Living Out Christ’s Love to Make a Difference

Christmas is such a special time for our Christian community. It’s a time for celebrating the birth of Christ and living out Christ’s love towards others. As you look back on Christmas and remember the days filled with family and friends, let us live out Christ’s love and seek ways to restore His kingdom on earth.

At Unity, our desire is for students to discover how their lives can show the love of Christ. Learning how to be an active, participating Christian in their daily faith journey is happening in the classrooms at Unity. Students are guided in all of our classrooms to take the content learned and seek ways to apply it to their life. Prior to Christmas, Unity’s AP Government class did just that. These students were charged with looking at something larger than themselves. They were also challenged to not just learn about other people’s situations, but to find ways in which they could make a difference, showing Christ’s love. They found solutions that could make a difference in being good stewards. This learning experience allowed the students to think more about others and how we play a role in restoring God’s kingdom on earth.

Inside this issue of the Tidings we have shared these student experiences with you. It is inspiring to see the next generation reaching out beyond the walls of Unity to make a difference. Our students are learning how to be kingdom-builders, and I hope you feel this as you read their stories.

May we all seek ways to show Christ’s love to others and take action in making a difference as one of God’s children. Enjoy the experiences of Unity’s AP Government class, and may you be inspired to carry Christ’s love to others in similar ways!

For God’s Glory,
Jerry DeGroot
UC Students Selected for Honors Band at Calvin University

This past fall, four Unity students performed with an area Honors Band at Calvin University. The students were Matthew Bennink (Euphonium), Ryan Johnson (Alto Saxophone), Sam Kuipers (Trombone), and Joshua Rotman (Trombone). The Honors Band was comprised of students who were nominated by their band directors and selected by the music faculty at Calvin University for their outstanding musical and personal leadership abilities. The Band included over 60 students from the greater west Michigan area. In addition to the evening performance, students participated in master classes led by the Calvin instrumental music faculty throughout the day. The Honors Band was led by Dr. Elizabeth Peterson from the University of Illinois.

UC Winter Play: Get Smart

On March 5, 6 and 7, Unity Christian will present the comedy, Get Smart. Based on the popular 1960s sitcom Get Smart, Agent Max Smart has a way of fumbling his way into solving difficult cases, but not before thoroughly messing them up! In this production Agent Smart is off on a bizarre new case in which he must stop the sinister organization known as KAOS from another dastardly plot: to prove their power they plan to blow up the Statue of Liberty! Smart springs (or perhaps we should say stumbles) into action. Magnificently assisted by the beautiful Agent 99, Smart proceeds from one gigantic blunder to another—each, however, somehow turning into a master stroke.

This is a play the entire family will enjoy. Come see how Smart and Agent 99, manage to save Princess Ingrid from the sinister group KAOS, and save the Statue of Liberty!

Performances will be held at the Hudsonville HS Auditorium at 7 p.m. on Thursday and Friday, and at 5 p.m. on Saturday. The auditorium is on Allen Street (note the change of venue from previous years).

Tickets can be purchased on-line at the UC website (www.unitychristian.org) and click on Theatre Tickets under the "News and Events" tab. There are two ticket release dates: February 3, 9:30 a.m. (early release tickets for $12); and, February 20, 9:30 a.m. (general tickets for $8.) You will be able to pick your own seats and pay online. At the final ticket payment section, you will be given the opportunity to sponsor the play with your additional donation. Those who donate $10.00 or more will be listed as a Theater Sponsor on the program. For handicap seating, please call the Unity office at 616.669.1820.
UC Students Rise to the Civic Action Challenge

By Rachel Headley, UC Communications Specialist

The students in Mr. Chris Achterhof’s AP Government class were challenged last semester to get out of the classroom and do something. While the Christmas season is generally full of receiving, UC students went out and gave. Through these Civic Action Projects, students chose a problem that mattered to them, networked with local organizations, and then did something about the problem! Here are the results...

**Civic Action #1: Recycling and Improper Waste Management**

UC students Hannah Voorhees and Rachel Cremer chose Recycling and Improper Waste Management as their targeted Civic Action Spotlight. The girls soon discovered that people (and students at Unity Christian) were not recycling properly. Improper recycling creates “superfund” sites that are actually damaging our environment. These students reached out to Keep Michigan Beautiful and learned that in order to improve our recycling habits, the focus should be on educating people about recycling. So, they “took action” at Unity and placed boxes around the school, labeled “Recycle Your Ziplock Baggies Here.” Afterward, they took the 178 bags collected to Hudsonville Christian’s TerraCycle program for proper recycling!

After reflection, these UC students said: “We were proud to be a part of a small, normal action that actually made a difference for our environment!” (Civic Action #1/Posted 12/26/19; UC Facebook)

**Civic Action #2: Homelessness**

Anna Riemersma, Anna Terpstra and Deanna Brunsting focused their Civic Action Spotlight on the problem of Homelessness. These students learned quickly that homelessness exists less than 20 miles from their own homes! The students contacted Holland Rescue Mission’s development director to set up a tour of some of the services and centers they provide. The girls were then able to visit the donation center, the women’s shelter and the Chapel. From these on-site visits they soon gained further understanding that homelessness cannot be solved in a single day by a single group of people, and that the most fundamental problem of the homeless is their lack of the basic necessities: food, clothing and shelter.

One student, after passing out food, shared: “Quite a few of the people there prayed before their meal, which shows that even in the toughest times, those people haven’t given up on God. That helped me remember that God hasn’t forgotten about us either, and that He is always with us in every circumstance. We just need to weather the storm and He will see us through it.”

They also volunteered at Degage Ministries of Grand Rapids, Michigan. One of the students reflected on her experience: “At first, I didn’t want to go to Degage because it was outside of my comfort zone, but after I went, I was glad I did. It was actually a lot of fun meeting the people and offering them food and hope.”

The girls also collected coats, hats, mittens and blankets for Mel Trotter Ministries, also a non-profit organization in Grand Rapids. During their collections, their awareness for the issue grew and they rose to the challenge to make an impact on homelessness by helping the men...
Civic Action #3: Abortion

As the focus of their Civic Action Spotlight, Tory Decker, Mya VanderVliet and Madeline Nuiver chose the issue of Abortion. They immediately ran into some well-known barriers for their project because not everyone thinks abortion is an issue, and abortion is legal in Michigan.

They contacted several organizations, including Save the Storks (a national Pro-Life organization) and the Family Life Center of Holland, Michigan. Our students were able to exchange some emails with a representative to discuss how to advocate for the unborn. The basic principle of Pro-Life is found in God’s Word, in Psalm 139, Psalm 22:9-10, and Proverbs 31:8-9. Electing people into office who affirm these values is critical in keeping the Pro-Life agenda before the public. Keeping and opening more Pro-Life Pregnancy Centers is another way to further the message of Pro-Life. And, finally, on-going public education on life in the womb through various media.

The students had the opportunity to help out at the Family Life Center by putting stickers on different flyers, and then bringing these flyers to North Blendon CRC where they helped put them into the church bulletins! The Family Life Center said they were very blessed to have the help of these students to give women positive options. Our students were challenged to stay firm to their Pro-Life beliefs, even though that is an unpopular opinion in America today.

Upon reflection, one of the students who took on this issue had this to say: “I have been challenged to stay firm in my beliefs even when there are many people who disagree with me. As a Christian, we are taught and believe that abortions are murder. Through this process, I learned that my opinion on abortion is a reflection of my faith.” (Civic Action #3/Posted 12/30/19; UC Facebook.)

Civic Action #4: The Mental Illnesses of Depression/Anxiety

Ben DeMey, Jeremy Timmer and Jackson Bush chose to focus their Civic Action Spotlight on something that impacts children and students—the Mental Illnesses of Depression and Anxiety. They found out that 1 out of 5 high school students have seriously considered attempting suicide. Anxiety is the most common mental illness, with more than 40 million Americans struggling with it.

Desiring to take action and make a difference, these students started by contacting several organizations in the area, (including Pine Rest, the Mental Health Foundation of West Michigan’s “Be Nice” campaign, and Hope Network Behavior Health) to learn all they could about these conditions and how to combat them. One surprising aspect that they soon learned was, that according to the “Be Nice” campaign, technology is an added stressor that actually has increased the number of children and students affected by depression and anxiety.

Feeling overwhelmed by the magnitude of the problem, the students decided the biggest impact they could have would be to donate to the “Be Nice” campaign. This program is dedicated to the promotion of awareness of these illnesses, and is seeking to create dialogues for encouragement and support in order to decrease the stigma attached for the student suffering with these conditions of anxiety or depression. To raise funds, they went around their neighborhoods and collected pop cans, returned them to Meijer and donated $50 to the “Be Nice” campaign! (Civic Action #4/Posted 1/3/20; UC Facebook.)

(Editor’s Note: the word “Nice” in the Be Nice campaign is the acronym for Notice, Invite, Challenge, Empower.)

Civic Action #5: Child Hunger

Alaina Bronson, Breanna Blacquiere and Alyssa Ridder chose the issue of Child Hunger in West Michigan as the focus of their Civic Action Spotlight. These young ladies contacted and volunteered at Kids’ Food Basket in Grand Rapids by packing lunches and decorating the brown bags for the lunches. This small action—that didn’t take up more than half of a day—provided nourishment (continued on page 11)
Heart to Heart with Dan Landstra

Truth, Confidence & Freedom...

A Student asks: “Have I Done Enough?”

I recognized the sound... I had heard it many times during the summer and into the fall. But now as winter began to settle in, I was surprised to hear it again. It started as a low rumble in the distance. Within a short period of time it grew louder until the rumbling was right outside our house. Then, just as quickly, the sound faded, becoming more distant.

I went to the slider door at the rear of the house to check and walked out on the deck then waited. As I knew it would, the sound soon increased in intensity. Then, just as expected, I saw them...Three trucks and a Jeep—some with custom work done on the exhaust to make them rumble—driving down a path between the muck field and the lake located behind our house. The dirt path was very wet. Mud flew, spattering the sides of the vehicles with black muck. As they bounced along the rutted path, the drivers didn't seem to mind the off-roading that caused their vehicles to become increasingly dirty.

The vehicles rounded a slight turn in the path and came to a stop. Several boys jumped out. As I watched them from my deck I wondered, “What are you guys doing?”

Out of truck beds and back seats came chairs, fishing poles, an auger, and everything else needed to go ice fishing. Surprised by what I was witnessing I thought, “You guys aren't actually going out on that ice are you?”

Although I would have been concerned about any group of people venturing out on the ice, I was particularly interested in these boys because they were Unity Juniors. This group of friends regularly fished the pond and lake behind our house all through the summer and fall. Rumbling trucks coming down the road with guys waving hello as they drove by became a familiar sight and sound.

On this mid-December day, I questioned whether their decision to venture on the ice was a wise one. I watched anxiously as, one by one, the boys walked out on the ice. Ten feet out... twenty feet out... forty feet out... they just kept going. I called to my wife Laura. “Look at these guys! I can’t believe they are out on that ice!” She watched with me for a moment and asked, “Is it safe?”

“I don’t think so!” I quickly replied.

The anxiety I felt watching the boys was clearly not a feeling shared by the boys. Very shortly after drilling a few holes they were running on the ice, standing close to each other around different holes, and relaxing in camping chairs. They were having a great time!

Meanwhile I was mentally arranging rescue scenarios... and calculating how long it would take me to run to the lake carrying a ladder and life jackets!

All ended well, and during the beginning of Christmas break the same boys returned to the ice a few different times to fish. However, I still wondered if they should take such a risk.

“Faith is a life-long process of growth. At some point you will have to decide who is leading and who is following.”

On the first day of school after Christmas break, I found two of the boys at school, and asked, “Did you guys see me watching you when you were fishing.”

Looking at each other, then back at me they said, “No, we didn’t.”

I looked down for a moment as I put my hands in my pockets, then slowly shook my head. I fixed my gaze on the boys and said, “I have to tell you, I was really nervous when you guys were out there on the ice. I thought for sure you were going to fall through!”

The boys exchanged very confused looks, as if what I had just said was really dumb. One of them asked, “Why would you think we were going to fall through?”

Thinking I was much wiser than these young men, I replied, “Because there’s hardly any ice out there!”

Again, the boys looked at each other, and chuckled. “Do you know how thick the ice was, Mr. Landstra?”

“No!” I hesitated, then continued, “But I just assumed...”

One of the boys interrupted. “Shouldn’t do that, Mr. Landstra,” he said with a smile. “The ice where we were was between four and five inches thick... nothing to worry about, Mr. Landstra!”

“We definitely checked to make sure it was safe,” his friend added.

It was humbling. I believed the boys were acting foolishly based on information I thought was correct, but never took the time to confirm or deny.

Later that evening I Googled information on the load-bearing capability of lake ice and found out that four- to five-inch ice can support between 400 and 800 pounds. The boys were definitely safe! I felt foolish. I had made the choice to worry instead of equipping myself with a knowledge of the truth... Lesson learned!

A few days after my ice-fishing conversation with the boys, Mark (not his real name) who is also a junior stopped by my classroom after school. Popping his head just inside the door while keeping his body outside the classroom, Mark asked, “You got a minute?”

I looked up from my work, smiled and waved him in with my hand. “Definitely,
Heart to Heart

Mark! Bring your whole self in here and let’s chat!” I said.

“Cool.” Mark replied.

Mark is a very diligent student. He places a high priority on doing well and getting excellent grades. He also was very involved in co-curricular school activities and maintained a part-time job.

As Mark settled into one of the chairs near my desk, he scanned the room with his eyes, absorbing all the details of the classroom. He turned his attention to me and said, “You have a lot of stuff on the walls in here!”

I laughed in appreciation of the attention Mark paid to the details of his surroundings. “I do have a lot of things going on in here and everything has a story, but I’m guessing you didn’t drop by this afternoon to talk about interior design, so what’s on your mind?”

Mark relaxed in the chair, crossed his legs and lifted his left leg to rest on his ankle above his right knee. “I have a question about something that has been on my mind. I don’t know if you can answer it or not, but I’ve been kind of worried about it lately.”

“Sure,” I said as I nodded. “I will do the best I can to help you. What is your question?”

Mark paused, raised his eyes up as if looking into his brain, then focused on me and said, “At the beginning of the school year I made a commitment to try a lot harder to work out my faith by doing faith-based things I haven’t done much in the past.”

Mark uncrossed his legs, leaned forward and, using his fingers as a counter, began listing what he was doing. “I started doing devotions most nights during the week… I go to youth group way more than I did last year… I try to always pay attention in church and sometimes even take notes on the sermon… I signed up to go on the summer work project at my church… I’m trying to be a better friend…”

At this point Mark had run out of fingers to count on his right hand. Before he resumed the count on his left hand, I interrupted him and asked, “Have the changes you made in your spiritual life been helpful for you, Mark?”

My question interrupted Mark’s thought pattern. He froze briefly, still holding the first finger on his left hand. “What do you mean?” he asked.

“I’m wondering if the changes in your behavior patterns made any meaningful spiritual difference in your life?” I responded.

Mark released his finger, gazed thoughtfully at me and replied, “I think so. I mean I definitely think more about God and my relationship to Jesus than I used to.”

Well, that sounds really good!” I said, smiling and nodding in approval.

Immediately after my response, Mark’s body slumped lower in the chair. The troubled look on his face resembled the look children have when told to clean their room or shovel the driveway.

“Yeah… I know. That’s really good.” Mark answered in a monotone voice.

His tone surprised me. “What’s the problem, Mark?”

As Mark returned to his original crossed-leg position, he extended his hands toward me and said, “I made this commitment to become a better Christian and have really worked hard to make my faith a priority by doing lots of things I seldom did before or never did at all. And I admit, I do think about it more but at the same time the more I try to do, the more I feel guilty about still not doing as much as I could or should.”

Mark slouched back again as he asked, “At what point have I done enough? Can you tell me, Mr. Landstra? Because I’m really confused by all of it.” Then he leaned back in the chair and waited for my reply.

I paused to collect my thoughts. I knew Mark’s concern was shared by many of his peers who, in a hard-working community, believed they were coming up short in their faith lives. And while devoting time to God and His word is always good to do, understanding the motivation behind it is essential, especially for young believers.

“Mark, why are you spending time on your faith?” I asked.

Mark furrowed his brow and shot me a look suggesting I had just asked a ridiculous question. “Isn’t it obvious? I want to be a better Christian!” he said.

I shook my head and said, “I understand and I applaud your effort to do so, but can I make an observation about what I hear from you?”

Mark nodded, then replied matter-of-factly, “That’s why I’m here!”

“Mark, it seems to me, based on what you are saying that your faith may be all about you.”

Mark drew backward in his chair, as if unsure of how to process my statement. He turned his palms upward and asked, “What do you mean by that?”

“You described to me all the different things you are doing in your life to increase your faith,” I immediately responded. “You also admitted to feeling guilty for not doing enough, even though you are involved in many more activities than ever before.”

Extending a hand to Mark, I then asked, “Do we agree I have your story straight so far?”

Mark nodded in agreement and continued to listen.

“Well, I mean it really is hard to keep track of all that you are doing and the time you are spending. But I have to ask you to make an observation about this.”

I immediately

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“Well, then, when I asked your purpose for doing all this, even though you have more
guilt, you replied it was so you could become a better Christian.”

(I paused for a moment, allowing Mark to think about how I just described his own words to me.)

“Faith is a life-long process of growth, Mark. At some point you will have to decide who is leading and who is following. I wonder if you believe doing more and more is what makes you a Christian in the first place.” (As Mark nodded but didn’t speak, I continued.) “If God’s love for you or His promise of salvation is based on your spiritual performance then I can completely understand why you’re getting stressed out. You are making God’s favor dependent on how much you do.

“Mark, that’s a lot of pressure to put on yourself and it doesn’t line up with what the Bible says about God’s relationship with you through Jesus.”

Then Mark said, “But doesn’t it say in the Bible we should work out our salvation?”

“It does,” I responded, “and Christians should work out their salvation. But living out our faith and increasing our knowledge and understanding of the Bible should be a response of gratitude for the gift of salvation we were given, not an obligation we meet to stay on God’s good side.”

Mark jumped in: “So I might be trying to maintain my salvation the same way I work hard for everything else I get involved in.” Then, chuckling to himself at his epiphany, he said, “I guess I am… and to be honest, living out faith the way I have been the last four months isn’t much fun!”

For a moment, Mark sat thoughtfully then asked, “So, what do you think I should do?”

“Fantastic question, Mark!” I said enthusiastically. A big smile broke through the serious look on Mark’s face. So, I continued.

“Let me be clear, Mark. I believe you really do love Jesus and want to grow in your faith. Maybe you need to take a step back to understand what accepting Jesus really means.”

“How do I do that?” Mark asked.

“I want you to compare the gift of salvation to an actual physical gift you received from someone who really loved you. In both cases the giver really wanted you to have the gift. In both cases you were extremely thankful for the gift. There is no doubt in my mind you would take every opportunity to use the physical gift while being grateful you received it from the giver.”

“That’s all true,” Mark replied.

“But for many Christians, the gift of salvation receives different treatment,” I said. “We often worry if we don’t use the gift in the ‘right’ way or use it as much as some others do the giver will take it away. To avoid having the gift taken away we use it out of obligation and fear, not opportunity and gratitude.”

I let the words sink in, then said, “Mark, you need to live by the Spirit; start to enjoy being a Christian, and stop working so hard to prove you are one. It really isn’t about you!”

“Where should I start, Mr. Landstra?” Mark asked excitedly, like he was just hired for a job.

“If you can see this as an opportunity to understand and grow, I would encourage you to read very deliberately through the book of Romans. It will help you get a clear picture of what having the gift of salvation means… And, it is completely fine to take a long time to read it over. There is a lot of thought-provoking theology in Romans! It’s like a handbook on what it means to be Christian!”

Mark stood up. “I’ll do it! Thanks for talking!”

Mark hustled out the door on the way toward the next steps on his journey of faith.

A week after my conversation with Mark I received the following text from him:

Mark: Reading Romans really slowly. Never read it like that before. Wow! Amazing!

Me: Awesome! Thought you would like it!

Mark: Favorite verse so far: Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Me: You understand!

Mark: Yeah! I’m gaining confidence!

As I put my phone down, the words of Jesus in John’s Gospel came to mind: “Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.” Later, in the same chapter, Jesus adds: “If the Son sets you free you will be free indeed.”

Freedom! Freedom from fear through knowing and believing the Truth! The boys out on the lake experienced freedom. They lived confidently in the moment—knowing and believing the truth necessary to be safe. As a result, they were able to enjoy a wonderful afternoon of ice fishing with friends.

Mark was also beginning to experience freedom… spiritual freedom through the ongoing process of understanding Truth.

The Savior of the world desires His children to live with confidence, enjoying the gift provided through His sacrifice. Our prayer is for each student to grow in confidence through a knowledge and understanding of the Truth—living with freedom and NO FEAR!

To God be the glory!

From the front row…

Dan Landstra
Director of Spiritual Life and Leadership
Development News

Providing Christian Education that is focused on Faith... Excellence... and Service!

PACE 2019/2020
An Update

Thank you...! The UC PACE Drive for 2019/2020 has exceeded the $400,000 goal and now stands at $500,000! We are humbled by the amazing generosity and commitment of the UC community to the financial support of Christian education through this drive. Many of you have stepped up to the plate time and time again, and we want you to know how much you mean to us...

"Thank you" seems inadequate in expressing our gratitude to you. So, we give praise to God for you, asking Him to bless you. May this new year bring you peace and prosperity! Praise to the Lord our God who so marvelously blesses us with such a caring, dedicated community!

UC Celebration Banquet 2020

Plans are under-way for the 2020 UC Celebration Banquet! The event will be held on Monday, April 27, in the UC Multipurpose/Gym. The guest speaker will be David A.R. White, one of the founding partners of Pure Flix Entertainment®. He is known for his work as an actor, writer, director and producer in nearly 20 feature-length films (including God's Not Dead, God's Not Dead 2, and many others.)

David was raised in a small Mennonite farming town outside of Dodge City, Kansas. At the age of 19, he moved to Los Angeles to begin what would quickly become a successful acting career. In David’s first book, Between Heaven and Hollywood: Chasing Your God-Given Dreams he shares how God has worked through his life in his pursuit of filmmaking and acting. For David, the dreams God gives a person are the highest callings one can receive, and in the book, he explores how following the Lord and your dreams simultaneously is not only possible but can be a powerful agent for furthering the Kingdom.

When he’s not producing films or writing, David is sharing his message of encouragement, inspiration, and humor at conferences, faith and film panels, and churches around the country.

We hope you’ll join us! Please plan now to attend the 2020 Celebration Banquet! RSVP early and reserve a table for your friends and family members! (Reservation deadline is April 20.)

Financial Planning Update: The IRA Charitable Rollover is Back!

You can once again make charitable donations directly to Unity from your IRA! This is an easy and convenient way to make a gift from one of your major assets. The gifts also are excluded from your gross income, as it is a tax-free rollover. And, it counts toward your required minimum distribution.

For your gift to qualify for benefits under the extension:

• You must be 70-1/2 years old or older at the time of the gift
• Transfer must go directly from your IRA to Unity
• Your total IRA gift(s) cannot exceed $100,000 each year
• Your gift must be outright

For more information on how to make a direct gift from your IRA to Unity, contact your IRA administrator or your financial advisor.

Advance Notice: Scrap Metal Drive 2020
Save the Date!
Friday & Saturday, May 1 & 2
Location: 5790 Balsam Ave., Hudsonville (across from Hudsonville Lanes)
Hours: Friday – Noon to 8 p.m.; Saturday – 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
How to Give to Unity… In Your Will

Editor’s Note: The following article was provided by Barnabas Foundation, through their Planned Giving materials. This is the second article in the series. There are many ways to give to Unity, and over the years we have received wonderful donations through wills, trusts and estate planning. Barnabas Foundation assists our community as a partner in planned charitable giving. We will continue to share information like this with you on Unity’s website at www.unitychristian.org under “Giving to Unity.” We will also be highlighting this information in the Tidings. If you have any questions or would like more information on what Barnabas Foundation can assist you with, please contact Jack Lutke at jlutke@unitychristian.org or the Development Office at 616.662.4011.

Extending Your Influence and Impact for Generations to Come

If you are considering a gift to Unity in your will, thank you! By doing so you will model to your loved ones a steadfast commitment to financial stewardship, charitable giving and building God’s kingdom. You will also help ensure that Unity continues to develop Christ-followers into leaders for Him well beyond your lifetime!

The Language for Your Will

The statement of your intent can be very simply written:

“I give to Unity Christian High School, a nonprofit ministry with its offices located at 5900 48th Avenue, Hudsonville MI [the sum of $____] OR [____% of the residue of my estate], to be used [for its general purposes] OR [designated purpose]. If, in the officers’ opinion, the need for funds for the designated purpose no longer exists, Unity Christian High School is authorized to use these funds for a similar purpose.”

Gifts of Life Insurance, Retirement Assets or Other Financial Accounts

To give through these avenues, simply contact your life insurance provider, retirement plan administrator, and/or bank or financial institution and file the appropriate beneficiary designation form(s) or payable on death (POD) form(s).*

- Legal Name: Unity Christian High School
- Address: 5900 48th Avenue, Hudsonville MI 49426
- Tax ID Number: 38-1443397

*Laws and designation options vary by state.

Streamlined Giving through Barnabas Foundation

You may wish to include multiple charities in your will. A simple way to accomplish this is by giving through Barnabas Foundation. Designate Barnabas Foundation as the beneficiary on your legal documents. Then complete a designation form with Barnabas Foundation indicating how the funding should be allocated to Unity Christian High School. You can easily update your designation form at any time without all the costs or hassle of having to modify your will.

We’d Love to Say, “Thank You!”

We know you care deeply about Unity’s mission. By letting us know about your planned gifts, you can help us plan ahead to meet needs, about which we know you care so much. You also give us the opportunity to thank and honor you now, for the difference you will make long after your lifetime.

Need help taking the next step? Through Unity Christian High School’s partnership with Barnabas Foundation, you have access to trusted planning assistance, all from a Christian perspective. To learn more about simple, tax-wise ways to achieve your personal and charitable goals, visit www.barnabasfoundation.com or call Toll-free: 888.448.3040. Unity’s representative Steve Baker will be happy to assist you!

Unity Christian and the Infusion Project Present:


Students today are digital natives. The ubiquitous presence of technology—the internet, tablets, laptops, smart products and cell phones—defines their generation. And despite the wishes of some, the high-tech culture is here to stay. What are a school, parents and a community to do? Join us on Wednesday February 26, at 7:00 p.m. at Unity Christian for a presentation and conversation about digital technology.

The daily use of technology, especially phones, continues to increase. Current research shows teens spend, on average, more than seven hours each day looking at screens (not including time spent on homework). The average age at which a student receives their first smartphone is ten. Additionally, parents face increasing challenges keeping pace with the rapidly evolving world of social media to which students are exposed.

Using reliable, recent and relevant research, we will be exploring the impact technology—especially cell phones—defines their generation. And despite the wishes of some, the high-tech culture is here to stay. What are a school, parents and a community to do? Join us on Wednesday February 26, at 7:00 p.m. at Unity Christian for a presentation and conversation about digital technology.

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Marriages
Kendra Goebel (’14) married David Chesterman (’11) on June 24, 2016.
Jeremy Vedders (’10) married Genevieve Terrana on September 21, 2019

Births
Harper Mae Bosscher was born to parents Michael (’10) and Chelsey Bosscher on November 13, 2019.
Bryce Stephen Bouma was born May 16, 2019 to parents Ben (’01) and Kendra (Woodwyk ’01) Bouma and welcomed by siblings Braden (11), Ella (9) and Alivia (6).
Sophia Chesterman was born to parents David (’11) and Kendra (Goebel ’14) Chesterman on July 27, 2017.
Landon Rhett Collier was born on June 3, 2019 to Josh and Dana (Haak ’06) Collier and welcomed by his brothers Jaxson (5) and Eli (3).
Jackson Dale DeYoung was born on July 24, 2019 to parents Tom and Lynae (DeVries ’06) DeYoung and welcomed by his big brother Hudson (4).
Grayson Jon Horstman was born on July 16, 2019 to parents Jon (’07) and Emily (Kiel ’07) Horstman and welcomed by big sister Ellory (3).
Eleanor Anne Lozon was born to parents Nathan (’07) and Kate Lozon on April 17, 2019.
Eleanor Joy Merrill and Everlee Kay Merrill (twins!) were born to parents Alex and Anna (Glasshower ’07) Merrill on November 25, 2019.
Wade Jeffrey Rozeboom was born to parents Jeff (’08) and Jennifer Rozeboom on September 17, 2019.
Charleigh Joy Ulberg was born on September 6, 2019 born to parents Miles (’09) and Dana (Schout ’10) Ulberg and welcomed by big sister Josie May (2).
Stella Marie VanBemden was born to parents Zach (’10) and Aimee (Doorn ’10) VanBemden on October 30, 2019.
Hayden Robert Vander Wal was born to his parents Justin (’14) and Caitlynn (Heyboer ’16) Vander Wal on September 27, 2019.
Blakely Mae Westrate was born to parents Jordan (’09) and Kelly Westrate on September 28, 2019.
Grayson James Yankee and Harper Marie Yankee (twins!) were born to parents Aaron and Katie (Broekhuizen ’07) Yankee on August 30, 2019.

We give thanks for the service of Cody and Jessica, for Caleb and Ali in their new endeavor, and for Dana as she pursues her graduate degree. Please uphold in your prayers Kari and Ben and their children, and Jillian and David and their children—and all our alumni listed below. Also remember in prayer anonymously those whose names cannot be published here as they are serving in countries where sharing their work would put them and other missionaries in danger, as well as those to whom they are ministering.

We give thanks for ALL who have answered the Lord’s call to “Go and spread the Gospel to all nations…”

Joshua Bode (’95) — Oman, UAE (RCA pastor). Jeff and Melissa (DeJonge ’93) Bos — Bangladesh, South Asia; Patti (Steenwyk ’88) Brander — Mission India/Grandville MI; Kristin Bremer (’17) — Mexico (YWAM); Ben and Kari (Vriesman ’09) David — Uganda, Africa; Ray (’93) and Angie De Lange — Vancouver, BC, Canada; David and Jillian (Honderd ’09) Draayer — Zambia, Africa; Abby (Deters ’12) and Ronald Nowicki, Jr. — Glen Arbor, Michigan (Grand Traverse Young Life); Barry Dykstra (’10) — Byron Center, Michigan (Youth for Christ, BCHS); Ryan Elders (’05) — Eastern Ottawa County, Michigan (Young Life Ministry); Kyle (’01) and Heather Glasshower — Coral Springs, Florida (One Hope); Melinda Dueck (’09) — India (Sarah’s Covenant Homes); John (’74) and Ruth (VanZalen ’74) Hoekwater — Chicago, Illinois; Carrie Kennedy (’03) — Nicaragua (Young Life Ministry); Thomas (’99) and Tera Krol — Karen, Kenya; Edgar and Jamie (Ponstein ’05) Martinez — Minneapolis, Minnesota (YWAM); Gary Miedema (’71) — Robertson, South Africa; Matthew (’07) and Rachel Schmitt — Bloomington, Minnesota; Mandy (Beute ’97) and Josh Shaarda — Obule, Uganda; Angie (Beute ’95) and Tim Siedrecht — Soroti, Uganda; Scott (’81) and Mary Ann Stroven — Orlando, Florida (Student Ministry of Cru/Campus Crusade for Christ); Brenda Vander Schuur (’78) — Guayaquil (Resonate Global Mission); John (’88) and Kazumi Van Farowe — Japan; Maria (Postema ’98) and Noah Ward — Thailand (OMF International); and Nathan (’87) and Brenda Yonker — Haiti.

If you know of other UC Alumni serving in missions, please send their names and information about their ministries to development@unitychristian.org, or call 616.662.4011.

Please submit any Alumni birth or marriage announcements to: development@unitychristian.org, or call 616.662.4011. (PLEASE NOTE: To celebrate our newest little ones, we have a FREE “UC Blue Crew” Onesie that parents/grandparents may pick up from the Development Office at 4542 48th Avenue, Hudsonville MI. Please call or email the Development Office and we’ll put one aside for you. Thank you! If you would like your announcement shared on our UC Instagram and Facebook pages, please send a picture of your news, and we will post it at the end of the month.)
**Alumni in the Military**

Please remember to keep in your prayers all those listed below who are serving our country—and their families as well:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class of 1987:</th>
<th>Chad Geers; Jeff Rozema</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class of 1994:</td>
<td>Eric Alan Brew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 1996:</td>
<td>Jeremy Molenydk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 1998:</td>
<td>Allen Broene; Joon Kee Lee (Patrick Crans)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 1999:</td>
<td>Derk Nynhuys; Ron Thenn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2000:</td>
<td>Steve Bloem; Rick Martinus; Clayton Poortenga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2001:</td>
<td>Seth Allen; Darin Elgersma; Drew VerHage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2002:</td>
<td>Bryan Flietstra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2003:</td>
<td>Adam Bosma; Jeff Dekkinga; Katy Driesenga; Justin Oosterbaan; Brian Tucker; Eric VanBeek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2004:</td>
<td>Kody Fennema; Justin Hatchner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2005:</td>
<td>Brett Jackson; Chris Kitler; Andrew Niewiek; Stephan Thenn; David Zylstra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2006:</td>
<td>Jay Baum; Joshua Lankheet; David Van Abbema</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2007:</td>
<td>Aubrey Bosma; Brandon Dragstra; Drew Grooters; Quynn Schaaphok; Rachel Scott; Bobby Sorensen; Lauren Zandstra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2008:</td>
<td>Michael Dekker; Kyle Emelander; Brandon Zomerlei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2009:</td>
<td>Corbin Durek; Kent Schaaphok; Tyler Stroven; Ryan VanVels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2010:</td>
<td>Tyler Wiersma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2011:</td>
<td>Austin Dornbush; Jon Mohr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2012:</td>
<td>Jeremy Folkerts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2013:</td>
<td>Lucas Brower; Wyatt Johnson; Charlie Vrieland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2014:</td>
<td>Andrew Folkerts; Jacob Herzog; Scott Lokker; Gavin Miedema; Joshua TerKeurst; Nathan VandenBosch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2015:</td>
<td>Trevor Vedders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2016:</td>
<td>Maddy Harmon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2017:</td>
<td>Michael Piechocki</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The names of the Alumni listed above have been submitted by their families for recognition of their service in the military. If you know of other Unity alumni currently serving in the US military branches, we would like to recognize and honor them in the Tidings. Please send their information to development@unitychristian.org, or call the Development Office at 616.662.4011. Also, if you have updated information on any of the Alumni listed, please call or email the Development Office as soon as possible.

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**UC Student Civic Action Challenge**

(continued from page 4)

and a long-lasting joy for the children who received these brown bag lunches. (Civic Action #5/Posted 1/5/20; UC Facebook.)

**Civic Action #6: Environment and Biological Pollution**

Finally, Joel Hoekwater, Gabe Newhof, Jayden DeVries and Jon Gillette chose Environment and Biological Pollution for their Civic Action Spotlight. These young men noticed that invasive species have been working their way into Michigan forests and causing native plants to die. They specifically focused on the biological impact of the Japanese Barberry plant, and contacted the Hudsonville Nature Center for more information. They met with Mr. Craig Elston, City of Hudsonville Master Naturalist, who took them on an exploration to find this invasive plant. They were able to dig up 6 individual shrubs of the Japanese Barberry by the end of their trip!

These young men reflected on the small, but effective work they accomplished: “God’s creation is so amazing, but very fragile because one different plant could get introduced and it destroys a whole ecosystem. Everything in God’s creation is so intertwined that even one small thing out of place can cause catastrophic, irreversible damage. This taught me to respect God’s beautiful creation that we have been given to care for.” (Civic Action #6/Posted 1/9/20; UC Facebook)
Room at revive for YOU!

Is 2020 your year to try something new? To take action on something you’ve always been thinking of doing? Then revive might be the place for you! revive has room for more volunteer help and you just might be who we’re looking for!

We welcome volunteer help in all kinds of ways, but our more specific needs are currently in the following areas:

- **Table Sorters** – going through the donations as they come in the door, placing non-clothing items in their departments, and sorting the clothing so it can be hung. This job is great to do with a friend or two with plenty of opportunity to socialize and have fun! Just a couple hours a couple times a week would make such a difference for us!

- **Furniture/Larger Donations Work** – Especially during the winter months, we are low on male help to clean up and move out larger donations such as furniture to sell on the store floor. Heavy lifting not necessarily required, but an ability to move items on and off a cart is beneficial.

- **Cashiers** – We are always looking for friendly faces to greet customers and ring up purchases. Our touch screen registers make it very easy and we will train you until you are very comfortable. We have openings especially for Saturdays and Thursday evenings. This would be a great time for high schoolers to volunteer and get some really good work experience that looks great on applications and resumes.

Feel free to call 616.662.3375 or email any of the revive managers at revive@unitychristian.org with questions. We would love to talk to you about the place we love to work!

Spring Arrives at revive!

Don’t miss the big SPRING ARRIVAL at revive the first week of March! New spring and summer clothing, shoes, purses, home goods, floral arrangements, and more – all fresh out for the season! Check revive’s Facebook page or our website (www.ReviveResale.org) for more details as the date nears!