

UNITY CHRISTIAN  
IN HIS SERVICE



December 2022  
**BULLETIN**

**PEOPLE OF HOPE** Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised us is faithful – Hebrews 10: 23-24



**"The Word became FLESH  
and made his dwelling  
among us. We have seen his  
GLORY, the GLORY of the one  
and only SON, who came  
from the FATHER, full of  
GRACE and TRUTH."**

*Christmas blessings to you  
from the family of Unity  
Christian High School.*



# Dear Friends of Unity,

We are living in an amazing story, not our own.

I used to teach English. In the literature classes, I would always teach the storyline or plot a map of a story using introduction, inciting action, rising action, climax, resolution. These were the terms of the storyline. Allow me to flash some former English teacher lingo.

Introduction - a description of the setting and an introduction to the characters of the story: protagonist, antagonist, supporting characters.

Inciting Action - the conflict that moves the story.

Rising Action - the tension builds as conflict(s) build and grow, gripping the reader to turn the page. The outcome is unknown.

Climax - the point of the story where the antagonist and protagonist battle it out in an epic story changing movement.

Resolution - there are different ends to stories, but most with good triumphing over evil.

From our vantage point in history, we are in an amazing part of God's story. We are small characters in the story, but nonetheless participants. Plot wise, we are on the downhill side of the climax. The enemy has been defeated. We know how the story ends. Stop and ponder that. We know how the story of this life ends.

This Advent season, we get to relive the part of the story where hope springs up in the arrival of a baby in a manger, an unlikely hero, a root growing out of a stump. He is an unlikely protagonist that most everyone did not see coming.

May we be in awe at the Author's story, his plot design, and how he leads us towards an amazing resolution it is a story with an amazing ending.

Praise be to God for allowing us to be a part of His story.

***Merry Christmas,***

***Mr. Dykstra***

## Capital Campaign Update

Construction is moving along well. Drywall is going up and brick interior walls are well underway. A late Spring deadline looks to still be the goal!

As of December 5, 2022 we have \$1,478,868.46 remaining to reach the goal of \$8 million. Thank you Unity supporters for helping us raise over \$6,521,000!

We are getting close to going to the bank for a loan, so any new gifts or paid pledges before December 31 would be a huge blessing to our ability to pay monthly construction bills!

# Knights Volleyball

The 2022 Unity Christian Knights volleyball season concluded during the first week of November at the State Volleyball tournament, which was in a new location this year. The State Volleyball tournament was played at the Xtreme Arena in Iowa City. We lost a hard-fought match in the quarterfinals to Mt. Vernon.

Our season record was 23-10, and we were undefeated in our final War Eagle conference season with a record of 10-0. This was the 9th consecutive year going undefeated in the conference and being the conference champions.

Our season began with a tournament at West Des Moines Valley, with a very difficult field of teams. Every team we played at this tournament was a ranked team in Class 5A. Our record for the day was 2-4, but this tournament pushed us to struggle through some tough matches, losses, and wins. Five of the 6 teams we played at this tournament also qualified for the State Tournament in Class 5A.

Our other Saturday tournaments this year included the Sioux County Pizza Ranch tournament, our own Unity Invitational, and the Western tournament.

Our team was challenged this year to have a mindset of growth throughout our wins, losses, and everyday high school schedules. We talked often about how in the sport of volleyball, our job is to “Better the Ball”. This is a concept that can be applied to our interactions with others as well. God is with us through both the good and the bad times, the wins and the losses, and we often talked about our reliance on God with every aspect of our lives.

Several of our players and managers received post-season honors.



Front Row, L to R: Jaelye Woudstra, Callie Karhoff, Katelyn Zevenbergen, Paige De Boom, Cassady Dekkers, Meysi Pennings, (back row, from left) Gracie Schoonhoven, Haley Kuperus, Tyra Schuiteman, Aubrey De Groot, Molly Zylstra, Jadyn Hofmeyer.

Those receiving Academic All-Conference were:

Maggie Alons, manager, Aubrey De Groot, Cassady Dekkers, Ava Nykamp, manager, Gracie Schoonhoven, Brooklyn Vander Veen, manager, Molly Zylstra

All Conference First team honorees included Paige De Boom, Gracie Schoonhoven, and Tyra Schuiteman.

All-Conference Second team was Haley Kuperus, and All-Conference Honorable Mention was Jadyn Hofmeyer.

Several other honors were given to the following athletes:

Paige De Boom—2nd team All-N’West Iowa Review

Tyra Schuiteman—Honorable Mention Class 3A All-State, 3A All-District West, and 3rd team All-N’West Iowa Review.

Gracie Schoonhoven—IGCA Senior All-Star Game, 1st Team Class 3A All-State, 3A West All-District, KMA Sports Class 3A All-State Team, 1st Team All-N’West Iowa Review.

## Students Travel to FFA Convention

By Dennis Benson

The following FFA members attended the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana during the last week of October. Gabe Schiebout, Lizzy King, Jocelyn Muilenburg, Bryce Fedders, Brody Oolman, Abby Van Roekel, Cody Feikema, Easton Van Meeteren, Joe Karhoff, Caleb Hamming, Danielle Dykstra & Caleb Wielenga. Students had the opportunity to develop premier leadership and explore career success. Tours included the St. Louis Arch, St Louis Cardinals Stadium and museum, Louisville Slugger, Churchill Downs, and the Indianapolis Speedway and museum. Other events included the World’s Toughest Rodeo, National Convention & Expo. The opening session included the inspirational keynote speaker former WNBA

player Tamika Catchings. Thank you to all our Unity FFA supporters who make this possible through donations at our soup supper, fruit sales, plants sales and sweet corn sales.





Team Members listed left to right: Summer Borchers, Faith Elgersma, Jaiden Kooima, Laura Ross, Jenna Folkerts, Jaidyn De Jong, Lyndsey Calkhoven, Amaya Vande Vegte, and Jillian Metselaar.

## The Start of a Great Season

By Coach Ashley Schiebout

“The dance team has had a great season so far!

We started practicing weekly in early June, attending dance camp at Dordt University and preparing choreography for Football season in the Fall. We were able to perform at three home football games then moved into preparation for our state competition.

Every year, the ISDTA (Iowa State Dance Team Association) puts on the largest state competition of its kind in the country. 255 high schools and over 5000 dancers competed in the competition this year. After putting in hours and hours of practice to prepare, we headed down to Des Moines this past week to compete. The girls represented

Unity Christian beautifully. They competed in the Novelty and Lights categories, earning Division 1 ratings for both routines and placing third overall with their Light routine! In addition to that, the team was also recognized for their accomplishments in the classroom by earning the Distinguished Academic award for having a team average GPA between 3.5 and 4.0.

Now that competition season is over, the team is looking forward to performing during basketball season. There are lots of fun routines to look forward to such as our homecoming performances, our Parent/Daughter routine, Kids Camp, and a joint routine with the Western Christian dance team!”

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## Celebrating the Combination



By Janie Van Dyke

It's a combination. For 15 years, Unity directors and students have combined their areas of fine arts to produce an evening of light hearted entertainment. What started in the balcony, now the weight room of Unity, the Combo night then traveled to a church. With the building of Knight Center, the group now performs on that stage. A one act, several jazz band numbers, acapella music from a men's group, and improvisations all combine together for the evening. We're glad that we can provide a space and a time for our students to use their gifts in this way.

# 76th Annual All-State Music Festival

By Tim Van Voorst

On Saturday, October 22, over 4,200 of Iowa's finest high school musicians were present for auditions held at six locations around the state. Of those who auditioned, 601 were selected for the chorus, 275 for the band, and 207 for the orchestra. These student musicians represent the top 1% of all Iowa high school musicians.

Unity Christian was very well represented by six students at the all-state festival held on the campus of Iowa State University in Ames, IA on November 17-19, 2022.

**Orchestra: Violin - Caitlin Frens, freshman (1st year); Laura Ross, junior (2nd year) Viola - Joylyn Vande Berg, senior (4th year) Band: Trombone - Mikayla Vollink, junior (1st year)**

**Chorus: Alto - Anna DeJong, junior (1st year); Emily Eppinga, senior (1st year)**

These six students spent three days rehearsing with nationally recognized conductors for their Saturday evening performance. Senior JoyLyn Vande Berg was recognized at the concert as being a four-year all-state violist, an honor that

very few students accomplish.

If you wish to watch the concert, it can be streamed at [www.iowapbs.org](http://www.iowapbs.org).

The weekend is sure to be an unforgettable musical experience for each of the students who were selected for participation. Soli Deo Gloria.



## Quiz Bowl

By Janie Van Dyke

Quiz bowl is defined as an academic competition in which two teams of students compete to buzz-in before the other team on toss-up questions and collaborate with their teammates to answer bonus questions. Questions come from a variety of topics covering traditional academic subjects (language arts, grammar, mathematics, sciences, history, etc.) and non-traditional subjects (mythology, music, art, world religions, sports/games, etc.) Unity's quiz bowl team is comprised of students from all four grades who share a love for knowledge and have varied areas of expertise. The composition of the teams varies from meet to meet depending on availability on the day of a competition. Regardless of who is put together, they work as a team. Participants come together once a week (Thursdays at lunch) to practice and expand their knowledge base in multiple areas. Tournaments or meets take place on Saturdays, usually beginning midmorning and lasting until early afternoon. Spectators are always welcome to come.

We started out our year with a tourney at MOC where we placed 5th out of 12 teams in the JV division and 3rd and 5th (2 teams) out of 12 teams in the varsity division. Following a tourney at Spirit Lake on December 3, we will be hosting our home meet on December 10. More competitions will come after the new year begins. Watch the Unity calendar and come check us out sometime.



Left to right: Iain Monroe, Sam Nonhof, Hezekiah Hanson, William Breems, Dylan Koelewyn, Jonathan Breems, Riley Mulder, Isaac Krommendyk, Layne Vos, Elijah Nyenhuis.  
Not Pictured: Jacen Huizenga, Sam Kamp, Ben Ploegstra, Brayden Schoellerman, Reagan Van Beek, MyKayla Zylstra.

# Honoring the Story

By Katelyn Huizenga

For Veterans Day, the College Composition class put together a chapel to honor the local veterans of Sioux County. We sent invitations to many of the veterans from around the area and invited them to join us for our Veterans Day chapel. This year's theme was Honoring the Story. We focused on how we can honor the veteran's stories through their faith-filled service. A video was shown at the beginning of the chapel that recognized many veterans from Sioux County who sacrificed their lives for our country.

The speaker for our chapel was Chaplain Major Cory Van Sloten. Major Van Sloten graduated from Unity in 1988 and has served in the Iowa Army National Guard for 30 years. After Cory's message, a mic was passed around and each veteran shared with us his/her name, where, and how long they served. This was an excellent opportunity for each veteran to share a little piece of their life with us and helped us honor their stories. We want to thank and honor the veterans who have served our country and those who have sacrificed their lives to give us the freedoms we have today.

## Cross Country

The Unity Christian Cross Country teams wrapped up another strong season at the state meet on October 28. The state meet was a culmination of many months of hard work, starting with athletes logging miles together back in June. Both guys and girls teams ran competitively throughout the season, finishing near the top of many meets. Katie Young had a standout season. The freshman won a number of invitationals and finished the season as an All-State runner with a 14th place finish at the state meet. The girls team routinely had a number of medalists at their meets. The guys team utilized a strong pack throughout the season with a very small time gap between their scoring five. Many athletes saw great improvements throughout the year and grew strong friendships as well. We thank our seniors for their years of dedication and commitment to our program and look forward to another strong year next year with many returners coming back.

Congratulations to the following athletes who made the War Eagle All Conference Team in Cross Country! Boys - Jonathon Breems, Ezra Landman, Iain Monroe, Daylen Mulder, Stephen Schreurs, Ethan Wynia

Girls - Jaidyn De Jong, Elizabeth Hoogland, Olivia Hoogland, Abby Klompjen, Megan TeKrony, Mikayla Vollink, Katie Young

Congratulations to the following cross-country members honored with WEC Academic All Conference CC: Jonathan Breems, Samuel Nonhof, Megan Te Krony and Kara Van Genderen



Front, L to R: Ben Van Genderen, Sam Kamp, Ezra Landman, Jean Maletoungou, Braden Zevenbergen, Brevan Obbink, Dylan Koelewyn, Sam Nonhof. Middle, L to R: Elijah Nyenhuis, Jesse Huisman, Ethan Wynia, Iain Monroe, Brennan Obbink, Stephen Schreurs, William Breems, Landon De Jong. Back, L to R: Jaden Borchers, Jacen Huizenga, Ben Ploegstra, Lane Scholten, Tyler Roozenboom, Ryan Van Schouwen, Jonathan Breems, David Winn.



Front Row, L to R: Esther Eppinga, Annika Goslinga, Autumn Bousema, Brynn Franken, Kadence Driesen, Kenzie Huizenga, Kyra Van Schouwen, Chloe Smit, Julia Dykstra, Elizabeth Hoogland. Middle, L to R: Mikayla Vollink, Jaidyn De Jong, Amalia Visser, Kara Van Genderen, Olivia Hoogland, Kendra Breems, Emilee Schrock, Abby Klompjen. Back, L to R: Aubrey Kuiper, Daylea Tinklenberg, Eden Moreau, Madison Bosma, Addison Liston, Megan TeKrony, Anna De Jong, Karyss Muyskens.

# All In

By Coach Josh Van Kempen

The 2022 Unity Christian football season was an awesome one. We had a lot of questions coming into the season about who would step up as leaders, where our production would come from, and how we would come together as a team. Seeing this group grow throughout the season was fun to be a part of. We were able to finish with a winning record in district play and that was our 2nd year in a row doing that which is a program record. We also qualified for the playoffs for the third year in a row which was another program record.

We were blessed with a good group of seniors. Bryce Harskamp, Jacob Folkerts, Gabe Borchers, Trevor Wieringa, Carter Slenk, and Jacob Van Donge were our seniors. They, mixed with our younger guys, made coming out to practice every day an absolute joy. There wasn't a lot of size with this group but they were selfless, tough, competitive and learned how to focus on the details. Their steady demeanor allowed us to overcome adversity throughout the season. It also was one of the things that made our team very coachable. We didn't have any egos as guys were willing to fill whatever roles were needed for the good of the team.

Our theme for the year was, "All In." Whenever young men go through our program, we want them to leave it with good memories of football and time with their friends competing, but we also want them to take skills and lessons that help make them better men. Our theme was chosen

by the seniors, and they set the tone in leading us in that. It was really put to the test when we didn't get the start to the season the way we wanted with losing all three of our non-district games. We had to fight through some injuries, and play some players in different positions, some who had never played varsity football before. Once you have something like that happen, it can be easy to quit or pull back, but our guys did a great job of staying committed to each other and continued to push and improve. That showed up when we started getting healthy and were able to pick up three wins in district play and qualify for playoffs. We had some fantastic speakers come in for our Thursday night team meals that lead devotions for us centered on that theme. I am very thankful that I got to be a part of another football season at Unity Christian and am especially thankful for the young men that were involved in it.

Congratulations to the following football players for making All District Teams!

All District First Team - Jacob Van Donge, Gabe Borchers, Cole Rens, Trevor Wieringa, Ethan Van Ginkel, Titan Hulstein, Bryce Riebeling, Braeden Bosma

All District Honorable Mention - Stanley Altemeier, Jacob Folkerts, Elliot Vanden Berg

Academic All District - Jacob Folkerts, Trevor Wieringa, Jacob Van Donge

Academic All State - Trevor Wieringa, Jacob Van Donge



Front Row, L to R: Caleb Westra, Simon Mellema, Ethan Van Ginkel, Carter Slenk, Gabriel Borchers, Jacob Folkerts, Trevor Wieringa, Jacob Van Donge, Bryce Harskamp, Jaxson Poppema, Titan Hulstein, (second row, from left), Chris Freese, Bryce Fedders, Tim Rose, Ashtyn Kroeze, Bryce Riebeling, Landon Meerdink, Kyan Emmelkamp, Judah Baart, Elliot Vanden Berg, Cole Rens, Stanley Altemeier, Lucas Hooyer, (third row, from left), Brayden Schollerman, Weston Huisman, Parker Van Roekel, Taryn Van Meeteren, Noah Franken, Brady Boogerd, Wyatt Hulshof, Traevin Van Beek, Asa Byl, Jackson Vogel, Kolton Smit, Braeden Bosma, Brayden Harskamp, Tait Groeneweg (fourth row, from left) Paul Pullman, Tyler Poppema, Jonah De Jong, Caleb Altena, Joshua Campbell, Chase Nieuwsma, Brandon Hulstein, James Foreman, Brody Emmelkamp, Micah Van Donge, Austin Wieringa and Dylan Bosma.

# Student Council

Student Council has worked hard all year to plan events that add to the positive atmosphere of Unity. The council's goal is to bring not only the students of the school together through fun planned events, dress up days and dances, but also teachers, staff members, and the community. So far this year, Student Council has planned an ice cream social to bring freshmen and seniors together, a fall spirit week that included a powderpuff football game, dress up days, and fun school-wide games to kick off fall sports and extra curricular activities, and dances for the student body to enjoy. Most recently, a school-wide Operation

Christmas Child box packing was put in place for students to give generously to children around the world and an intramural volleyball tournament took place to raise money for veterans. Looking forward to the rest of the school year, Student Council hopes to plan many more fun events for the Unity Community to look forward to getting involved with. Members include Joren Vande Griend, Eve Baart, Claire Van Voorst, Ava Noyes, Amaya Vande Vegte, Faith Elgersma, Hezekiah Hanson, Carson Noteboom, Brielle Reitsma, Isaac Krommendyk, Lauren Vande Griend, and Ellie Struck.

# Fall Cheerleading

By Jenness Wolgen

Twelve young ladies sat on the stage in the Knight Center with cautious optimism in late May of 2022. They were listening to a devotional about being in the right place at the right time; for such a time as this, and watching the coach with a skeptical eye as she whooped and hollered and carried on about how great an opportunity it was to become a cheerleader at Unity Christian High! Fast forward to August and the cheer camp at Dordt University followed quickly by a camp in Storm Lake where these future leaders learned the ins and outs of jumps, stunts, and routines. This young team, filled with raw talent and a strong desire to learn, accomplished a great deal of material in a very short period of time. They became quite the team as they gathered for practice in the early morning four times per week, cheered at football games, planned and facilitated a pep fest, planned and facilitated a kids cheer camp, and put together a combo routine with the dance team. It was quite a busy Fall season! Two of them attended the All State Cheer Tryout in Ames; Amaya Vande Vegte and Emilee Schrock. Ellie Struck, Meghan Vos, and Meysi Pennings were selected to represent Unity at the Honor Cheer event at the UNI Dome in Cedar Falls mid November. Each of these young leaders have become more and more confident with each event, and they have done a great job of representing Unity at the many games and events that

they have had the pleasure of attending. Finally, they fought through busy schedules and illnesses to put together a competition routine for the Iowa State Cheer Competition in Des Moines; the first time in school history that a cheer team has competed in this event! They have been so diligent in creating a culture of positivity and encouragement in our cheer program at Unity. As we reflect on the past few months we are overcome with gratitude for the support from our families, friends, and school community. Go, Knights!



**Members of the Unity Knights Cheer Team: Freshmen, Lily Bonnema and Kenna Huizenga, Sophomores, Addie Terpstra, Amaya Vande Vegte, Ava Noyes, and Emma Sandbulte, Juniors, Emilee Schrock, Maddie Bonnema, and Meysi Pennings, and Seniors, Ellie Struck and Meghan Vos. The cheer captains for this Fall season were Addie Terpstra and Meysi Pennings.**

# Honor Band

On Saturday, Jan. 6, 2023, five Unity Christian High School band students will participate in the Northwest Iowa Honor Band festival at 7:00 pm, in Eppley Auditorium at Morningside University in Sioux City. Students chosen were Katelyn Huizenga, flute, Rebecca Philipsen and Kate Van Grouw, clarinet, Addie Oschner, alto saxophone,

and Mikayla Vollink on trombone. These students were selected from an audition in Sioux Center, Iowa, on Nov. 5. They had to perform 3 major scales, chromatic scale, and 2 chosen etudes. Approximately 180 high school musicians from 40 area high schools were chosen from over 330 entries.

## Celebrating with...

- Congratulations to Mandy and Dave Van Schouwen on the adoption of their son Nico Jay.
- Congratulations to alumni Jill (Bouma) Haan for being inducted into the Iowa State Volleyball Hall of Fame.
- Jill currently ranks third at the school in career digs (2,476) and 12th in career kills (904).
- Congratulations to former teacher and coach, Mark Kauk, who was inducted into the Iowa Track Coaches Hall of Fame.

## Praying for...

- The students in our school who are mourning the loss of loved ones.
- Carla Van Beek and her family in the death of her father.
- Students and faculty who have had surgeries or are dealing with injuries.

## Thankful for...

- the building project that is on schedule.
- the generous donors who have given to this project.
- safety on the road for our bus drivers and student drivers.



Jill (Bouma) Haan



Mark Kauk



Mandy and Dave Van Schouwen with Nico



Art class creating coil pots

### *Memorial Gifts:*

Ben Van Engen  
Andy Engeltjes



Student council members gathered boxes for Samaritan's Purse.

# Classroom Glimpses

Just what happens in our classrooms? This fall we have been busy learning, creating, solving and working.

World History: The Freshman just finished with their History Day projects.

Communications II: The students held a bake sale for the Heytsi's in the Ukraine for shoes, socks and propane stoves. This is a Flex activity as a part of a bigger unit.

English 9: The Freshmen finished working on solving crimes in connection with the Mystery Unit. Now they are writing essay outlines, and connecting the power of story to our stories.



Art: The Art classes are creating sculptures, self portraits, and wheel thrown mosaics.

American History: The Juniors are studying the Civil War and finishing up their History Day projects.

Stats: Mr. Kramer is leading the statistics students in their final project where they will look at Vietnam statistics.

Wildlife: how to clean and gut a duck. This will lead into cleaning and gutting a deer.

PE: The classes just finished reading the book, Fearfully and Wonderfully Made.

Law: This class is just beginning the crime scene unit with Officer Pollema.



Jazz Band



Choir



Band