

The Unifier



54 South Whitney Street, Grayslake, Illinois 60030 | (847) 223-8131 | upc@upcgl.org | www.upcgl.org

August 2025

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from Jesus Christ,

Summer has flown by as it is want to do! It has been a fabulous, busy, and lively summer here at UPC. Of course, in June, we had our 75th anniversary celebration. Since then, our teens, committees, and members have been busy with ministries at church and beyond. This church does so much to care and serve, that it's worth taking a moment every now and then to really think about how much ministry the folks at UPC do. August will round out a wonderful summer. We will again be participating in the Grayslake Summerfest parade on Saturday, August 16. Please let me or Sue Schmidt know soon if you are interested in participating. On Sunday, August 24, we will be worshipping outside on the front lawn to prepare to kick off our fall programming year. That day will also include our annual backpack drive and backpack blessing.

Enjoy our final month of summer. I look forward to starting another new year with you in September!

In Christ,

Rev. Jason Okrzynski, PhD



From the Director of Music



The new church program year will soon be upon us...and that means the return of the music groups here at UPC to provide meaningful music to our worship services. The Chancel Choir, in particular, is looking for folks who would like to help "make a joyful noise unto the Lord" with their voices! No experience or the ability to read music is necessary, although that is helpful.

We meet on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Our first rehearsal is **Thursday, September 4**. If you have any questions, please reach out to Kurt. Let's try to fill the choir loft this year.



Is the summer heat getting to you? The Mission Committee invites you to come for dinner from **5-8 p.m.** at **Culver's**, located at 1239 N. Route 83 in **Grayslake**, on **Tuesday, August 26**.

No flier is necessary. UPC will earn 10% of **ALL** purchases made during that time – not just those made by church members. Invite your friends and neighbors. Why not invite your enemies as well? Have cheese curds, sandwich, or a salad and, of course, dessert. Don't forget to pick up a prepackaged pint of frozen custard to go. Funds raised will go to offset our budget deficit. Don't forget to purchase gift cards from UPC Shopper to pay for your meal. Support OCC and UPC at the same time at no extra cost.

On August 31, Marcia Twadell, our accompanist of 13 years, will be retiring. In appreciation for her years of dedicated service to UPC, we are collecting money for a "Love Gift." If you wish to contribute, please place your donation in an envelope marked "Marcia Twadell Love Gift." If you write a check, please write "Marcia Love Gift" on the memo line. Donations will be collected through August 24 and may be placed in the offering plate or given to Jan Kendrick.



Fundraiser Opportunity: On September 14, we have the opportunity to order Bavarian style pretzels from the Milwaukee Pretzel Company! This will be a fundraiser, sponsored by the Mission Committee, earning 50% of all sales for UPC's general operating fund. The pretzels will be delivered fresh, and they are delicious! Details to follow.

We are collecting non-chocolate candy for the Grayslake Summerfest Parade on Saturday, August 16 at 4:30 p.m. If you wish to donate, please bring your candy to the church office no later than August 14. If you wish to participate in the parade with UPC, sign up on the sheet in the parlor or contact the church office by August 10 at churchsec@upcgl.org.



Join us on Sunday, August 24 at 10 a.m. for UPC's outdoor worship service on

the front lawn (weather permitting) followed by a picnic and ice cream social. All children and youth are encouraged to bring their school backpacks to be blessed during the worship service. Any donated backpacks for the local community will be blessed at that time as well. Please bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on.

Picnic tables will be available for additional seating. Hot dogs, chips, ice cream, and lemonade will be provided. There will also be tables set up for Christian education registration for kids and adults, as well as a display



of mission opportunities by the Mission Committee. We hope you will join us for this fun event!





AUGUST 2025

United Protestant Church CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--|--|--------|--|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 10:00am Worship Service | 4 7:30pm AA (106, 105) | 5 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105) | 6 11:30am Circle 4/5 (Culver's) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH) | 7 7:30pm AA (106, 105) | 8 | 9 |
| 10 10:00am Worship Service | 11 7:00pm Children's Ministry Committee (MR) 7:30pm AA (106, 105) 8:00pm Christian Ed. Commission (MR) | 12 5:30pm Circle 9 (Mrs. V's) 7:00pm Troop 451 PLC (101) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105) | 13 7:00pm PUSH (Parlor) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) | 14 2:00pm Budget & Finance (MR) 7:30pm AA (106, 105) | 15 | 16 4:30pm Grayslake Summerfest Parade |
| 17 10:00am Worship Service 11:30am Circle 2 (103) | 18 7:00pm Ad Council (FH) 7:30pm AA (106, 105) | 19 6:30pm Governance Task Force (Parlor) 7:00pm Nami Family Support Group (MR) 7:00pm Troop 451 Committee Meeting (101) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105) | 20 6:30pm North Star District Commissioner Meeting (MR) 7:00pm CMC Teacher Volunteer Meeting (Parlor) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) | 21 7:30pm AA (106, 105) | 22 | 23 |
| 24 10:00am Worship Service (front lawn) 11:00am Picnic & Ice Cream Social (front lawn) 11:30am Youth Kick-off Event (FH) | 25 6:30pm Worship Committee (MR) 7:00pm Mission Committee (103) 7:30pm AA (106, 105) | 26 7:00pm Grace Notes Bell Rehearsal (Choir Room) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105) | 27 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) | 28 7:30pm AA (106, 105) | 29 | 30 |
| 31 10:00am Worship Service | | | | | | |

MISSIONS UPDATE



The next UPC packing session at Feed My Starving Children in Libertyville is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 5 from 7:15-8:45 p.m.** If you are interested in participating, please contact Cinda Bartz at bartzc@sbcglobal.net.

On **Wednesday, August 13, at 1:30 p.m.** (immediately after the FMSC group packs), you are invited to join other UPC members and friends for a Dutch treat luncheon at Magnolia Cafe at Lambs Farm at 14245 W. Rockland Road in Libertyville. Missions tries to schedule lunches every few months at restaurants that are making a difference in local communities. Here is a link to their webpage [Magnolia Cafe & Bakery - Lambs Farm](#) if you want to check out the menu ahead of time. All are welcome to join us—even if you don't come pack with us beforehand. If you are unfamiliar, Lambs Farm's mission statement is "Helping people with developmental disabilities lead productive, happy lives and connecting with the human spirit in us all."

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (OCC)

We are collecting the following items for Operation Christmas Child throughout the month of August: **jump ropes, water bottles, flip flops, sunglasses, crayons, and colored pencils.**

JOY SHARING FOR AUGUST

The Joy Sharing for August will benefit the Adult Mission Trip. This year we will be working with Baptists on Mission to help last year's hurricane victims in North Carolina. The cleanup is completed, but much work is required to rebuild the damaged homes in a 3-county area. Our group will be assigned a project or projects to do whatever is needed to repair the homes torn up by this storm. The Baptist group will provide 3 meals a day for us and lodging. Our only costs will be a \$20/day charge for the food. We will work onsite from Monday, October 6 through Friday, October 10. They will supply the needed tools but we will also bring our own personal tools. If you don't have any building experience, please put your fears at rest. Our team loves to mentor new folks on the use of any tools they wish to learn. As it gets closer, we will have more detailed information. The sign-up cutoff is September 22. Feel free to invite your spouse, friends or neighbors to join you! If you have any questions, please call or text Rick Burg at 224-612-2409 or email rickburg10@gmail.com. Joy Sharing Sunday is August 17.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

The Mission Committee thanks everyone who purchased a meal or special treat at Panera Bread in Gurnee on July 16. Our total sales for that day amounted to over \$1,000, so we anticipate receiving approximately \$306 to go toward UPC's general operating fund. It was nice to see so many of you out enjoying a meal and helping UPC in the process. Thank you!

BACKPACK COLLECTION

Once again, we will be collecting new school backpacks (unfilled) for underprivileged children in our local community. Please place your donated backpacks in the bin provided by the mission table by **Sunday, August 24** when they will be blessed during the worship service. School supplies may be donated to Operation Christmas Child (OCC).

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? Furnishing a dorm room can be expensive. Make your purchases with UPC Shopper cards and help the OCC recipients get their own combs, toothbrushes and more. The profits from the UPC Shopper will be going to help pay for shipping for our Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes. Help make a lot of children very happy. If you love OCC, please consider purchasing gift cards to help support the cause.

GLEANNING

As harvest season comes upon us, all able-bodied men, women and children are invited to consider participating in this year's gleanng. In case you don't know, gleanng has been practiced since the time 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. Gleanng began on Monday, July 28 at Stadel's Farm and Orchard at 9 a.m. and will occur weekly at that time, weather permitting. Contact Cinda to participate at 847.727.1552 or bartzc@sbcglobal.net.

FIFTH SUNDAY MISSION

The fifth Sunday mission for August is Soles for Jesus. We would love to see everyone bring in at least one pair of shoes to donate. They can be men's, women's, or children's. They can be new or used. Don't have any you would like to donate? Why not ask a neighbor or see if a local garage/rummage sale will give you what they don't sell? Please join UPC's shoe drive. Help collect **new or used** shoes for Soles For Jesus. You can help by: cleaning out your closets and basement, buying new shoes to donate, leaving a flier (found on the mission table) with your neighbors. Then at the arranged time (of your choice), go back and pick up their donations from their front porch. Shoes should be at UPC no later than Sunday, **September 28**. Collected shoes will provide hope and diminish disease for children in rural Africa. **All sizes are needed: Toddler thru Adult Size 13. New shoe laces are also needed.** See members of the Mission Committee if you have any questions.

COMPANIONS JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Recently our first shipment of greeting cards was taken to Aurora for the Companions Journeying together mission. The box included 1,125 unsigned Christmas cards for the inmates to send to their families, 55 signed Christmas cards to be given to inmates to brighten their Christmas season, 500 birthday cards for the inmates to send to their families, 4 thinking of you, and 106 blank greeting cards. Thank you to everyone who has donated. Keep them coming. Our numbers are up from last year, but we are especially in need of signed Christmas cards to be passed out to the inmates. Consider taking a bundle of 10 from the mission table. We will be sending more at the end of October.

LAKE COUNTY HAVEN

UPC has signed up to deliver a meal to the other Lake County Haven house for August 4. We will be providing ingredients to make sub sandwiches again. There is a list on the mission table of what is needed. Please sign up for an ingredient or two and take a reminder slip. The ingredients are **due on Sunday, August 3**.

ATTENTION UPC YOUTH!

Ten middle school and high school youth enjoyed games (outdoors and indoors) as they also planned some future activities on July 20. They're looking forward to another fun time as they and other youth decide on their meetings for fall and possibly early winter. Service projects are also "in the works." A few members will be working with two Mission Committee members to make a video promoting UPC Shopper Cards. The group will be distributing flyers and then collecting shoes for "Soles for Jesus" — UPC's Fifth Sunday Mission.

The **YOUTH** will hold their **second gathering and kick-off meeting on Sunday, August 24**, immediately after the outdoor worship service with the blessing of backpacks, picnic, and eating ice cream social treats. For more information, contact Erik Fries at 847-366-5040 or erikmfries@gmail.com.



AVON TOWNSHIP



Officially welcoming Scout Troop 188 from Lake Villa as our partner in the Avon Township "Community Night of Giving Back" Project! From 6:30-8:00 PM on July 22, thirteen troop members joined two UPC members, three former UPC PADS volunteers, and two Grayslake Senior Activity Center members to set out food and sort clothing for Wednesday morning's Food Pantry and to clean a shed, inside and out, removing unusable items to provide space for incoming donations. **This is a**

COMMUNITY project just as we had envisioned! Join us for our next session: 6:30 to 8:00 PM Tuesday, August 26. Volunteers are encouraged to come at 7:00 if 6:30 PM is too early. Those who need to leave sooner are also welcome to do so. Meet at Avon Township Center, **433 W. Washington St., Round Lake Park.** Questions or want more information? Contact Rose Pech at rose4nonna@hotmail.com or 847-682-2837.

***REMINDER:** Please select a green Post-it note leaf from our Stewardship Wish List Tree. The items posted are special requests that you can donate to UPC if you are able. Donations can be dropped off at the office and will help offset our deficit budget for this year. Thank you!*





PADS Lake County: Your continued support of PADS Lake County programs is making a difference in SO many lives...those who are sheltered in the motel and many who are not being sheltered by PADS because of insufficient funds for this part of the program. Food, clothing, toiletries, and other necessities are given to clients who come to the PADS office and receive other services each day in addition to those in the motels because you and others are giving so generously.

Another way people can help is to join some of our UPC PADS volunteers to either attend the **PADS Gala on Saturday, September 20, 2025, 6:30 PM at Tighthead Brewing Company 161 N. Archer Ave., Mundelein, IL 60060** OR to donate a basket or other needed item to the online auction which will be held in September. Baskets can be brought to the UPC office before August 26. Bidding will be done in September. See our Tuesday Newsday for more details.

Future UPC PADS Support for PADS Lake County:

UPC PADS hopes to provide a hot dinner meal for 60 people weekly when the new fixed Family Shelter Site opens this coming winter, as was explained in last month's UNIFIER. Details will be available in November, if not before. **To do this, we'll need volunteers ready to start as soon as the site opens!**

CONTACT ROSE PECH after you read the following information if you think you could help in any way: contacting restaurants or other donors to provide food or items to be prepared, providing some of these food items yourself, helping to prepare a meal or delivering a meal to the site once a month, scheduling kitchen volunteers to prepare the meals or drivers to deliver the meals to the Waukegan site.

Please pray for healing for one of our amazing volunteers who had planned to help regularly. She has had to withdraw her name because she's entered a program of chemotherapy/immunotherapy combination for the next 2½ years. We now have 4 previous PADS volunteers who've agreed to be scheduled monthly to help prepare meals and 3 others who've volunteered to deliver them. **We need your name and contact information** as soon as possible, so we can **start organizing and scheduling early in November** and be prepared by late December or early January—as soon as our help is needed. Contact Rose Pech before August 31 for more information or to volunteer: rose4nonna@hotmail.com or 847-682-2837. (Contact person will differ for September-October.)

UPC Financial Update as of June 30, 2025:

| | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| YTD Income: | \$120,892.74 |
| YTD Expenses: | \$132,664.04 |
| YTD Deficit: | \$-11,771.30 |

\$75K for 75 Years Campaign Update as of July 27, 2025:

We have raised \$5,825 to-date for this campaign. There is \$24,175 remaining to meet the \$30,000 matching opportunity.



WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT WCF? Contact Sue Schmidt, Catherine Vick, Ruth Gheysen, Rose Pech, or call the church office at 847-223-8131 for more info! See the church bulletin, Tuesday Newsday, and UNIFIER for updates.

USE INFORMATION BELOW and the TABLE BELOW. *We'd love to have you join us!*

Circle 2 now meets in **room 103 downstairs** once a month on a Sunday at **11:30 AM**. Sundays vary monthly based on other UPC events. Members will work on more donations for **Operation Christmas Child** during their **August 17** meeting if materials are ready. Catherine Vick will provide devotions. Contact Catherine for more information.

Circle 4/5 meets on the first Wednesday of the month at **11:30 AM at Culver's** in Grayslake. The next lunch is scheduled for **August 6**. Contact Sue Schmidt for more information.

Circle 9 meets year-round at **5:30 PM on the second Tuesday** of each month **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 Circle 9 members prior to joining these ladies for **dinner on August 12**.

Circle 10 does not meet in person on a regular basis, but members are in contact with each other on Facebook. Contact Jasmine Walker.

| Circle | Day/Date | Time | Place | Contact |
|--------|------------------|----------|------------------------------|----------------|
| 2 | Sun., August 17 | 11:30 AM | UPC Room 103 | Catherine Vick |
| 4/5 | Wed., August 6 | 11:30 AM | Culver's in Grayslake | Sue Schmidt |
| 9 | Tues., August 12 | 5:30 PM | Mrs. V's in Round Lake Beach | Ruth Gheysen |
| 10 | N/A | N/A | N/A | Jasmine Walker |

Tyler, Brittany, Danielle, & Joanna continue to give praise for the safe and successful trip Tyler took and are grateful for the \$100 monthly increase in support as they request prayers for the additional \$300 needed to meet expenses. Donations are always much needed and may be made at <http://www.ilad.ngo/D2002> or to their UPC fund at any time. Prayer requests for two urgent needs include a **Nanny** (September 2025-April 2026 and 6+ months starting October 2026), and to identify an **African Christian for farm and brick machine**.

UPC STAFF:

SENIOR PASTOR
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
ACCOMPANIST
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/CLERK
TREASURER
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Rev. Jason Okrzynski, PhD
Kurt Mockenhaupt
Marcia Twadell
Sue Schmidt
Lynn Hallen
Jan Kendrick, Cinda Bartz

August Birthdays

8/2 David Runyon
8/6 Sean DelGrosso
8/8 Jay 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 Chuck & Diane Trowitch
8/28 Dan & Paula Watkins



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

Members: Bill Churchill, Craig Fischel, Marie Frandsen, David Holliman, Jan Kendrick, Joanne Lawrence, Joyce & Terry Norton, John Porteous, Dan Watkins, Bobbie Weichman, and Jeff Ziegler.

Tyler, Brittany, Danielle, & Joanna: continue to give praise for your prayers and the prayers of others, and for the continued financial support. Special prayer requests continue to be for the urgent need to find a nanny for September 2025 through April 2026 and 6+ months starting in October 2026, to identify an African Christian for farm and brick machine, and to increase monthly funds by \$300. Other requests are for national translators to arrive to work on time consistently, for a solution for West Africa Branch's need for an onsite administrator, and for endurance until their cruise and home assignment in April 2026.

Relatives & Friends: Allen Anglin, Kathy Behm, Kathy Weichman Bradley, Lorine Cooper, Patricia Davis, Judy Hendrickson, Jennifer Hitch, Mary Mason, Albert Meier, Gloria Meier, Pat Mielke, Tommy Nellessen, Sohail Rana and the Alam family, Gail Russell, Gary Sadlack, Ray Sisco, Stephan, Erik & Kacie Stanley, their son & Erik's mother, Diane, and Bri Walters.

Long-term prayers: Bruce Baird, Betty Bournes, Mary Brase, Don & Tina Busch, Brad Fuller, Trish Jelinek, Rick Juern, 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

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Church Office Hours:
Tuesday & Thursday
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Grounded | Empowered | Transformed

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