



www.unitymilwaukee.org

1025 E. Oklahoma Ave.

Milwaukee, WI 53207

(414) 744-6311

Summer 2021 Newsletter

Community On Mission

The Sunday before Pentecost, we heard Jesus promise the disciples that they would be empowered by the Holy Spirit to be his witnesses, starting in the city of Jerusalem and extending from there to the ends of the earth. And on the Sunday of Pentecost, our scripture story helped us imagine the sights and sounds of the outpouring of the Spirit, upon those disciples and others – upon people of every age, gender, and social status.

Empowered by the Holy Spirit, those early disciples were a Community on Mission.

This summer, through two letters written by the apostle Paul, we'll consider what the early church has to say to us today as a Community on Mission: a community still on Jesus' mission, going into our community to serve and welcome all people. We'll study Paul's letter to the Christians in Rome and his letter to the church that gathered in Corinth.

As we spend the first half of the summer in the book of Romans, we'll have the opportunity to think about how we show up as disciples of Jesus. How are we present in community? What attributes and actions distinguish us as members of a community on Jesus' mission? How are we sharing the good news of salvation in Christ? How does the love of God show forth through us?

Later in the summer, we'll move into the book of 1 Corinthians. In this letter, Paul addresses the church in Corinth. Just like today's congregations, the Christians in Corinth had important questions – and they didn't always agree on the answers. Paul's message to them centers on love. He encourages them to live in loving relationships with each other, united by Christ, for the sake of God's mission in the world.

These letters still offer encouragement to us today as we continue on Jesus' mission. We have learned from Jesus' teachings, and we seek to follow and imitate him as disciples. Doing so in community isn't easy, but Paul's letters help us hear Jesus' call to follow, to welcome and serve, to proclaim salvation, and to live lives worth imitating, lives that draw others to Christ.

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Update on Unity's Pandemic Safety Plan

After fifteen months of enduring this COVID-19 pandemic, we are now finally experiencing some relief with progress and good news. Recently the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) made an announcement: it is safe for people who are fully vaccinated not to wear masks, and they may go without masks where local government regulations, as well as the policies of businesses or other establishments they enter, permit them to do so.

What followed has been an experience of many governments ending pandemic regulations and many businesses ending their pandemic policies. Sometimes they specify this applies for vaccinated people only, and other times this applies to everyone regardless of vaccination. In actual practice, there is no difference without a way to check each person's vaccination history. This situation could leave us with the impression that the pandemic is over. It is not.

With all that is happening around us, Unity's leadership teams of our council and staff want to keep you updated regarding Unity's ministry plan with: (1) a reminder of our goals and guiding principles, (2) our current status, and (3) our next steps.

- (1) *Unity's goal since the beginning of the pandemic is to do as much ministry in witness to the gospel of Jesus as we safely can while ensuring we are not contributing to the spread of the virus.* We understand that governments and businesses have their own concerns and reasons for the decisions they make, but we also uphold that as the church of Christ we operate according to a higher standard. Specifically, in our calling to love our neighbors, we prioritize not our own desires but instead the health and well-being of the community by doing all we can to ensure we contribute to ending the pandemic. This approach to ministry gives us many ways to give witness to Jesus including outdoor gatherings, small groups, and online. It simply leaves one option out until such time as public health metrics indicate we may safely utilize it once again – indoor, large group gatherings.
- (2) *The status for returning to indoor large group gatherings is improving, but public health metrics indicate we are not there yet.* This includes the answer to the question on everyone's minds – when will we be back in the sanctuary for worship? We are all eager for that day. However, if we would have set it on a calendar 10 times over this past year, then we would have changed it 10 times also. Therefore, Council is taking a different approach, one guided not by a calendar but by monitoring the progress of public health metrics that indicate safe indoor large group gatherings. Trends are very encouraging. Here are the latest data for Milwaukee County, which our council saw just prior to this newsletter publication:
 - (a) 7.3 New Daily Cases per 100k people (5-10 is moderate risk, <5 is low risk)
 - (b) 3.1% Case Positivity Rate 7 Day Avg. (5-10 is moderate risk, <5 is low risk)
 - (c) 35.7% Percent Population Vaccinated (50% is moderate risk, 70% is low risk)

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Update on Unity's Pandemic Safety Plan, continued...

Therefore, according to the public health standards established by the CDC and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, concerning how the virus is spreading in our community, we are in the areas of moderate risk for New Daily Cases, low risk for Case Positivity Rate, but *high risk* for Percent of our Population who are Vaccinated. This last category of vaccination is the most significant for stopping the spread of the virus.

Unity's answer to the question of when we will be back to indoor large group gatherings is not a predetermined date on a calendar, but rather it is after these three public health metrics indicate we may safely do so. In living our mission, every time we gather for worship, we are proclaiming the gospel of salvation for all to hear, hoping our neighbors will come and hear this good news in our community bound by God's love. We can only authentically do that mission if we are not creating an arena for the virus to spread to our neighbors.

- (3) *Unity continues to do effective ministry while preparing for returning to in person indoor larger group gatherings.* (a) For our Outreach Ministries, we now have the two Unity teams formed who will prepare hot to-go meals that will be distributed outdoors once a month with our weekly Wednesday food pantry. We are simply waiting on some new kitchen equipment to get installed and the team captains to receive ServSafe training. (b) Our KidsTime ministry has thrived under the guidance of Chad Lyden delivering packets with lessons and supplies to each home. During the summer months we are looking to have outdoor gatherings with families. (c) We have consulted with companies and are submitting grants looking for funding to install equipment in the sanctuary for us to provide live streaming of our worship services once we do return to worshipping in the sanctuary. The world in which we live has changed into a hybrid of online and in person interactions, and with it so has the church's mission field. Finding a way to make this investment and implement this ministry is critical for the future of Unity. (d) Safety procedures are planned for when in person worship inside the sanctuary does begin. This plan includes the purchasing of safety equipment for social distancing such as stickers, stanchions, clear acrylic partitions and cleaning supplies.

In the meantime, summer provides a great opportunity for doing more ministry and building up our fellowship. Please continue to join us in worship Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. on Facebook Live or throughout the week on our website. Pastor Kevan, Vicar Jaime, and Unity's Home Visitation Team continue to bring communion both to individuals and to small groups. So especially for anyone who may not have access to our online worship service, please call Pastor Kevan directly at (414) 702-2346, and we will be delighted to connect with you.

Needing Ushers: New & Returning

As Unity makes plans for returning to in-person worship services inside the sanctuary once the public health metrics indicate the appropriate time, we will need ushers trained to implement our safety plan. We are creating new usher teams, and we will host a training session for the new procedures. Whether you have served as an usher before, or you are willing to serve for the first time, please let us know!

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We remember the following people as we pray...

Ebony Brown and family (friends of Unity); **Gail Senelon** (AAC member); **Mary Cicerelli** (member); **Dareyl Wahl** (member); **Jeff Tessmer** (son of Marge); **Keith Mueller** (brother of Kim Thomas); **Jean Weibner** (mother of Tricia Skinner); **Kayla Wheeler** (friend of Krista Emmons); **Don Plant** (friend of Jeff Kornreich); **Blake Oleson** (friend of Unity); **Dorothy C.** (outreach member); **Tony Seffeldt** (nephew of Chris Brown); Pastor **Kevan Penvose**; **Patsy Lenz** (member); **Patricia Orlowski** (friend of Unity); **Sandy LeBombard** (friend of Unity); **Jerry & Nellie Javorski**; **Becky Lefebvre** (friend of Krista Emmons); **James Lopeman** (son of Jennifer Lopeman); **Cindy Larson** (friend of Frank Jendisa); **Dan Blank** (family of Rachel); **Bonnie Ziowkoski**, **Lori Jameson** (member); **Yvonne Baczanski** (mother of Yvette Baczanski); **Dan Baczanski** (brother of Yvette Baczanski); **Kathy** (friend of Unity); **Joan** (friend of Unity); **Jack Badalik** (friend of Unity); **Andy Wegner** (member); **Mary Noe**, **Sandi Buchman**; **Nikkeya Berryhill**; **Robin Servantez** (friend of Lori Jameson); **Kim Deschler**, **Justin**, **Nathan**, and **Frank**, (friends of Unity); **William Darden** (friend of Unity); **Jamie Kornreich** (member); **Elaine Kornreich** (member); **Ruth Learman** (member); **Dale Davis** (associate of Unity); **Joe**, **Shelly**, and **Joey Tuzzo** (friends of Unity); **Lu Butler** (friend of Krista Emmons); **Jackie**, **Laura**, and **Stewart** (siblings of Patty Johnson); **Steve Rowley** (member); **Gloria Brandenburg**; **Jeannine Lau** (member); **Trudy Rossman**; **Neil Larsen**; **Rachel Kaiser** (granddaughter of Judy Kaiser); **Thom R. Bagley**; **Marty**; **Jacob Kaiser** (Grandson of Judy Kaiser); **Cindy Bereiter**; **Susan & Betty Johnson** (Ross); **Paul**, **Donna**, **Paula**, **Cathy**, **Izzy & Lee**; **Hernandez** family; **David Hellrung** (member); the **Toni Fare family**; **Nicholas Whitehead**; **Brian Karnes** (friend of Alisha Flechner); **Rita Smith** (member); **Josefa Puerta-Villacrez** (member); **Rachel Hahn-Hanson**; and Family and friends of **Vivian Lucci** (member).

**Please notify the office to add or remove someone from Unity's prayer list.*

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Stewarding our resources for Jesus' mission

Member giving to Unity's Ministries and Operations thru April 2021 is \$43,994. Giving to the Special Appeal thru April is \$5,260. Thank you for your generosity and for sharing your blessings and supporting Unity's ministries during this critical time.

Income	\$68,806.29 YTD	Annual Budget	\$172,081.60
Expenses	\$71,037.51 YTD	Annual Budget	\$211,858.01

We find ourselves with a \$2,231.22 loss at the end of April 2021. We have an operating reserve in 2021 from the gain realized in 2020 of \$28,067.67 (mostly because the \$28,630.87 PPP loan that was forgiven, multiple COVID-19 relief grants, generosity of other congregations and our Endowment Fund and your continued support). In the Property Reserve Fund, we have \$6,514.88 in cash available. Donations continue during the pandemic. Thank you!

Our Stewardship drive for the Special Appeal resulted in \$5,260 by the end of April, with additional contributions received in May. Thank you for your generosity and for helping Unity pay its fixed expenses during the pandemic.

The tentative 2021 budget resulted in a \$39,776 loss. We lost some grants for 2021 because they expired or decreased, or we were no longer eligible. We do have the reserve of \$28,067.67 to offset some of the deficit; but in the budget, we will still experience a loss of \$11,709 if the reserve is fully used (the budget included a special appeal of \$5,000).

Giving to Ministries and Operations in all of 2020 was \$121,339.00; in all of 2019 it was \$140,756. God will provide.

Stewardship: Let Us Be Faithful Servants

Let us be faithful servants! Because we see Jesus doing so much in our lives and in the world, our generosity equips us to do what he is doing and to invite others to participate with us even during the pandemic. God is calling us to love our neighbor as ourselves. Please prayerfully consider giving generously to God's mission at Unity, helping us reach more people to see the good news of Jesus in action. **To confirm your commitment to Unity in 2021** either complete the electronic stewardship form or sign up to give electronically by visiting [Donation Schedule - Unity Lutheran Church - Milwaukee, WI \(unitymilwaukee.org\)](#).

Five Ways to Give Generously and Securely to Unity:

1. Donate button of Facebook:

Look under the cover photo of our sign for Soup Kitchen, and there should be a blue 'Donate' button. Click it and continue to our Vanco page.

2. Shop with Amazon & Give to Unity!

Switch to AmazonSmile (<http://smile.amazon.com>).

Go down to the bottom to search, type 'Unity Evangelical Lutheran Church,' and press enter. There are a few to choose from, but make sure you find the one from Milwaukee, and that's us!

3. On our website!

Go to Unity's website at <http://www.unitymilwaukee.org/donate> and click on 'DONATE' button in the upper righthand corner. Our site is secure.

4. Give+ Mobile App

Download the Give+ Mobile app! Register; look for 'Unity Evan Lutheran Church' or enter zip code 53207.

5. Thrivent Choice

If you are a Thrivent benefit member you can recommend how Thrivent distributes some of its charitable grant funds using a vehicle called Choice Dollars. For more information about Choice Dollars:

- Visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice
- Call 800-847-4836 or contact your local Thrivent Financial Representative

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Summer Scripture Messages & Daily Readings

"Immersed in God's Promise" May 30th

Sunday Acts 2:32-42
Monday Ephesians 1
Tuesday Ephesians 2
Weds. Ephesians 3
Thurs. Ephesians 4
Friday Ephesians 5
Sat. Ephesians 6

"Present and Accounted For" June 6th

Sunday Romans 6:1-14
Monday Romans 6:15-19
Tuesday Romans 6:20-23
Weds. Romans 7:1-6
Thurs. Romans 7:7-14
Friday Psalm 84
Saturday Psalm 86

"Free Spirited" June 13th

Sunday Romans 7:15-8:11
Monday Romans 8:12-13
Tuesday Isaiah 55:6-9
Weds. Isaiah 55:10-13
Thurs. Psalm 1
Friday Psalm 65
Saturday Psalm 145

"Hopeful Inheritors" June 20th

Sunday Romans 8:14-25
Monday Genesis 12:1-3
Tuesday Galatians 4:4-7
Weds. John 1:1-14
Thurs. Psalm 104:1-13
Friday Psalm 104:14-23
Saturday Psalm 104:24-35

"Always Advocating" June 27th

Sunday Romans 8:26-39
Monday John 14:15-24
Tuesday John 14:25-27
Weds. John 16:5-11
Thurs. John 16:12-15
Friday Romans 9:1-18
Saturday Romans 9:19-10:4

"Get the Word Out" July 4th

Sunday Romans 10:5-15
Monday Romans 11:1-10
Tuesday Romans 11:11-16
Weds. Romans 11:17-24
Thurs. Romans 11:25-36
Friday Proverbs 2:1-15
Sat. Proverbs 3:1-8

"Living Worship" July 11th

Sunday Romans 12:1-8
Monday Ephesians 4:1-6
Tuesday Ephesians 4:7-16
Weds. Ephesians 4:25-32
Thurs. Psalm 14
Friday Proverbs 3:13-18
Sat. Proverbs 3:19-35

"God Shines Through" July 18th

Sunday Romans 12:9-21
Monday Romans 13:8-10
Tuesday Romans 14:1-12
Weds. Romans 14:13-23
Thursday Romans 15:1-6
Friday Romans 15:7-13
Sat. Romans 15:14-21

"United in a Powerful Purpose" July 25th

Sunday 1 Corinthians 1:10-18,
25-31
Monday 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
Tuesday 1 Corinthians 2:6-10
Weds. 1 Corinthians 2:11-16
Thurs. 1 Corinthians 3:1-9
Friday 1 Corinthians 3:10-15
Sat. Psalm 15

"A Loving Home" August 1st

Sunday 1 Corinthians 3:16-4:2,
4:7c-16
Monday 1 Corinthians 6:12-20
Tuesday 1 Corinthians 7:17-24
Weds. 1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Thurs. Proverbs 4:1-9
Friday Proverbs 4:10-17
Sat. Proverbs 4:18-27

"Love Builds Community" August 8th

Sunday 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Monday 1 Corinthians 9:1-7
Tuesday 1 Corinthians 9:8-14
Weds. Psalm 111
Thurs. Proverbs 6:1-19
Friday Proverbs 8:1-9
Sat. Proverbs 8:10-21

"All for the Gospel" August 15th

Sunday 1 Corinthians 9:15-23
Monday 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
Tuesday 1 Corinthians 10:23-33
Weds. 1 Corinthians 11:17-22
Thurs. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
Friday 1 Corinthians 11:27-34
Sat. 1 Corinthians 12:1-13

"Connected in a More Excellent Way" August 22nd

Sunday 1 Corinthians 12:14-31,
13:1-7, 13
Monday 1 Corinthians 14:1-5
Tuesday 1 Corinthians 14:6-12
Weds. 1 Corinthians 14:26-33
Thurs. 1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Friday Proverbs 8:22-36
Sat. Proverbs 9:1-6

"We'll Carry On" August 29th

Sunday 1 Corinthians 15:12-28,
58
Monday 1 Corinthians 15:29-34
Tuesday 1 Corinthians 15:35-49
Weds. 1 Corinthians 15:50-57
Thurs. 1 Corinthians 16:1-4
Friday 1 Corinthians 16:13-24
Sat. Psalm 133

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Mission: Transformed by Jesus, our Lord,
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Vision: To lead the people of Unity in living worship,
empowered to make disciples of Jesus.

Values: Faith is a way of life.
Outreach is relationship building.
Diversity is sought and celebrated.
Worship is life-shaping.

Exploring our scripture theme Sundays at 10 a.m. (live stream at
<https://facebook.com/unitymilwaukee>):

“Community On Mission”



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Christina Garcia —Vice President

Jack Kosmoski—Secretary

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Jim Liedtke

ENDOWMENT (endowment@unitymilwaukee.org)

Jim Phillips (Chair)

Jill Wisniewski

Wayne Pratis

Phil Vogel

Chad Lyden

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