

# The Knight Light

Unity Christian School  
Comprehensive Christian Education  
Day Care, Preschool, Elementary, Junior & Senior High



October 3, 2019

(Next issue: October 17, 2019)

## Giving God Glory – Even for the Little Things

The year school year no longer seems new. However, we have had some excitement at Unity. The Unity Christian Foundation has blessed Unity Christian School with several technological advancements, many of which have not yet arrived – (computers, chromebooks, phone system) but earlier this week one gift was installed in each of the main bathrooms. We have new hand dryers. We have used many paper towels over the years, but now (our elementary students in particular) we are excited to use brand new hand dryers. I know the novelty with probably wear off, but for now we have a lot of students with very clean hands. The intent for all of the gifts from the foundation is that they will save the school money, make us more efficient, and the gifts will be transferable to the new building when we are ready to move in. Thank you Foundation! In addition to the Foundations blessings, we also had 37 volunteers from River Church come to do some yard work and painting to bless our school. Thank you River Church. Chris Marten was able to supply the River Church crew with much of the work and supplies for painting as well as a future winterization and beautification project that the elementary art students will be involved in. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes led chapel on SYATP (See you at the pole) day and demonstrated giving God glory.



We are only a week away from the end of the first quarter and the end of the volleyball and soccer season. The theme for the year (For HIS Glory) still seems fresh to me. We have spent the year identifying what glory is and how we can give it to God. As an overview, the focus of last year's theme was all about hope, and hope in Christ. One of our primary scriptures was found in Isaiah 43; in connection with this year's theme, Isaiah 43:7 tells us that we were created to give God glory. If that is what we were created to do, maybe we should. On a sadder note, Romans 3:23 gives us the truth that we have fallen short of God's glory. This loss of glory would be tragic if we didn't have hope. Fortunately, Jesus Christ came to die for us. According to 2 Corinthians 4, Jesus – the light of the world, caused His light to shine out of the darkness and put God's glory on display again; not only that, but we (jars of clay) are able to have the glory of God – the indwelling of the Holy Spirit through faith in Jesus Christ, not only revealed to us, but as Christians, God dwells within us and can shine out of us. If Jesus Christ took on flesh to die for you, how will you respond? We have two options, we can give praise and glory and honor to God, or we can try to keep it for ourselves.



Our human flesh will naturally desire glory for ourselves.

Whether we are an athlete out on the field, a student studying for a test, or an employee working hard to get a pay raise, our natural inclination is to do what we can to have people notice us in hopes of recognition that we have done something good; that may not sound so bad, but if someone begins to seek glory for themselves, others around them will soon notice that they are egotistical and just full of themselves. Is this true of God? He puts Himself and His handiwork on this display for all to see. He also asks us to obey Him. Does it make sense that God would display Himself to the world in order to receive glory, but doing the same thing to get glory for myself would be bad? What is the difference? God is trustworthy; usually we aren't. God is perfect; we are not. Think of it this way. If you are piloting a boat or a plane at night in dense fog, and a voice came over the radio and told you which

way to go, would that upset you? If the lighthouse operator made the light so that you can see where to go and where not to, would you reject the light and go your own way? Or would you obey, follow the directions and give great thanks to the one who saved you from disaster? Of course you would follow the directions; you would also be very grateful to the one who gave you the directions. When our focus is on ourselves, what we have, what we want, and what we don't have, life can seem miserable. If we can shift our focus to recognizing what Christ has done for us, we would follow after Him with great peace and joy rather than worrying about our own selfish view of fairness. Another wonderful thing about God is that He loves us and does not abuse the ability to call us to obey. Instead, He gives us directions to follow that are for our betterment, because all the time, God is good.

-Chris Pluister

## Calendar for the next two weeks:

Thursday (3<sup>rd</sup>) – 11:45 TRIP at Bargain Bonanza

6:00 HSVB vs. Rivermont here (concessions: Tegeler, Striley) This will be Senior Night for both volleyball and soccer where senior athletes and their parents will be recognized.

Friday (4<sup>th</sup>) – 4:30 Soccer vs. Peoria here

Saturday (5<sup>th</sup>) – NICC volleyball tournament at Pathway

Monday (7<sup>th</sup>) – Wreath orders are due today

Tuesday (8<sup>th</sup>) – 4:00 JHVB at East Moline Christian (leave at 2:10)

4:00 Soccer at East Moline Christian (leave at 2:25)

5:00 HSVB at East Moline Christian (leave at 2:25)

Wednesday (9<sup>th</sup>) – **School Pictures** All students will have their pictures taken. If you want to order, you need to return the form they have already received with payment on or before picture time.

8:20 Elementary chapel

Thursday (10<sup>th</sup>) – 11:45 TRIP at Bargain Bonanza

Friday (11<sup>th</sup>) – End first quarter

Saturday (12<sup>th</sup>) – 9:00 NICC soccer tournament here (see attached for concessions & gate assignments)

Monday (14<sup>th</sup>) – 5-8:30 Pizza Ranch fundraiser for class of 2021

6:30 School Board will meet

Wednesday (16<sup>th</sup>) – Juniors will take the PSAT

8:20 Elementary chapel

10:24 HS Chapel (note time change) Speaker will be Pastor Michael Bell of First United Methodist Church in Clinton

Thursday (17<sup>th</sup>) – 11:45 TRIP at Bargain Bonanza

**11:25,11:30 Dismiss**

P.M. In-service

Friday (18<sup>th</sup>) – Report cards will be sent home with 7-12 students; K-6 will be emailed

6:30 7-12 concert. Come and enjoy our first concert of the year. See how our students have been blessed and will bless others!

## Menu for next two weeks (subject to change):

Monday (7<sup>th</sup>) - Scalloped potatoes & ham, green beans, fruit, milk (**note menu change**)

Tuesday (8<sup>th</sup>) – Chicken nuggets, peas, tator tots, fruit, milk

Wednesday (9<sup>th</sup>) – Cavatini, bread, side salad, fruit, milk

Thursday (10<sup>th</sup>) – Grilled cheese, tomato soup, veggie, fruit, milk

Friday (11<sup>th</sup>) – Meatball sub, corn, baked chips, fruit, milk (**note menu change**)

Monday (14<sup>th</sup>) – Pulled pork sandwich, coleslaw, fruit, milk

Tuesday (15<sup>th</sup>) – Goulash, green beans, fruit, milk

Wednesday (16<sup>th</sup>) – Chicken noodle soup, crackers, carrots & celery, dip, fresh fruit, milk

Thursday (17<sup>th</sup>) – No lunch

Friday (18<sup>th</sup>) – Taco in a bag, refried beans, corn, fruit, milk

## Concessions / Gate for Soccer Tourn. On Oct. 12

8:00-10:00 Concessions: Tegeler / Williams, Holesinger, Gabbard;

Gate: Beasley

10:00-12:00 Concessions: Makayla Boonstra, Ladnier, Gabbard;

Gate: Ladnier

12:00-2:00 Concessions: Angela Wiebenga, Woods, Gabbard;

Gate: Marcum

2:00 – End Concessions: Wilbur, Hintz;

Gate: Steinhauer

Ball boys: 9:00 Boonstra, Boonstra

11:00 Dana B, Terry B

2:00 Bickelhaupt, Bickelhaupt

4:00 Boonstra, Boonstra

Announcing / MC - Hopkins

## **Pizza Ranch Fundraiser**

**Monday, Oct. 14, 5-8 pm**

Unity's Class of 2021 will be the recipient of Community Night at Pizza Ranch on Monday, October 14, from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. During that time a portion of all proceeds (dine in or carry out) plus all tips will go to the class of 2021. The class and their parents will be on hand to assist customers and to bus tables. Come join in the fun!

## **HEART Opportunities with Boosters**

There are still openings for HEART credit at the Tree Farm and Trivia Night. We need two more adults on Friday, November 29, 1-5:00, and one more adult on December 22 from 12 – 5:00.

Boosters are also looking for a coordinator for Trivia Night, along with other Trivia workers. See Mrs. Behr if you can help out with any of these position.

## **Coaches Needed**

Junior high boys' basketball is approaching soon! We are still in need of a head coach. Please consider helping out with this. Contact the school for more information. We also need a junior high girls' basketball coach. Their season begins in January.

## **HEART Hours Available**

Looking for a way to get your HEART hours in?? We have opportunities available... We are still in need of an Auction Coordinator, and Silent Auction Head. Both of these very important roles will fulfill all HEART requirements for the 2019-20 school year. We will be planning an informational meeting in October to explain what these roles require. If you'd like to be notified when the date is decided, please email Korri at [kmarcum@unitychristian.com](mailto:kmarcum@unitychristian.com).

## **Volleyball and Soccer Awards**

Volleyball and soccer awards will be presented on Monday, October 28, at 6:00 in the multi-purpose room. High school athletes and their families are welcome and encouraged to come to celebrate this year's achievements. The evening will begin with a potluck, with the following assignments: Freshmen need to bring a main dish and a dessert; sophomores a main dish and a dessert; juniors will bring a main dish and a salad, and seniors a main dish and a salad. Beverages will be provided. Please bring your own tableware.

## **Please Note:**

Due to necessary schedule changes, high school chapel will no longer be held at 9:38. Instead, it will be from 10:24 – 11:14.

## **Bargain Bonanza**

Bargain Bonanza is looking for a couple of volunteers who would like to work the checkout register in the store. The hours can be flexible and can be applied toward your family's HEART hours. Please contact the store manager, Connie Shannon, for more information.

## **Unity Calendars Are For Sale**

The sophomore class is preparing to sell Unity calendars as a fundraiser. A 2020 calendar is \$15. A new aspect of this calendar is that you can include birthdays, anniversaries, or other important dates for your family for just \$5 per event. Order forms have been sent home with elementary students. Others are available in the office, or contact any member of the sophomore class. All orders and payments must be received by November 15. The sophomore class thanks you for your support!

## **Note From the Kitchen**

We in the kitchen are very busy making yummy food. We have had to do some repairs on existing equipment to get them working properly for the big move to our new school! Please join us for our fall soup supper fundraiser. There will be 3 different soups, homemade bread, and lots of scrumptious desserts. The cost will be a donation.

We have set the date as Thursday, October 24, from 4:30-6:30, during Parent-Teacher Conferences. We hope to see you then!

## **September School Board Updates**

- Chris VonHolten presented the Board with information from the City of Clinton about road coming through our new property. Due to the future plans Unity has for this piece of land, the board did not see value in pursuing the option.
- Unity is still seeking a permanent part-time 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, a preschool teacher and an afterschool aide.
- The School Improvement Team met with the head of the CSI accreditation team and laid out 4 goals that Unity will spend the next 4.5 years working on.
- Dee Willoughby is continuing to work on the overall capital campaign, meeting with several new potential donors. Please pray for these significant meetings.
- Lisa reported that the Grass Roots Capital Campaign letters to Unity families and to Unity churches will be sent in September, which will officially kick off the GRCC with a goal of raising \$2.8 Million.
- Board discussed options for the use of the current K-12 building and evaluated some of the drawbacks to the plan to move the preschool to this location.
- Update was given on the old elementary property which is for sale and reduced the sale price.
- Board approved the River Church's offer to have volunteers do a service project at our school and offered project recommendations.

## **Mark Your Calendar**

Wed., Oct. 23 Preschool chapel at 9:38 (note time change)

Thurs., Oct. 24 – 1:00 Dismissal

Parent-Teacher conferences (you will receive information about this event in the near future)

Soup supper fundraiser for kitchen

Fri., Oct. 25 – No school

6:30 “A Little Piece of Heaven”

Sat., Oct. 26 6:30 “A Little Piece of Heaven”

Tues., Oct. 29 – Parents' Education Night

## **If you should ever have a dispute – Matthew 18 principle**

We would love to be a perfect school where there is no conflict or issues of any kind, but we are full of people, so that eliminates perfection. When issues do arise, we seek to follow the Matthew 18 principle. If you feel you or your child has been wronged by someone, a typical human reaction is to pray...just kidding. That would be a great start, but often our first inclination is to talk about it, not with the one we should talk to, but all our friends, neighbors, and anyone who will listen on Facebook. Sadly, this is not the direction Scripture gives to solving problems. The first step (after prayer) should be to talk with the person who wronged you, privately. Face to face is best, over the phone is ok, digital communications are convenient, but rarely convey the message well. They are also often too fast to give you time to reflect on what you should say. Be careful what you put in writing. At school, step one typically involves a parent communicating with the teacher. If that does not address the issue or bring resolution, step two involves bringing an additional person – a third party – typically at school this could be Mr. Pluister. Most issues can be resolved in the first two levels of communication. However, if that still doesn't address the situation adequately, you can write a letter to the school to be taken directly to the school board. Unity has requested that this letter be received physically rather than digitally for the reason mentioned above. We are all in the business of making disciples of Christ – doing kingdom work at Unity. We can work together.

It is the desire of every member of Unity's faculty, staff and administration to serve Christ as King. You can help. Please pray for us daily as we pray for you. Encourage us as we encourage you. And, as in every other part of life, problems occur. Please let us know how we can help. Talk to your teacher, staff member and principal when problems or concerns arise. Thank you.

### **Administrative Emails**

Mr. Pluister, Principal – [cpluister@unitychristian.com](mailto:cpluister@unitychristian.com)

Barb Wright, Secondary Adm. Ass't. – [bwright@unitychristian.com](mailto:bwright@unitychristian.com)

Korri Marcum, Elementary Adm. Ass't. – [kmarcum@unitychristian.com](mailto:kmarcum@unitychristian.com)

Theresa Farrell, Bookkeeper – [tfarrell@unitychristian.com](mailto:tfarrell@unitychristian.com)

Jana Behr, Athletic Director – [jbehr@unitychristian.com](mailto:jbehr@unitychristian.com)

Julie Foust, HEART Chair – [heart@unitychristian.com](mailto:heart@unitychristian.com)

Todd Wilbur, Board President – [todd.wilbur@adm.com](mailto:todd.wilbur@adm.com)