## **Mary Ann Mercer**

I was born in Oregon and our family moved to Bellevue when I was a teenager. My brother and I were raised in the Congregational Church, attending services every Sunday. I met my husband John in college. We were married for 55 years until his death in 2023.

In 1976, I met Ina Lindbom who introduced me to Unity. My husband and 2 children started attending church here in 1977 when Kay Arendt was the minister. Right away we felt that this was where we belonged. We volunteered to teach Sunday school and learned Unity principles by teaching them to the children. When our kids got involved in Sunday soccer we drifted away from the church. In 2010, John and I started attending again regularly.

At Unity over the years I have volunteered as a greeter, Sunday School teacher, Reiki practitioner, choir member, and bookstore volunteer. I've also been active in Women Connect and Spirit Groups. Outside of Unity, I have volunteered for Hopelink, the Redmond Library, and Redmond Senior Center and years ago as PTA treasurer and in Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts.

My career was as a Registered Nurse at Overlake Hospital and later at Virginia Mason clinic in Kirkland. I enjoyed working with people of all ages and backgrounds, helping them achieve their health goals.

Unity has been an important part of my life. I've grown spiritually here, and made many good friends. I want to see more people benefit from this wonderful community. I am honored and grateful to be a member of the Board of Trustees.