



## ***Swing Wide the Doors***

### **A Unity of Greater Hartford Church Community Update from Rev Christine**

***September 1, 2020***

I am writing to you from my church office and it is very quiet here. Once again I become aware of how much I miss you all! I know that you also miss being physically with your Unity Community.

I am so grateful for **World Day of Prayer** this year and for our Prayer Chaplains who have stepped up to provide daytime and evening gatherings and services on Wednesday, Sept 9<sup>th</sup>. I am also grateful for the spiritual powers of Wisdom and Love that are evidenced in the theme and affirmation this year:

**The Theme is – *From Fear to Faith***

**The Affirmation is – *Standing in Truth, I move from Fear to Faith.***

Please join us for World Day of Prayer and let's all move from fear to faith and keep moving!

### **Board of Trustees Update**

Our Board of Trustees has been coming together in special meetings as well as their monthly Board meetings to grapple with some difficult questions and issues. It is during these times, that the Board is grateful to also be serving as a Prayer Mastermind Group!

**Here are the decisions that the Board has made and others that they are contemplating:**

**Wednesday Evening Meditation Service** – The Board decided to allow up to 10 people to attend the Wednesday Evening Meditation Service if they pre-register and agree to the written protocols. The Service will continue to be offered on Facebook Live. You may register to attend through the website Calendar.

**Sunday Celebration Service** – At this point the Board has approved Phase One Protocols for in-person services. They are very grateful for all the Sacred Service Teams and church leaders who met and contributed. At this time, the Sunday Celebration Service will continue to be available only through Facebook Live and then to be viewed later on our website. At the September Board Meeting the Board will decide if we open up the Service or continue to keep it closed to live attendance after September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Outdoor Evening World Day of Prayer** – At the most recent meeting of the Board, there was agreement to hold an outdoor evening World Day of Prayer Service in the church parking lot with registration capped at 35 people and everyone bringing their own chair and wearing a face mask. Please see the full details and protocols in our newsletter and on our website.

**Annual Church Community Picnic** – The Board has decided to go forward with our Annual Church Community Picnic at Nevers Park on Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. When we determine capacity we will open registration. For

now, please hold the date!

**Community Room Rentals** - The Board has decided to enter into Community Room rental agreements with groups who have written Safety Protocols that can be reviewed and approved in advance.

**Outdoor Friday Evening Events/Services** – At the September meeting, the Board will be making a decision about future outdoor events on the church property.

**Church Community Survey** – The Board would like to know your thoughts about returning to church in person. In the next week, you will receive a survey by email. We would truly appreciate it if you would take ten minutes to complete and return the survey. Your voice is important!

Please know that the Board will keep updated on the latest Covid-19 statistics in CT and MA as well as the CDC and local government guidelines. The Board is also committed to individual and group prayer as a source of discernment. If you would like to contact the Board, please email – [board@unityhartford.org](mailto:board@unityhartford.org)

### **Board Member Changes**

Due to personal reasons our Board Treasurer Terry Guzauckas decided to step down from the Board. This was a difficult decision for Terry to make and an equally difficult decision for the Board to accept. I am certain that I speak for our entire Church Community in expressing deep gratitude to Terry for her Board service and loving prayers as she moves forward.

### **Giving – Tangible and Intangible**

We are grateful for those of you who have been able and willing to continue to give of your tangible finances and we are also grateful for those of you who have given intangible gifts like prayer, love, peace and so much more.

There may be some of you who are not able to give at your previous level of giving. Please go within and open your heart and mind to Divine guidance. Our giving is to be done in good stewardship and gratitude for that which we have received and in faith that we are one with the Divine. No amount is too small or too big – if it comes from love and faith! The Board and the staff love you, appreciate you and we behold the Christ as you!

At our August Board Meeting we reviewed the year to date financials as of the end of July.

1. Total savings/checking balances are +\$5,844 vs last year (+4.57%)
2. Total income is -\$3,267 vs last year (-1.83%)
3. Total expenses are -\$12,704 vs last year (-8.1%)
4. Net income is +\$9,436 vs last year

Bear in mind that income is up due to the payroll protection loan, which was \$19,800.

### **Ideas, Suggestions, Kind Thoughts and Prayers**

Thank you! The Board and I can feel your support and love and we are grateful. If you wish to communicate with the Board please email – [board@unityhartford.org](mailto:board@unityhartford.org). If you wish to contact me directly – [revchris@unityhartford.org](mailto:revchris@unityhartford.org).

If you know of someone who would like to receive this weekly newsletter – ask them to email Toni at [officemgr@unityhartford.org](mailto:officemgr@unityhartford.org)

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