



April 12, 2021

Hello Unity Family!

We are both feeling grateful and enthusiastic and wanted to share some appreciation and good news with you.

It has been over a year since we shifted from in-person gatherings to online gatherings only. We are so grateful that you have remained engaged in livestreamed Sunday services, online classes, workshops and special services. We are so blessed to have talented, devoted and adaptable Production and Music Teams who create a professional Sunday service every week. Many skilled group facilitators and self-taught technicians from our community have also stepped up to teach classes using a reliable, affordable platform called Zoom. We have accomplished so very much together. Our online opportunities are by no means coming to a close, however the light is shining brightly toward reopening and reuniting.

If you were at the last UWC Community Gathering you were part of an affirmative cheer that put together the word **R-E-U-N-I-T-E-D**. Reunited is this year's theme for Unity of Walnut Creek – and the exciting news is it's beginning to happen in real time! Thank you for helping to make it so through your prayers and conscious intention. As you probably know, several days ago Contra Costa County moved into the Orange Tier and Governor Gavin Newsom announced that if our state remains on its current track (namely high vaccination and low hospitalization rates), California will re-open completely by June 15.

Since May 2020 our Reopening Task Force has paid close attention to the state tier system, county regulations for places of worship, insurance dictates for legal and liability issues, scientific research, and have also been in conversation with area churches. All of this has been done with consideration for our community's safety, well-being and to remain true to our mission as an inclusive community. This team, under the leadership of Susan Angelos with assistance from Annie Love-Villers, delivered a thoughtful reopening blueprint to our Board of Trustees -- successfully completing their initial charge and bringing Reopening Phase 1 to a close. A very big thank you to those who served on that team (Susan, Annie, Charlene Balderston, Felicia McBarton, Mike McGarvey and Scott Salsar-Smith, with Alexandra DeAvalon as recent board liaison). We are now in Reopening Phase 2 and, with advisory guidance, have reorganized into multiple sub-teams across the areas of production, technology, communication, marketing and facilities to focus on implementation.

So how soon will we reunite and what will it look like? That's not fully clear yet, but we do know it will look different! We are in midst of surveying small group leaders to prepare for small groups to meet outdoors on our campus. For Sunday services, the board is considering offering a simple, casual, 9:30am outdoor service where pre-registration is required. We are also considering having children return for outdoor youth ministry and possibly making space for approximately twenty pre-registered people to sit in the Sanctuary for the behind the scenes "televised production" at 11:30am. We plan to roll out some options to reunite in May and June. As soon as solid decisions are made and plans are in place, we will share more details of how you may participate.

Our Prayer Chaplain team continues to reach out with regular wellness calls and to hold all of us and our reuniting process in prayer. Please feel free to reach out to either of us or Ministerial Assistant Felicia McBarton with any questions or comments you may have at office@unityofwalnutcreek.org or 925.937.2191.

With love and gratitude for each one of you. You are a vital part of our community and we look forward to being reunited in person soon!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristin". The signature is written in a cursive style and is preceded by a small heart symbol.

Kristin Powell
Lead Minister

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Veronica". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Veronica Wolfe
Board President