



Dear Friend,

"It takes a village" is an indigenous proverb that reminds us that we all contribute to the well-being, shaping and success of our community and each other.

When I think about Unity of The Blue Ridge, I see a sacred village - a space where we gather in the spirit of sacred oneness and love, *and contribute to the well-being, shaping and success of our community and others. One member recently said it this way.*

"Coming to Unity has given me more than I even thought possible for me. New friends, an accepting and welcoming congregation, a new relationship with God that I only imagined was possible, laughter, tears, a sense of purpose, opportunities to give back and make a difference, and an unlimited abundance of hugs! Unity of The Blue Ridge is my Happy Place and finding God, and Spirit in me, have become my joy!" - E.T.

It is an honor and privilege for me to personally be part of such a sacred village! Together, *we are upholding sacred oneness and the divinity of all beings. We are a living embodiment and inspiring presence of love, peace and the highest good.*

Unity is making a positive impact and experiencing unprecedented growth. These require commitment, intention, care, energy and resources to carry out our purpose. It takes –

People – our staff, ministers, band, workers, members and volunteers.

Programs – our Sunday services, nursery and youth programs, special services, classes, events, trainings, service projects and outreach.

Property – our facility, grounds, labyrinth and parking lot.

It's a fact. It takes resources to sustain our sacred space and share our message. Over the past five years, we have met our operational budget needs. Thank you! In 2020, we are launching our exciting "Raise The Roof" capital campaign. We are also focused on the 2020 "Keepers of The Light" annual fund campaign which provides for our operating costs. This calls for more organized planning and conscious commitment from everyone.

For 2020, we are inviting every Unity of The Blue Ridge participant to consider their desired level of support and make a good-faith pledge by the end of the first quarter. It's not necessarily a matter of giving more than you've given in the past. It's about prayerfully setting the intention at the beginning of the year as a community. Every pledge is confidential and every pledge matters. Giving is so much more than a means to an end; giving and receiving are key spiritual practices and blessings.

A team of Unity volunteers has been provided resources to assist you. Please also feel free to reach out to me at unityrevdarlene@gmail.com or call 828-891-8700 if I can be of assistance.

With gratitude and blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rev. Darlene".

Rev. Darlene Strickland
Senior Minister

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Radically Inclusive. Spiritually Progressive. Socially Responsive.