Wanted**
- **Thrift Store Hours & Donations**
- **Board Treasurer Report**

Many Jewish people have a hard time understanding why Christmas is such a big deal compared to Easter in America. I know this because my Uncle Dave brought up the topic during a Christmas pre-dinner conversation at my parents house many years ago. He was an uncle by marriage, a doctor by profession, a Sephardic Jew by birth (but not overtly religious) and an astute observer of human nature.

He noted that Easter seemed to be the defining event in Christianity but Christmas got all of the hype which he found puzzling in our Christian dominated culture. I remember thinking that he was absolutely correct and I figured that it all had to do with money. It was easy to use Christmas to feed the American economic machine. Easter could also be exploited but not as effectively or extensively as the cash cow that Christmas had become.

And yet, without the events in the Easter stories, there would be no Christianity as we know it today. The idea of a dying and rising God who would come back to rescue the believers was the driving force behind the spread of Christianity as a world religion. If there was no resurrection, then there would be no Christianity. Instead, the story would have ended after the Romans executed Jesus. He was buried and then he disappeared; story over, nothing to see here.

At the time of that conversation, I was still a nominal Christian but had long ago given up belief in the supernatural elements of both the Christmas and Easter stories which led me to question whether that rendered the life and teachings of Jesus meaningless. Take away the flashy supernatural stuff and what was left?

Most ministers these days who are graduated from an academically accredited non-evangelical seminary quickly learn that

the clear consensus in contemporary Bible scholarship is that stories of the virgin birth, miracles, the resurrection, the ascension and the second coming are mythological rather than historical.

Unfortunately many of these ministers hide this information from their congregations out of a misguided fear of losing membership, income or their jobs. As a result, Christianity in the USA is stuck in a pre-modern understanding of Jesus based on outdated and discredited methods of Bible study and interpretation.

In Unity, we believe that people can handle the truth. As Bishop John Shelby Spong once said; "If one's faith has to be protected from truth, it has already died." There is nothing wrong with Biblical mythology. In fact, developing a mythological perspective opens new doors to greater understanding of the true significance of the life and teachings of Jesus. Take away the flashy stuff and what is left? More than most people realize. In fact, it adds to rather than takes away from the meaning of the stories.

What was it about him that caused people to mythologize aspects of his life? Why did they choose to preserve certain historical mythical images and stories over others? For several hundred years, early Christians understood the mythological intent. The archetypes and images were drawn from their own historical context and most people knew they were not meant to be taken literally.

As more time passed and the stories traveled farther away from their cultural roots, the myths became literal, historical events. Unity has always been a part of reversing that trend and re-mythologizing the Bible. Easter is an opportunity to find the meaning and power in these stories without requiring a literal belief in a physical resurrection. That is a choice that we are empowered to make.

## Chaplain's Corner



Patty Davis

### Reacting or Responding: The Choice is Yours

So often in the past, I have mentally “kicked myself” after reacting in fear or anger to what someone said to me that I experienced as hurtful or painful. I would let my ego speak for me rather than give myself time to feel and work through my emotions before expressing myself. I allowed my ego to control me and gave away my power in those moments. I knew I had to find a better way to handle difficult discussions with others or comments that I found emotionally charged. I realized that by reacting immediately to the situation made it all the more challenging and ultimately more hurtful, especially since I knew that I was taking the person’s words personally. I was not allowing my true self to emerge and did not give myself the time I needed to access my Divine wisdom, compassion, and love.

I recently read a wonderful essay in Unity Worldwide Ministry’s publication, “Fasting and Feasting 2020”, entitled, “I feast on Responding Thoughtfully.” In it, writer Rev. Karen Shepherd states, “I can respond thoughtfully by first becoming quiet and slowing my breath. Breath is the gateway to meditation and prayer. I can slow down and breathe even if engaged in a physical activity such as driving. Slowing the breath does not distract me; instead, it can increase awareness.”

I can personally attest to how helpful the act of breathing is when experiencing pain or hurt as a consequence of another person’s words and before letting myself speak. I have developed a practice of saying silently to myself, “One, two, three . . . respond” while focusing on my breath when hearing words that made me wince. This prayer has enabled me to step back from the situation enough to let my compassion and Divine Wisdom surface and my heart open. I always seem to find the right words to express my true self when responding rather than reacting. And oftentimes, I use silence as my response. I find that silence can give the other person the gift of awareness; i.e., they can hear how they sound.

Responding rather than reacting is a gateway to empowerment. It is a choice we can commit to that can change our relationships and our lives.

*Social Action*

**Auburn Interfaith Food Closet**

They are located at: 12972 Earhart Avenue, Suite 301 Auburn, CA 95602  
(Behind MoonRaker Brewing Co.)

Mailing Address: PO Box 132 Auburn CA 95604 US

Telephone: [530-885-1921](tel:530-885-1921) Email: [aifc@auburnfoodcloset.org](mailto:aifc@auburnfoodcloset.org)

**Most Needed Items:**

Canned meat or tuna  
Canned Fruit  
Mixed Vegetables  
Diced Tomatoes  
Peanut Butter  
Soup (not Top Ramen)

**Produce Donation Instructions:**

Seasonal fruit and/or vegetables are always needed and appreciated.  
Must be signed in by donor with name, address, phone, & description.  
Must be delivered during our open hours M-F & last Saturday, 10-2.  
Must not be moldy or bug infested.

**Non-Perishable Donation Instructions:**

Unopened  
Not expired  
Not Homemade

**Items for Babies and Toddlers:**

Diapers: newborn to size 5  
Toddler Pull-Ups  
Baby Food  
Baby lotion

**Standard Size Items:**

Soap  
Shampoo/Conditioner  
Lotion  
Toothpaste  
Deodorant  
Women's sanitary pads  
Adult incontinence pads  
Dish or Laundry soap

**Travel Sized Items:**

Soap, Shampoo/conditioner, Lotion  
Toothbrush/Toothpaste  
Floss or Floss Pick  
Deodorant, Razor, Comb or Brush  
Q-Tips

## *Sunday Service, Classes, Email Prayers*

### **Sunday Service**

We are in person at our Sunday Services *and* Via Facebook Live Stream. For our in person service we ask that you wear a mask and sit 6 feet from those not in your family. Thank you for helping us to stay open!

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 the Good**

We are meeting on Zoom every Wednesday from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. You can join us with video or call in. If you are not on the email list and want to attend, email Rev. Karen at [iwishupeas@aol.com](mailto:iwishupeas@aol.com) and let her know.

We are reading the “*The Midnight Library*” by Matt Haig. The description: Somewhere out beyond the edge of the universe there is a library that contains an infinite number of books, each one the story of another reality. One tells the story of your life as it is, along with another book for the other life you could have lived if you had made a different choice at any point in your life. While we all wonder how our lives might have been, what if you had the chance to go to the library and see for yourself? Would any of these other lives truly be better?

The costs are \$13.42 paper; \$10.99 kindle. If you’d like to come just to check in, that is fine. We have our check in at the beginning of the session. Hope to see/hear you soon!

### **Frontiers of Consciousness**

This class is being offered in person and on Zoom *April 26, 2021*. If you would like to attend, please send an email to Rev. Mark at [mark@unityofauburn.com](mailto:mark@unityofauburn.com).

### **E-mail Prayer**



If you would like an email prayer from one of our Chaplains, please send your prayer request to:

**[Auburnchaplains@gmail.com](mailto:Auburnchaplains@gmail.com)**

Our Chaplains are available to join you in prayer if you are having a challenge or in gratitude and joy!

## Board Members Wanted



### Board Members Wanted

Things sure have been different in 2020 and into 2021! However, in the midst of the pandemic, your board of trustees has remained dedicated to serving you and have learned how to have board

meetings via zoom. We lost two board members in 2020, Shelley Rutherford and Pat Lord. Shelley moved to Florida and Pat was ready to release her position for other activities. We love and appreciate both of them and wish them well!

Now, there are two openings for new board members. The board is a healthy group of people who care deeply for Unity of Auburn. They meet every month and at other times to ensure the building is taken care of and the finances remain solvent.

If you've been wondering how you could donate your time for the good of our spiritual community, we ask that you contact Revs. Mark ([mark@unityofauburn.com](mailto:mark@unityofauburn.com)) or Karen ([iwishupeas@aol.com](mailto:iwishupeas@aol.com)). They 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

## Staff

### Unity of Auburn Staff

- Karen and Mark Schindler.....Co-Ministers
- Carrie Deterding.....Administrative Assistant
- Mary Lou Banahan.....Youth and Family Leader

## Our Financial Picture

UNITY OF AUBURN FINANCES		
JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2021		
INCOME AND EXPENSES	JAN-FEB 2021	FEBRUARY 2021
Love Offerings	6,345.98	3,546.99
Rent	2,405.80	1,202.90
Adult Ed./Fundraising	546.00	396.00
Youth Education	0	0
Miscellaneous	40.96	40.11
Thrift Store Net Income	1,054.14	679.02
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$10,392.88</b>	<b>\$5,865.02</b>
Building	2,413.60	1,240.58
Adult Ed./Fundraising	(Netted in Income)	
Ministry/Mission	12,620.00	6,200.00
Mortgage	4,763.28	2,381.64
Office Administration	1,947.11	968.60
Sunday Music	800.00	500.00
Tax/Insurance	3,111.36	551.19
Unity Organization Offering	0	0
Youth Education	0	0
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$25,655.35</b>	<b>\$11,842.01</b>
<b>NET ADJUSTED INCOME</b>	<b>&lt;\$15,262.47&gt;</b>	<b>&lt; \$ 5,976.99&gt;</b>

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.**

## Message from our Board of Directors



Natalie Kimball

### Prosperity as a Spiritual Practice

For those of you who attended or tuned into the service on Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> you heard our Board President, Patty Davis talk about the current financial picture for our beloved ministry. As a Board member, I had been aware for a couple of months just how bad things seemed to be getting. I found myself turning more to fear and away from love as I allowed the seeming reality of the financial situation to take hold. I have since decided that a “reboot” of my thinking was necessary. My first thought went to a quote from Mark each Sunday about how there are always opportunities in any challenge. This idea turns the idea of “crisis” on its head because it reminds us to tilt away from the negative and look at the situation anew. My next thought was to look at what Unity teaches about prosperity and to reacquaint myself with those teachings.

This led me to go back to one of the key Unity texts on prosperity, Spiritual Economics, by the renowned Unity Minister, Eric Butterworth. Eric says:

*“It is consciousness that sets all the limits in life if there are any limits. We have been erroneously conditioned to believe that our lives are completely shaped by what happens around us and to us. But life is lived from within-out. It is not what happens “out there,” but what we do or think about what happens.”*

This, for me, is the crux of Unity’s belief system and sets the tone for how we see everything, including apparent lack. Eric’s premise is that prosperity, substance, richness and life are all derived from the constant acceptance that God is all around us and everywhere present. We need simply tap into the flow of that presence to experience all the good that awaits us. So, I invite you to join me this coming month in “rebooting” your prosperity consciousness and to seek the flow of life. To know and affirm that we are “in the presence of God-substance, ever reminding ourselves that we are in the presence of infinite, eternal substance from which all things flow”.

With that level of consciousness, taking the human steps necessary to ensure that the mission and vision of Unity of Auburn is maintained cannot help but be the consequence. As a fellow truth-seeker, I encourage you to keep a prosperity consciousness that claims victory, As a fellow congregant, I ask you to let that consciousness manifest in increased financial support for our cherished ministry.

## 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

Talk Titles April 2021

April 4, 2021

Talk: Easter, Spring and Transformation  
Music: Dennis Cain

April 11, 2021

Talk: Endings  
Music: Kellie Garmire

April 18, 2021

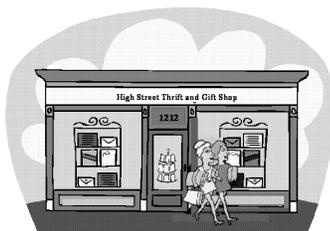
Talk: Departures  
Music: Bernie Rivera

April 25, 2021

Talk: Letting Go  
Music: Kellie Garmire



*“The great gift of  
Easter is hope.”  
— Basil C. Hume*



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