

The Unifier



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For the past two Advents we have sung the hymn, “Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending.” I have been told that for many this is a new hymn for them. The hymn was written by Charles Wesley in 1758 and so has been around for longer than any of us. It has been set to various tunes over the years, but I want us to here attend to the lyrics of the song.

Lo, he comes with clouds descending, once for favored sinners slain; thousand, thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! God appears on earth to reign.

Every eye shall now behold him, robed in dreadful majesty; those who set at naught and sold him, pierced and nailed him to the tree, deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see.

The dear tokens of his passion still his dazzling body bears; cause of endless exultation to his ransomed worshippers; with what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture, gaze we on those glorious scars!

Yea, Amen! Let all adore thee, high on thy eternal throne; Savior, take the power and glory, claim the kingdom for thine own. Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Everlasting God, come down!

This Song is rightly an Advent song, and sung in Advent. Yet in the United Methodist hymnal the song is found in the section of the “Return and Reign of the Lord”. One reason I am so thankful of Advent is that it reminds me not just of the greatness of God’s love to send His only Son to come into the world, but because it also reminds me that Christ is coming again in final victory. When I get overwhelmed at the world around (and it is easy to do especially in these dark days of winter [and our times]), the return and reign of Christ gives me hope; a hope that not only has Christ come into the world, but that He is coming again.

This season as we celebrate Advent, then Christmas, then Epiphany; let us fix our eyes upon Jesus and take hope in our King.

Pastor Ryan

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, January 19th, 2020

United Protestant Church Annual Meeting

The meeting will commence after the 10:30 am service.

We need all members to plan on attending.

The 2020 budget will be submitted for approval.

The Church Leadership committees and commissions membership for 2020 will be presented for approval.

All current committee and commission chairs should start formalizing their reports for submission to Joann in the church office by January 3, 2020.

Dale A. Message
Moderator/Lay Leader



Christmas Greetings from the Home Team:

*The Home Team wishes everyone a blessed and joyous Christmas, and
grace and peace in the New Year!*

Thanks to our volunteers' support of Feed My Starving Children we are helping to end world hunger. All ingredients to make food packages are donated. Packages of food are put together by volunteers. That's us! For this organization to continue to succeed in their mission, we, as a congregation, need to support them. With our prayers and our time. Volunteers are needed on the first Friday of each month at 8pm. A sign up sheet is conveniently located on the Mission Table.



The Bartz & Markham families would like to thank everyone for their prayers, thoughts and support during and after our mother, Betty Vares' illness and passing. She, like us, loved her UPC church family. We appreciate your generosity and friendship. God bless.

Dear Church Family,

Spiritual curiosity is the beginning of everyone's faith journey. There is something that draws us to seek after meaning and significance. God created us to be spiritual and to seek out spiritual relationships. Paul identifies this while in Athens. His speech in the Areopagus begins with identifying their deep longing to seek out and experience the spiritual realm. "Men of Athens, I see that you are very religious in all respects" (Acts 17:22). We seek to fill this spiritual longing with any number of idols: wealth, status, relationships, etc. Throughout the Gospels account of the calling of the disciples, we get a glimpse of the spiritual longing that consumed the heart of Peter.

John 1:35 – 46 opens with a picture of two of John the Baptist's disciples curious about Jesus after John identified him as "the Lamb of God". One of these men was Simon's (Peter) brother, Andrew. Andrew and the other disciple follow Jesus to where he is staying and then stayed with him for that day. Andrew then leaves this encounter with Christ and seeks out his brother, Simon. He immediately seeks out Peter, and had one simply, yet profound message for him. Andrew says, "We have found the Messiah." This one phrase sets Simon off on a journey of following, listening, and being with Jesus that changes his life. Jesus signifies the importance of this meeting in Simon's life by giving him a new name, "So you are Simon the son of John? You shall be called Cephas (which means Peter)." Simon had been waiting, like many Jews, for a messiah to come and rescue his people. His brother called him to come and see. In other accounts of his call, we can see that Simon Peter listened to the teachings of Jesus. At least once, this listening turned into a call to obey Jesus as they went out fishing. Simon Peter was curious and needed somebody to invite him to experience Jesus.

People all around us are searching for fulfillment and purpose. They search for somebody to talk with, somebody to introduce them to that which will fill and provide meaning. We are all looking for a messiah, the question becomes how will the curious find Him without someone who invites them? Who was it in your life who introduced you to the Messiah? I had several: my parents, my grandparents, and my church family were some of the most impactful in my own life.

Starting January 5th, we will be offering an Adult Education opportunity entitled *Reimaging Evangelism*. I will be facilitating the class as we explore how we can be one of the people in the lives of our coworkers, family members, and friends who invite them, saying, "We have found the Messiah."

On a family note, my son William did not want to be left out, so this month, William will be answering questions, so that you can learn more about our family. William is three years old. His favorite thing at preschool is "gym" outside on the playground. William's favorite Bible story is Noah's Ark, because they stayed safe on the boat. His favorite colors are brown, red, black, green, and blue. William doesn't quite know what he wants to be when grows up. He loves to play outside. Some of his favorite things to do outside are playing on top of our playhouse, going to parks with playgrounds, and biking. William's favorite thing to do at a playground is the monkey bars. His favorite animals are monkeys and dinosaurs. He likes monkeys because they hang upside down and he likes dinosaurs because they have tails and pokes. William enjoys playing games with our family, especially Candyland, and he also enjoys watching movies during our pizza picnics. His favorite foods are applesauce pouches, grapes, and yogurt. I hope that you enjoyed learning a little bit more about our son, William. Have a wonderful day.

Blessings,
Ryan Aubrey



Reimagining Evangelism

Evangelism can be hard and intimidating. Thoughts like, “I cannot walk up to strangers and begin a spiritual conversation with them.” cause doubt and fear. At times, we look back at conversations and see opportunities missed, which can create despair. God’s call to share our faith does not need to paralyze us with fear. Over the course of the study, we will seek out a different way to think and approach reaching out to those close to us as well as the community in which we live. The earthly ministry of Jesus will be our guide and our stories of God’s transformational power will be our tools.

Join us 9:15 Sunday mornings January 5th through February 23!

Facilitated by Ryan Aubrey

In Room 106



UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP



WCF WISHES A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

WCF Circle members are looking forward to their December Christmas meetings as we praise God for the miraculous gift of Love found in our Lord Jesus Christ! We invite all women of the church to join a circle of your choice for the December meeting(s) listed in the table below. Informational brochures are also in the pamphlet holder on the wall next to the Mission table.

WCF CIRCLE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER/JANUARY

Circle	Day/Date	Time	Place	Contact
2*	Sun., Dec. 8	11:45 a.m.	Small Meeting Room	Catherine Vick
4/5	Wed., Dec. 4	12:30 p.m.	Church Parlor	Sue Schmidt
6	Thurs., Dec. 5 Thurs., Jan. 2	11:30 a.m.	Whitney St. Restaurant	Marie Frandsen Diana Thompson
9	Tues., Dec. 19 Tues., Jan. 14	5:30 p.m.	Hillside Restaurant	Candi Becker
10	TBA	TBA	TBA	Jasmine Walker
Task Force	Choose projects/ministries to help; no meetings			Rose Pech

*Circle 2 has changed its meeting day and time to December 8 at 11:45 a.m. in the small meeting room. Members will not meet in January or February. Circle 4/5 does not meet in January; meetings will resume in February. Watch for the date in the February *UNIFIER*.

Please contact Rose Pech 847-356-3577, rose4nonna@hotmail.com, or the church office for the contact info of the chairperson(s) of the circle(s)!

UPC Cookie Walk & Bake Sale: WCF has donated all of our Cookie Walk supplies to the upcoming all church bake sale as a contribution to help raise funds for the missions and ministry of our church. WCF members & all church members are encouraged to participate/donate/enjoy the fun/buy goodies on Saturday, Dec. 7! Help setup & bring cookie donations on Friday, December 6.

Looking Forward to 2020: The results of our No-Bake fundraiser added to our end of the year treasury balance is approximately \$1,200, as of the writing of this article. The WCF Board is recommending to the members the following budget, with any future income/donations (Dues, etc.) to be added to our pledge to UPC. Proposed Budget for 2020

Tyler & Brittany in Africa.....	\$600.00
UPC.....	\$200.00+
UCC.....	\$200.00
UMW.....	\$200.00
Total.....	\$1,200.00

UPC PADS UPDATE

NUMBER OF FAMILIES & INDIVIDUALS SEEKING SHELTER RISES!

When UPC PADS opened our doors on October 3, we welcomed 22 guests who were experiencing homelessness. By October 31, that number had increased to 45, with St Mary's of Vernon having an increased number of families and a total of 58 guests. Donations and support from you and others like you, along with the time donated by dedicated volunteers, means these people have a place to eat their meals and sleep in a safe warm shelter.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND CONTINUED SPPORT!!

MENTAL HEALTH 1ST AID COURSES OFFERED AT UPC!

During the months of November and December, staff members from PADS Lake County offered two training sessions for PADS Staff and volunteers who wished to become certified in Mental Health 1st Aid. The training was opened to members and friends when room was available. We plan to offer two more sessions again this winter/spring, and these will be open once again to members & friends if space is available. If you're interested in this 8-hour training for certification, please contact Rose Pech for more information. Dates will be set in December and advertised as soon as they are confirmed.

PRAYERS ARE WORKING...GOD IS PROVIDING...GRADUALLY!

Six more volunteers were trained in November, and we've gained more substitutes and a couple of monthly volunteers. Schedules don't allow a lot of volunteers to work the overnight and very early morning shifts, so please continue to pray and to advertise our needs as described below! Rose hopes to have another training the first week of December and again in late January.

ONSITE VOLUNTEERS WE NEED:

2nd shift (11p.m. to 3 a.m.) – **1 male** on 1st week monthly; **2 males** for Oct.31, Jan. 30, Apr. 30

3rd shift (3 to 7 a.m.) – **1 monthly volunteer** for 3rd week; **2 strong volunteers** for Jan. 30, Apr. 30

Late 3rd shift (4:30 to 7 a.m.) – **2 volunteers** for Jan. 30, Apr. 30

Morning kitchen cleanup (6 to 7:30 a.m.) - **2 volunteers** for Jan. 30

When regular volunteers call off, substitutes are needed for every shift listed above. For more information about our needs or ways to help,

contact Rose Pech at 847-356-3577 or pads_at_upc@hotmail.com.

--On behalf of people experiencing homelessness...UPC PADS Site Team

Continued prayers for UPC members and friends/relatives of members: Carla (in ICU and unresponsive following brain aneurysm, friend of Spencer Craig), Desiree Helgren Anderson (bone marrow transplant), Judy Baird (cancer, wife of Bruce Baird), Christian and Seth, Desiree Craig (friend of Karen Caviness), Loretta Dodson (chronic pain), Judy Hendrickson (mother of Laura Hendrickson), Lynne Henne (mother of Brett Henne), Jae, Charles Madsen (brother of Karen Caviness), Skip Madsen (nephew of Karen Caviness), 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), Judy Ruhnke, Darwin Schwaderer (fall), Larry Smith (battling depression, friend of Laurie Bethmann), Stephen (26-year-old friend of Lil Eldridge who is battling cancer), and Martha Walker (grandmother of Alisha, Gabby and Caroline Walker).

Long term prayers: Marno Benande, Mary Brase (sister of Rose Pech), Betty Bournes (sister of Rose Pech), Jodi Briedis, Karen Caviness, Barry Craig, Pat Curnow, Elaine Francis, Brad Fuller (stroke, brother of Jamie Fuller), Susan Green, Vivian Gwaltney, 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 Nellesen (brother of Margie Scheibler), Chester Pinkowski (relative of Maureen Daly), Sandra Richard, Orrell Ruth, Marcia Ruth, Elsie Shaheen (cancer, cousin of Judy Ziegler), Sophie (friend of Joann), 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), Abraham Lam Yuen, 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).

December Birthdays:

12/01 Melanie Carlson	12/20 Jackie Ianson
12/01 Bradley Munts	12/25 Sue Carroll
12/01 Suzanne Sweeney	12/26 Darlene George-Craig
12/02 Craig James	12/27 Jessica Baillargeone
12/03 Sunny Muehleman	12/27 Joshua Mall
12/03 Doris Craig	12/29 Randy Schuetz
12/03 Emma Henna	January Birthdays
12/04 Katie Gheysen	01/01 Jed Kiblinger
12/05 Reese Divis	01/02 Shane Mussay
12/09 Charlie Grubbs	01/03 Lisa Farm
12/09 Jackson Grubbs	01/04 Alex Rasmussen
12/09 Nancy Johanssen	01/05 Shelly Kutsin
12/11 Susan Green	01/14 Madeline Berkey
12/13 Kathleen Baillargeon	01/14 Kori Henne
12/13 Pammie Lavery	01/15 Felix Flok, Sr
12/13 Julius Mall	01/16 Linda Markham
12/15 Suzanne Harvey	01/18 Richard Johanssen
12/15 Polly Muehleman	01/18 David Knapp
12/16 Marno Benande	01/20 Naomi Price
12/17 Rhett Welch	01/21 Charlotte Muehlman
12/18 Douglas Waddelow	01/25 Jeff Becker

01/26 Samuel Sandoval

01/26 Darwin Schwaderer

01/28 Andrew Sawicki

December Anniversaries:

12/05	Julius & Alva Mall
12/13	Shelly & Felix Kutsin
12/14	Aimee Divis & Dennis Wong
12/16	Richard & Nancy Johanssen
12/26	Dustin & Sarah Helvie
12/28	Simon & Samia Mall

January Anniversaries

01/09	Lloyd & Cherlyn Lowe
01/31	Douglas & Annette Waddelow

Greeter Schedule

	8:15	10:30
December 1	Felix Flok	Craig and Barb Fischel
December 8	Rosanne Taylor	Linda Markham, Donna Obrecht
December 15	Wende Fry	Alice Broadhurst, Cathy Vick
December 22	Terry and Joyce Norton	William Pfeil, Judy Ruhnke
Christmas Eve	volunteers needed at both 7pm and 11pm	
December 29	one service at 10:30am	Sue Harvey, Volunteer needed
January 5	Mary Ann McDowell	Doris Craig, Pat Barker
January 12	Kori Henne	Dian Weinkauf, Linda Markham
January 19	Linda Rambo	William Pfeil, Judy Ruhnke
January 26	Bill Churchill	Rose Pech, Sharon Michalsen
February 2	Jeff Ziegler	Dian Weinkauf, volunteer needed
February 9	Kim Schwaderer	Laurel Bruggen, Pat Barker
February 16	Rosanne Taylor	Alice Broadhurst, Marie Frandsen
February 23	Wende Fry	Rose Pech, Linda Markham

Home Team Fall Luncheon

A very special thank you to everyone who helped make the Senior Fall Luncheon such a special occasion. Everyone had such a wonderful time because of these good people. Thank you to Candi Becker, Rosanne Taylor and Kelly Truckenbrod for making such a delicious lunch for everyone. Candi and Rosanne made delicious homemade soups, thank you ladies. Thank you to the Home Team members for all of their "labor of love" to make the luncheon so great! Our youth volunteers that helped set up tables, serve the meals and clean up were Leah Taylor and Sofia Henne, Rosanne's granddaughters. Thank you girls for all of your help to make this day so special. Thank you Ted Becker and Lloyd Lowe for setting up all of the tables and chairs, and much more welcomed help. Most of all we thank our Seniors for joining in on the fun, food and fellowship. You are very special to us! We hope to see all of you at our Spring Luncheon.



Wishing you a blessed Christmas season and a Happy

New Year!

The staff of United Protestant Church

**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. 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
Grayslake, IL 60030**

