

# The Unifier



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Philippians 2.1-11 reads:

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being on in spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God as something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2.1-22 NIV 1984

I need to return to this passage often to remind me about who I am and about who Christ is. I also need to be reminded about how far I am from being like Christ and just how I should strive to be more like Him. Humility does not come easy for me, and perhaps it doesn't come easy for you. I am prone to fight for my rights. I am prone to be puffed up in my own intellect and my belief that my opinions are right. Maybe that is just me, but I suspect I am not the only one who suffers so. We would do well to dwell on the divinity of Jesus and of His freely leaving His heavenly throne to come and be laid in a manger. Do consider the cost of Christ! Do consider His humility not merely in theory, but in action. God the Son through whom and for all things were made emptied Himself and was subjected to death on a cross! I don't often enough consider the price that Christ paid to love me and to restore us.

When I have regularly and rightly meditated upon this passage, and upon the humility of Christ, then my attitude is more likely to change as I am transformed to be made more like Him. The key isn't just reading the passage or making a mental ascent to the knowledge of the humiliation of Christ. The key is to meditate, to contemplate, and to pray for the Holy Spirit to move my heart and mind in such ways that I become more like Christ. As a pastor and church planter, Paul is here showing his heart; his desire for those he has taught and disciplined. Let us mediate to humility.

Pastor Ryan

Dear Church Family,

This semester our adult education opportunities are focused around two goals. The first goal is to explore and better understand the issue of suffering. This will be our focus in our study of 1 Peter and then our book discussion of Philip Yancey's *Where is God When It Hurts*.

1 Peter is a letter to a displaced people. Peter's readers have most likely been removed from their homes and are now living as foreigners in modern day Turkey. In the eyes of society around them, they are hopeless and have little to no status. Thus, they are facing various trials for their Christian faith in the society in which they live. Peter provides them with a message of hope based upon who they are in Christ through their new birth. This hope and new birth inform them, how they are to live in a society that is increasingly alienating them.

My hope with *Where is God When It Hurts* is that it will continue discussions related to issues of suffering. That it will serve as a reminder of God's presence throughout our lives and will hopefully open doors for spiritual discussions with co-workers, neighbors, family members, and friends. I encourage you to invite somebody to join our reading and discussion of this book.

The second goal for the next few months is to explore hearing God. This will be talked about throughout our studies and will be the main focus of our last study before summer, entitled Hearing God.

My prayer is that we continue to grow in our understanding of *Who* God is, *Who* we are in Christ, and *How* we should live. If you have any questions or need anything, please let me know.

Blessings,

Ryan Aubrey

## UPC PADS UPDATE

### EMERGENCY SHELTER AND HOUSING FOR PADS CLIENTS:

As of January 13, PADS was still housing more than 200 guests in three different motels/hotels; however, about 150 of them were in a single location where PADS has received a much more reasonable rate. Another motel was housing 25 of the guests who need that location because of work or other special circumstances, and the remaining guests were at the third location.

Local police departments and the sheriff's office have been arranging for an average of 4 or 5 individuals found on the streets each week to have emergency shelter at the hotels through the PADS program that was instituted during the pandemic. Individuals are then encouraged to go to the PADS office the next morning to receive hotel vouchers if they need regular shelter.

Please encourage anyone who is homeless to contact the PADS office 847-689-4357 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mon. thru Fri. or to call their local police department during other hours if they require shelter.

Lake County has received 25-30 additional housing vouchers for 1<sup>st</sup> month's rent and security deposits which will be made available to various county agencies serving people without homes. PADS will be able to offer some of these to guests who are currently in hotels.

### UPC PADS IN ACTION PROVIDING DONATIONS AND INDIVIDUAL HOT MEALS:

UPC PADS volunteers and supporters have been donating requested food and sanitizing items and/or sending monetary donations and gift cards to PADS since the pandemic began. In January, our UPC PADS Site donated \$350 to PADS Lake County to purchase eleven pairs of winter boots for guests who needed them. At the same time, various sizes of thermal underwear and a bag of new women's socks were delivered from our UPC PADS inventory thanks to the help of Mary Zorc, our clothing coordinator. Neither PADS nor our site has the space to store clothing so donations are being made only as needed items are requested by the county.



Starting February 4 and on the following Thursdays, our UPC PADS kitchen crew under the leadership of Margaret Hilliard, our Food Coordinator, will be preparing individual dinners in our UPC kitchen and

delivering them to the 25 guests who are staying in the one motel. UPC cannot accept food donations; however, anyone who would like to contribute to offset the costs of the dinners can make their check payable to UPC with the notation "PADS Dinners" in the memo. If you or a group to which you belong would like to donate 25 or more individual dinners that need to be made and dropped off for guests at the hotels on various days from now thru April 30, contact Nicole Harris at 847-689-0541 or [nharris@padslakecounty.org](mailto:nharris@padslakecounty.org)

**For more information regarding hotel item donations or the Housewarming Project Items explained in past newsletters,** please contact Nicole Harris at [nharris@padslakecounty.org](mailto:nharris@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](mailto:pads_at_upc@hotmail.com) for other information .**

–The UPC PADS Site Leadership Team



# UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP



## WCF NEWS: A FLASHBACK IN TIME—AS PROMISED!

WCF has changed greatly during the almost 55 years that I've been a UPC member. This month we'll take a peek at some info and photos in circle minutes from those years in several books saved by Eleanor Pidgeon, Bobbie Weichman's mother. These are minutes of Career Girls Circle 1 dating from 1966 through 1988 and from Circle 7 dating from 1997 thru 2007. The 1966 minutes list Janet Craft, now Janet Kendrick, as the first chairperson and give the names of 15 original members. The meetings usually began with a potluck dinner and fellowship at a member's home and included a business meeting, program, and devotions. Many of the members were later part of Circle 7, while others joined different circles. The members of these circles throughout the years had a great sense of mission, wide interests in learning, and a marvelous sense of humor! All of these are illustrated in the way they raised funds, the variety of monthly programs and outings they had, and the many ways they served the church, community, state, nation, and world.

[Photo--Some members of Circle 7 in 1997:

Marguerite Anderson, Jean Wissman, Donna Obrecht, Eleanor Pidgeon, Lillian Durante, Jacqueline (Jacquii) Watters, Evelyn (Evie) Turner, & Melva Kerry; Betty Newcomb & Winifred (Winnie) Manuel.]



Monthly meetings included fundraising such as donating a nickel times your shoe size, a penny for each inch of height, two cents for each window in your house or each item in your purse, etc. Programs varied: foreign exchange students; presentations about women in Haiti, South Africa, Pakistan, etc.; travel slides from trips UPC members had taken; a police officer speaking on "Women Out Alone at Night"; talks on Child Abuse, handling stress, personal health & exercise, etc. Sample outings included walks through Turner Woods, a Lake Geneva boat trip, dinner plays, Ravinia, Pioneer Village in Deerfield, Gurnee Pyramid, & so on.

Monthly mission projects supported youth & children's homes, food pantries, & church shelters in and near Chicago in addition to many other projects, such as help to pay for carpet in the Parlor and flooring in Fellowship Hall. Members were faithful volunteers in all of the WCF events, including the spring & fall rummage sales, Church Bazaar, Harvest Dinner, Mission Fair, & Tag Day. They volunteered to help with community blood drives, provided transportation for nursing home residents to receive free hair appointments, donated to an achievement fund for students at a black college, held a mission fair to raise money for a church family who were facing astronomical medical bills, and the list goes on. We give thanks for these & the other active women who together made up the WCF from 1966 to 2007!! - -Blessings, Rose Pech



Photo--Some Circle 7 members in 2005: Melva Kerry, Pat Wackerlin, Evelyn Turner, Mary Dalrymple, Jacqueline Watters, Eleanor Pidgeon, Pat Barker, Jean Wissman]

**Continued prayers for UPC members and friends/relatives of members:** Fred Berchtold (abdominal cancer), Alice Broadhurst, Christian and Seth, Desiree Craig, Takara Dalton (fluid on the brain, Shelly Kutsin's goddaughter, Loretta Dodson (chronic pain), Barb Fischel, Curt Grabo (Bob Mielke's cousin, Judy Hendrickson (mother of Laura Hendrickson), Lynne Henne (mother of Brett Henne), Norean Hill, (Charles Madsen Skip Madsen, 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), Bonnie Ross (pancreatic cancer, 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), Barry Craig, Pat Curnow, Brad Fuller (stroke, brother of Jamie Fuller), Susan Green, 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), 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).

February Birthdays:

- 2/1 Judy Ruhnke
- 2/1 Rose Craig Tyler
- 2/2 Nicholas Sandoval
- 2/2 David Schmidt
- 2/3 Cherlyn Lowe
- 2/4 Preshant Singh
- 2/7 Marjorie Miller
- 2/9 Dan McDowell
- 29 Kelly McDowell
- 2/10 Lillian Eldridge
- 2/15 Jean Leishman
- 2/16 Heather Eisenhour
- 2/17 James Muehlman
- 2/21 Alva Mall
- 2/21 Elizabeth Perry
- 2/22 Madison Eisenhour
- 2/23 Michelle Adams
- 2/23 Warren Bell
- 2/24 Amanda Bartz
- 2/28 Wendy Holliman

February Anniversaries

- 2/05 Andrew and Diane Sawicki
- 2/18 Karen and David Runyon
- 2/22 Craig and Barb Fischel
- 2/26 Ken and Anne Craig
- Dale and Nancy Message

**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)

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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  
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