



Unity Of Ames

Release The Past—Live Your Greatness Now

DECEMBER 2010

DECEMBER

12/5—THE PEACE OF THE CHRIST

12/12—LOVE THY NEIGHBOR

12/19—JOY TO THE WORLD

12/26—TERRY MURRAY RETURNS

SERVICE TIMES
10:30 PM

COMING IN JANUARY

Jan 2: White Stone Service

Jan 9: Be Attitude Part one

Jan 16: Be Attitude part 2

Jan 23: Be Attitude part 3

Jan 30: Be Attitude part 4

The Season Of Advent

By Chris Foster

The season of advent is one of the earliest Christian celebrations. There is no concise date when the feast actually started but we know it was before the emperor Constantine legalized Christianity. By the best estimates the celebrations began sometime in the first century.

Despite not knowing all the facts about WHEN the celebration started, we can look back and know WHY it started. The earliest Christians sought to have a celebration of the Christ known as Jesus and it is my belief to

honor the qualities that were most associated with him in those earliest days of Christianity. Those qualities being



Advent candles are used to represent each quality

Hope, Peace, Love, Joy. Yes there was something about the man from Nazareth that inspired his earliest followers to recognize, celebrate and

embody these qualities.

In this season of advent we have that same opportunity to turn within and focus on those same qualities that inspired the earliest Christians. We too can be that Christ presence. Where there is a need for hope (or faith as Unity recognizes) let us offer hope, Where there is a need for peace, let us be that peace. Where there is a need for Love, let us be that love. And where there is need for joy let us bring joy. Let these themes be the guideposts of your advent season as you prepare for the rebirth of the Christ within.

The Advent Conspiracy

By Charlotte Shelton



In a blog post last year, [Unity Institute](#) faculty member Dr. Tom Shepherd introduced me to a new phenomenon—the Advent Conspiracy. You can read more about it at the Advent Conspiracy home page: www.adventconspiracy.org. The term Advent Conspiracy

immediately got my attention, as I am interested in all things conspiracy related. (*The X Files* was my favorite television program for many years.) I blame my conspiracy fascination on my generation. Suspicion and mistrust were byproducts of coming of age in the 60s. However, the Advent

Advent Conspiracy (cont.)



Shoppers on Black Friday in Walmart. Many are wearisome of the crass commercial-

Conspiracy is not about secret government agencies or international espionage. Rather, it's a conspiracy movement of the people ... ordinary people who want to take back the original meaning of Christmas. The four tenets of the movement are: Worship

fully; Spend less; Give more; Love all.

As I pondered these four tenets, I found them to be excellent guide-

lines for celebrating the holiday season, but not very "radical." These principles have guided my Christmas celebrations for a very long time. I, for one, want to participate in an even more revolutionary Advent Conspiracy—one that encourages each and every person on this planet to awaken to and live his or her potential.

Will you join my Advent Conspiracy and let the Christ consciousness be fully born anew in you this Christmas? As we do so,

we will create a world of peace and plenty, but first we must awaken to our potential. Are you ready? Do you feel the labor pains? Let's start preparing the manager of our hearts because a new day is about to be born ... first inside of us ... then in the material world.

Merry Christmas!

—Charlotte Shelton is the President and CEO of Unity Village

"..the spirit of the

Prosperity Moment is that as we bless others, so shall we be blessed."

Prosperity Moment Features Local Businesses

The first Sunday of each month we take part in a prosperity moment. The Prosperity moment is designed to give business people from either inside or outside of our community to promote their business to our faith community. The spirit of the moment is in knowing that as we bless others so shall we be blessed. In November Liz Holzer spoke of her patient advocacy business she

was starting. In December we had Liz Hotlz and Joshua Duchene from the Salon in Ames come and share their story about their salon located at 323 E. Main Street in Ames. They have a very passionate vision about their business and have used the profits to do great work for the community. To hear their full story go to our website video page and view the 12/5 video. While there they offered our

customers a chance for a free drawing for a makeover. It was won by Sherry Bradley. Each entry also received a 20% off coupon.

If you have a business you would like to recommend that we recognize please contact Chris via email at leader@unityofames.com

Congregational Meeting January 9th

Unity of Ames will hold its annual congregational meeting on January 9th following the service. Each member will elect new board members and radify our new budget for 2011.

This is a real important meeting for the continued growth of our faith community and we are calling on 100% participation of the members.

Membership has its privileges. If your are a friend of the church, you can attend, you will just not be able to vote. If you are wanting to become a member we have membership forms in the Narthex that you can fill out and turn in. We will do a special board vote for any new member applications received on or before 1/2 to allow you an oppor-

tunity to vote on the leadership and the direction of the church. We look forward to a fruitful new year as our community continues to grow and prosper.



Whats Coming Up At The Village



February 24-27
In this retreat you will

- Gain a deeper understanding of Spiral Dynamics Integral as a practical tool that empowers you to work, learn and live more successfully.
- Experience a connection of the heart and mind.
- Better understand human nature and collaborate more effectively with less judgment and conflict.
- Experience "The Three Faces of God," as adapted from the work of author, teacher, philosopher and evolutionary thinker Ken Wilber.
- Decipher what the great wisdom traditions reveal about the "second face of God"—and live more of its meaning.
- Understand the order and chaos of the times in which we live.
- Embrace the deep forces embedded in us that shape our values and lay out a path for our transformation



March 17-20 2011
In this retreat you will

- Enjoy Unity Village's peaceful, beautiful grounds and a concert by inspirational jazz and pop artist Bukeka Shoals
- Learn the power of laughter.
- Celebrate yourself and others.
- Find clarity about who you are, and choose your life intentions.
- Understand how to focus attention and energy on what's most important to you.
- Get the monkey off your back and live from spiritual principles

Unity Of Ames Financial Report

		November	Year-To-Date
Total Contributions Received		\$4,886	\$50,704
Administrative Expenses		\$1,655	\$8,409
Building Expenses		\$1,578	\$17,684
Bookstore		\$250	\$2,758
Music & Programming Expenses		\$397	\$3,845
Spiritual Leader		\$1,050	\$6,650
Donation Tithes*		\$678	\$7,296
Exterior Painting		\$0	\$2,673
Guest Speakers and Other Expenses		\$265	\$5,163
Total Expenditures		\$5,873	\$54,477
	Operating Net Deficit	-\$987	-\$3,773
		As of 10/31	As of 11/30
	Bank Balances	\$2,393	\$1,409

* Tithes to Silent Unity, Association of Unity Churches, SCUCA and Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance



Unity Of Ames

*Release the past
live your greatness now!*

LOCATED AT
226 9th Street Ames, IA
corner of 9th and Kellogg
in historic Olde Town
515-233-1613

Spiritual Leader contact info
Chris Foster
leader@unityofames.com
www.unityofames.com

The Five Basic Principles of Unity

1. **God is Good** everywhere present
2. **We are spiritual beings** created in **God's image** therefore we are inherently good
3. **We create our life** by our thinking. Thoughts held in mind produce after their kind
4. Through affirmative prayer we connect to **God** and bring out the good in our lives
5. Through thoughts words and actions we live the truth we know.

Unity is a positive, practical, progressive approach to Christianity based on the teachings of Jesus and the power of prayer. Unity honors the universal truths in all religions and respects each individual's right to choose a spiritual path. For more information about Unity and our community visit our website at www.unityofames.com

Unity of Ames
226 9th Street
Ames, IA 50010

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