

The Knight Light

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



December 13, 2018

(Next issue: January 10, 2019)

What is the Focus of Christmas?

The school year is going by so quickly. Already we are in December; its time for Christmas programs and parties that celebrate Christ's birth. This is a tremendously important thing for us as Christians to remember. It is so easy and may seem innocent for us to make Christmas about elves and Santa Claus. My opinion on this is strong for a reason; some would say that I desire to ruin the "fun" or the "magic" of Christmas by insisting that we keep "Christ" in it. I do not write this to guilt or condemn those that have grown up playing santa and want to do the same for their children. I write this to hold fast to Truth and to inform you of how my definition of faith has been shaped.

During my college years, while working a summer job, I was driving a truck and talking to one of my co-workers. The topic of religion came up and he began to inquire about my beliefs. I told him about my belief in Jesus and my faith. Then he asked a question that I will never forget. He said, "So you mean, we are supposed to believe in Jesus like a child believes in Santa Claus?" I told him that I had never thought of it quite like that, but that is exactly what our faith in Jesus is supposed to be like – faith like a child. Faith is not a work we do; it is something we have. Over the years, the story of Saint Nicholas has been grossly elaborated on to begin to grant him attributes only God has, like omniscience.

There is so much that is going on right now that can easily distract us from what we should be focused on.

December is busy. We have concerts and parties. The old elementary school is being torn down which causes different emotions. Some of our young boys are so excited to see a building be destroyed by a big piece of equipment. Some others are deeply saddened as they recall their memories that are attached to this building. Still others are excited at the fact that this building coming down means that we are ready to auction off this property, the proceeds of which will go toward the construction of our new building. On top of that we have many other weighty issues that are being dealt with. There are a lot of things to keep us distracted from Christmas celebration.



The focal point for our theme of hope this month is on the characteristics of God. Right now, I am focused on goodness. For several years now the final line of each Knight Light article has been something along the lines of "All the time, God is good." Have you ever reflected upon what it means that God is good? What is good? Apart from God, we cannot know. In fact we have adjusted the meaning to be a far less than the superlative adjective which is, by nature, relative. (good/better/best – Given this comparison, why would anyone want something is simply "good"?). If we look at scripture, we can identify more closely what it means that the very nature of God is goodness. Good is what God is. He is good (Ps 107). He looked at the creation He made and it was good. He works things for good (Romans 8). He gives good gifts (better than we can give our children - Matthew 7). His love is steadfast. He is dependable. We have a Wonderful Counselor. At Christmas time, or any other time, we must not take this for granted or allow it to become cliché to know that all the time, God is good.

-Chris Pluister



Another note from Mr. Pluister

I mentioned above that my current focus is on God's goodness. I am so thankful. There have been some difficult situations that some of our older students have faced that have been brought to my attention over the last couple of weeks. These have caused a weight and a need for wisdom. Fortunately, in James, we are instructed that we who lack wisdom should ask God for it. We have a Wonderful Counselor who has all the answers to all the questions we could ever need to answer. There has been some discussion about having another prayer day. I would like to do this for a few reasons: every day brings us closer to a new building and new blessings along with new challenges will come with it; we are in need of God's provision for this to continue to be done well. I also want to be in prayer for God's protection over our school. I want to be able to honestly call this God's school. I would like to call for a day of prayer and fasting that God would reign here, in our buildings, in our teachers, in our students, and in Unity families. I do not have a date selected, but please expect that to come soon. Anyone who has thoughts as to the logistics of how this should be done, please contact the office. Thank you for all your prayer and support of Unity Christian School. Have a blessed and Merry Christmas.

Calendar for the next few weeks:

Thursday (13th) – 11:45 TRIP at Bargain Bonanza

Juniors & seniors bowl for PE

6:30 3rd grade – senior Christmas concert

Friday (14th) – Freshmen & sophomores bowl for PE

6:30 Preschool – 2nd grade Christmas program

Saturday (15th) – HSBBB in Rt. 84 Tournament

Monday (17th) – Deadline to sign up for Little Hoops

4:00 JHBBB at Quad Cities Christian:

6:30 School Board will meet

Tuesday (18th) – 7-12 Choir will entertain at Kiwanis

Wednesday (19th) – High school exams

8:20 Elementary chapel

Thursday (20th) – High school exams

11:45 TRIP at Bargain Bonanza

Friday (21st) – K-8 Christmas parties

11:25, 11:30 Dismiss

Monday (24th) – Wednesday (Jan. 2nd) – Christmas vacation – no school

Thursday (27th) – no TRIP

Gym floor will be refinished – cannot be used until Jan. 3

Thursday (3rd) – Classes resume

11:25,30 Dismissal

P.M. in-service

6:00 HSBBB vs. Pathway here (concessions: Hirl, Wiebenga)

Friday (4th) – End first semester

5/6 swim for PE

Saturday (5th) – 9:00-10:30 Little hoops

Monday (7th) 4:00 HS Quiz Bowl at Polo

4:30 HSBBB JV at Northeast

Tuesday (8th) – 6:00 HSBBB at MSA

Wednesday (9th) – 8:20 Elementary chapel

Thursday (10th) – 11:45 TRIP at Bargain Bonanza

Friday (11th) – Report cards will be sent home with K-12 students

5/6 Swim for PE

5:00 HSGBB @ Galesburg

6:30 HSBBB @ Galesburg

Saturday (12th) – 9:00 – 10:30 Little Hoops

HSBBB at Manny's Shootout

Menu for next few weeks:

Monday (17th) – K-6: Hot ham & cheese, carrots, fruit, milk

7-12: Hot ham & cheese, carrots, fruit, milk

Tuesday (18th) – K-6: Taco in a bag, refried beans, corn, fruit, milk

7-12: Taco in a bag, refried beans, corn, fruit, milk

Wednesday (19th) – K-6: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, fruit, milk
7-12: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, fruit, milk
Thursday (20th) – K-6: Pulled pork, broccoli with cheese, fruit, milk
7-12: Pulled pork, broccoli with cheese, fruit, milk
Friday (21st) – Early dismissal – no lunch

Thursday (Jan. 3rd) – Early dismissal – no lunch
Friday (4th) – K-6: Cheese pizza, carrots, fruit, milk
7-12: Cheese pizza, carrots, fruit, milk
Monday (7th) – K-6: Mac & cheese, meatballs, green beans, fruit, milk
7-12: Mac & cheese, meatballs, green beans, fruit, milk
Tuesday (8th) – K-6: Sausage, egg & cheese sandwich, tater tots, fruit, milk
7-12: Sausage, egg & cheese sandwich, tater tots, fruit, milk
Wednesday (9th) – K-6: Meatloaf, carrots, fruit, milk
7-12: Meatloaf, carrots, fruit, milk
Thursday (10th) – K-6: Chicken Alfredo, side salad, fruit, milk
7-12: Chicken Alfredo, breadstick, side salad, fruit, mil
Friday (11th) – K-6: Chicken fajita wrap, corn, fruit, milk
7-12: Chicken fajita wrap, corn, fruit, milk

7th & 8th Grades to Visit Harbor Crest

On Friday, December 21, the 7th and 8th graders will travel to Harbor Crest. Mrs. Behr needs a couple of parents to help with transporting them. Please let her know if you are able to help out. Thank you

Little Hoops Begins Jan. 6

Have you returned the registration form for your son or daughter? It's open to students in grades 2-6. The cost is \$25 which also includes a T-shirt. Registration forms are due on **December 17** with payment. If you no longer have the form your children brought home, there are more in the office. They will play at halftime on Jan. 19, 29, and Feb. 9.

Swimming

5th and 6th grade's swimming unit in PE begins on Friday, January 4. Most days we will ride the bus to the Clinton YWCA, leaving school at 1:25. **We will need help with transportation on Friday, January 11. Please let the office or Mrs. Behr know if you are able to help with this.** The cost is \$5 per session (\$30 for the 6 weeks). Please send the money for your child by December 17. The dates we will swim are: Friday, Jan. 4, 11, 18, Feb. 1, 8, and 22.

Calendars Available

If you forgot to order a calendar but would like one, we do have a few extras. The cost is \$15.00 each. This is a fundraiser for the freshman class.

Can You Help?

We are looking for a space where auction items can be stored. It needs to be secure and accessible by auction committee any time day or night. If you have any ideas, call Korri at 815-589-4196. Thank you!

How Can I Give to Unity?

People have asked this question when talking about our new building or Unity in general. With the end of the year coming soon, many are looking for a tax deduction. We have new building pledge cards available for anyone who would like one. Of course, we are always happy to accept checks at the office. (We are a registered 501(c)3 organization.) The following was recently brought to our attention:

Tax-Free Charitable Giving

"A year end reminder for those 70-1/2 years of age and needing to take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)- You may donate up to 100% of your RMD or up to \$100,000, whichever is less, directly to a qualified charity, like Unity Christian School, and pay no taxes on the amount given. This tax-free donation is called a QCD or Qualified Charitable Distribution. See your financial advisor or bank where your IRA is held and make arrangements before the end of December."

Help Wanted

The Bargain Bonanza Board of Directors is looking for a person to work part time in the store. The hours are flexible but will typically be 9:00 to 4:00 and two to three days a week. This is an exciting time at Bargain Bonanza as God is blessing us in many areas. If you are interested in working for a store that is run with Christian Values and supports Unity Christian School, please contact Roy Wilson at 563-503-2727 for an application and job description. You may also stop by the store and contact our Manager, Connie Shannon.

School Cancellations, Late Start, Early Dismissal

We have already had our first snow day. If you are wondering about the possibility of school cancelling, late start, or early dismissal, there are several options for you. You may check your TV – Channels 4, 6, or 8; check our website (www.unitychristian.com), listen to local radio stations, or sign up online for rainedout.com (see instructions below).

In order to receive text or email alerts when Unity is closed, opening late or closing early, you must follow the steps below:

Option 1: Go online to www.rainedout.com

Type 'Unity Christian School' in the Search Term box and select 'Christianity' (under Religious) in the Category drop down menu. Then click search and you should see Unity Christian School.

Option 2: If you want to be added via smart phone: Text UNITYSCHOOL to **84483** to receive alerts from **Unity**.

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
Barb Wright, Secondary Adm. Ass't. – bwright@unitychristian.com
Korri Marcum, Elementary Adm. Ass't. – kmarcum@unitychristian.com
Theresa Farrell, Bookkeeper – tfarrell@unitychristian.com
Jana Behr, Athletic Director – jbehr@unitychristian.com
Julie Foust, HEART Chair – heart@unitychristian.com
Todd Wilbur, Board President – todd.wilbur@adm.com

Mark Your Calendar

Homecoming Week – January 22 – 25
Tuesday, Jan. 20 – Early dismissal; P.M. In-service
Spelling Bee – February 6
Blood Drive – February 11

