

The Unifier



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A Year to Lean

For most of us, likely all of us, 2020 has not gone the way that we had planned. In fact, who plans for a global pandemic, economic crisis, and the publicized threat of murder hornets? Likely none of us. But, the fact is that God was not caught off guard by any of this. God knew what would happen in 2020, just as God knows that will happen in 2021 and far beyond. This year has been a year to lean and not a year to rest. I think most years, most times we are a people at rest. We are fairly comfortable in our lives and in this land and we rest comfortable even in the midst of hardships. When something that happens that shakes us from our comfort (some might say out slumber), we are jolted into no longer resting, but leaning.

When my kids were little and they were tired of walking they would raise their arms up to the sky in my general direction. The intent was obvious. They wanted to be picked up and carried. And when they were carried, due to their fatigue, they wouldn't just sit on my arms. Oh no. They would lean on me. They would rest a head on my shoulder and usually sleep. Their response in the midst of hardship was to turn to their dad, arms reaching up, and then rest on him.

When we have no strength left (and perhaps long before we get to that point), might we lean on Christ.

Pastor Ryan

Dear Church Family,

As we enter into this Advent season, so much is not what we expected it to be. Our plans and our expectations have changed multiple times. It is easy for us to look over the past year and think this is not what God had promised for our lives.



This is a familiar feeling. During the time of the prophets, the people of Israel had been conquered by first the Assyrians and then the Babylonians. They were scattered across the respective empires. They could look at the promises of God and say this is not what we were promised. God had promised them a land to dwell in, but they were now spread across vast territories separated from families and tribes. God's people were left uncertain and doubting the promises of God. They wondered if the promise of the prophets for a messiah would come to rescue them from their oppressors. So, they waited. In that time, the prophet Isaiah came forward with a message of hope and comfort.

The message of the second half of the book of Isaiah (40 – 66) spoke of hope to God's people as they lived in exile waiting to see the fulfillment of God's promises, and to see the entrance of God into His creation. Just as it spoke to God's people in exile, it speaks a message of hope to us, today. It reminds us of God's transcendence and of God's faithfulness to His people. Isaiah provides a picture of God coming to the people, a reminder that God's Word lasts forever, and that God will be the victor.

During our year of waiting, and as we enter into the season of Advent, Isaiah's message is one for us, as well. When everything seems out of control, and the circumstances of our world seem to overwhelm us and to be different from our expectations, where do we go for hope? Isaiah's message of hope and comfort is applicable to us today. We need to remember who God is. We need to remember God's story of faithfulness to His people. It does not necessarily make our lives easier, but the God's story of mercy, love, and faithfulness to His people can provide hope and comfort in the midst of our time of waiting as we are reminded of God's transcendence and that He is active in our world.

As we continue in our Advent season, I pray that we will hear and listen to the stories of God's love, mercy, and faithfulness as we read this year's Advent readings. My challenge to us this Advent is to hear and remember the stories of God's faithfulness to His people. What wondrous and mighty deeds have we seen God accomplish? How has God been faithful to us?

May your Advent season be blessed. I look forward to listening to the story of God's mercy and love for His people and His creation. May the story of God encourage you to love and to reach out to those you come into contact in the next year. If you need anything or have any questions for me, do not hesitate to ask. You can either call or email me: ryanaubrey@upcgl.org.

Blessings,

Ryan Aubrey

Director of Christian Education

UPC PADS UPDATE



EMERGENCY SHELTER FOR PADS CLIENTS:

As of November 11, about **215 people** were being housed in **120 rooms** in 3 motel/hotels and receiving services from PADS Lake County personnel. Of these guests, **55 were children**.

The PADS Emergency Shelter special number plan for police departments to call to access shelter for people on the streets is going very well. The PADS office may be contacted Monday thru Friday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., and those needing shelter at other times and on weekends have access to temporary shelter by calling their local law enforcement's nonemergency number.

GREATEST NEEDS AS OF NOVEMBER 11, 2020—MORE PEOPLE = GREATER NEED:

Nicole Harris, Shelter Operations Manager, explained that there continues to be a great need for the **nonperishable food items, sanitizing products, PPE and cleaning supplies**. The PADS office is having difficulty getting supplies such as Clorox wipes and other cleaners that will kill the Covid virus. Disinfecting bleach would be welcome. See the list of specific nonperishable items and information on what to include in Covid kits on a separate page in this *UNIFIER*. These items may be dropped off at 1800 Grand Avenue, Gurnee, Monday thru Thursday between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. **Individually packaged meals** are also needed and much appreciated by the guests. See the next section on meals for Nicole's contact information.

Individual Hot Meals

Individual dinners need to be made and dropped off at the hotels on various days for guests from now thru April 30. PADS is not using the online signup and instead is asking that you contact Nicole Harris at nharis@padslakecounty.org or at 847-689-0541 to participate in this.

Housewarming Project Items:

Good news is that some of the agencies that coordinate getting clients into housing have housed a record number of people during recent months. Clients who are being housed in apartments need items for the apartments. Some of you might want to go together with family members, friends, or colleagues at work to put together laundry baskets/cleaning buckets containing some of the smaller items or to donate some of the larger priced items. Follow the directions below to get more information.

Go to www.padslakecounty.org

Click on "Get Involved" at the very top of the page where the dropdown menu will include "Housewarming Project"

Click on "Housewarming Project" and you will find instructions on how to make up a "Housewarming Kit" and an email address to contact PADS and receive a list of suggested items to include in the kit.

For more information regarding hotel item donations, please contact Nicole Harris at nharis@padslakecounty.org or at her office phone number 847-689-0541.

Please contact Rose Pech at 847-356-3577 or pads_at_upc@hotmail.com **for other information** .
—The UPC PADS Site Leadership Team

Nonperishable Food & Supplies Needed for PADS Lake County Clients

Food items that can be donated for PADS staff to pack into boxes for clients include the following:

(MOST NEEDED foods are Canned pop-top items and individual snack and breakfast items)

- Microwavable meals in pop-top cans (chili, chef Boyardee, Dinty Moore meals, Chunky soup,
 - Ravioli, Spaghetti and Meatballs)
 - Microwavable soups in containers or pop-top cans
 - Small jars of peanut butter and/or jelly
 - Mac 'n Cheese cups
 - Ramon cups
 - Beef Jerky, Slim Jim, Meat Sticks. Spam Packets, Tuna Packets
 - Breakfast Cereal bars or granola bars, small sized boxes of cereal, Pop Tarts
 - Fruit cups, applesauce cups or Pudding cups
 - Boxes of microwavable Oatmeal packets
 - Crackers in boxes with separate packs
 - Granola bars
 - Pop tarts
 - Small bags of chips or cookies
- \$10 McDonald gift cards are also helpful because clients can use these to get a special treat once a week.

If you wish to make up boxes that are ready for PADS staff to give to the clients, each box would ideally include the following items: (This would be the "ideal" box and can be modified if need be. This is what we have been providing based on what we are seeing come in with donations.)

- 1 jar Peanut butter
- Three packs of crackers
- 5 granola bars
- 3-4 canned goods (chili, chef Boyardee, Dinty Moore meals, Chunky soups)
- 2 Poptarts
- 2 packs oatmeal
- 2 cups applesauce/fruit cups
- 4-5 small bags chips or one large bag
- 2-3 small packages of cookies
- 2 mac and cheese cups
- 3 bottles of water

What else you can do to help:

--Create **"COVID Kits"** – kits to be distributed with 2 reusable or several disposable masks, hand sanitizer, a few pairs of hygiene gloves

--Collect **cleaning supplies** for PADS- we are distributing cleaning supplies to those in our hotels and are going through what little we are able to order very quickly. Biggest needs: disinfecting wipes, disinfecting sprays, paper towels, **bleach etc. (Lysol spray & Clorox wipes, especially)**

--**Donating PPE** – we are still using cloth masks and handing them out to our clients who need them!

--If you or someone you know are crafty, we are always accepting cloth masks and other donations of PPE.

Donations can be dropped off at PADS, 1800 Grand Avenue in Waukegan on Monday – Friday, between 8am and 4pm. Entrance is on the side of PADS building as you turn north off of Grand Ave. Go to parking lot & turn around to pull up curbside in front of door. Go to door & ring the bell at the top of the stairs. A staff member will come out & can get the items from your car.

Tyler and Brittany's AfriCAR Fundraising

Part Description	Cost
BRAKES	
Brake Pads	50
Brake Rotors - 4	500
COOLING SYSTEM	
Cooling Fan Blade	125
Water Pump	150
Radiator	775
ENGINE	
Air, Fuel, Oil Filter	75
Fuel Injector	200
Starter	300
Exhaust Manifold	550
Alternator	425
Muffler	425
Cylinder Block - 8	3,600
CV Joint	1,050
Throttle Body	625
Cylinder Head	925
Crankshaft	1,425
Transfer Case	2,250
Transmission	2,900
BODY	
Shock Absorbers - 4	200
Door Lock	75
Alloy Wheel	150
Seat Belts - 6	1,200
Off Road Tires - 5	1,250
Grille	325
Power Steering Pump	400
Roof Rack	500
Hood	550
Windshield	1,000
TOTAL NEEDED	22,000
TOTAL RECEIVED	5,000



Our goal is to help farmers alleviate poverty with an income-generating cashew business. We believe this combination of WORD and DEED has the power to transform lives!

Bible Translation and Economic Development



We have an offer to buy a former mechanic's low mileage vehicle. Our 2012 model truck will need to be replaced in a couple years, so we would retire it to farm-only use and drive this **more rugged Land Cruiser for our 2-day cross-country trips**. At least twice a year we drive 20+ hours to the capital and honestly, it's the **most stressful thing we do**. Having a more comfortable car with **better shocks** will make a huge difference in our ability to not burn out so we can remain in Africa long-term.

Importing a new Land Cruiser would cost around \$60,000. Finding a reliable used vehicle is not common in our host country, so in order to take advantage of this opportunity we need to raise **\$22,000**. Please PRAY about contributing towards our purchase of this rugged Land Cruiser.



After visiting, Brittany's mom described the roads as **"creek beds"** – rocky, narrow, and sometimes still filled with water!

BUY a part of our VEHICLE: www.ilad.ngo/D2002

A Special Need:

Brittany and Tyler feel so blessed that UPC provides prayer and financial support to them in West Africa through an annual Joy Sharing in addition to many individual member's gifts and numerous prayer partners.

In addition to their regular expression of gratitude, we recently received the following message: "We're also going to be reevaluating our finances since we know we need more monthly donors and with Shelly not returning, we have the opportunity to buy her car. Our truck is almost 10 years old so we knew we'd be needing to get a new one in the next couple years so we could retire our truck to only local driving for the farm and then use Shelly's nicer model Land Cruiser as our cross-country vehicle. She is selling it to us for around \$20,000. We'd love to have UPC pray about contributing to this special need."

After the UPC Mission Committee approved offering the opportunity for UPC members to donate toward the purchase of what Brittany and Tyler call their "Africar," I was asked to be the organizer.

A fund has been set up at UPC for those who would like to donate for the "Africar" through the church. Contributions should be made out to UPC with "Africar" in the memo. These contributions will be sent from UPC to the fund for the "Africar."

Brittany has sent a flyer with information about them and the truck with an internet link where donations can be made directly to the "Africar" fund for those who'd prefer to do that instead of going through UPC. The link on the flyer is coded so the donation to ILAD goes directly into Brittany and Tyler's account. (See the flyer in this *UNIFIER*.)

Please read the flyer and prayerfully consider what you might be able to give to help with this special need. Whatever each of us is able to do will be greatly appreciated by Tyler and Brittany.

If you prefer to send a donation without using the link or going through UPC, checks may be written payable to ILAD (WITHOUT BRITTANY OR TYLER'S NAMES on the check) and mailed to Brittany's mother, Victoria Bedford, 5905 Montford Drive, Zephyrhills, FL 33541, who will forward the donation to the correct account.

If you have any questions or want more information, please contact me at 847-356-3577 or rose4nonna@hotmail.com. Thank you for your generosity! --Rose Pech



UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP



WCF NEWS—KEEPING IN TOUCH

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

REVISED WCF CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS APPROVED BY WCF MEMBERS:

WCF members unanimously approved the WCF Constitution and By-Laws Revised November, 2020. By the time this December *UNIFIER* is available, all members should have received their own copies by email or by postal delivery.

Members should have notified their chairperson of any changes in their contact information, and Sue Schmidt should have received that information for inclusion in our 2021 WCF Directory. We plan to have these available by the end of December.

REMEMBER TO STAY CONNECTED!

Although circles aren't meeting, we want to be sure everyone is keeping in communication with your fellow Circle, WCF, and UPC members! Use your WCF or Church Directory to reach out to others by email, text, phone call, a card, or a quick note. Not all members have the internet, so they don't get some of the UPC info. Please share with them via phone calls or regular mail.

Circle	Contact
2	Catherine Vick
4/5	Sue Schmidt
9	Candi Becker
10	Jasmine Walker

For women who aren't yet in a circle, updated brochures are in the holder on the wall next to the Mission Table for any ladies who get to the church. If you can't get to church at this time but would like a brochure or other information about WCF, please contact Rose Pech at 847-356-3577 or rose4nonna@hotmail.com.

REPORT ON SUPPORT FOR TYLER & BRITTANY:

All WCF members are reminded to send their donations (\$10/\$15, or whatever you can) to Sue Schmidt BEFORE THE END OF DECEMBER for continuing our support for Tyler and Brittany. If you haven't sent your donation, please do so as soon as possible. As of the middle of November, Sue has received \$230 toward our needed \$600. One of the requested prayers from Brittany & Tyler's emails is for more monthly support.

COMING IN FEBRUARY...WATCH FOR A FLASHBACK IN TIME!

Thanks to Bobbie & Roger Weichman, we've received the minutes along with photos from one of our former circles...Circle 7. Pat Wackerlin, Marie Frandsen, Doris & Dennis Craig are helping to identify ladies pictured in the photos. We hope to share some of the photos and more interesting facts about Circle 7 in the February *UNIFIER*.

-Blessings, Rose Pech



*Wishing you a blessed Christmas season from the staff of
United Protestant Church*



Christmas Greetings from the Home Team

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

Continued prayers for UPC members and friends/relatives of members: Fred Berchtold (abdominal cancer), Alice Broadhurst, Christian and Seth, Desiree Craig (friend of Karen Caviness), Takara Dalton (fluid on the brain, Shelly Kutsin's goddaughter, Loretta Dodson (chronic pain), Barb Fischel, Curt Grabo (Bob Mielke's cousin, recovering from open heart surgery), Judy Hendrickson (mother of Laura Hendrickson), Lynne Henne (mother of Brett Henne), Norean Hill (cancer), 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 Papesch (cancer, mother-in-law to the Fischel's daughter), Bonnie Ross (pancreatic cancer, friend of Karen Caviness), Judy Ruhnke, Andrew Sawicki, Larry Smith (battling depression, friend of Laurie Bethmann), Stephen (26-year-old friend of Lil Eldridge who is battling cancer), Martha Walker (grandmother of Alisha, Gabby and Caroline Walker), and David Walters (friend of Bob Mielke, recovering from a stroke),.

Long term prayers: Bruce and Judy Baird (cancer), Marno Benande, Mary Brase (sister of Rose Pech), Betty Bournes (sister of Rose Pech), Thomas Bournes (brother-in-law of Rose Pech) 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 Nellessen (brother of Margie Scheibler), Darwin Schwaderer, Chester Pinkowski (relative of Maureen Daly), Sandra Richard, Orrell Ruth, Marcia Ruth, 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), 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).

May they rest in peace: Kenneth Parrish, Elaine Francis, Karen Caviness

December Birthdays:

12/01	Melanie Carlson	12/25	Sue Carroll
12/01	Suzanne Sweeney	12/26	Darlene George Craig
12/02	Sunny Muehleman	12/27	Jessica Baillargeon
12/03	Doris Craig	12/27	Joshua Mall
12/03	Emma Henne		
12/04	Katie Gheysen	December Anniversaries	
12/09	Vanessa Eldridge	12/05	Julius & Alva Mall
12/09	Nancy Johannsen	12/13	Shelly & Felix Kutsin
12/11	Susan Green	12/14	Aimee Divis & Dennis Wong
12/13	Kathleen Baillargeon	12/16	Richard & Nancy Johannsen
12/13	Julius Mall	12/26	Dustin & Sarah Helvie
12/15	Suzanne Harvey	12/28	Simon & Samia Mall
12/15	Polly Muehlman		
12/18	Douglas Waddelow		
12/20	Jackie Ianson		
12/20	Christopher Sparkman		

**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

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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**



Merry Christmas

