



Pastoral Update—August 14, 2020

### “Unity Fest!”

*...I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*  
Ephesians 4:3

*How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!* Psalm 133:1



*George Tooker, An Embrace of Peace, 1986*

I’ve sensed this week that we are all longing for the human connection found in community. We are physically separated from our church community and most other communities in which we find our identity. We aren’t seeing many attempts at bringing us closer together in our distance. Quite the opposite, we are seeing many wedges trying to divide us i.e., the political arena, COVID-19 response, the return to school, wearing masks, and social justice to name a few. We are at risk of more deep division as we move further apart. This is the opposite of our call as disciples of Jesus who calls us together.

So I’m sharing a digital **Unity Fest** with scripture, art, and music! We must strive for unity wherever we can, because that is our identity in Christ. Throughout the span of scripture from Old to New Testaments, many verses encourage us to be in unity just like the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit + are as one – united in their difference. I have shared two verses above and I invite you to look up Ecclesiastes 4:12 and Hebrews 13:1 for more words on unity.

This painting, “*An Embrace of Peace*,” depicts the blessing of peace in worship between different folks united by their faith. The blessing of peace overcomes all division, disagreement, and difference as the peace of Christ is shared. It’s a meaningful sign of reconciliation, love, and unity. Ponder and reflect upon this painting and feel the love. Then be blessed by these two renditions of “Blessed Be the Tie That Binds:”

[Sara Groves “The Collection”](#)

[Zero8 “Mes tres chers freres”](#)

We are One in Christ,

*Pastor Andrea*

P.S. Pastor Doris will share an update next Friday after testing this week determines the course of her next treatments. She is recovering well from surgery and has expressed deep gratitude for the care shown from Desert Cross. Thank you for your continued prayers and concern as a loving community of faith.