



In Unison

The monthly newsletter of Unity in the Olympics

December 2016

The Guiding Light of Christmas

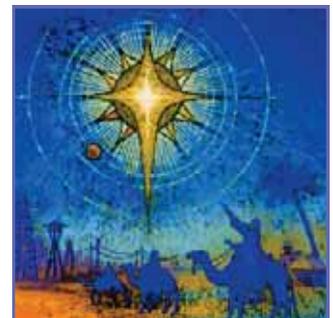
By Kim Perkins: Life-long Unity student, entrepreneur, speaker and UITO Board Trustee.



We sometimes hear complaints about the Christmas season – “it’s become too commercial”, “we have lost the true meaning”, “it begins way too early”. But no matter what complaints arise, we can still enjoy the wonder of the holiday season. If we look beyond the wrapping and glitter, past the obligations and noise, we will see the love and joy found in sharing, in helping, in connecting. In each of us there is an inner light that shines and draws us closer to God and each other; our own personal light of Christmas!

Besides the birth of the baby Jesus, some wondrous things happened on the first Christmas night in Bethlehem. The Bible tells us that a host of angels appeared singing praises and telling the shepherds who were watching their flocks of the special event. Aside from some shepherds, it seems the only others who knew anything about the birth were some so-called wise men far away.

A light in the sky over Bethlehem guided the wise men to a spot where Jesus was born. They had been watching the heavens for a sign of the birth of the King of the Jews. And they saw something that made them travel a long distance. We don’t know what it was. The Bible says it was a star. Some astronomers think it may have been a nova (an exploding star) or a comet, or the planet Jupiter or some other phenomenon.



The wise men travelled on and now the Bible says a star went before them “till it came and stood over where the young child was”. That doesn’t sound like the same star. How could a star, light years up in space, indicate a stable in a little village in Judah? That sounds like a closer light to me. The point is, we don’t know what it was but, whatever it was, *something* guided the wise men to the birthplace so they could worship the newborn king and present their gifts.

Was the star of Christmas real? Was it taken from the mythology of the time? Or was it a metaphor? Probably a combination of all three. But whether or not it is factual, is really not as important as the deep meaning it represents.

The star is a guiding light, and that can be as much the light of an intuitive knowing as a physical beacon. As a matter of fact, the presence of a bright light by itself is probably not enough for any person to just get up and follow. It takes an inner knowing, a sense of understanding that there is something important about that light to get a person to get up and seek it out.

So, for me, the star is a light of illumined knowing, a realization in that place where my emotions and intellect connect. It’s an inner sense, brighter even than a star in the sky. It’s a message and for me it says simply that **the guiding light of Christmas is the awakening within my soul of pure, universal love.**

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Thank You!

To Alice for purchasing and delivering food to TAFY and to those who donated money and food.

To Teia for roasting the turkey and to all those who contributed to a wonderful Thanksgiving potluck: Food, set-up and clean-up

To all those who have contributed to the Food Bank baskets

To Teia, Alice and Kim who set up the basic decorations in preparation for the Tree Trimming Party

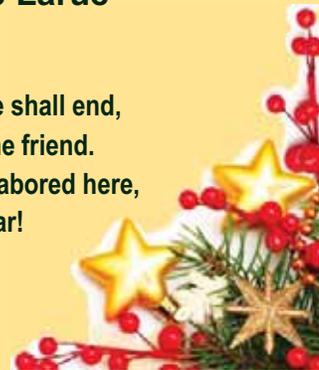
Your generosity touches us all!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

4th Carol Clark
7th Kathleen Moore
17th Annette Larue

When this new year in time shall end,
Let it be said I've played the friend.
Have lived and loved and labored here,
And made of it a happy year!

Happy Birthday!



MISSION STATEMENT

Unity in the Olympics provides an accepting place in which to experience the Peace, Love, and Oneness of the Christ within so that we may more fully express these gifts in the world.

UNITY IN THE OLYMPICS

2917 East Myrtle Street
Port Angeles, WA 98362

Phone: 360-457-3981
Email: uito@olympen.com
www.unityintheolympics.org

New Office Hours: Mon. & Wed., 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



SUNDAY CELEBRATION

Meditation 10:00 - 10:15 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Fellowship time following service

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Teia Stitzel, President
Duane Morris, Vice President
Janice Wyman, Secretary
Alice Alexander, Treasurer
Charles Mawson, Trustee
Kim Perkins, Trustee
Erik Simpson, Trustee



LICENSED UNITY TEACHER

Margaret Denstad

Our Church Finances

October Income		October Expenses	
Tithes/Offerings	\$ 3612.73	Advertising & Promotion	\$ 137.04
Rental Income	150.00	Bank Service Charge	7.15
Book/Lit Sales	37.25	Books/Literature Expense	33.09
Classes & Workshops	164.00	Building Expense	380.00
Fund Raising	131.60	Child Care	40.00
		Classes & Workshops Exp.	18.50
		Computer & Internet	37.95
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 4095.58	Copy Machine	405.68
Tithes (Sept. paid in Oct.)		Guest Speakers	700.00
Silent Unity	\$ 100.00	Janitorial	97.50
Northwest Region	100.00	Office Supplies	19.45
Unity Worldwide Min.	50.00	Payroll	872.78
MANNA	50.00	Telephone	28.27
TAFY	31.00	Tithe Expense	362.00
Hospice	31.00	Utilities	327.85
		Worship Supplies	90.00
TOTAL TITHES	\$ 362.00	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3557.26



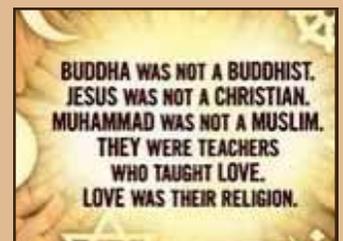
The Interfaith Community of Clallam County Invites You to: Listening Circles

When: Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2016 at 6pm

Where: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 301 East Lopez, Port Angeles

Topic: Who or what in your faith inspires you to build bridges? How?

For more information, contact Marilyn Eash at marilynnoe@msn.com or (360)477-0681.

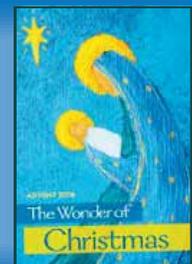


The Wonder of Christmas

Advent Booklet

Available
at church:
\$1.00

- Daily Bible verses and reflections
- Personal stories of faith and the holidays
- New poems that celebrate the season
- Affirmations for the twelve days of Christmas



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When we awaken to the love that exists in our hearts, and follow that light, we will be taken on a journey where we will find the true meaning of Christmas in the everyday things we see and do.

That love, that light within us is the true meaning – the Spirit of Christmas. Jesus lived from that inner light completely, but that same Christ light is within every person as unrealized possibility. In John 14:12, Jesus said, **“Truly, truly I say unto you, he who believes in me will also do the works I do, and greater works than these will he do.”**

It was not Jesus the man who healed the sick or spoke the Truth, or ministered to the multitudes. It was Jesus the “Christ”. And you and I have within us that same Christ Presence and potential as Jesus had – we just have to give birth to it.



Christmas is truly a magical time of year. Because of Christmas and the infusion of Christmas Spirit, our collective hearts open and we begin to feel our oneness with everyone on the planet. We acknowledge consciously just how connected we all are. We want to reach out and share with others on a deeper level, and to express our feelings of love and joy that are ignited at this time.

Follow your own inner light, your own inner star, to find the birth of something so special in you that all you want to do is share it. Then Christmas gifts become true gifts from the heart, and Christmas wishes become blessings on all mankind.

One poet said, **“Though Christ in Bethlehem a thousand times be born, if he is not born in thee, thy soul is all forlorn.”** The inner is where the real meaning is. When you find the love and light of Christmas in your own heart, something wonderful happens to you. You sincerely wish for peace on earth, good will to men. You feel love and compassion. You echo Tiny Tim when he says, **“God bless us everyone.”**

Holiday Gifts that Give Back

With over 1,700 stores in the iGive Mall and access to hundreds of exclusive coupons, free shipping deals, and sales, iGive is the smart way to shop. You'll find everything from daily necessities to special occasion and holiday gifts, at stores you know and love. So save a trip to the mall, and avoid the long lines. You'll never pay more when you reach a store through iGive, and up to 26% of each purchase benefits Unity In The Olympics!

> **Start iGiving at: www.iGive.com/UITO**

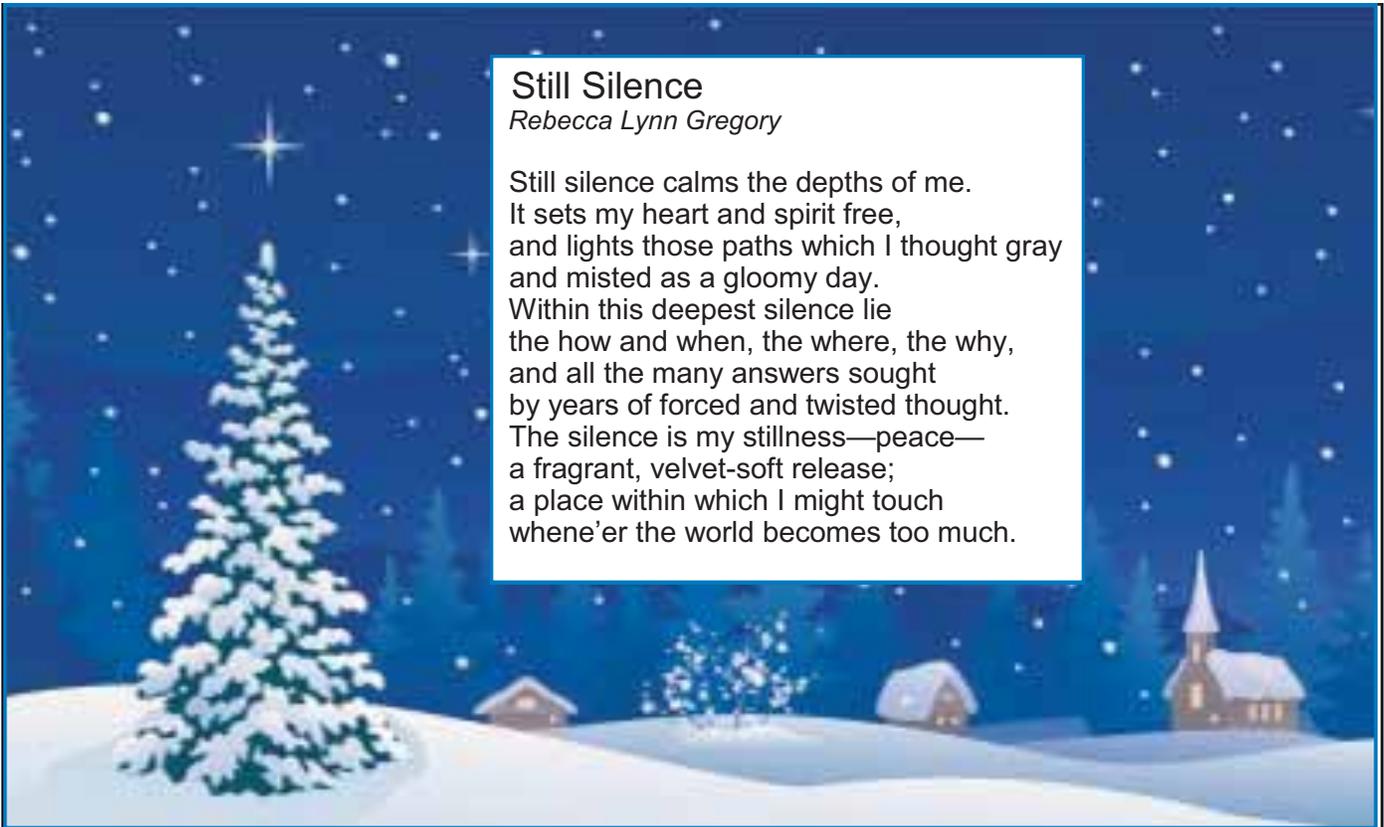


Start with a Smile at
smile.amazon.com this Holiday Season

Support us and find all of your holiday essentials
including gifts, decorations, and more.

You shop. Amazon gives.

amazonsmile



Still Silence

Rebecca Lynn Gregory

Still silence calms the depths of me.
It sets my heart and spirit free,
and lights those paths which I thought gray
and misted as a gloomy day.
Within this deepest silence lie
the how and when, the where, the why,
and all the many answers sought
by years of forced and twisted thought.
The silence is my stillness—peace—
a fragrant, velvet-soft release;
a place within which I might touch
where'er the world becomes too much.

THE TWELVE POWERS DECEMBER

The power for this month is **LIFE**
The ability to energize, vitalize, enliven,
animate and invigorate.

Disciple—Judas

Area of the body—Generative Organs

Color—Red

Affirmation— *I am filled with life, sweet life.*

Life begets life.
Energy creates
energy. It is by
spending oneself
that one becomes
rich.

Sarah Bernhardt

Judas Iscariot—the custodian of life. This Judas represents the unredeemed life forces. He also typifies that in humanity which, though it has caught the higher vision of life, still resorts to underhanded methods in order to meet its obligations.

“Judas is transformed and redeemed when all pertaining to personality is surrendered and the substance of divine love is poured into consciousness.”

The Metaphysical Bible Dictionary, p. 375-376



VISION QUEST

You are invited to hold these visions along with the Board of Trustees and to use these affirmations during your prayer and meditation time.

We at Unity in the Olympics are abundantly blessed with children and young families.

We have enthusiastic instructors poised to teach Children's Church. We'd love to have young families in church for their energy and to bless their children with a Unity upbringing.

Our church, our ears and our hearts are blessed with music. Accomplished musicians grace our church home now.

We feel that music would draw more people to church. We'd love to have a regular Sunday pianist again. We'd also like to have a variety of Sunday guest musicians. Another idea is "Music on Myrtle": A monthly concert with guest musicians.

All conditions are in place to complete the sewer hook-up project with ease.

We are grateful that we had the funds we have to lovingly maintain our meeting space. We now focus on getting the sewer hook-up completed with the good that we have.

We welcome the right and perfect minister for Unity in the Olympics.

We love and are inspired by our guest speakers, but also desire a minister to anchor, administer and encourage our growth as a spiritual community.

"The Unity way of prayer...is not praying "to God" nor "asking" for something. Instead, we pray "from a consciousness" of God, with an awareness of Source. When we pray from this consciousness, affirming absolute Truth over apparently limiting "facts", it is from a place of power, creativity and peace."

*Rev. Carolyn L. Jennings
"Prosper Anyway..."*

NOTES FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING:

The Board met on November 27th. Alice Alexander, Teia Stitzel, Charles Mawson, Erik Simpson, Kim Perkins and Jan Wyman were present. Special presenters present were Rev. Donna Little and Tim West.



Finances: The Oct. tithe was \$410. The Board allocated \$100 from income to the Minister's Search Fund (new balance: \$5707) and \$300 to the Building Fund (new balance: \$3832).

Administration: The Board voted to combine mailed-in and Sunday service offerings into one account for bookkeeping ease.

Vision Statement: Rev. Donna reported on progress on the vision statement. It was generally agreed that the draft doesn't project vision (an end result). A meeting was planned to gather congregational input.

Worship: Tim was present to gather input on audio-visual needs for the candlelight and other services.

Outreach: Fifteen "Angel Tree" gift tags will be requested from the Salvation Army. □ Dates were set for a Unity Basics class (Rev. Donna) and Chaplain Training (Tim).

Building Maintenance: Plans were made to paint the inside of the new shed so materials can be moved from the old shed, which needs to be torn down before the new sewer hook-up can be made.

Next Board Meeting: December 18th after the service and potluck.

Message from Cate Montana:

Cate Montana is an author, speaker and contributor to Unity Magazine and has spoken here at UITO. The following is a healing message she shared with her email friends:



Hi

Wow! Is your head spinning? Still caught up in election emotions? Join the club.

Politics is one of the best games the ego plays and it's been wild watching the emotions go crazy on both sides of the fence. Which is why I wanted to send a quick email reminding you of ONE very important thing:

It doesn't matter who the president of the United States is,
Nobody can lead you, inspire you, bless you, or lift you up but *you*.

We get so invested in our political candidates—talking bout them, posting on FaceBook—they become part of us. We count on them getting elected so they can publicly mirror our strongest beliefs and hopes and make them law.

But I'm here to give you a gentle reminder of who has the real power in your life...

So take a deep breath all the way down to your belly. Feel all those emotions roiling around in your chest and heart and gradually let them go. Get re-centered. Go outside and stand barefoot on the grass (if it's cold you don't have to stay long!) Know you're a vital part of the planet.

Pull all the energy you've been *putting out* during the elections back inside.

Imagine the world you dream of and
See yourself in it...
See yourself helping shape it.
And then take

The next step.

You're not alone! No matter who you voted for, I'm sending you loads of post-election encouragement.

Hugs,

Cate

www.catemontana.com

Tree Trimming Party

Sun., Dec 4th

Following Church

Cider,

Cookies &

Carols



Candlelight Service

Wed.

Dec. 21

6:30 PM



Vigils for Standing Rock

About 60 people representing the local Interfaith Community, the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe and others gathered at the mouth of the Elwha River on November 3rd to show solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe in its efforts to prevent the Dakota Access Pipeline from crossing the Missouri River. The gathering was organized by the Rev. Gail Wheatley of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church of Port Angeles and was attended by some of our own, including Rev. Donna Little.

The Thursday gathering came about in response to a call issued by the Rev. John Floberg, supervising priest of two Episcopal congregations on the Standing Rock Reservation, to stand at the Missouri River. An honorary gathering at the mouth of the Elwha, a now wild river, seemed a good complement to activities on the Missouri. The ceremony included prayers, traditional Klallam songs, and blessings with cedar bows dipped in the Elwha. It was a poignant moment when Sheryl Charging Whirlwind went around the group, smudging everyone with sage smoke and an eagle feather.



Another vigil was held at the Port Angeles Gateway Center on November 15th and included drumming, prayers and the collection of donations to support those who are keeping a peaceful vigil at the Missouri River crossing site. Media activities, message materials, efforts to garner support from cities around the country, camp costs and a Washington, DC presence (among other expenses) are estimated to cost \$50K per month.



To learn more go to:
standingwithstandingrock.net

To donate send check payable to:
Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
Attn: Debra Lekanof (SRST)
11404 Moorage Way
La Conner, WA 98257

Meditations Guided by Jeshua's Words
as channeled by Judith Coates ~ Eva McGinnis, facilitator
The 2nd & 4th Fridays from 7:30—8:30 p.m.



The focus of the ongoing meditation experience will be to deepen (or start) your meditation practice as you breathe and relax into Jeshua's beautiful healing words. "In this sacred space of Oneness you can reconnect with Spirit energy and experience Jeshua's blessing. As we join together we will create an even more powerful energy of Peace and Love." Judith Coates. (Love offering accepted)

Sponsored by Oakbridge University