

# The Unifier



54 South Whitney Street, Grayslake, Illinois 60030 | (847) 223-8131 | [upc@upcgl.org](mailto:upc@upcgl.org) | [www.upcgl.org](http://www.upcgl.org)

August 2024

Grace to you and Peace from God our Father and from Jesus Christ, AMEN.

You may not have realized it, but United Protestant Church is set to observe a significant birthday next year! In June of 2025, United Protestant Church is turning 75 years old! This is a significant milestone and one that we should celebrate. I have already spoken with Dennis Craig, and I know that we have enough artifacts to observe a monthly remembrance. However, the Bible would teach us that when it is time for the people of God to raise an Ebenezer, celebrate, and proclaim the faithfulness of God, then the people need to do it! We need your help! If you are willing to serve in the coming year on a planning committee, please let Sue Schmidt or Pastor Jason know by **August 15<sup>th</sup>**, so that we can gather and begin planning a wonderful year of jubilee and celebration together.

It is a good and fitting thing that this coming year we are convening a task force to review our governance model. This is a process that is long overdue at UPC. It is also one that comes with much prayer and conversation. At this time, we are still finalizing the members of the Governance Task Force (GTF). However, I want to share every step of the GTF's work that will include regular and sufficient opportunities to include the entire congregation with the work. The team is made up of five members selected by the Nominations Committee and the Administrative Council. There will be quarterly all-church conversation opportunities throughout. The final Governance model will require a congregational vote to finalize the opportunity. In the meantime, please be praying for the team and watch for regular updates.

Finally, please mark Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup> on your calendars. That Sunday, we will be gathering on the front lawn for our fall kick-off in worship; that will include inter-generational worship, a blessing of the backpacks, picnic and an ice cream social. Plan to be there as we kick off this special year in United Protestant Church's history!

In Christ,

Rev. Jason Okrzynski, PhD  
Senior Pastor



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Dear Church Family,

How can it be August already? The summer has really gone by quickly. But, with the end of summer, comes the beginning of our ministry year. So, I want to tell you about the first study we will be having in our Adult Education classes.

Each year, we run a stewardship campaign. The purpose of this campaign is not just to gain insight into our potential giving for the next year so that we can set our budget, but it is also to highlight opportunities for you so that you can find a place to use your time, talents, and treasure for the building up of the church. In conjunction with this campaign, our first Adult Education class will be Discovering Your S.H.A.P.E. This is an acronym that stands for Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality, and Experiences. It was developed out of *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren so that they could mobilize their members for service both inside and outside the church.

The purpose of our class is to help you find and explore the ways God has created you to do Kingdom work. Our first week will be introducing the class, then each subsequent week will be spent exploring each of the letters of the acronym. Between the weeks, there will be some homework, which we will then discuss in class. We hope that through this class we will find ways that we can continue to do God's Kingdom work in the world around us, both the church and in our everyday lives. God has called us all to do Kingdom work, so as we seek to live faithful lives, we desire to know and grow in the Kingdom work He has for us.

Finally, I hope that you will all put our Back-to-School Sunday on your calendars! This will be held on Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with our outdoor service (weather permitting), picnic, and ice cream social. We will have a blessing of the backpacks, so we encourage you to drop off new or lightly used backpacks as well as school supplies so that we can be a blessing to children in our community. Also, this is a wonderful opportunity to invite families you might know for a unique and enjoyable Sunday morning with ice cream. There will also be ministry tables set up so that you can register for our upcoming Ministry year. All our educational ministries will have registration sheets available and our Missions committee will be available to answer any questions about service opportunities.

On the family front, the kids had the opportunity to stay with Emily's parents for a couple weeks while Emily was taking a class in Minnesota. While there, the kids had a goal of swimming in the pool two times each day. Just a few days into their visit, they were unable to swim because of the weather. This initially was alarming, but soon William remembered that they swam more than twice on one of the days, so that counted toward the average. The crisis was averted, at least for now.

Thank you all for reading. Next month, I will be telling you about what our Children's Ministry will be learning about over the course of the next year.

Blessings,

Ryan Aubrey, Director of Christian Education



## OUTDOOR REVIVAL WORSHIP SERVICES—JUNE & JULY 2024



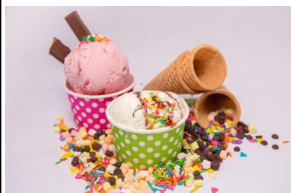
## OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE & PICNIC—AUGUST 25TH

Join us for an outdoor worship service on the UPC front lawn (weather permitting) on Sunday, August 25 at 10 a.m. followed by a picnic hosted by the Worship Committee and an Ice Cream Social hosted by Membership & Outreach.

Bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on during the service. Picnic tables will also be set up and available for additional seating. Hot dogs, buns, chips, lemonade, and ice cream will be provided.

Children and youth are invited to bring their school backpacks to the service for our annual Blessing of the

Backpacks. There will be tables set up for Christian education registration for all ages, and a display of mission opportunities by the Mission Committee. Come join us for this fun event as we celebrate the end of summer and the beginning of our fall programs. See you all there!



# STEWARDSHIP NEWS

Dear UPC Members and Friends,

Sharing our time and talents is just as important as sharing our treasure; therefore, we on the Stewardship Committee encourage you to think about your hobbies and interests and find ways to share your knowledge and experience with others who can benefit from them. In that regard, if you have any interest in teaching, assisting with education classes or simply helping and spending time with children or youth, please consider getting involved in our children's Sunday School program or our Confirmation and youth programs. We can always use more help in these areas with either teaching weekly classes using a scripted curriculum or assisting the lead teacher for that week with prepared activities for the kids. With multiple volunteers either teaching or assisting, your time commitment would be minimal, possibly an hour or two once a month.

The Confirmation class, led by Pastor Jason on a weekly basis, is in need of assistants and mentors. Due to our safety policy, it is imperative that we have two adults physically present in the classroom each week for both children and youth. This safeguards our students as well as the teaching staff.

The children's Sunday School program meets every Sunday morning at 9 a.m. and ends approximately at 9:50 a.m. before the worship service begins. The Confirmation class has been meeting weekly on Wednesday evenings beginning at 6 p.m., or occasionally on Sunday afternoons depending on participants' schedules.

If you think you would be interested in trying to help in any of these areas, please contact Ryan Aubrey, our Director of Christian Education, and he will provide you with the proper paperwork to complete a background check. All of our adult volunteers who work with children or youth are required per our safety policy to have this done. Parents are comforted to know that our church is a safe place for their children.

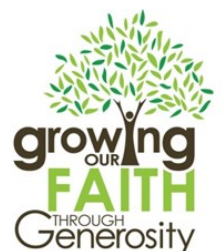
In addition to serving as potential teachers, assistants and mentors, we also offer opportunities to serve on the various education teams, such as Adult Education, Children's Ministry, Confirmation and Youth Ministry. We welcome any and all who have ideas to share on how we can improve our Christian education programs and discover ways to reach out to those who need and wish to hear about the Good News and the Gospel of Christ. In our world and culture today, this is more important than ever.

In Service to God's Kingdom,

Sue Schmidt  
Christian Education Commission



***Please remember the  
United Protestant Church  
in your Estate Planning.***







# AUGUST 2024

## United Protestant Church CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:00am Park District Preschool Summer Camp (202) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	2	3
4 10:00am Worship Service 11:30am Circle 2 (MR) 2:00pm Parks & Practices for Families (Jaycee Park)	5 7:00pm Stewardship Committee (MR) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	6 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105)	7 11:30am Circle 4/5 (Culver's) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH) 7:15pm Troop 451 Board of Review (101)	8 7:00pm Budget & Finance (MR) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	9	10
11 10:00am Worship Service 11:30am CE Teacher Training (FH)	12 7:00pm Children's Ministry Committee (MR) 7:30pm AA (106, 105) 8:00pm Christian Ed. Commission (MR)	13 5:30pm Circle 9 (Mrs. V's) 7:00pm Membership Cultivation Committee (MR) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 PLC (101)	14 7:00pm PUSH (Parlor) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	15 7:30pm AA (106,105)	16	17
18 10:00am Worship Service	19 7:00pm Ad Council (FH) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	20 6:30pm Pack 451 Monthly Pack Meeting (FH) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105) 7:00pm Nami Family Support Group (MR) 7:00pm Troop 451 Committee Meeting (101)	21 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	22 7:30pm AA (106,105)	23	24
25 10:00am Worship Service (front lawn) 11:00am Church Picnic & Ice Cream Social (front lawn)	26 6:30pm Worship Committee (MR) 7:00pm Mission Committee (Parlor) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	27 6:30pm Pack 451 Den Meetings (FH) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105)	28 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	29 7:30pm AA (106,105)	30	31

# MISSIONS



The next UPC packing session at Feed My Starving Children in Libertyville is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 6 from 7:15-8:45 p.m.** If you are interested in participating, please contact Cinda Bartz at [bartzc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bartzc@sbcglobal.net).



During the month of August, we would like to collect jump ropes, water bottles, flip flops, sunglasses, crayons and colored pencils to fill 250 shoebox gifts.

## GLEANNING OPPORTUNITIES

As harvest season comes upon us, I would like to invite all able-bodied men, women and children to consider participating in this year's gleaning. In case you don't know, gleaning has been practiced since the time of Moses. It is very Biblical and is mentioned in Deuteronomy 24:18-22, Leviticus 23:22, and Ruth 2. It is defined as the gathering of grain or other produce left by reapers. In the past, UPC has gleaned corn, tomatoes, squash, apples and more. The food gleaned is given to local agencies that help those in need of food. If you would like more information or think you would be interested in helping with this endeavor, please contact Cinda at [bartzc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bartzc@sbcglobal.net).



## UPC SHOPPER

It is time for Back-to-School shopping. Get your school supplies with shopper cards and support Operation Christmas Child. While you are at it, why not buy an extra pack of crayons to donate to OCC?

**meijer** Furnishing a dorm room can be expensive. Make your purchases with UPC Shopper Cards and help the less fortunate get their own soap, toothbrush and more. **KOHL'S**

The profits from the UPC Shopper will be going to help pay for shipping for our Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes. We hope to ship 250 boxes which would amount to \$2,500 in shipping fees and a lot of very happy children. If you love OCC, please consider purchasing gift cards to help support the cause.





## **PADS LAKE COUNTY:**

In addition to regular food supplies for clients in hotels, sack lunches are a continuing need for people who come to 1800 Grand Avenue to seek help from PADS. Lunches can be delivered to PADS at the Grand Avenue location during any weekday. Sign up on their online signup genius for an open date, or call 847-689-4357 to let them know you would like to deliver lunches to the office.

PADS continues to need lunch and dinner items and cleaning supplies. Thanks to all who are bringing food and other PADS donations to UPC and who are using the link below to have food sent directly to First Presbyterian Church in Libertyville. All of these donations are helping tremendously. Below is the link to the Amazon wish list.

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/XD5I2ZRDQKE5?ref =wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/XD5I2ZRDQKE5?ref =wl_share)

**JOIN PADS FOR A CELEBRATION:** On Saturday, September 28 at 7 p.m., PADS will host its 2024 Path to Progress Celebration, dubbed “A Night at the Speakeasy Casino,” at Hawthorn Mall in Vernon Hills. This event will be an exquisite blend of 1920’s glamour, excitement, and philanthropy, all in support of PADS Lake County. Tickets to the event will be available through their website soon at [padslakecounty.org](http://padslakecounty.org). Hope to see you there!



Do you love music? If you answered yes, please consider joining the Grace Notes handbell choir. Can't read music? We will teach you. All you really need is a desire to play, a willingness to learn, the ability to count to 6 and a commitment to attend rehearsals on Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30pm. We will help you with the rest. If interested, contact Cinda at [bartzc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bartzc@sbcglobal.net) or 847.727.1552 or call the church office.

## **JOY SHARING**

We have a new mission opportunity for our August Joy Sharing - the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP). In part, their mission statement shares that they are "a voluntary health organization that gives those affected by suicide a nationwide community empowered by research, education and advocacy to take action against this leading cause of death." Established in 1987, the AFSP has chapters in all 50 states plus Puerto Rico and hosts programs and events nationwide. They are dedicated to saving lives and bringing hope to those affected by suicide. They focus on mental health by engaging in the following core strategies:

- fund scientific research
- educate the public about mental health and suicide prevention
- advocate for public policies in mental health and suicide prevention
- support survivors of suicide loss and those affected by suicide.

Please prayerfully consider financially supporting the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention on August 18 on Joy Sharing Sunday, or make your contribution whenever you wish. Thank you.



## WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

### INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT

**WCF?** Call the church office at 847-223-8131 for information or talk with Cathy Vick, Sue Schmidt,

Ruth Gheysen, or Rose Pech. See the church bulletin, Tuesday Newsday, and UNIFIER for updates.

**Circle 2:** Meetings are held at **11:30 AM in the UPC Meeting Room** one Sunday each month from March through December. Our next meeting will be **Sunday, August 4**. Contact Catherine Vick. Watch for information in September when dates will be scheduled for UPC members and friends to join us as we volunteer at the Avon Food Pantry.

**Circle 4/5:** meets on the first Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be **at 11:30 AM on August 7 at Culver's** in Grayslake. Contact Sue Schmidt.

**Circle 9:** Meetings are held year-round on the second Tuesday of each month **at 5:30 PM at Mrs. V's on Rollins Road in Round Lake Beach**. Occasionally, a meeting must be cancelled, so please check with Ruth Gheysen or one of the other Circle 9 members if you plan to attend. The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 13**.

**Circle 10:** does not meet in person. Members are in contact with each other on Facebook. Contact Jasmine Walker.

**Check the table below for meeting information and choose what works for you!**

Circle	Day/Date	Time	Place	Contact
2	Sun., August 4	11:30 AM	UPC Meeting Room	Catherine Vick
4/5	Wed., August 7	11:30 AM	Culver's in Grayslake	Sue Schmidt
9	Tues., August 13	5:30 PM	Mrs. V's in Round Lake Beach	Ruth Gheysen

\*Contact information is available online in the **Instant Church Directory** or at the UPC office.

**Tyler, Brittany, Danielle, & Joanna:** top prayer requests include: 1) Nanny and African Xian to run brick machine; 2) favor on newly transplanted trees; 3) Brittany helps answer Brent's exegetical questions; 4) good health and availability of Malaria Vaccine; 5) increase monthly funds by \$325.

Donations can be made any time online or to the local UPC Tyler & Brittany Fund in addition to the special Joy Sharing Sunday which the Mission Committee provides each year. Thank you for your support.



## August Birthdays

8/2 David (Skip) Runyon  
8/6 Sean DelGrosso  
8/8 John Eldridge  
8/11 Adam Divis  
8/11 Shirley Eckhoff  
8/12 Karen Runyon  
8/13 Janet Katien  
8/24 Gretchen Jagla  
8/31 Judi Becker



## August Anniversaries

8/5 Andrew & Ann Friesema  
8/26 Chris & Tracy Celeslie  
8/26 Chuck & Diane Trowitch  
8/28 Dan & Paula Watkins

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

**Members:** Cinda Bartz, Marie Frandsen, David Holliman, Joanne Lawrence, Mary Ann McDowell, Marjorie Miller, John Porteous, Dan Watkins, and Bobbie Weichman.

**May she rest in peace:** Dian Weinkauf

**Tyler, Brittany & Danielle, & Joanna:** top prayer requests include: 1) balancing farm and family with Tyler's online MBA; 2) favor as Tyler brainstorms farm business plan for his MBA final project; 3) consistency in practicing their Sabbath routine; 4) enough sun to charge solar batteries during the rainy season; 5) favor in choosing dates for a week off as a family at Hope in August.

**Relatives & Friends:** Allen Anglin, Kathy Behm, Joe Boccaleoni, Kathy Weichman Bradley, Lorine Cooper, Patricia Davis, Judy Hendrickson, Jennifer Hitch, Mary Mason, Gloria Meier, Pat Mielke, Tommy Nellessen, Sohail Rana and the Alam family, Gary Sadlack, Ray Sisco, Stephan, Erik & Kacie Stanley, their son & 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, Conny Kappler, Ben Kelly-Fuller, David Novak, Sue (PADS friend), Wendy (friend of Rose Pech), and Michelle (friend of Linda Markham).



*Lord, in your mercy,  
hear our prayers.*

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

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

Phone: 847-223-8131

E-mail: [upc@upcgl.org](mailto:upc@upcgl.org)

Pastor: Rev. Jason Okrzynski

Email:  
[seniorpastor@upcgl.org](mailto:seniorpastor@upcgl.org)  
Cell: 224-463-2171

Church Office Hours:  
Tuesday & Thursday  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Grounded | Empowered | Transformed

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54 S. Whitney Street  
Grayslake, IL 60030

