

The Unifier



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April 2023

“So they left the tomb quickly with great fear, and ran to tell the disciples.” -Matthew 28:8

Did you know that Mary Magdalene is nick-named “The apostle to the apostles?” This is because all four gospels are in agreement that She was the first one to see Jesus resurrected and she was the one who brought the news to the other disciples. What is particularly fascinating to many scholars about this undisputed fact is that in first century Palestine women were not regarded as reliable witnesses. Yet, the gospels stand behind Mary as the first and primary witness and evangelist, the one Jesus sent with his message; which is what an apostle is.

Now, there are other details the gospel does not agree about. Mary is not alone in all four gospels, and the reports vary in regards to who else joined Mary at the tomb. However, there are two other details that the gospels do not dispute. First, that those who witnessed the resurrected Jesus on Easter morning were AFRAID! Second, that they went *immediately* to tell others.

Here is my point, regardless of how reliable or respected they were in the view of culture and in spite of being afraid, the witnessed went immediately and shared the news with others.

IN SPITE OF BEING AFRAID AND INSECURE WE ARE ALL CALLED TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS!

However, Luke’s accounting in the book of Acts, tells us that the church didn’t just run around wildly telling anyone and everyone about the gospel. In Acts, the Apostles had each other. They got organized and they didn’t all do the same jobs.

In the coming weeks and months, the Membership Cultivation Committee (MCC) is going to be rolling a series of initiatives for sharing the good news. We believe that the grace and love of God are needed in this world and even more so that the incredible news of the new life that God has promised us all in the resurrected Jesus is worth sharing. We want to invite new members to join us in the worship and wonder of our Christian faith and we want to see UPC do this together in an organized and intentional fashion.

The MCC will be contacting our committees and commissions to ask them to take these initiatives. The promise is that the MCC will cast and organize our vision; what we need is engaged, sustained cooperation. We all feel less than qualified to share the gospel with anyone. We may all feel afraid to invite someone to church! So did Mary. But she said yes to sharing the news, and it changed to world.

Let us go and bear witness to the incredible news, that Jesus is Risen! He is Risen indeed!

Blessings!

Pastor Jason

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Dear Church Family,

As our season of Lenten reflections comes to its conclusion here at the beginning of April, I pray that your heart has been nourished as you contemplate our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I have enjoyed our time together reading and reflecting on 40 Days Living the Jesus Creed. Coming out of this time, it is my prayer for us all that we would continue to pursue living in ways that demonstrate our love for God, ourselves, and our neighbor. Displaying these loves to the world around us is the beginning of creating a community where people experience true belonging, come to believe the transforming power of Christ, and become more like Him each day by the power of the Holy Spirit.

I am also really excited for the opportunity we have after Easter to examine and walk through an ancient discipleship manual: the Didache. The Didache was most likely put together between 90 and 150 CE. It is an important document addressing the two ways of living, regulations for practices, a guide for congregational life, and an exhortation to the church regarding the imminent return of Christ. Why, though, is it important for us to learn about and study such an old writing?

I believe that it is important that we interact with these ancient writings of the church, because as Christians we are to be in communication with other Christians. It is easy to understand that in a very literal way, we are to talk with and discuss with other believers both in our church, but in other congregations, locally and around the world. That is true. We are to seek to grow in our faith through faith conversations with other Christians across geographic space, but it is also important that we are in conversation with Christians across time. By this, I mean that it is beneficial to our faith to interact with Christians who have gone before us. Each generation of Christians in their study of Scripture and how to live as faithful Christians ask different questions and see things in a different light. Seeing how they interact with the foundational elements of our faith and how they sought to live faithful lives can be instructive to us. Also, it is through interacting with those before us that we gain great insight to the foundational elements of the faith. That is why we say the Apostle's Creed or Nicene Creed in our services. They provide clear expressions of the foundational doctrines of the church.

So, as we come to our examination of the Didache for the four weeks after Easter, I hope and pray that your faith will be nourished both by our discussion of its contents and by the faithfulness of Christians who came before us seeking to live according to the way that brings life.

I hope that you will all join us for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt and our first Easter Vigil on April 8th. It is always a joy to watch the kids running around looking for eggs and to hear the Easter story.

Blessings,

Ryan Aubrey
Director of Christian Education





STEWARDSHIP NEWS

Dear Members and Friends of the UPC,

This month the Stewardship Committee will be introducing our plan for highlighting reciprocal GENEROSITY as a major theme of stewardship in 2023 and at all times! *The earth is the Lord's and everything in it. The world and all its people belong to Him. (Psalm 24:1 NLT)* What does this mean to us as His people? God has granted all of us with His gifts of Creation, His Word and our time, talents and treasure. How are we responding to His generosity as we participate in making disciples for Jesus Christ?

On April 23rd, during the 10am service of worship, I will present a brief outline of stewardship theology, programs and events that the Stewardship Committee plans to bring to the pulpit, in-house media and classroom this year. The following Sunday we will all witness our first testimonial offered by one of our longtime members regarding the importance of the UPC to the building of His Kingdom, also being delivered from the pulpit during worship.

Finally, let me introduce the 2023 Stewardship Committee members: Linda Rambo, Katelyn Rasmussen, Sue Schmidt and me, Carol Roselli-Rasmussen. We welcome your thoughts and ideas.

Trusting the God that provides,

Carol Roselli-Rasmussen
Stewardship Committee

MISSIONS

Joy Sharing for April

The Joy Sharing offering for April will benefit Curt's Café. Please read on to learn more about their mission.

Proven at-risk or formerly incarcerated young adults have few resources available to them. With little hope of securing employment, even for entry level positions, many end up living on the streets and return to destructive habits. Cycling through the courts, 86% of those released are sent back through the system within 3 years. We all pay the price for such recidivism. For our sake and theirs, it makes sense to direct these young adults toward a secure and productive future.

At Curt's Café they provide that opportunity by teaching marketable skills to young adults and then assisting in securing employment. They teach culinary techniques but also provide instruction needed to fill in educational gaps, gain confidence, and become job-ready.

The student trainees, aged 15 through 24, are living in at-risk situations, such as having contact with the judicial system, or are homeless, food insecure or have dropped out of school.

A portion of Curt's Café's mission reads "We promote education, respect, compassion and integrity, and embrace the philosophy of restorative justice in all we do."

These young adults are determined to build a positive future for themselves. For them, being able to get and hold a job will contribute immeasurably toward their success.

And you can contribute to that success by prayerfully considering your financial contribution to Curt's Café. And consider dining there! The food is delicious! Their closest location is 1766 2nd Street, Highland Park.

Feed My Starving Children

The next monthly UPC packing session at Feed My Starving Children is Tuesday, April 4 from 7:00-8:45 p.m. in Libertyville. Please contact Cinda at bartzc@sbcglobal.net to reserve your spot if you wish to participate.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

April 2 - Palm Sunday Worship Service at 10 a.m.

April 6 - Maundy Thursday Tenebrae with Communion at 7 p.m.

April 8 - Easter Party & Egg Hunt at 2 p.m.

April 8 - Easter Vigil at 6:30 p.m.

April 9 - Easter Sunrise Service at 6:30 a.m.

April 9 - Easter Breakfast 7-10 a.m. in Fellowship Hall

April 9 - Easter Morning Service at 10 a.m.



Children (PreK-6th Grade) are invited to

*UPC's Annual
Easter Egg Hunt
and Party*

Saturday, April 8th

2pm

*Bring your Easter basket and join us
for an Easter book followed by
the egg hunt and some refreshments.*



UPC PADS SITE UPDATES—APRIL 2023



APRIL: Last month for 2022-2023 PADS SHELTER SEASON!!

PADS is actively reducing the hotel census, so some guests leaving the hotels may be returning to the rotating (church) sites. The last night that the church sites will be open this season will be April 30/May 1. Please pray that guests can find safe shelter/housing.

UPC/PADS Lake County OVERVIEW with ORIENTATION RESCHEDULED:

Training for new & prospective volunteers:

- **WHO:** ALL interested adults & youth! (SHARE THIS INFORMATION!)
- **WHAT:** **UPC PADS & PADS Lake County OVERVIEW with ORIENTATION** for new & prospective adult & youth volunteers & info for others interested in learning about UPC PADS & PADS Lake County programs.
- **WHERE:** United Protestant Church: Room 203, FELLOWSHIP HALL & hallway
- **WHEN:** **THURSDAY, APRIL 13** from 7 TO 8:30 PM.

Watch an 11-minute video giving an overview of all PADS Lake County programs. Take a "walk-thru" our UPC Site & receive an overview of local site operations.

Questions and comments welcomed. If you have questions, please contact Rose Pech at pads_at_upc@hotmail.com or 847-682-2837.

NECESSARY FOR OPENING: BOTH St. Mary of Vernon & UPC sites need enough **volunteers** to provide a safe environment for guests & volunteers.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR OUR MAIN SHIFTS: (Times are approximate)

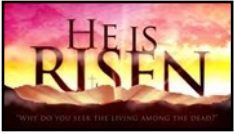
- 1st shift: 5:30 – 11 PM (4 adults needed; at least one male)
- 2nd shift: 11 PM – 3 AM (2 adults needed)
- 3rd shift: 3 – 7 AM (4 adults needed; at least 2 male)
- Late 3rd shift: 4:30 to 7 AM (1 adult needed)
- A.M. Kitchen Cleanup: 6 – 7 AM (3 adults needed)

SPECIFIC SHIFT TRAINING will be done in September if our site opens this fall.

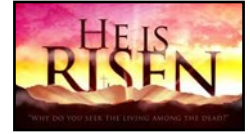
PADS LAKE COUNTY: NEW SHELTER COORDINATOR & VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION PLANS!

- **Jessica Rios** was welcomed as the new PADS Lake County Shelter Coordinator at the March PADS Site Leadership meeting as Samantha Houck moved on to her dream job at the Field Museum.
- Planning for a Volunteer Appreciation Party — possibly a mid-May Friday evening.

Thanks for your continuing support of PADS — The UPC PADS Site Leadership Team



WCF NEWS — APRIL 2023
WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
WCF WELCOMES ALL WOMEN 18 & OVER!!
PLEASE JOIN US!!



CIRCLE NEWS:

Circles 2, 4/5, & 9 members meet regularly and welcome visitors! **See chart for circles' meeting information and find a day and time that work for you!**

Watch for more detailed information regarding changes for circle meetings in the Tuesday Newsday emails, weekly church bulletins & our monthly UNIFIER articles. To contact chairpersons: See the church directory or contact Rose Pech at 847-682-2837 or email rose4nonna@hotmail.com.

Circle	Day/Date	Time	Place	Contact
2	Sun., April 16	11:30 AM	UPC Meeting Room	Catherine Vick
4/5	Wed., April 12	11:30 AM	Culver's in Grayslake	Sue Schmidt
9	Tues., April 11	5:30 PM	Hillside Restaurant	Ruth Gheysen
10	TBD	TBD	TBD	Jasmine Walker

WCF MISSION FUND: Tyler, Brittany, & Danielle are into their own home now and gradually getting things organized. Throughout 2023, they need a monthly income of \$2,000 to meet their budget. Donations to the WCF Mission Fund may be made at any time for 2024. Make checks payable to UPC with "WCF Mission Fund" in the memo or put a donation into an envelope marked WCF Mission Fund. However, we also encourage those who can to donate now and anytime during 2023 to do so by either going online to www.ilad.ngo/D2002 or by paper check payable to ILAD with D2002 written in the memo. Mail checks to ILAD, Atten: D2002, P.O. Box 383153, Duncanville, TX 75138-3183.

--Blessings, Rose Pech



April Birthdays

4/1 Cinda Bartz
4/2 Paula Watkins
4/8 Ramsha Mall
4/8 Jerry Wessale
4/11 Aimee Divis
4/11 Brett Henne
4/11 Margaret Porteous
4/11 Roger Weichman
4/15 Cynthia Lee
4/18 Milla Kutsin
4/19 Emma Craig
4/19 Linda Rambo
4/23 Chris Celeslie
4/23 Jamie Fuller
4/23 Karen Thoms
4/23 Carter Trowitch

April Anniversaries

4/3 Lillian & Jay Eldridge



UPC's Continued Prayers for Members, Relatives, and Friends:

Members: Terese & Warren Bell, Bill Churchill, Marie Frandsen, Ben Kelly-Fuller, Susan Green, Joan Hendricks, David Holliman, Joanne Lawrence, Marjorie Miller, Linda Rambo, Eric Stahl, Pat Wackerlin, Dan Watkins, Bobbie Weichman, and Dian Weinkauf.

Tyler, Brittany & Danielle – give thanks for the support they receive and praise for moving into their house and for their new teammate Megan. They need continued prayers for getting things in order and for complete healing for Tyler as he continues to recover from typhoid and malaria. Prayers requested for Megan's transition to the new culture and work as translator, for the trees to recover, and for an income of \$2,000/month by December. They ask that we always pray for them to have the same peace Paul did in Philippians 4:11-13 regardless of their circumstances.

Relatives & Friends: Allen Anglin, Kathy Behm, Joe Boccaleoni, Kathy Weichman Bradley, Megan Brown, Lorine Cooper, Patricia Davis, Judy Hendrickson, Mary Mason, Gloria Meier, Tommy Nellesen, Gary Sadlack, Stephan, Erik and Kacie Stanley, their son and Erik's mother, Diane.

Long-term prayers: Bruce Baird, Flora Boehm & family, Betty Bournes, Thomas Bournes, Mary Brase, Don & Tina Busch, Brad Fuller, Trish Jelinek, Rick Juern, Sue (PADS friend), Wendy (friend of Rose Pech), and Michelle (friend of Linda Markham).



**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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E-mail: upc@upcgl.org

Pastor: Rev. Jason Okrzynski

Email:
seniorpastor@upcgl.org

Church Office Hours:
Tuesday & Thursday
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Grounded | Empowered | Transformed

United Protestant Church of Grayslake
54 S. Whitney Street
Grayslake, IL 60030

