

The Unifier



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December, 2021



Merry Christmas

From

The Staff of United Protestant Church

Advent is all about preparing for Christ. I know that in the midst of the hustle and bustle of the season we can make it about the preparing of other things. We can make it about the preparing of the tree, or the decorations, or the stockings, or the food, or the presents, or the coming and going of family and parties. All these things matter and they are all very important, but they become idols when they take over the thoughts of our minds, the anxieties of our hearts, and busyness of our hands.

So how do we keep Christ central this Advent season? I would suggest we take time and make time. I know that sounds so simple and so difficult. But we can do this in simple routines and by establishing new practices. Perhaps one is to open an Advent Calendar with your family. To take just a few moments each day to do something that is very traditional, but also that causes us to take just enough time out of our day to stop and think upon Jesus. Perhaps it is downloading the Bible App and listening to Scripture as we commute to work (yes, it really will just read to you!). Perhaps it is spending less and doing more together with friends and family. These are all simple ways that we can remember to make room in our hearts and our lives for Jesus.

In Advent, we look back not just to Christ having come, but we look forward in anticipation to Christ coming again. How are you preparing your life through habits and patterns to be prepared for His coming again? This too is as much the work of Advent as looking back to Christ coming to us in Bethlehem.

Pastor Ryan



Dear Church Family,

As the year ends, I want to thank you for your participation this year in our various ministry opportunities. There were many challenges, and ministry still did not look like it used to, but I have greatly enjoyed our discussions together and the chance to grow to be more like Christ with you over the past year.

I begin to look forward to next year. I encourage you to join us January 14th and 15th for our Spiritual Retreat at the Joseph and Mary Retreat House in Mundelein. During this retreat, we will explore how God speaks to us in Scripture. It will be a wonderful continuation of discussions we have had earlier this year and for those who did not participate in some of our earlier discipleship opportunities, it is a great opportunity to enter those discussions and to learn how to use God's Word.

In my thinking about our next year, I also am setting some of my prayers for the year. This past year, one of my prayers for us as a church was based off our study of 1 Peter. My prayer for us this past year is that we will each "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good." (1 Peter 2:2 – 3) This certainly is a prayer that I will carry with me into the new year as I think about our church. Another prayer that I have for our community in this coming year is connected to our study of James. Similar to my prayer from 1 Peter, my prayer for our community this coming year is that in the midst of the circumstances that arise in the coming year, our faithful living will result in our growing maturity (James 1:2 – 4). As James 1 brings to light, there are two paths we can take in response to trials and testing. The first path presented in verses 2 – 4 leads to maturity. This is the path of faithfulness and faithful living. The second path exhibited in verses 13 – 15 leads to death. This is the result of our unfaithfulness, responding to circumstances by sin.

What are your prayers for this coming year? How would you pray for yourself, your family, your community, and your church? I encourage you to seek God and set some prayer focuses for the coming year. It has been a wonderful blessing for myself over the past year to see how God has answered my continuing prayers.

I hope that you all enjoy the rest of this Advent Season, Christmas, and New Year. I look forward to our upcoming discipleship opportunities.

Blessings,

Ryan Aubrey

Director of Christian Education

FALL COLLECTION DRIVE - NOV. 29 - DEC. 7, 2021

The NIC Board of Global Ministries is organizing a fall collection drive to support recovery efforts from the 2021 Hurricanes and the recent devastating earthquake in Haiti.

Relief items requested:

Items listed here have been requested by non-profits working in Haiti:

- Blankets - can be gently used
- Powdered milk with expiration date of 12 months or more
- Hygiene Supplies:
 - Toilet Paper
 - BabyWipes
 - Diapers - adult or child

Hurricane Recovery and the Relief Supply Network needs Cleaning Kits:

ITEMS MOST NEEDED

- Liquid Laundry Detergent - 32-64 oz.
- Liquid Household Clean - 16-40 oz.
- Liquid Dish Soap - 14-32 oz.
- Toothpaste-2.5 oz or larger

Other MMDC kits will be accepted, but please no electric sewing machines or bikes are needed at this time.

Christmas Game/Toy Collection for nonprofits serving poor children in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, and Haiti.

- Jump ropes, Simple musical instruments (recorder, harmonica, percussion)
- Sports balls (soccer, basketball, softball, baseball) Board Games (no batteries required)
- Pumps to inflate sports balls (Candyland, Connect 4, Jenga, Trouble, or other simple games)

Leave any donations in the container near the mission table at church between Nov. 29 and Dec. 7.

December 2021

PADS LAKE COUNTY WELCOMES JULIE KOVACS , NEW SHELTER OPERATIONS

MANAGER: Julie jumped in with both feet and got off to a great start as the new Shelter Operations Manager for PADS Lake County and our new supervisor for the PADS Emergency Shelter Site Leadership Team members. WELCOME, JULIE! Your enthusiasm and great job with communications are great assets to PADS and to the emergency sites.

HOTEL ROOMS HOUSE APPROXIMATELY 222 CLIENTS WHILE CHURCH SITES

HOUSE APPROXIMATELY 22 EACH NIGHT: As of the November PADS Lake County Site Leadership meeting, more than 40 of the 222 clients housed in hotels had valid housing vouchers but were not able to find a place to rent because of the unavailability of rental units and the number of landlords who refuse to accept housing vouchers. Hopefully, this situation will improve soon! Only guests who go to the PADS Lake County office between the hours of 8a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and are transported to the church shelter site by PADS and guests who are dropped off by the police after the site opens will be allowed in the site.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT SEVERAL CHURCH SHELTER SITES:

The major need continues to be for volunteers at the **1st Presbyterian Church Site on Wednesday nights**, **Shepherd of the Lakes on Monday nights** and the **Chapel of Grayslake on Saturday nights** are also in need of volunteers! To help at **1st Presbyterian**, use the sign-up genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0a4bafa722a3f49-pads7>

For **The Chapel of Grayslake**, call **847-201-2777** and ask for information on volunteering on **Saturday nights at the Grayslake location**. For **Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church in Grayslake on Monday nights**, use the **online PADS signup at the church's website: www.shepherdofthelakes.org** Watch the Tuesday Newsday emails for updated information.

UPC PADS SITE VOLUNTEERS AT ST. MARY OF VERNON ON THURSDAYS:

A shout out to the St. Mary of Vernon volunteers for being so welcoming and great to work with and to our UPC PADS volunteers who are making it possible for St. Mary's to have the number of volunteers needed for each shift on Thursday nights. If you'd like to volunteer as a substitute, please contact Rose Pech 847-356-3577 or pads_at_upc@hotmail.com.

PADS LAKE COUNTY NEEDS:

The newest list of needs for PADS Lake County guests is posted in the November 23 Tuesday Newsday. In addition to these donations, PADS is still looking for **waterproof hiking back packs**. Here is a link to the type of backpack they're looking for: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B078H6Z3C4/?coliid=I11L12VVAWYADL&colid=ZK4KVX8VAV3A&psc=1&ref=lvovligdpit>

NEED CONTINUES FOR VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR FOR UPC PADS SITE:

Please pray and advertise for this message to reach the person God wants to serve at UPC!! **ALWAYSTHANKFUL FOR YOU, YOUR PRAYERS, DONATIONS & SUPPORT & FOR THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF OUR VOLUNTEERS!** –UPC PADS Site Leader-



UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP



WCF NEWS—DECEMBER 2021

2022 WCF DIRECTORIES HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED BY EMAIL (& HARD COPY, IF REQUESTED):

Sue Schmidt has completed our 2022 WCF Directory and has printed copies for those who've requested them. Rose sent copies of the Directory as an attachment to our early December WCF email. Printed copies for Circles 2 & 4/5 will be distributed at their December circle meetings. If you'd like a printed copy and are not a member of one of these circles, please contact Sue Schmidt to receive your personal printed copy. If you'd like a copy emailed to you, please contact Rose Pech.

WCF MISSION FUND: We're **SO HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE** that many of you have chosen to continue supporting Tyler and Brittany's project **through WCF for 2022!** Contributions in the **WCF Mission Fund** will be **over \$400** when everyone who's contributing makes their donations. **If you haven't yet contributed and would like to, checks should be payable to UPC with WCF MISSION FUND written in the memo.** Donations can still be given to Sue Schmidt, Rose Pech, Janet Kendrick, or put into the church offering before the end of the year. We learned that Brittany & Tyler can really use the lump sum in January rather than receiving monthly donations. This will also be easier for us and save money. Watch for our next report sometime in January after all the contributions made in December are recorded in the financial records, and our check has been sent.

CIRCLE NEWS:

Circles 2 and 4/5 are meeting at UPC in December, and both circles welcome visitors as well as new members. These circles will NOT be meeting in January, and Circle 2 will also skip the month of February. See our December meeting times in the table at the end of this article.

Circle 9 has a new chairperson! **WELCOME, RUTH GHEYSEN!!!** Members will be contacted soon if they haven't already heard from Ruth. Plans will be also be shared in future UNIFIER articles and UPC emails.

Circle 10 continues to communicate via Facebook and is not meeting in person.

WCF WELCOMES ALL WOMEN FROM 18 TO 108 & OVER. PLEASE JOIN US!! Contact info for chairpersons can be found in our church directory or by contacting Rose Pech at 847-356-3577 or rose4nonna@hotmail.com. Blessings to all, Rose Pech

Birthday List:

12/1 Melanie Carlson
12/1 Suzanne Sweeney
12/2 Craig James
12/2 Sunny Muehleman
12/3 Doris Craig
12/3 Emma Henne
12/4 Katie Gheysen
12/5 Reese Divis
12/9 Vanessa Eldridge
12/9 Nancy Johannsen
12/11 Susan Green
12/13 Kathleen Baillargeon
12/13 Julius Mall
12/15 Suzanne Harvey
12/15 Polly Muehleman
12/18 Douglas Waddelow
12/20 Jackie Ianson
12/20 Kathy May
12/20 Christopher Sparkman
12/22 Sam Jones
12/26 Darlene George Craig
12/27 Jessica Baillargeon
12/27 Joshua Mall

Anniversary List:

12/5 Julius and Alva Mall
12/13 Shelly and Felix Kutsin
12/14 Aimee Divis and Dennis Wong
12/16 Richard and Nancy Johannsen
12/26 Dustin and Sarah Helvie
12/28 Simon and Samia Mall

**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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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
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