

The Unifier



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Creatures of Habit

We all have our routines. Our little creaturely patterns of habit. The ways in which we do certain things in certain ways and when those things get interrupted or changed things just don't seem to go as well or sit as right with us. Some of these things are quite mundane things. Our bedtime routine. The way we wash our face and then brush our teeth, or visa versa. The ways in which we need our certain coffee cup in the morning with just the right amount of sugar and cream (of if you do it correctly, no sugar and cream at all!).

Such is not just the pattern of our days, but the patterns of our days make for patterns of our months, which make not only patterns for our years, but also rhythms of our lives. These rhythms form the practical liturgy of life. This might come as a surprise reading that. But take this into account: Merriam-Webster defines, liturgy (points 2 and 3) as 2. a rite or body of rites prescribed for public worship, and 3. a customary repertoire of ideas, phrases, or observances. We are here honing in on the third use of the form, but more specially how the third use of the term informs the second. Perhaps you didn't realize that your daily routines and habits were not only something you were forming, but something that was forming (and informing) you.

Our habits form us. This is why we call the disciplines spiritual disciplines. But, all the while so many of our practices are disciplines that form us as well, and without us knowing it. Now this is not to say that all that we do should be a particularly 'churchy' liturgy. It does mean that we should be mindful of how God is working through our every day ordinary lives and activities. Consider for a moment the life of Eric Liddell the Scottish runner. Perhaps you know some of his story from the movie Chariots of Fire. But consider these words of his, "I believe that God made me for a purpose. But he also made me fast. And when I run I feel His pleasure."

In the routines of what we enjoy, may we enjoy God in the midst of them. May we take care to craft with intentionality the moments of our days that the habits of the days would become habits of our months would become patterns for our living.

Pastor Ryan

Dear Church Family,

I hope you all are doing well and finding opportunities to enjoy the increasingly Spring weather. It is always wonderful to see the signs of new life each Spring. It is really one of the joys of living in an area that experiences a changing of the seasons. This new life each year is a wonderful reminder of the new life found in Christ. If you joined us for our Lenten Study, this year, one of the themes that arose toward the end of Russ Ramsey's book dealt with the need for Christ's suffering. It was through suffering that Jesus received glory. It is through this glory and suffering that we can experience new life and be restored in our relationships with God and with those around us.

One of the themes of our recent studies is the reality of suffering in our world and that as believers we are not immune to such difficulties. Over the past several weeks, that has really been brought home as we look at the news. Suffering is a common experience. We see the brokenness of God's creation and realize that this is not how God created our world to be. It is often easy to look around and blame God for the condition of the world or to at least ask where He is in the midst of the brokenness around us. In light of the difficulties of the past year, and the struggles I know that we will continue to experience, our next Adult Education opportunity will discuss these issues. We will read together *Where Is God When It Hurts* by Philip Yancey. The discussion of the book will occur during the week of April 11th – 17th. I am hoping to hold two discussion opportunities, one in-person and one on Zoom. If enough people sign-up, I would love to offer more. If you are interested, please contact me. This is also a great opportunity to reach out to neighbors, co-workers, family members, and friends. We all experience the brokenness of this world, through both personal and community suffering. If someone you know is struggling or has struggled over these issues and topics, invite them to come along with us.

I am also preparing a class on Hearing God. This will explore God speaking to us today, how to listen for and to Him, and some ways to recognize His voice in our lives. Whether we are in the midst of suffering or things are going well in our lives, or if we are looking for direction for the future, it is important to know how to hear God's voice. It can be very easy for us to think God does not communicate with us today, but He does, and He desires that you hear Him and follow after Him. This opportunity will begin Sunday April 18th and go through May 16th. We will continue to offer a discussion in-person on Sunday mornings and one on Zoom Wednesday evenings.

I hope to see you in our opportunities this year. On the home front, William celebrated his 5th birthday. One of the special things he got to do was go to a bakery with his Grandparents. The night before, Grandma called to get a Texas sized donut with "Happy Birthday, William" written on it. They got to the bakery and William felt like everybody at the bakery knew his name. As several people told him "Happy birthday". Bakeries are just places where people know your name. I hope that you all have a wonderful week, and find ways to enjoy God's creation.

Blessings,

Ryan Aubrey

UPC PADS UPDATE

UPC PADS— LOOKING TOWARD FALL:

PADS Lake County is still unsure what the 2021-2022 PADS Emergency Shelter Season will look like. The current plan is for families, clients over the age 65, and adults with underlying health conditions under age 65 to stay in hotels during the coming season. If it's fiscally and physically possible, the church sites will be asked to provide shelter for guests who don't fit into these categories. A limited number of guests would stay at the church sites based on CDC, State of IL, Lake County, PADS, and local Church guidelines. In lieu of the church sites, PADS leaders have been trying to locate a fixed site location to use for adult guests under the age of 65 who have no underlying health conditions. However, the search has not yet been successful, primarily because of zoning and the need for the location to be along bus routes. If you know of a location that meets these qualifications and is large, has kitchen facilities and is available, please call Nicole Harris using her contact information toward the end of this article.

UPC PADS IN ACTION NOW:

THURSDAY DINNERS CONTINUE: Margaret Hilliard and our UPC PADS Kitchen Crew continue to prepare and deliver 30 dinners every Thursday to guests at the one motel.

DONATIONS FOR DINNERS: We are very appreciative of the donations that continue to arrive at UPC to help pay for the food to make these dinners for the guests. Donations can still be given by sending a check payable to UPC with "PADS dinners" or "PADS food" written in the memo section. These donations pay for the food purchased to make the dinners.

DONATIONS TO BRING TO UPC: Disposable face masks, Hygiene gloves (M,L,XL), and large bottles of hand sanitizer (64/67 oz) can now be delivered to UPC on Tuesdays or Thursdays between 10 and 2 or by contacting Rose Pech to set a more convenient delivery time. These items will be needed if the site opens in October. If our site doesn't open, these items will be delivered to the main office as they are needed.

EMERGENCY SHELTER AND HOUSING FOR PADS CLIENTS:

As of March 10, PADS was housing 233 guests in the three different motels/hotels.

We continue to thank the local police departments and the Lake County Sheriff's office as they help whenever they find someone on the streets.

Please encourage anyone who is homeless to contact the PADS office 847-689-4357 or to go there in person 8am to 4pm Monday thru Friday (See photo of 1800 Grand Avenue PADS.) or to call their local police department for emergency shelter during other hours & on weekends.

PADS LAKE COUNTY'S GREATEST NEEDS: \$25/\$50 ALDI, Jewel, and Wall-Mart Gift Cards or \$10 McDonald's gift cards. Contact Nicole Harris at 847-689-0541 or

nharris@padslakecounty.org

for other items needed.

Contact Rose Pech at 847-356-3577 or pads_at_upc@hotmail.com for other information

—On behalf of those without homes, The UPC PADS Site Leadership Team





UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP



HAPPY EASTER TO EVERYONE!!

WCF NEWS APRIL 2021—MOVING FORWARD!

CIRCLE MEETINGS FOR SPRING:

As we move into spring, some circles will begin to meet again. Some meetings will likely be outdoors while others will be held indoors following UPC guidelines. Circle meeting times and locations will be determined by individual circle members and their chairperson following the UPC Administrative Council guidelines. We welcome all women ages 18 and over to join us! You will need to contact the leader of the circle.

Circle	Contact
2	Catherine Vick
4/5	Sue Schmidt
9	Candi Becker
10	Jasmine Walker

This chart lists our circles and gives the names of each chairperson. If you're interested in visiting one of the groups, find the contact information for each chairperson in the church directory or contact Rose Pech 847-356-3577 or rose4nonna@hotmail.com.

CONTINUING OUR SUPPORT OF TYLER & BRITTANY (& DANIELLE):

By the time you read this *UNIFIER* article, Tyler,



Brittany, & Danielle will be on their way to their West African village or doing whatever is necessary to get settled into their home and into a routine for their daily schedules. On March 17, they reported a need of \$338 additional monthly donations to meet their budget for 2021. One of the monthly donations (\$900) already pledged has been pledged for this year only. We pray that they will have received the \$338 in monthly donations by the time this is printed. We also pray for \$900 of ad-

ditional donations to be pledged to start at the end of this year and for the continuation of the other pledges they're now receiving. Another part of our prayer request is for a quick end to the appearance of Ebola. Contact tracing and a vaccination campaign have been underway, so we pray it is already disappearing. If Ebola remains contained, the family will stay in their village for 6 months. If Ebola continues to spread, they will re-evaluate and potentially return as early as June.

STAYING IN TOUCH:

Anthology, where Alice Broadhurst, Vera Morris, & Pat Wackerlin live, is allowing ½ hour visits of 2 guests over the age of 18 by appointment. PLEASE check on ways you can visit others, and remember to use your WCF or Church Directory to reach out to each other by phone, card, or a quick note if you can't visit in person. -- Blessings to all, Rose Pech

Joy Sharing for April

This month's Joy Sharing, on the 18th, is in support of Curt's Cafe, an innovative non-profit, providing workforce training and life skills for underserved young adults. Students living in at-risk situations are referred by local social services agencies, probation officers, clergy, the State's Attorney's office, and many others. Their lives and outcomes are greatly improved through work and life skills training.

The cafes in Evanston and Highland Park serve amazing food whilst helping the students in so many ways, physically, intellectually, and emotionally.

Many of the students struggle with housing and food insecurity, poverty, and limited family support; others are challenged to overcome interactions with the criminal justice system, which often derail their lives and curtail educational and employment options. 5 - 10 students are enrolled at a time in a 90-day training program offering hope and possibilities. A team of food service professionals, social service providers, and other caring adults tutor and mentor the young adults in subjects ranging from financial literacy to nutrition and well-being, all while they are training and working in an operating cafe. When they complete their step-by-step program, they are assisted with job placement and the transition into school or employment.

Many thanks for your kind consideration of this Joy Sharing opportunity. Please send your donation to UPC.

Continued prayers for UPC members and friends/relatives of members: Fred Berchtold (abdominal cancer), Alice Broadhurst, Christian and Seth, Desiree Craig, Takara Dalton (fluid on the brain, Shelly Kutsin's goddaughter, Loretta Dodson (chronic pain), Barb Fischel, Marie Frandsen (colon cancer), Curt Grabo (Bob Mielke's cousin, Judy Hendrickson (mother of Laura Hendrickson), Lynne Henne (mother of Brett Henne), Noreen Hill, Charles Madsen, Skip Madsen, Mary Mason (sister of Loretta Dodson), Gloria Meier (sister-in-law of Ann Thompson), Marjorie Miller, Linda Papesh (cancer, mother-in-law to the Fischel's daughter), Bonnie Ross (pancreatic cancer, Judy Ruhnke, Andrew Sawicki, Larry Smith (battling depression, friend of Laurie Bethmann), Stephen (26-year-old friend of Lil Eldridge who is battling cancer), Martha Walker (grandmother of Alisha, Gabby and Caroline Walker), and David Walters (friend of Bob Mielke, recovering from a stroke),.

Long term prayers: Bruce Baird, Marno Benande, Mary Brase (sister of Rose Pech), Betty Bournes (sister of Rose Pech), Thomas Bournes (brother-in-law of Rose Pech), Barry Craig, Pat Curnow, Brad Fuller (stroke, brother of Jamie Fuller), Susan Green, Carl Heiler, Tucker Hupp (grandson of the Lockhart's), Trish Jelinek (friend of Rose Pech, severe cellulitis in leg), Rick Juern (cousin of Judy Ziegler), Vivian Kuzelka, Tom Nellessen (brother of Margie Scheibler), Darwin Schwaderer, Chester Pinkowski (relative of Maureen Daly), Sandra Richard, Orrell Ruth, Marcia Ruth, and Bobbie Weichman.

Please keep in your prayers the following individuals who are currently serving their country: All First Responders, Andrew Vick (son of Cathy and Don Vick), Bob Sisco (brother of Lexie Craig), Dennis Jackson (friend of Lexie Craig), Philip Norton (grandson of Joyce and Terry Norton), Duneley Rochino, and Michael Nilles (great-nephew of Barb and Craig Fischel).

April Birthdays:

04/01 Cinda Bartz
04/08 Ramsha Mall
04/08 Jerry Wassale
04/11 Aimee Divis
04/11 Brett Henne
04/11 Roger Weichman
04/15 Cynthia Lee
04/19 Emma Craig
04/19 Linda Rambo
04/23 Chris Celeslie
04/23 Jamie Fuller
04/23 Karen Thoms

April Anniversaries:

04/03 Lil & John Eldridge

**To Access UPC's Calendar On
Line**

[http://
www.mychurchevents.com/
calendar/calendar.aspx?
ci=L6F0H2O9G1F0O9L6I3](http://www.mychurchevents.com/calendar/calendar.aspx?ci=L6F0H2O9G1F0O9L6I3)

Contact Us

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8131

E-mail: upc@upcgl.org

Pastor: Rev. Ryan Kiblinger

pastorryan@upcgl.org

Pastor Ryan's Cell
phone:254-285-9235

Church Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Grounded | Empowered | Transformed

United Protestant Church of Grayslake
54 S. Whitney Street
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