

Unity Christian High School

*Faith, Excellence, Service*



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## Unity's Annual Association Meeting Invitation

Wednesday, April 13, 2022  
6:30 PM @ Unity Christian High School

*An annual meeting of the Association for the affirmation of Trustees, tuition, and annual budget as recommended by Unity Christian's Board/Trustee members.*

**Membership:** All parents or guardians of children attending the school(s) maintained by this Association and all persons nineteen years of age or older whose recorded contribution toward its support is no less than ten dollars per year are members.

**Voting:** Membership includes the privilege of voting at the meetings of the Association and implies a readiness to participate in its support.

Please find more information about this meeting starting on page 6.

# Prep41 with Director for Spiritual Leadership, Mr. Dan Landstra

In each of the past four years, the Unity community has been invited to join Unity students in reading the Bible during the season of Lent. It has provided a great way for our community to engage the Word of God during the time of year when Christians prepare for Holy Week and the blessing of Easter Sunday.



This year in Chapel, students have been encouraged by the words of Hebrews 10:24 which encourages us to “spur one another on toward love and good deeds.” Within the UC community, we have explored different ways to apply these words to all areas of life. During the season of Lent this year, we were asked to read passages of scripture which focused us on the meaning and purpose of a faith-infused life.

Our program, called Prep 41, invited participants to prepare their hearts by reading a selected passage of scripture Monday through Friday each week during the season of Lent. Each week, we focused on an aspect of the Holy Spirit’s work and the believer’s response. After reading the passage, participants were invited to spend a moment in prayer over the passage.

PREPARING HEARTS WITH 4 MINUTES OF READING,  
1 MINUTE OF PRAYER, FOR 5 DAYS A WEEK...PREP 41!

This year Unity students got involved in a new and exciting way. For each of the days of Prep 41, a Unity student read the passage while being recorded. The videos were posted daily to Unity’s Instagram and Facebook page - *shown to the right*

Prep 41 allows students and our community to grow in knowledge and understanding of God’s Special Revelation to His world. Students and families have been blessed by the daily engagement with scripture during the special season of Lent.



# Resounding ratings across the board at the Band/Orchestra Festival Concert



After two long years away, the Band and Orchestra directors were able to take their ensembles to the Michigan School Band & Orchestra Association (MSBOA). At the Festival, the Band and Orchestra are required to prepare several pieces of music that are performed for a panel of adjudicators who provide feedback and ratings on the performance. Ensembles are judged on their Tone, Intonation, Rhythm, Technique, and Interpretation. The ratings are based on a letter grade (A, B, C)

which correlates with an overall number rating (A=1, B=2, C=3, etc.). In a normal year, the ensembles would also have had to sight-read a new piece of music that the ensemble and directors have never seen before for a rating as well. As an accommodation for the struggles music ensembles endured during the COVID pandemic, the sight-reading performance was replaced with an on-stage clinic by one of the adjudicators.

Festival preparation starts well before the new year. **Mr. Knot** and **Mrs. Jager** spent a lot of time picking music that fits their groups best. Each group is required to select one piece of music from the MSBOA basic music list. Each group started working on their pieces before Christmas break and then immersed themselves in the music for the months of January and February. In early February the groups had a pre-festival concert in which they had a clinician evaluate each group.

The Concert Band performed at Covenant Christian High School on February 17. The judges gave the Concert Band a 1st Division rating. Both Orchestras performed on March 1 at East Kentwood High School. The Concert Orchestra received a 2nd Division rating, with judges giving them A's and B's across the board. The Chamber Strings received straight ones, receiving A's in every category. The Symphonic Band performed at Jenison High School on Thursday, March 3. They received a 1st Division rating from every judge.

A highlight for the students is performing in auditoriums that are built for bands and orchestras with great acoustics. It is always a challenge to refine music to perform at the highest level for a panel of picky adjudicators. Both Mr. Knot and Mrs. Jager are proud of their students for stepping it up, learning their music, and representing Unity Christian's music department very well.



# Robotics Team's Success at State

IN FEBRUARY, UC SENIORS: WILL KROL, SAM MIEDEMA AND PRESTON SPEIDEL (ALONG WITH THEIR ALLIANCE PARTNERS FROM HUDSONVILLE PUBLIC HIGH) WON THE MICHIGAN STATE ROBOTICS CHAMPIONSHIP!

From the over 250 state-wide high school teams, the top 78 competed at the Robotics state tournament, held at Kettering University in Flint, MI. This achievement qualifies their team for the World Competition to be held in Dallas, TX in May.

As Will says, "For us, this is like winning the State Championship in Football! I wasn't interested in sports, and before the Robotics team, I didn't find any extracurricular activity that interested me. Thanks to Preston and Sam, I found my 'sport'."

The Robotics program began several years ago at Hudsonville Christian when Preston, who was in 7th grade, wanted to join the Hudsonville Public School's robotics team, as Hudsonville Christian did not have one. But he was informed that his own school would need to have its own program. So, he went to his principal, Mary Broene, at HCS and she began the search for a staff person who would be willing to take on this project. Fortunately, Mrs. Sue Spotts became the Robotics Team Coordinator. Preston then invited Sam and Will to join the team as well.

Entering the 9th grade, the boys (Will, Preston and Sam) pushed to have the program to continue at Unity. Mrs. Spotts agreed to a combined HCS/Unity team. This year the team formed an alliance with Hudsonville Public students

to compete at the national level. "Mrs. Spotts was great," said Preston. "She didn't know anything about robotics but learned with us and spent time with us after school, many days a week. Most days she also brought pizza and snacks! She has been a real blessing to us. In our freshman year, Sam, Will and I began playing against teams from other local schools like Grandville, Jenison, Hudsonville and GR Christian. And we even made it to the World Tournament in Louisville that year."

With junior team members: Noah Cammenga and Micah Scholten, these talented students each display individual gifts, which when combined, give them the ingredients for success. Will and Sam's competitive spirits provide the drive, and Preston's skill in managing his friends' and his emotions during competitions helps keep the team focused.

These students have all seen God's hand working. According to Sam, "Each of us (Preston, Will and I) have gone through some tough times, like having a family member dealing with cancer. God has led us through this. He brought us together and through robotics we've learned how to work together. God is teaching us how to be successful through teamwork... like letting the other person drive the robot!"

Will, Preston and Sam are on their way to the World Robotics Tournament. They will be competing among the top 500 teams from over 70 countries, out of 20,000 robotics teams around the world. This is an incredible achievement, and an opportunity to collaborate with students from all over the globe, representing Christ to the nations.



Currently, there are 11 UC students and 30 HCS students in the program, aided by parents and mentors. The goal is to expand this program to more students who are drawn to robotics. The program needs leaders/mentors/parents in order to accomplish this. If you feel led to help grow and perpetuate this program through the development and training of young people within a Christ-centered environment, please contact Troy Billin at Unity Christian (tbillin@unitychristian.org) or call (616) 662-4011.

# Annual Association Meeting

Wednesday, April 13, 2022, 6:30 PM @ Unity Christian High School

## Agenda

1. Welcome – Opening Devotions | *David Baatenburg, President*
2. Introduction of Board/Trustee Members and Board/Trustee Nominees | *David Baatenburg*
3. Affirming Board/Trustees
  - a. The Board/Trustees recommends to the Association that its slate for Board/Trustee member extensions and Board/Trustee member nominations be affirmed.
    1. Upon receiving a majority approval of the votes cast, Board/Trustee members recommended for an extension will have their Board/Trustee membership extended for three years.
    2. Upon receiving affirmation of the Board/Trustee member recommended as nominee, a vote will be cast to accept the Board/Trustee nominee as a Board/Trustee member.
  - b. Affirm three-year extension by voting “Yes” or “No” for *Brad DeKock*
  - c. Affirm nominee by voting “Yes” or “No” for the nominee to be a Board/Trustee member *Ed DeYoung*
4. Affirm 2022-2023 Budget as recommended by Board/Trustees.
5. Affirm 2022-2023 Tuition as recommended by Board/Trustees.
6. Affirm Constitution Updates as recommended by Board/Trustees.
7. Announce Board/Trustee member three-year extension results.
8. Announce new Board/Trustee member result.
9. Recognize retiring Board/Trustee member *Shane Headley*.
10. Adjourn and close with prayer | *Thea Gabrielse, Vice-Gerent*.

*Note regarding the Agenda:* The affirmation of Board/Trustee members is by ballot. Affirmation for the proposed budget, the proposed tuition, and the constitutional updates will be done by oral vote at the meeting.

## Proposed 2022/2023 Budget Summary

*Notes regarding the Proposed Budget:* Recognizing Unity’s educational excellence in supporting all the programs offered for students, the Unity Board/Trustees presents the following budget. The budget reflects controlled spending and maximizes funds raised outside of tuition-revenue. It also supports those who serve faithfully in our schools and maintains tuition affordability.

1. Tuition has been increased \$33.75/month and \$29.50/month respectively for full-time at Unity and Unity/Careerline Tech students.
2. The full cost of educating one student at Unity is \$12,192. Unity is blessed to have other resources to support this cost of education. By funds raised through the *revive* Resale Store, Unity’s Education Foundation, the annual PACE drive, and the Athletic & Music Boosters, **the full cost of education is reduced by \$2,421 to help our families.**

### Proposed 2022/2023 Budget Summary

	Adopted 2021/22	Proposed 2022/2023	Increase (Decrease)
Budget	\$7,327,925	\$7,887,720	\$559,795
<b>Revenue</b>			
Non-Tuition	\$1,522,950	\$1,515,400	(\$7,550)
Tuition	\$5,804,975	\$6,372,000	\$567,025
Full-time at Unity Christian	\$9,365	\$9,920 <small>(Includes \$150 Technology Fee)</small>	\$555
Unity & Careerline Tech	\$8,295	\$8,800 <small>(Includes \$150 Technology Fee)</small>	\$505
Enrollment	625 students	647 students	22 students

## Update to Unity's Constitution

The updates to the Constitution are related to language. If you would like a copy of the Constitution, please contact the school office at (616) 669-1820 or [unity@unitychristian.org](mailto:unity@unitychristian.org). A copy will be provided at the Association Meeting.

## Unity Christian 2021/22 Board/Trustees

President	David Baatenburg (1st term through 6/23)
Vice President	Shane Headley (2nd term through 6/22)
Treasurer	John Dice (1st term through 6/23)
Secretary	Julie Lenters (2nd term through 6/24)
Vice-Gerent	Thea Gabrielse (2nd term through 6/24)
Member-At-Large	Brad DeKock (1st term through 6/22)
Member-At-Large	Jon Lanning (1st term through 6/24)

## Unity Christian's Board/Trustee Candidate Profiles for 2022/23

### Brad DeKock

*What Christian education means to our family:* Unity means opportunity to our family. The opportunity for our children to be in an environment that helps them strengthen their faith in God. It also means an opportunity to be surrounded by a community that helps them seek God's will for their future.

- Brad and his wife, Marla, are members of Westview CRC, in Grand Rapids, MI.
- They have four children: Alexis – 2019 Unity graduate, Tyler – 2021 Unity graduate, Kirstin – 11th grade, and Ethan – 9th grade.
- Brad is the owner of GR Electric.
- He attended Calvin Christian High School and Western Michigan University.
- Brad has served Westview CRC as a cadet leader and middle school youth leader. He has also served as Deacon and was co-chair of their Christian Education Committee.

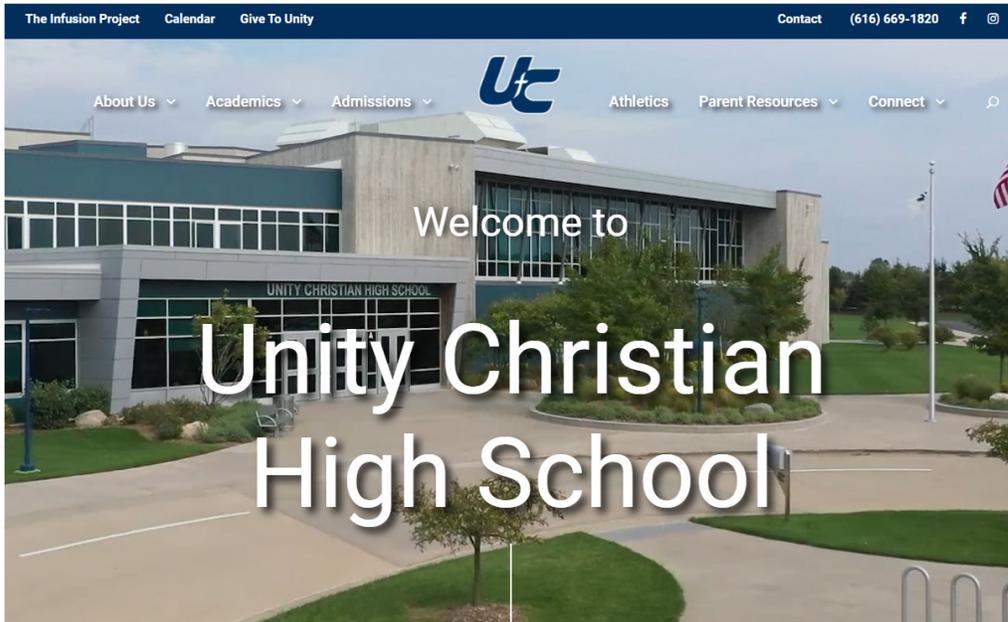
### Ed DeYoung

*What Christian education means to our family:* Christian education made a big impact on my life during my middle school and high school years and it molded who I became. When Lisa and I began a family, we knew we had one chance to raise our children and sending them to a Christian school was the only option. Christian education provides greater opportunities for students to experience who Jesus is and how faith is infused in all of life. Our children grew in their faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ at Unity, and we were blessed to have our children attend. My hope is all parents are able to send their children to a Christian school.

- Ed and Lisa are members of Georgetown CRC. Ed has served his church as an elder and deacon, and is in the choir.
- They have three married children who are all graduates of Unity.
- Ed graduated from Holland Christian.
- He is self-employed (livestock, land development, and home building).
- Ed has served on the Hudsonville Christian Foundation Board, was chairman of Deacons and head of fundraising at South Blendon Reformed Church. He was also the past president of the SCI-West Michigan Bowhunters Association and remains on the board.

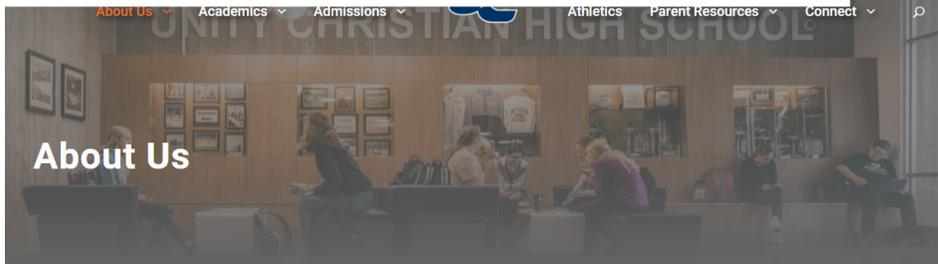


# Development News



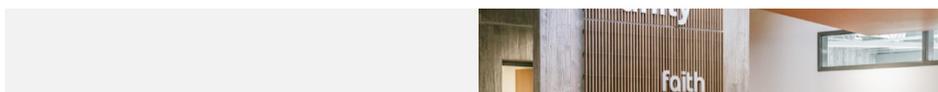
We have an updated look on our website!

We believe it will be easier for parents, future parents, and our community to navigate and find information. Please take a look to learn more about Unity today!



## Who Is Unity?

Founded in 1953, Unity Christian has been transforming lives for more than **65 years** and alumni totaling over 11,000. Our reach extends across West Michigan, the United States, and around the globe. Unity Christian provides a faith-infused, academically excellent high school education – grades 9-12.



<https://www.unitychristian.org/>



## Celebration Banquet 2022

Monday, April 25, 2022 @ UCHS

6:00 PM arrival, 6:30 PM dinner is served

Please call (616)662-4011 to RSVP or via email ([development@unitychristian.org](mailto:development@unitychristian.org)) to reserve a spot by April 13.

Our guest speaker this year, Terri DeBoer, will be presenting on the topic: "What are you going to do with the rest of your life." We look forward to exploring the changing seasons of life and learning to find purpose and joy in all of life's seasons.

## GROWTH

We thank God for continued growth in our Eastern Ottawa Christian Schools. Plans to accommodate the future student numbers at Unity are underway. We anticipate sharing these plans with our community soon. Please pray for wisdom for all involved in this process.

## Alumni News

### CLASS OF 1957 - 65TH YEAR REUNION

Mark your calendar. A Class Reunion at UCHS is being planned for Thursday, June 9 in the afternoon for lunch and sharing memories! More information to come!

### CLASS OF 1962 - 60TH YEAR REUNION

The Class of 1962 is planning their 60th Year Reunion. It will take place on Thursday, May 12 at Railside Golf Club in Byron Center, MI. The reunion will start with socializing at 11:15 am, and lunch will be served at noon. **Please RSVP to Ruth Luurtsema at [bjluurtsema@gmail.com](mailto:bjluurtsema@gmail.com) or please call the Development Office to get your information to her (616) 662-4011.**



For alumni information updates, please use the QR code to the left, our website -- connect -- alumni, email us at [development@unitychristian.org](mailto:development@unitychristian.org), or please call our Development Office at (616) 662-4011.

## UPCOMING CRUSADER EVENTS

### UC Golf Outing

Monday, June 6, 2022 @ Sunnybrook Country Club



Registration is now open for our annual golf outing. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. There will be raffle ticket prizes and grand prizes, hole contests, and a golf gift!

Please contact our Athletic Office (616)669-1820 or via email [athletics@unitychristian.org](mailto:athletics@unitychristian.org) for questions. To register please visit our athletic website: [unitychristianathletics.org](http://unitychristianathletics.org) or use the QR code here:



### Scrap Metal Drive

TBD: Fall 2022



The Scrap Metal Drive which is typically held in the spring, has moved to the fall this year. The fall date will be forthcoming in a future edition of the Tidings.

# reVive's first day of 2022 spring shopping

530+ shoppers  
4,870 total items were sold  
**\$18,059.42 total sales**  
on Mar. 9

When the doors opened at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 9, shoppers had been lining up since 9:30 and stretched all the way down the sidewalk to the ice cream shop door.

There were too many customers to count as they flooded in. The shoppers snagged carts, baskets, or bags, and started filling them with all the beautiful spring and summer items. Our reVive volunteers and staff worked tirelessly the previous days to prepare while the store was closed.

The energy and excitement lasted all day. God answered prayers for a good day with happy shoppers and plenty of volunteer help. The check-out line wrapped all the way to the dressing rooms and back to the break room door! And even when the carts ran out, other shoppers gave up theirs for mothers with children.

After all that activity and fun, it's not hard to imagine what kind of sales numbers we had at closing time.

This past fall brought in a surprising and humbling record of over \$14,000 in total sales for that first day of the season. No one was sure if we could do that again. This first day of spring shopping, however, ended at over \$18,000 in total sales! To put that in perspective a bit, the one highest item that sold that day was only priced at \$100.

Everything else that made up that \$18,000 was far below that, usually averaging around \$4 an item. That's a lot of stuff!

We at reVive don't really even know what to say to that. It is amazing, it is crazy, it is such fun, but most of all it is a complete work of God! He gets all the credit, even as we give abundant thanks to our hard-working volunteers!

We are beyond blessed. And we pray that we can continue to use our blessings to bless our schools and our community. For it is in His name we serve.

## THE VALUE OF A VOLUNTEER

reVive had over 50 volunteers working in the store on Monday, March 7, to make the switch to spring and summer merchandise. Over 40 volunteers also helped us on that Tuesday. Several more volunteers showed up the Saturday before, to empty the store of fall and winter items. That's a lot of willing hands to make the work light! Especially considering that several of our volunteers are snowbirds still enjoying the sunshine in warmer climates.

Many of these hard-working and faithful volunteers came early and stayed late to get the job done. They helped wherever they saw a need, took a break only long enough to sip a little water or eat a little lunch, and



ROBERT BUIST volunteering from Georgetown Harmony Homes

then were back at it. Their hands put out thousands of spring and summer items. Their feet walked miles as they tidied, organized, and prepared the store to welcome its shoppers. And when the shoppers came on Wednesday, they were there too. Cashiering, helping shoppers, emptying dressing room racks, corralling hangers, putting more items out, and processing even more donations. The frosting on the cake is that most of these serving saints are over the age of 60, closer to their 70s or 80s.

How do you put a value on something like that? On people who don't stop giving and doing and serving no matter the age? No matter the aches and weariness? How do you calculate the worth of people that willingly and joyfully work for the benefit of someone else, for the benefit of our schools and our community? You don't. You can't, really. An \$18,000 sales day might be an attempt at measuring their worth, but not really. They are invaluable. We know that. *And we hope they know that too.*



NATE HOZEE



LINDA FALBE AND NAN VANHUIS



ELLA KOLK, MARY LOU VANDERPLOEG, & CAROLE AGEMA



Address  
3675 Baldwin St.,  
Hudsonville, MI 49426  
616-662-3375  
revive@unitychristian.org

Shopping Hours  
M,W,F: 10 am - 5 pm, T, Th: 10 am - 7 pm  
Sat: 10 am - 3 pm  
Donation Hours  
M-F: 10 am - 4 pm, Sat: 10 am - 12 pm





Unity Christian High School

5900 48th Avenue

Phone: 616-669-1820

[www.unitychristian.org](http://www.unitychristian.org)

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Special thanks to the UC Photojournalism class for contributing some of the pictures used in this publication.