

The Unifier



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August 2026

Grace to you and peace,

I confess that I already have got fall on my mind. I think I can be excused, however, because Sunday, August 30 is our annual outdoor worship service. As always, we will gather outside that morning for worship; children are invited to bring their backpacks and a backpack for someone who needs them to be prayed over; and we will enjoy a simple picnic lunch on the lawn. It is a wonderful tradition and one that signals the beginning of another full program year.

It is an exceptionally busy time for our family. Soren is heading back to school in just a couple weeks, and Dylan is moving to college later this month. Our friend, Rev. Kathleen Krostal will be with us preaching on August 23, as that is the day I will be gone moving Dylan. I'm excited to have her with us again. I'm also excited to have her take part in our final summer preaching series. We will conclude August and September with four weeks of sermons on the Ten Commandments. I expect it will be a meaningful series with much opportunity for thought and conversation.

Looking ahead a bit to September, the first day of our full fall programming this year will be Sunday, September 20. Keep an eye out for full details from our staff and teams about the fall. In the meantime, it is my hope and prayer that together we finish this summer of worship, prayer, service, and life together at United Protestant Church in the blessedness of the Spirit.

In Christ,

Rev. Jason Okrzynski, PhD

[CRUISIN ON CENTER CAR SHOW](#)

The Cruisin on Center Car Show will be held on Saturday, August 29. Last year, we set up a stand near Whitney Street and the UPC parking lot during the show and sold homemade muffins, popcorn, lemonade, and coffee. The money raised went toward our general operating budget. We are looking for volunteers to help us again this year. If you are interested and available to help, please see the sign-up sheet on the mission table in the Narthex. The car show runs from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., but we are looking for volunteers to set up at 6 a.m. to sell coffee and baked goods to the car enthusiasts before the show begins, as well as during the show itself. Volunteers are also needed to clean up after the show ends. Email or text Rick Burg at rickburg10@gmail.com or 224-216-2409 with any questions.





A New Choir Church Season Begins

Where has the summer gone? In just a few short weeks, the church's music program will begin rehearsals once again to prepare music for our weekly worship services and we are looking for new singers to join our ranks. Will you be one of them this year? We are a fun group and would love to have you join us. Why not come and give it a try? We rehearse every Thursday at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. If you have questions, please speak with Kurt Mockenhaupt, our Director of Music. You can also email him at MusicDirector@upcgl.org.

Outdoor Worship & Picnic—August 30



Join us on Sunday, August 30 at 10:00 a.m. for an outdoor worship service on the UPC front lawn (weather permitting), followed by a picnic and ice cream social. Please bring a lawn chair or blanket to sit on.



Our picnic tables will also be set up and available for additional seating. Hot dogs, chips, ice cream, and lemonade will be provided. There will be a table set up for Christian education registration for kids and adults. We hope you will join us for this fun event!

Blessing of the Backpacks

All children and youth are encouraged to bring their school backpacks to be blessed during the outdoor worship service on August 30. Any donated backpacks for A Safe Place and PADS will be blessed at that time as well.



Another Fundraiser Opportunity

The Mission Team 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 25**. No flier necessary. UPC will earn 10% of ALL purchases made during that time—not just those made by church members and friends. Invite your friends and neighbors (and 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 support UPC's budget via the Mission Team's pledge. Any additional funds will help pay shipping costs for OCC. Don't forget to purchase gift cards from UPC Shopper to pay for your meal. Support UPC and OCC at the same time at no extra cost.





AUGUST 2026

United Protestant Church CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10:00am Worship Service	3 5:30pm Staff Parish (MR) 7:00pm Mission Team (103) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	4 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105) 7:15pm Feed My Starving Children (Libertyville)	5 11:30am Circle 4/5 (Culver's) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105)	6 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	7	8
9 10:00am Worship Service 11:15am Sunday School Teaching Team (102)	10 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	11 5:30pm Circle 9 (Mrs. V's) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105)	12 6:30pm North Star District Commissioner Meeting (FH) 7:00pm PUSH (Parlor) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105)	13 3:00pm Budget & Finance (MR) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	14	15 2:00pm Grayslake Summerfest Parade
16 10:00am Worship Service 11:30am Circle 2 (103)	17 7:00pm UPC Board (MR) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	18 7:00pm Nami Family Support Group (MR) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105)	19 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105)	20 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	21	22
23 10:00am Worship Service	24 6:30pm Worship Team (MR) 7:00pm Mission Team (103) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	25 5:00-8:00pm Culver's Fund-raiser (Grayslake) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105)	26 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105)	27 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	28	29 6:00am-3:00pm Cruisin on Center Car Show (UPC Parking Lot)
30 10:00am Worship Service (front lawn) 11:00am Picnic & Ice Cream Social (front lawn)	31					

MISSIONS UPDATE



The next UPC packing session at Feed My Starving Children in Libertyville is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 4 from 7:15-8:45 p.m.** If you are interested in participating, please contact Cinda Bartz at bartzc@sbcglobal.net.

On **Wednesday, August 12 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. The Mission Team 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: **balls, jump ropes, water bottles, flip flops, and sunglasses.**

JOY SHARING FOR AUGUST

Our Joy Sharing opportunity for August is the adult mission trip. This year's mission trip is to Spencer, Iowa. There was a devastating flood in 2024 that they are still recovering from. They will be working under the sponsorship of the Mennonite Disaster Service. The Mennonite Disaster Service "recruits, organizes, and empowers volunteers to repair and rebuild the homes of those impacted by disasters in the U.S. and Canada. As we respond with Christian love to serve people who would not otherwise have the means to recover, our goal is to restore hope and bring people home." Joy Sharing Sunday is August 23.

BACKPACK COLLECTION

Once again, we will be collecting new school backpacks (unfilled) for underprivileged children at A Safe Place and PADS. Please place your donated backpacks in the bin provided by the mission table by **Sunday, August 30** when they will be blessed during the worship service. School supplies may be donated to Operation Christmas Child (OCC).



LAKE COUNTY HAVEN

On August 18, UPC will be providing a meal for 10 adults at Lake County Haven's women's shelter. It will be their choice of tuna or chicken pasta salad, sides, and dessert. There is a sign-up sheet on the mission table. All items must be brought to UPC by Sunday, August 16. Please put refrigerated items in the meeting room fridge with LCH marked on them. All other items marked with LCH can be left on the meeting room table. Please help provide this summer fare to these women who are turning their lives around. See a Mission Team member with questions.



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. If you would like more information or think you would be interested in helping with this endeavor, please contact Cinda Bartz at bartzc@sbcglobal.net. Gleanng usually begins the first week in August.

FIFTH SUNDAY MISSION

When I was a child, going back to school meant new shoes – gym shoes and dress shoes. Usually, I had outgrown my last pair over the summer. Well, it's that time of year again, and the Mission Team is hoping you will help us collect new or used shoes for Soles For Jesus. You can help by:

- ♦ cleaning out your closets and basement. Shoes in any condition are accepted.
- ♦ buying new shoes to donate.
- ♦ tell a friend or neighbor about Soles For Jesus.



Collected shoes will provide hope and diminish disease for children in rural Africa. Drop your donations off in the bin in the Narthex.

All sizes are needed: Toddler through Adult Size

New shoe laces are also needed.

See members of the Mission Team if you have questions.

Soles For Jesus will also be holding its 17th Luncheon & Auction on Saturday, November 7, 2026 at the Brookfield Conference Center. Silent Auction: 10:30am-Noon. Luncheon: Noon-2pm. Dr. Lanre Da Silva, Africa Regional Director for Every Home For Christ will share a special message. Go to Solesforjesus.org for more information or to buy tickets.





PADS Lake County: Volunteers and supporters of PADS and the availability of a fixed family shelter were welcomed at an Open House event on July 30 at Pathways Family Shelter, where the program included a formal presentation with informal discussions and a tour of the facility. PADS staff members, volunteers, and supporters are now preparing for the GALA on September 19. This will be the major fundraiser for the year, and more information has been shared in the Thursday emails from UPC. The next step will be to gradually transition families into the Center and begin programs which will allow volunteers to assist. Watch for more information in September.

UPC PADS: The new commercial refrigerator, which is essential to the "Dinner for 60" meal preparation and delivery, has been purchased thanks to two private donors and donations from the UPC Memorial Team and the Grayslake Lions Club. We are very grateful for these major contributions.

Volunteers are needed for cleaning the kitchen and appliances on Thursday, September 10 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Email Rose Pech at pads_at_upc@hotmail.com to volunteer. Give your name, contact information, and the session for which you wish to volunteer. Volunteers for the "Dinner for 60" are still needed for the 2nd and 4th weeks of each month.

AVON TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY NIGHT OF GIVING:

Our next 4th Tuesday evening volunteer time with Boy Scout Troop 188 is scheduled for August 25 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Contact Linda Markham at 847-546-6841 for more information. If you wish to volunteer at other times, call the Avon Township Center at 847-546-1446.

UPC Financial Update as of June 30, 2026:

YTD Income:	\$123,337.13
YTD Expenses:	\$125,889.72
YTD Deficit:	\$ -2,552.59

UPC STAFF:

SENIOR PASTOR
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC/ORGANIST
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
TREASURER
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

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



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.

CURRENT INFO & UPDATES: Ladies 18 to 108, we'd love to have you join us!

Circle 2 members meet in the UPC Meeting Room or room 103 monthly on a Sunday at 11:30 a.m. Sundays vary monthly based on UPC events. The July meeting was in room 103 where the members stuffed Tic Tac Toe game directions and game discs into previously labeled cloth game bags for OCC boxes. Devotions were given by Catherine Vick, and the meeting ended with a group closing prayer. The next meeting will be on Sunday, August 16 in room 103 with devotions by Janette Leathem. Contact Catherine Vick for more info.

Circle 4/5 meets on the first Wednesday of the month at 11:30 a.m. at Culver's in Grayslake. Join us for friendly conversation and good food. The next lunch meeting will be Wednesday, August 5. Contact Sue Schmidt for more information.

Circle 9 meets at 5:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at Mrs. V's on Rollins Road in Round Lake Beach. Join us for dinner and interesting conversation. 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 Tuesday, August 11.

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 16	11:30 AM	UPC Room 103	Catherine Vick
4/5	Wed., August 5	11:30 AM	Culver's in Grayslake	Sue Schmidt
9	Tues., August 11	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 give praise for celebrating Danielle's 6th birthday, for being settled in one place for the next two months, for additional monthly donations, and the one-time donations received while in the U.S. Two big prayer requests are needed: Prayers for the family of a man who died in Senegal in an electricity accident, and for Tyler who was very shook up by this news. Pray for trusting God in the midst of the discouragement of the loss of the possibility of the \$100,000 grant that would have paid for almost all of the building, upgrading, transport needs, etc. Serious re-evaluation must now be done on our building plans and timeline, and funds must be raised another way. Donations may be made by giving to the UPC fund or online at this link <http://www.ilad.ngo/D2002>.

August Birthdays

8/2 David (Skip) Runyon
8/11 Adam Divis
8/11 Shirley Eckhoff
8/12 Karen Runyon
8/13 Janet Katien
8/20 Rev. Salena Blackwell
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: Alam family, Jerry Badgerow, Marlene Badgerow, Bill Churchill, Craig Fischel, Marie Frandsen, Gregg Helm, David Holliman, Jan Kendrick, Joanne Lawrence, Joyce Norton, Terry Norton, John Porteous, Cathy Vick, Dan Watkins, Bobbie Weichman, and Jeff Ziegler.

Tyler, Brittany, Danielle, & Joanna: Favor as we restart Homeschool, continued prayers for a NANNY (April 2027-July 2028), an African Christian for bricks, favorable negotiations with African landlord, and two very important new requests for trust in God, and wisdom in planning for farm and house needs based on most recent attacks and loss of \$100,000 building grant. Donations may be made online or at UPC at any time.

Relatives & Friends: Bruce Baird, Mark Becker, Kathy Behm, Betty Bournes, Mary Brase, Don & Tina Busch, Lorine Cooper, Daniel Dorman, Brad Fuller, Judy Hendrickson, Jennifer Hitch, Trish Jelinek, Rick Juern, Ben Kelly-Fuller, Mary Mason, Hubert & Sharon Maston, Albert Meier, Gloria Meier, Nancy Message, Pat Mielke, Marilyn Mockenhaupt, Melissa Norton, Sami Paris, Gary Sadlack, Eric Schmidt & family, Chris Shields, Ray Sisco, Stephan, Erik and Kacie Stanley, their son and Erik's mother, Diane, and Bri Walters, Sue (PADS friend), Wendy, and Michelle.

*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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