

Ideas

1. Children's program

- Give kids a more enriching Unity-based experience (principles taught in fun, age-appropriate ways).
- Use existing Unity curriculum (World Wide Unity etc.).
- Start modestly (about once a month), then grow as feasible.
- All-ages interactive services a few times a year (e.g., “boat in a storm” style services).
- Crafts tied to holidays and themes (St. Patrick's, Easter egg decorating, crowns, etc.).
- Easter ideas: Easter egg hunt, separate younger/older kids areas, maybe prize ping-pong balls mixed in.
- “Riddle of the week” board created by (SEVA) Paul's daughter, with a prize for correct answers.
- Kids' service projects: plant tomatoes and share produce, raise money for cancer research, support an animal shelter.
- Puzzles and Unity-themed art puzzles kids can borrow or work on at church.

2. Social events and connection

- Regular ping-pong and games after Sunday service.
- Community puzzle in the hall as a natural conversation starter.
- Board-games tables, reading corners, art or craft tables.
- Friday movie nights (using Roku/streaming + DVD collection).
- Use community hall more (not just “Fellowship Hall”) for informal social time.
- Gardening/yard work as social “work parties.”

3. Song circle / music

- A “song circle” that practices simple unison singing to strengthen congregational singing.
- A group that can help lead music on Sundays (especially on special days like Easter).
- Explore tech so group singing can be heard on livestream (overhead or omni-directional mic, Zoom OWL-style idea, etc.).

4. Communications

- Make the weekly email clearly recognizable as coming from Unity of New West (better sender name; clearer subject).
- Ensure special emails (like Connection Crew meetings) are also clearly labeled.
- Ask congregants how they prefer to get information: newsletter, social media, website, phone, announcements at service.
- Phone buddies for people who don't use email/Internet; call to share key updates.
- Encourage members to share social-media posts to extend reach.

5. Welcome and connection systems

- Update and actually use the welcome package; ensure greeters know it exists and where it is.
- Improve the greeting experience for newcomers and regulars alike.
- Suggestion box and visible invitation to give ideas.

6. Committees, volunteers, and “behind the scenes”

- Clearly list committees/teams and what they do (not necessarily who’s on them) so people can self-match their talents.
- One-off help list for people who need support with specific tasks.
- Use sign-up sheets for projects/teams so it’s always “team” not “lone hero.”

7. Grounds, gardening, and medicine wheel

- Restore the medicine wheel respectfully (right plants, signage, surface treatment that lasts).
 - Clean up and maintain general grounds (lighting, garden TLC, schedule).
 - Consider more durable surface for medicine wheel (epoxy with coloured aggregate, or properly prepped concrete plus traffic-grade paint).
 - Use congregational garden-cleanup days as social events.
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Action Plans

A. Children’s program – initial plan

- Team: Paul (lead/conduit), Prem, Valerie, others with current criminal record checks; Judy available for admin support.
- Short-term actions:
 - Paul reviews Unity curriculum already sent and material on Unity/Worldwide Unity sites.
 - Confirm list of kids currently attending (Paul, Rhona, office).
 - Decide first pilot children’s Sunday (likely once a month; e.g., last Sunday or first Sunday).
 - Design one simple session: brief teaching + fun activity/craft (e.g., Easter craft, Unity principle activity).
 - Announce date clearly via email, website, and Sunday announcements.
- Easter-specific:
 - Plan Easter egg hunt with separate zones for younger/older children; decide whether to include prize “ping-pong balls.”
 - Choose craft(s) for Easter Sunday (e.g., crowns, painting, or SEVA’s suggested activities).
- Medium term:
 - Develop and trial “all-ages service” concept a few times a year.
 - Set up simple rotation and backup volunteers; maintain required background checks.

B. Social events – Sundays and Fridays

- Ping-pong and games:
 - Team: Prem, Richard, Perry (ping-pong/games), plus others who like hosting.
 - Decide a recurring Sunday (e.g., 3rd Sunday each month) for sure-thing “Games & Ping-Pong Sunday,” in addition to Cindy’s last Sunday creative cafe/karaoke.
 - Inventory existing games; ask congregation to donate easy, quick board games.
 - Set up puzzle table as a permanent/ongoing feature.
- Friday movie nights:
 - Team: Prem + Perry + Richard (DVDs).
 - Confirm tech: Roku access, streaming accounts, projector/screen, sound, or DVD player.
 - Choose frequency (once a month or twice a month) and test with one pilot night.
 - Clarify approach to licensing (older license-free titles, streaming that’s allowed, or physical DVDs).
 - Advertise movie night via newsletter, social media, and Sunday announcements.

C. Song circle / music

- Team: Judy to create sign-up; singers include Prem, Richard, Caroline, Gay, Cindy, Mona and others who expressed interest.
- Short-term actions:
 - Create “Song Circle Sign-Up” sheet and bring it on Sunday; announce it from platform and in newsletter.
 - Hold a short interest meeting after service to:
 - Agree on purpose (support congregational singing, lead a few songs on special Sundays).
 - Identify a handful of simple songs to start with.
 - Schedule 1–2 short rehearsals before Easter.
- Tech follow-up:
 - Ask “the two Richards”/tech team to explore an omni-directional or room mic solution so group singing can be heard on livestream.

D. Communications and welcome

- Team: Judy (admin/website), office/minister, plus volunteers for phone buddies.
- Short-term actions:
 - Change sender name and subject-line conventions so emails clearly say “Unity of New West” and what they’re about (e.g., “Unity New West – Weekly Newsletter”).
 - Add a clear line in newsletter and at service: “How do you prefer to hear from us?” and collect answers (paper form at church and simple online form).
 - Start recruiting phone buddies and match them with those who prefer calls.
 - Remind people regularly to like/share Unity posts on social media.
- Welcome package:
 - Identify/update contents of welcome package (Rhona, Chris, others).

- Show greeters where it is and when to give it out; include a simple “checklist” at greeter table.

E. Committees, volunteers, and sign-ups

- Team: Judy (website), Rhona/board for content.
- Short-term actions:
 - Draft a simple list of committees/teams and what they do (no names required initially).
 - Create a page on the website describing each team and “what skills help here.”
 - Create sign-up sheets for:
 - Children’s team
 - Communications
 - Kitchen/coffee helpers
 - Social events (games, movie nights, puzzles)
 - Grounds and gardening
 - Song circle
 - “General help / one-off projects”
 - Put sign-up sheets out on Sundays and mention them in announcements.

F. Grounds, gardening, and medicine wheel

- Team: Valerie & Glenn (paint/technical), Prem’s son (landscaping expertise), Richard (pressure washer/tools), willing volunteers.
- Short-term actions:
 - Valerie & Glenn show Richard the existing paint and surface; agree on prep method (pressure-wash, sanding, or other).
 - Review original medicine-wheel instructions and simplify them into clear guidelines.
 - Choose a specific “Work Day” (likely in dry weather) and recruit volunteers via sign-up sheet and newsletter.
- Garden/grounds:
 - Pick a date for a “Spring Grounds Clean-Up” right after a Sunday, with lunch or snacks to make it social.
 - Have Prem’s son walk the property, identify priority tasks, and lead the group on basic pruning/planting/clean-up.
 - Set up a simple seasonal schedule (spring, summer, fall days) and an ongoing maintenance sign-up.