



UNITY CHRISTIAN
IN HIS SERVICE



April 2021

BULLETIN

BEARING FRUIT For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God. — Colossians 1:9-10

Dear Unity Constituent,

We have come so far in such a strange year! Years from now, we will look back and tell stories about the Pandemic of 2020. Remember when....

While it is not over, we are certainly seeing a lot of things return to normal. Spring sports are underway. Our theater department just performed *The Diary of Anne Frank*, hope you had a chance to see it — it was powerful. Students are back in their original classrooms. Just this week we returned to two chapels a week. Thanks be to God for where we are at today.

We have also come a long way in the **21 Campaign**. When we look back in the past year, we also notice how far we have come in this project! In November 2019, the project passed with a 97% approval vote. In December of 2019, we started fundraising. Then in March, Covid grounded our campaign to a standstill for five months. In August of 2020, we resumed asking friends of Unity for support. In eleven months of fundraising over \$4.9 million has been gifted or pledged. We have come a long way. Thank you Unity supporters. Thanks be to God for where we are at today.

As we look to the future, we are confident that God will lead and guide us. May we continue to honor the mission of Unity, listed below in bold font.

Proclaiming the Lordship of Jesus Christ - over everything.

The Community of Unity - we need all of you. Alumni, parents, community, future Knights

Provides a Biblically based education - recognizing the infallible, authoritative Word of God.

To Guide Young People - what an opportunity we have to direct teens! Pray for us.

To Serve Both God and Neighbor - we are called to take the focus off of ourselves.

In All Aspects of Life - *It all belongs to God.*

Bring on 21-22!

In Christ,
Wayne Dykstra
Head of School

Spiritual Renewal

by Jake Byma

"You're Invited" was a common refrain during Unity's annual Spiritual Renewal Week. Led by Sam Ashmore, Campus Pastor at Dordt University, the week consisted of a focus on the invitation of Christ to be with him, to be like him, and to do as he did. As we dove into Matthew 11:28-30, we spent time listening and understanding what it means to come to the Lord with our burdens and the rest that he gives. Sam also led us in practicing new spiritual rhythms like meditation and listening prayer. When life seems to be whizzing by at such a frantic pace, Sam's leadership to slow us down and focus on God's truth was a blessing to both students and staff. All chapels from the week of March 8 are available on Youtube if you have interest in catching up on our Spiritual Renewal Week.



Ag/FFA Report

by Dennis Benson

The Ag Program/FFA Chapter at Unity Christian continues to challenge students, through their storyline "Finding Your Place in God's Kingdom", to explore agriculture and discover leadership opportunities. We recently participated in FFA sub-district, district and state contests. Fifty-five different students participated in the contests, some in person and some virtually. We are looking forward to seven Unity Christian FFA members receiving their Iowa Degrees. Jenna Bos & Jessica Koedam both finished as State runner-ups in their proficiencies. We hope to compete in several competitions at the State FFA Convention in April. Students are very busy planting, transplanting and watering annual flowers and prairie plants that were harvested in the fall. Looking for plants?? Check out our plant sale around Mother's Day. We are continually being blessed by support from our community through leadership and financial support. The support for our student activities will continue to help them explore agriculture and find their place in God's Kingdom.

History Day

by Jon Holwerda and Kris Talsma

This year's theme for National History Day is "Communication in History: The Key to Understanding." Students chose a person or event that they believed showed this theme and created a project that displayed how their topic fit with the theme. The project options were a documentary, a paper, a website, a performance, or an exhibit. From Freshman to Senior, Ms. Talsma and Mr. Holwerda had about 90 students participate at our school. This year, due to COVID-19, all History Day levels will be virtual. Our students have worked hard with adjustments to meet the criteria of a virtual presentation. The following students will be advancing to the State History Day Contest which is normally held in Des Moines; Kylie De Boer, Amaya Van Essen, Elias Obbink, Sam Eppinga, Lyndsey Calkhoven, Anna DeJong, Hanna Clemens, Karlee Hofmeyer, Courtney Joiner, Amy De Groot, Caleb Te Krony, Casey Oolman, Jane Taylor, Rebecca Philipsen, Mikayla Vollink, Carissa Reinders, David Winn, Kaleb Hamming, Elijah Hofmeyer, and Jackson Visscher. We are thankful for the hard work that all the students put forth during the History Day process. We had a lot of good projects!

Knightsounds Tour

by Tim Van Voorst

After having their 2020 tour cancelled due to COVID-19, the students in Knightsounds are excited to travel to Sioux Falls, SD on Friday, April 16. The students will have an opportunity to tour and perform in the acoustically wonderful St. Joseph Cathedral downtown, tour the 1,800 seat Mary W. Sommerwold performance hall of the Washington Pavilion, and have a clinic session with Dr. Paul Neishem at Augustana University. It promises to be a great day of learning, music making, and camaraderie!



Pops Concert

by Carla Van Beek

Unity Christian Music Department presented "DECADES OF POP MUSIC" at its annual Pops Concert on Thursday, February 25. All of Unity's choral and instrumental ensembles were featured in this concert. Highlights from the concert include selections from "The Greatest Showman," "Pixar" films, "Kansas," "Toto," "The Mandalorian," and other popular compositions. To add to the festivities, the students enjoyed dressing as their favorite character or decade.

Thank you to all who came and enjoyed this evening of music and thanks for your continued support of the music department. The upcoming Spring Concert will be held May 18, 2021 in the Knight Center.

Unity Speech Team: Competition in a Pandemic

by Nicki Kuiper

The Unity Speech Team has been in the throws of rehearsals since the beginning of January. But due to the pandemic, competition will look a bit different than it has in the past.

The Iowa High School Speech Association (IHSSA) chose to move ahead with district and state competitions for 2021, but in light of the pandemic, many of the competitions were being held virtually. It was decided early in January that Unity's speech students would benefit most from competing in person with live judges and audience members, so we chose to hold the competition on our own at Unity.

Speech coach, Nicki Kuiper, called several local individuals, some of whom are certified IHSSA speech judges, and invited them to judge a Unity speech competition which will be held at Unity on Saturday, March 27.

Judges for the Unity contest are as follows:

For individual speech categories, Dr. Bruce Kuiper, forensics coach and Communication Professor at Dordt University, Todd and Kris McDonald, certified IHSSA judges, and Emily Hageman,

certified IHSSA judge and speech coach at Siouxland Christian School will serve as judges. Individual competition will be held from 9:00-11:30 on the 27th.

For the short film category, Mark Volkers, certified IHSSA judge and professor of Communication/Digital Media from Dordt University will serve as a judge. The short film competition will be held in the Knight Center starting at 11:30 AM.

For the One-Act play, Robert Hubbard, professor and director from Northwestern College, and Laurel Koerner, professor and director from Dordt University, will serve as judges. The one-act competition will be held in the Knight Center at 1:00 PM.

Competitors who receive a Division I rating on Saturday, March 27 will be invited to share their presentation at the Unity Speech Showcase on Monday, March 29 beginning at 4:00 PM in the Knight Center.

Family members and friends of Unity Speech Team members were invited and encouraged to attend the competition on March 27, as well as to attend the Unity Speech Showcase on Monday, March 29. We look forward to seeing Unity students to share their gifts again this year, in spite of the COVID pandemic!

With Praise

Thank you to those who contributed to the NICSTO Program. We were able to distribute \$12,200 early in the year, and \$238,058 in January to 85 families.

Congratulations to the following students who are being recognized for being the top 5% in their class! The juniors and seniors will be honored at the War Eagle Academic Banquet on March 30 hosted by Trinity Christian.

Seniors: Laura Beltman, Tyra Hulstein and Lucy Zylstra

Juniors: Kylie De Boer, Amy De Groot, Ella Dekkers, Katy Timmer, Amaya Van Essen and Mylia Wagenaar

Sophomores: Brooklyn Vander Veen, Molly Zylstra and MyKayla Zylstra

Freshman: Karlee Hofmeyer, Reagan Noteboom, Rebecca Philipsen and Levi Rosenboom

Solo and Small Ensemble Night

by Tim Van Voorst

On Friday, April 23 students from the band, choirs, and orchestra will present solo and small ensemble performances. Through the study of solo and small ensemble literature, students are challenged to be responsible for their own part, often performing as the only person on their part. Literature is tailored to each soloist or ensemble to stretch them and encourage them to continue to grow as a musician. Performing without a conductor requires students to become even better listeners and leaders. Students will receive comments from professional experts in vocal and instrumental music which will help them continue to grow and develop in the study and performance of their instrument. This event is free and open to the public.

Congratulations to Micaiah Tinklenberg and Nicole Koops both made the Academic All-State team for the South Dakota Amateur Hockey Association.

Congratulations to the Science Fair virtual students who will move on to the regional Science Fair at Brookings, S.D.

Congratulations to the following Unity FFA Students on their awards at district and state levels:

DISTRICTS:

Floriculture: 2nd Gold
Sydney Miedema - 6th
Raeleigh Raines - 8th
Jessica Koedam
Jenna Bos
Nursery & Landscape: 1st Gold
Sydney Miedema - 1st
Jenna Bos - 3rd
Jessica Koedam
Raeleigh Raines - 8th
Job Interview
Paige Fedders - Bronze
Greenhand Test
Jocelyn Muilenburg - Gold
Daylen Mulder - Bronze
Caleb Schaap - Bronze

STATE:

Paige Fedders - Ag Services - Gold
Jessica Koedam - Dairy Placement - 2nd Gold
David Eason - Diversified Crop Production - Silver
Jenna Bos - Small Animal Care - 2nd Gold

Congratulations to Jane Taylor for winning Iowa Water Center's Spirit of the Water Essay Contest! Jane entered her essay titled "Where Have You Been" and came in first in the Creative Essay Track of the contest.

Girls Basketball: New Faces, New Opportunities

by Coach Jay Schuiteman

As we started the year with a lot of uncertainty, our common theme was "Enjoy the Journey." The first half of the season was challenging, starting off with our Sioux City Heelan game where Mr. Jon Holwerda took the lead without me, as I was home sick. The next games were also challenging, but, our wins against MMCRU and LeMars got the team going quickly. Our only blemish the first half of the season was against Cherokee where we were missing one starter. But, the second half started well, with only one bump in the road when we played and lost to Sioux Center. The girls quickly struck back the next night, though, and began to climb. We entered the post season playing our best basketball where our offense was clicking the first two games. The highlight during this part of the season was a 94 point game in our second round. For us, sub state was a hard fought battle against ELC, but, we ended the game state bound. The week of state was incredible, with the girls saving their best for the end of the year. They first two rounds the girls cruised to great wins, with a 20+ point win during round one and a hot start in round 2 as we scored the first 15 points. The championship was an all Sioux county one as we faced West Lyon. It was an entirely defensive game, with West Lyon slowing us down in the first half. However, we stopped them in the second half. Down 5 at half time, the Lady Knights outscored the Wildcats 30 to 8 in the second half with a 19 to 2 score in the fourth quarter. Wow what a game to end the season!!!

The devotion this year was a video devotional series entitled "Get Out of Your Head" by Jennie Allen. We discussed stopping our negative thought spirals. The book walked us through various Biblical weapons at our disposal and how we can choose to change how we think. We all shared our own thoughts of not being good enough, pretty enough, skinny enough, or smart enough. We also



Front row, from left, are Manager Olivia Dekkers, players Dacey Driesen, Becca Dykstra, Anneke Klompfen, Tyra Hulstein, Kylie De Boer, Amaya Van Essen, Josie Byl and Manager Megan Vander Kooi. In the back row, from left are Manager Ella Dekkers, players Rylee Visser, Naomi Mellema, Jenna Bouma, Tyra Schuiteman, Emma Byker, Gracie Schoonhoven, Janie Schoonhoven and Manager Lucy Zylstra.

had many conversations about our innate desires for everyone to like us. The girls did a great job with discussion and also had prayer partners during the season.

The senior group led the way both on and off the court. They all are filled with determination and ambition that is leaving a legacy that shows how they maximized their talents God blessed them with. We say goodbye to 5 amazing seniors, including Janie Schoonhoven, Tyra Hulstein, Josie Byl, Lucy Zylstra and Megan Vander Kooi. The hard work and humble approach made them a blessing to the whole program. Ending their careers with a championship was amazing, and we couldn't have done it without them.

We offer congratulations to the girls who were recognized this year!



Janie Schoonhoven: Unity's all-time leading scorer and rebounder. First team all-conference WE, all-district and all state. Captain of the all-tournament team.

Gracie Schoonhoven: First team all-conference WE, all-district and all state. All-tournament team and 3A IBCA player of the year.

Tyra Schuiteman: Second team all-conference WE. All-tournament team

Jenna Bouma: Honorable mention WE

Thank you to the school for the support and allowing us to coach. Thank you to the parents who instilled the work ethic that helped this team to be great. Thank you to Jon, Ryan and Brooke for their dedication to the program. Thank you to Jeff Saeger for taking care of the details that were crucial to get us to State. God

truly blessed this team this year. This group of girls has left a legacy that challenges everyone, both in and out of sports. As players, students, and coaches, how do we honor that legacy? In my experience, I'd say that we need to **dream big, play with emotion and passion, practice and prepare harder than anyone, and most importantly, not to be afraid to be great.**

Perseverance – Unity Christian Boys Basketball '20-'21

by Coach Harskamp

The theme chosen for the 20-21 basketball season was PERSEVERANCE. We focused on Romans 5:3-5 in where “suffering produces perseverance, perseverance, character; and character, hope.” We saw this throughout the season by in the beginning even wondering if we would have a season, not knowing if fans would be allowed to come to games and worrying about the possibility of players or coaches getting sick or having to be quarantined. Then during the season, we had several injuries that cut the season short for several players and they were unable to return to play before the season ended. Through all of this, we experienced many blessings and enjoyed ourselves every day, whether at practice or playing in games. The guys did a great job of playing hard, playing smart, and together glorifying God. The boys finished 2nd in the WEC, ended the season with a record of 16-7, and many were recognized for their outstanding play. Clayton Bosma and Bo Byl were 1st Team WEC, Jacob Van Donge 2nd Team, and Logan Franken and Tanner Schouten Honorable Mention WEC. Clayton



Front row, from left are Tyce Van Beek, Carter De Jong, Heath Kroeze, Clayton Bosma, Tanner Schouten, James Bouma, Jacob Van Donge. In the back row, from left, are managers Clayton Reinders, Eli Erwin, players Tyce Van Beek, Logan Franken, Bo Byl, Landon Hofmeyer, Jacob Dragstra and Manager Jacob Sandbulte. Not present was Manager Caleb Rosenboom.

Bosma also was selected All-Substate First Team and All NW Iowa Review 3rd team.. Thank you to Terry Schouten, Kevin Van Donge, Josh Van Kempen, Buff and to seniors Clayton Bosma, Jacob Dragstra, Logan Franken, Tyrell Hulshof, Tanner Schouten, Heath Kroeze, Caleb Rosenboom, Jacob Sandbulte, and Eli Erwin for their commitment,

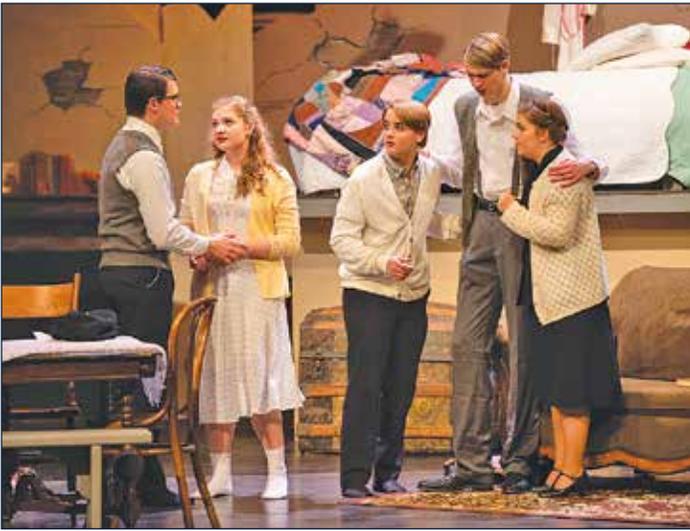
dedication and hard work in helping the boys basketball program. It was a joy to be able to coach these seniors and see their growth throughout their four years at Unity Christian. Exciting things are happening and we have a group of boys already working hard in the offseason and are committed to making Unity Christian basketball the best it can be. Go Knights!



Girls basketll fans at state. (Tournament photos courtesy of Ashley Huizenga.)



Congrats to Janie and Gracie Schoonhoven!! They both earned 3A NW All-District and 3A All-State honors. Janie finished as the Knights all-time leading scorer (1637) and all-time leading rebounder (942), along with Capitan of the 3A all-tournament team. Gracie was named IBCA Class 3A player of the year. She averaged 18.4ppg and broke the schools single season record of most steals in a season (121) and most assists in a season (162). Congratulations to the two of them on great individual seasons, but also on leading us to a State Championship.



The Diary of Anne Frank

by Janie Van Dyke

Since January, the cast of *The Diary of Anne Frank* has been busy learning lines, creating characters, digging into history, and creating a community. From actors, to painters, to make-up people, to student managers, to light and sound operators, over 37 Unity students took part in creating the production. We are also blessed to have a set designer, a set building manager, several dads and grandpas who helped build the sets, and four other adults who create with art, lights and sound. We found it to be good to revisit this time in history, to be reminded of the lives impacted with the Holocaust.

It's reported that over 1.5 million Jewish children were murdered in the Holocaust — each one carrying a story. While other children's stories have been told, it is Anne's story that is told uniquely through her own words. I am sure no one ever imagined that a diary written to Dear Kitty in a hiding place would have such an impact in the world. But here we are some 76 years later, and Anne's words continue to live. In Gary Schmidt's book, *Mara's Stories*, he explains the why behind writing his holocaust stories. "The stories celebrate all that is good and strong in the human spirit, all that cannot be destroyed by evil. It is one of the reasons why the stories are powerful for all listeners, all readers, and why the stories are still alive today... They come... as stories for us all, in every generation, always new, always true." This was also true for this production, for actors and audience alike.

Memorial Gifts

*In memory of Arie Mans
In memory of Gerb Mars
In memory of Jerry Den Hartog
In memory of Arletta Dorhout
In memory of Syne Wynia*



Quiz Bowl Continues

by Trevor Mouw

Quiz Bowl has looked very different this year. We have only had 3 meets so far this year, and one of them was done online. Both of the other two were hosted by us at Unity. Nevertheless, we're just thankful to be together again, having practices during lunch, and competing in the few meets we can find.

Unity's Quiz Bowl teams performed well at their first Quiz Bowl tournament on Saturday, October 10. The varsity team of Edwin Buitter, Jane Taylor, Caleb Te Krony, Elias Obbink, and Casey Oolman placed second. The JV team of Cody Scholten, Sam Nonhof, Isaac Krommendyk, Iain Monroe, and Caden Yesda placed first.

Unity teams will be competing on Saturday, March 27, at the War Eagle Conference meet at West Sioux.



TEAMS Competition

TEAMS was also done digitally this year. Students competed while using Zoom to communicate. TEAMS is an engineering competition that consisted of a multiple choice math/engineering test and a hands-on design and building portion. Students competed in groups of 4. We will find out our results sometime in April.

**Check the website: unitychristian.net
for the latest sports and activities schedules**