

The Unifier



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

December 2024/January 2025

Grace to you and Peace from God our Father and from Jesus Christ, AMEN.

I pray that your Advent is full and blessed. This is a busy time of year for everyone, and this year it is particularly busy for our congregation. The Advent and Christmas season are favorites because of the beautiful stories that we know so well. The gospels tell us a lot about the signs that are sent to let people like Zechariah, Mary, and the Three Wisemen know what God is up to. The Shepherds are told "This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." (Luke 2:12)

Are you watching for signs for yourself? Last month at the Administrative Council meeting, we were looking at proposals for a new cleaning service. The vendors we had spoken with had quoted us a price beyond our budget, and at the exact moment that we arrived at that budget line item, an email was received notifying members of the committee that a counter proposal had been received that fit into our budget. It felt like a small miracle, and now we are blessed with the efforts of the professional cleaning service caring for our building.

The last two months we have seen participation numbers go up in worship. Last Friday, we had a tremendous turn-out for our St. Nicholas Event. We have also seen a sustained uptick in visitors in worship.

On Sunday, December 8, our Moderator shared an update on the projected budget shortfall for the 2025 budget year. One of the things that is so scary about money, it doesn't negotiate. Money demands that you pay for what something costs. If you are short of the money needed, the choices are to find more money or lower the cost. There are a number of efforts being undertaken to cover the projected shortfall by bringing in more income for 2025. However, I want our congregation to see that despite UPC's current financial challenges, there are far more signs that The Spirit is indeed active and moving this congregation forward towards a healthy and faithful future.

In fact, this coming June, we will be celebrating our 75th anniversary. This congregation has stayed together even longer than that, if you include that the Methodist and Congregationalist communities have existed since the mid-to-late 1800's. Our motto for the year will be "75+ years of keeping faith." This is itself a sign of God's faithfulness to this congregation.

There is indeed a lot to do and consider during the coming weeks, months, and the new year. Our primary calling is to follow the signs and gather together around God; whether we find ourselves at a manger, below the cross, or washing, feeding and forgiving each other. My prayer for this season is that we might attend to the many signs of where God is and where God is leading us. In attending to and following the signs God gives us, we remain a congregation open to God's guidance for us.

In Christ,

Rev. Jason Okrzynski, PhD
Senior Pastor

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Dear Church Family,

Advent is not only a time to remember the incarnation of Jesus, but it is also a time to look forward to the second coming of Jesus. In His second coming, Jesus will make all things right and the Kingdom of God will be fully established here on earth. With this in mind, we seek to live as Jesus lived during His earthly ministry, where He began the process of bringing the Kingdom into being.

St. Nicholas set an example for this through his care for those who were most at risk. December 6 is the day portions of the Christian church set aside to celebrate and remember St. Nicholas. We had a wonderful St. Nicholas Party on December 6, where we heard his story, brought donations for Lake County Haven, and spent time together as a community. Thank you to all who came and helped make this event possible and a success. I pray that as we continue in this Advent season and as we enter a new year, we will seek out ways to follow in St. Nicholas's legacy of caring for the most vulnerable around us.



On the family front, we recently had the opportunity to see the Chicago Brass Band. It was a wonderful concert. It brought back memories of going to see the Minnesota Orchestra with my parents growing up. We all enjoyed the concert. Anabelle said that her favorite part was listening to the theme from the animated movie, *The Incredibles*, and watching the percussionists perform. William agreed about watching the percussionists, but really said he enjoyed the entire band and all the songs. As you can see, specificity is one of his spiritual gifts. Emily and I enjoyed the opportunity to experience live music and all the beautiful sounds, dynamics, and instrumentation that was presented. I would encourage you to go to one of their concerts, if you are able.

Thank you so much for reading. Have a wonderful Advent, Christmas, and start to the New Year.

Blessings,

Ryan Aubrey

Director of Christian Education



STEWARDSHIP NEWS



Dear Friends,

I would like to start by PRAISING GOD for the members and friends of the United Protestant Church. We are a faithful, compassionate, and HOPE-filled community of God's, devoted to serving Him here in Grayslake with our time, talent, and treasures to the best of our abilities. Next year is our 75th anniversary as a church family, and I pray that in 150 years the UPC is celebrating a new anniversary.

However, I do need to mention the elephant in the room. I refer to the 2025 budget. To maintain our current level of operations involving paid staff, current programs and building maintenance, we need ~\$73,000 more to offer a balanced budget at the 2025 Annual Meeting in late January than has been pledged and estimated based on past years' giving.

As Christians, we know that God is faithful. We also know that He calls us to be faithful in serving Him with our time, talents, and treasures.

The UPC leaders of Administrative Council, Staff Parish Relations and Stewardship want you to understand that your generosity is a blessing to God, our church, and our community. Furthermore, we want you to know that we have been in tight spots before and with God's guidance we have prevailed. However, to be good stewards, we need to oversee both our OPERATING BUDGET, funded by pledges, contributions and rent, and our SAVINGS (also called ENDOWMENT FUND) financed by monetary gifts from deceased members who gave the UPC proceeds from their estates. The Operating Budget pays our day-to-day bills. The Endowment Fund is our savings and emergency account.

If we continue to spend beyond our Operating Budget, we will deplete our savings and no longer have an emergency fund. Therefore, to date, the following moves are possible:

- There will be reductions in staff salaries.
- All committees and commissions of the UPC, including those dealing with building expenses, will be urged to pare down already prudent budgets.
- We are looking into the possibility of renting space to a small congregation to help defray costs.
- With his permission, we will be talking to other churches without a pastor to offer Pastor Jason's services as a ¼ time pastor to potentially provide weekly sermons and funeral services.
- With the addition of new AV and streaming systems, we anticipate broadening our online presence and adding online members. We further anticipate this effort will also increase the technical quality of our in-house worship, adding to the likelihood we will continue to grow our membership under Pastor Jason's leadership. As we grow in numbers we will also grow financially.
 - As an aside, the fundraising done for the AV replacement was distinctly separate from the regular stewardship appeal and budget analysis.

With God and one another, I believe we will prevail against any adversity. If you have questions, please feel free to stop me in church or email me at Rasmuss4@aol.com.

Trusting Our God Who Provides,

Carol Roselli-Rasmussen,
Stewardship Chairperson



United Protestant Church of Grayslake: Keeping Faith for 75+ Years!

In 2025, the United Protestant Church of Grayslake celebrates seventy-five years of Keeping Faith in the heart of Grayslake. In the next few months we'll be marking our anniversary by sharing some history here in the Unifier, in special emails, displays and events at church. The anniversary will culminate in June 2025 and as soon as we have a date confirmed with our UCC and UMC guests, we will publicize the date of the anniversary worship service celebration.

We're naming our celebration 75 years "+" because UPC has a history that predates its founding in 1950, and because we know UPC will have a future that lasts beyond the past seventy-five years.

UPC's prior history began in the 19th century, in the histories of three prior congregations: the Gages Lake Methodist Church founded in 1877, the First Congregational Church of Grayslake founded in 1891, and the Grayslake Methodist Church founded in 1901. In 1922, the Gages Lake and Grayslake Methodist Churches merged and used the building of the Grayslake Methodist Church, at the intersection of Whitney Street and Park Avenue, where a white clapboard church and parsonage stood. The former Congregational church stood at Lake and Center Streets and is used by the Masonic Temple today.

In 1949 when the pulpit of the Congregational Church was empty, the Grayslake Methodist Church extended an invitation to the Congregational Church to begin worshipping together, and on June 20, 1950 each congregation held a meeting to approve the merger of the two congregations into one. In 1954, ground was broken for the sanctuary our church uses today, and in 1958 construction began on the education wing.

The United Protestant Church was ahead of its time in merging members of two historic American denominations and moving across theological differences toward unity of worship and spirit. Later in the decade, the Congregational Christian Churches and the Evangelical and Reformed Churches would merge to form the United Church of Christ in 1957. A decade later, the United Methodist Church was born from the merger of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Churches. These denominational mergers brought together heritage from the English, Prussian, German, Swiss, and French Reformations. The United Protestant Church now includes and welcomes those of many more Christian backgrounds, as we continue our faithfulness toward unity of worship and spirit.

As we celebrate UPC's 75+ years in 2025, we'll be sharing church history, inviting you to church events, and looking forward to a celebration in June 2025 as we give thanks for those who gathered on June 20, 1950 to enact a vision of unity which endures today.

The UPC 75th Anniversary Committee includes Sally Kelly, Stephanie Perdew, Margaret Porteous, Jerry Wessale, and Pastor Jason Okrzynski.



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

December 22 – Christmas Open House at the Parsonage
2-4 PM &
Youth Christmas Party at UPC 5 PM

December 24 – Christmas Eve Services
3 PM – Family Service
7 PM – Intergenerational Candlelight Service
11 PM – Candlelight Service with Communion

Pastor Jason and family invite UPC to a Christmas Open House at the parsonage on Sunday, December 22 from 2-4 p.m. Please come enjoy some hospitality and Christmas cheer. Come to the front door facing Park Avenue if possible. Assistance will be available if you need help climbing the stairs into the living area.

All Junior and Senior high youth and any college age alumni are invited to join us on December 22 at UPC at 5 p.m. for a youth Christmas party. We will eat dinner, play games, and do a white elephant gift exchange. Please RSVP to Pastor Jason at seniorpastor@upcgl.org before December 19.



DECEMBER 2024

United Protestant Church CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service	2 7:00pm Stewardship Committee (MR) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	3 9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 6:00pm AA Ladies Holiday Party (106, 105) 6:30pm Pack 451 Den Meetings (FH)	4 11:30am Circle 4/5 (Culver's) 6:00pm Confirmation Class (Loft) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH) 7:15pm Troop 451 Board of Review (101)	5 9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Grace Notes (Choir Room) 7:00pm Staff Parish (MR) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	6 5:30pm Feast of St. Nicholas Intergen Event (FH)	7
8 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service 11:30am Circle 2 (MR)	9 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	10 9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 5:30pm Circle 9 (Mrs. V's) 6:30pm North Star District Commissioners Meeting (MR) 6:30pm Pack 451 Den Meetings (FH) 7:00pm Troop 451 PLC (101) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106)	11 6:00pm Confirmation Class (Loft) 7:00pm PUSH (Parlor) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	12 9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 2:00pm Budget & Finance (MR) 6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Grace Notes (Choir Room) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	13 3:00-8:00pm Veritas Music Center Recitals (Sanctuary) 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting (FH) 7:00pm Caroling at Library Lane	14 9:00am-5:00pm Veritas Music Center Recitals (Sanctuary)
15 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service	16 7:00pm Ad Council (FH) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	17 9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 6:30pm Governance Task Force (Parlor) 6:30pm Pack 451 Monthly Pack Meeting (FH) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106) 7:00pm Nami Family Support Group (MR) 7:00pm Troop 451 Committee Meeting (101)	18 6:00pm Confirmation Class (Loft) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	19 9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Grace Notes (Choir Room) 7:30pm AA (106,105)	20	21
22 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service	23 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	24 3:00pm Christmas Eve Family Service 7:00pm Christmas Eve Intergen Candlelight Service 7:00pm AA Ladies (106) 11:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS! 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105)	26 OFFICE CLOSED 7:30pm AA (106,105)	27	28
29 10:00am Worship Service	30 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	31 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00pm AA Ladies (106)				



JANUARY 2025

United Protestant Church CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Grace Notes (Choir Room) 7:00pm Staff Parish (MR) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	3	4
5 10:00am Worship Service 1:00pm Troop 451 Eagle Court of Honor Ceremony (Sanctuary) & Reception (FH)	6 7:00pm Stewardship Committee (MR) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	7 9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 6:30pm Pack 451 Den Meetings (FH) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106)	8 11:30am Circle 4/5 (Culver's) 6:00pm Confirmation Class (Loft) 7:00 pm PUSH (Parlor) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	9 9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 2:00pm Budget & Finance (MR) 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Grace Notes (Choir Room) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	10 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting (FH)	11
12 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service 11:30am Circle 2 (MR) 11:30am New Members Class (FH)	13 7:00pm Children's Ministry Committee (MR) 7:30pm AA (106, 105) 8:00pm Christian Ed. Commission (MR)	14 9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 5:30pm Circle 9 (Mrs. V's) 6:30pm Pack 451 Den Meetings (FH) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106) 7:00pm Troop 451 PLC(101)	15 6:00pm Confirmation Class (Loft) 6:30pm North Star District Commissioner Meeting (MR) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	16 9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Grace Notes (Choir Room) 7:30pm AA (106,105)	17	18
19 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service 11:30am New Members Class (FH)	20 7:00pm Ad Council (FH) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	21 9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 6:30pm Governance Task Force (Parlor) 6:30pm Pack 451 Monthly Pack Meeting (FH) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106) 7:00pm Nami Family Support Group (MR) 7:00pm Troop 451 Committee Meeting (101)	22 6:00pm Confirmation Class (Loft) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	23 9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Grace Notes (Choir Room) 7:30pm AA (106,105)	24	25
26 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Annual Meeting	27 6:30pm Worship Committee (MR) 7:00pm Mission Committee (103) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	28 9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 6:30pm Pack 451 Den Meetings (FH) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106)	29 6:00pm Confirmation Class (Loft) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	30 9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Grace Notes (Choir Room) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	31	

MISSIONS



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

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (OCC)

By the time you read this, the 2024 shopping will be done, the boxes will be wrapped, the OCC packing party will have been held and the gifts will have been blessed and delivered to the next stop on their journey into the arms of unsuspecting children. I want to say a heart-felt **“Thank You!”** to all who participated in any way during this past year. A special “Thank you” to the members of Circle 2 who helped create more than 500 hand-made games to help fill the shoeboxes and provide children with hours of fun. Children’s Ministry set the 2024 goal at 250 boxes. We actually sent 252 boxes. I will tell you where the boxes were shipped as the information becomes available.



Post-Christmas clearance sales are a great time to start shopping for 2025’s OCC shoebox filler items, such as toys, stuffed animals, hats and scarves.



JOY SHARING FOR JANUARY

The Joy Sharing for January will benefit The Lake County Haven. Their goal is to empower homeless women and their children to achieve permanent and independent living. As always, your gifts and donations mean so much to keep their programs going. Check out Facebook where they post requests, news, and thank-you’s. As the Mission Committee has been taking dinners to both Hope House and Renewal House every other month, you too can join us to provide meals, cooking or purchasing from local restaurants for their breakfasts, lunches, and dinners. Please contact Judi Becker for more information at 224-321-0093 or go online to volunteer@lakecountyhaven.org.

Both Hope House and Renewal House have 10 people living in each, and they have added a third for transitional living for those ready to live on their own. There is a bin in the vestibule at UPC for Wish List items. Please join us in January to celebrate The Lake County Haven. Joy Sharing Sunday is January 19.

COMPANIONS JOURNEYING TOGETHER

We DID MORE in 2024! We can top that if we strive in 2025! Request donations from friends and places you frequent or buy Christmas cards that are discounted. Donate unused Christmas cards, Birthday cards, and Mother's Day cards that do NOT have multiple layers, glitter, glued items, stickers, or added decorations. These can be used by prison inmates. Bring cards to the church office if they don't fit into the container on the Mission counter.



On cold winter days/nights, write messages inside Christmas cards. Write messages while you wait for appointments or wait when picking up the kiddos, during ads on TV, or any time you're just sitting. Take a pack of 10 cards from the decorated box on the UPC Mission counter in the Narthex. Sample messages are at the front of each pack. Choose one that's provided or one of your own (not preachy) to write inside each card, **sign your first name and United Protestant Church**, then put each card inside a blank envelope provided, and place the completed cards into the plastic container at the top of the Mission counter OR turn them into the church office. Contact Rose Pech or Cinda Bartz if you have any questions.

AVON TOWNSHIP

AVON TOWNSHIP—NEW VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:

UPC members and friends, community organizations, groups, and/or individuals are invited to join WCF Circle 2 as we sort food, clothing and other donations at the Avon Township Center from 7:00 to 8:30 PM on the 4th Tuesday of each month starting January 28. Anyone who wishes to volunteer—youth, adults, or families—should arrive at the Avon Township Center, 433 E. Washington Street in Round Lake, Illinois, slightly before 7 PM on the 4th Tuesday of the month. Volunteers are not required to be there the entire time if their schedules require them to leave sooner.



All volunteers are asked to complete an Avon Township Volunteer Application when they arrive or to bring the completed form to their first session. **Printed forms will be available on the Mission Counter at UPC in January. Contact Rose Pech if you would like more information or want a form emailed to you at 847-682-2837 or rose4nonna@hotmail.com).**

Volunteers do not have to commit to volunteering for any certain date or number of times. Come when you're available. A sign-up sheet will be on a clipboard on the Mission Table each month for anyone who knows they'll be volunteering that month. A list of volunteers with their contact information will be kept for use in case any cancellations or schedule changes are needed. This will be a year-round community ministry, led by WCF Circle 2, with Rose Pech as coordinator at this time. We hope to have volunteers from UPC and throughout the area, just as UPC, St. Gilbert Church, other organizations and individuals made the UPC PADS Site a community site for more than 30 years.

VETERANS GIVING TREE

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Veterans' Giving Tree this year. Your donations made a lot of Veterans very happy. Gifts were delivered to the VA Hospital on December 15. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

REMINDER

- When taking down your Christmas lights, remember to bring any unwanted or non-working light strands to UPC to donate to the Lion's Club.
- When making your New Year's resolution, consider trying a new mission project.



PADS LAKE COUNTY & UPC PADS:

Mother-to-be received all items requested and more!

All items requested and more were delivered to the expectant mother on December 5, and the baby has several outfits at each size ranging from preemie/newborn to 9 months. The mother had returned from the hospital that morning after being told that she wasn't on the schedule. She was very upset. We were able to visit with her and deliver the items in person. She was surprised and delighted with our gifts! YOU put a big smile on her face and lifted her spirits! **THANK YOU!!**

PADS Holiday Event Saturday, December 14: Thanks to all who made this a major success! Clients were thrilled as they walked into the hall at First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville and saw the shelf-stable food supplies on tables along one wall, racks of coats and boxes of socks along other walls, and tables covered with toys and books on the stage. They went to the kitchen and chose from the large variety of meats, casseroles, potatoes, salads, and desserts. Children chose two gifts from the tables and were given another special gift. Photos were taken with one of Santa's elves. Children enjoyed the activity table. Smiling clients left with the items they needed packed into a box and a bag or two of groceries.

Current Food Needs:

- Breakfast and lunch items are now needed and can be donated here at UPC, delivered to First Presbyterian Church in Libertyville on Wednesdays from 4 to 5:30 PM, or purchased at this Amazon link to be delivered directly to First Presbyterian Church.
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/XD5I2ZRDQKE5?ref=wl_share
- Sack lunches are always needed at 1800 Grand Avenue for those seeking help from PADS. Lunches can be delivered to PADS at 1800 Grand Avenue during any weekday. Use their online signup genius for an open date, or call 847-689-4357 to let them know you would like to deliver lunches to the office.

Walmart gift cards purchased at UPC allow you to help two missions at once if the cards are donated to UPC PADS. A percentage of the price goes to pay shipping for Operation Christmas Child boxes! Then, the cards are used by PADS shoppers who buy and deliver food and/or clothing as needed by PADS clients.

UPC SHOPPER

Consider purchasing UPC Shopper cards to give as Christmas gifts or to use when buying gifts. Also, consider purchasing Shopper cards to use on New Year's Eve for an evening out at dinner or a movie or to buy some snacks for a night in. Check out our selection and order early.



***Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year!***

***The next edition of the Unifier
will be available February, 2025.***



WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT WCF? Call the church office at 847-223-8131 for information or talk with Cathy Vick, Sue Schmidt, Ruth Gheysen, Rose Pech, or other Circle members. See the church bulletin, Tuesday Newsday, and UNIFIER for updates.

CIRCLE 2 WILL BE LEADING IN A NEW MINISTRY WITH AVON TOWNSHIP: Beginning January 28, 2025, Circle 2 members will be volunteering from 7:00-8:30 PM on the 4th Tuesday of each month at the Avon Township Center to help with sorting food, clothing, and other items as needed. This new service opportunity is open to youth and adults from UPC and throughout the community who would like to help. Details are in a special article in this UNIFIER. Contact Rose Pech at 847-682-2837 or rose4nonna@hotmail.com for more information.

Circle 2: Starting in 2025, members will be meeting monthly, year-round at **11:30 AM in the UPC Meeting Room**. The December meeting was held on December 8. The next meeting will be **Sunday, January 12, 2025**. Contact Catherine Vick.

Circle 4/5: normally meets on the first Wednesday of each month. The December meeting was held on December 3. The next meeting will be **at 11:30 AM on January 8 at Culver's** in Grayslake since the first Wednesday is a holiday. Contact Sue Schmidt.

Circle 9: Meetings are held year-round on the second Tuesday of each month **at 5:30 PM 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 other Circle 9 members if you plan to attend. The December meeting was held on December 10. The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 14, 2025**.

Circle 10: does not meet in person. Members are in contact with each other on Facebook. Contact Jasmine Walker.

Check the table below for meeting information and choose what works for you!

Circle	Day/Date	Time	Place	Contact
2	Sun., Jan.12	11:30 AM	UPC Meeting Room	Catherine Vick
4/5	Wed., Jan. 8	11:30 AM	Culver's in Grayslake	Sue Schmidt
9	Tues., Jan. 14	5:30 PM	Mrs. V's in Round Lake Beach	Ruth Gheysen

*Contact information is available online in the **Instant Church Directory** or at the UPC office.

Tyler, Brittany, Danielle, & Joanna: are always grateful for our UPC support. See their prayer requests on the UPC Prayer List. Donations are much needed and can be made online at www.ilad.ngo/D2002 or locally to UPC's Tyler & Brittany Fund at UPC.

December Birthdays

12/3 Emma Henne
12/4 Katie Gheysen
12/5 Reese Divis
12/9 Charlie Grubbs
12/9 Jackson Grubbs
12/9 Nancy Johannsen
12/13 Kenny Madden
12/13 Julius Mall
12/15 Suzanne Harvey
12/15 Polly Muehleman
12/20 Jackie Ianson
12/26 Darlene George Craig
12/31 John Porteous

January Birthdays

1/5 Shelly Kutsin
1/14 Madeline Berkey
1/14 Kori Henne
1/16 Linda Markham
1/18 Richard Johannsen
1/18 David Knapp
1/20 Sarah Fries
1/28 Andrew Sawicki

December Anniversaries

12/5 Julius & Alva Mall
12/13 Shelly & Felix Kutsin
12/14 Aimee Divis & Dennis Wong
12/16 Richard & Nancy Johannsen

January Anniversaries

1/5 Jason Okrzynski & Stephanie Perdew



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

Members: Craig Fischel, Marie Frandsen, David Holliman, Joanne Lawrence, Marjorie Miller, John Porteous, Dan Watkins, Bobbie Weichman, and Jeff Ziegler.

Tyler, Brittany & Danielle, & Joanna are sharing their 2024 Farm Gift Catalog with us. This list gives what specific donation amounts will buy. Giving just a portion of one of the amounts would be a real blessing if you could offer them a gift at this time. Donations can be made online at www.ilad.ngo/D2002 or locally to UPC's Tyler & Brittany Fund.

- \$30 = 300 Planting sacks for trees
- \$1,500 = Motorcycle for easier travel to the farm
- \$10,000 = Rain collection tank/fish pond to irrigate fruit trees
- \$1 = One brick to build a house at the farm—40,000 bricks

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

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

United Protestant Church
54 S. Whitney Street
Grayslake, IL 60030

Phone: 847-223-8131

E-mail: upc@upcgl.org

Pastor: Rev. Jason Okrzynski

Email:
seniorpastor@upcgl.org
Cell: 224-463-2171

Church Office Hours:
Tuesday & Thursday
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Grounded | Empowered | Transformed

United Protestant Church of Grayslake
54 S. Whitney Street
Grayslake, IL 60030

