

The Unifier



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And Who is My Neighbor?

Most of us remember the basic story line of the parable that Jesus tells that has come to be known as the parable of the good Samaritan. What perhaps we are a bit foggier on is the question that led to Jesus telling the story. Often Jesus tells a parable as a way of communicating a point. In this case though, the parable is in response to a question Jesus received. An expert in the law wanted to justify his living. Jesus tells the parable in response to his question, “And who is my neighbor?”

This is a question that we can ask ourselves in self-reflection rather than to justify ourselves. Because we know that the call of Jesus for us is to love our neighbors as ourselves then how do we do so? Who is our neighbor? How do we live our lives in such a way that we are not self-centered or selfish, but that we reach out to the people around us?

As a congregation I would like us to ask this question of ourselves with intentionality in 2020. You might say this will be our question for the year: “And who is my neighbor?” I believe this question will help us focus not just on the work and mission inside UPC, but also help us to expand and to think about how we are neighbors to those around us. How are we living as ambassadors of Christ in the places we work? In the neighborhoods in which we reside? If we can think about who our neighbors are, then we will lay a good foundation for us to think about how we can reach them with the good news of the Gospel.

Pastor Ryan

Dear Church Family,

In the development of a disciple, there is a moment in which we move from being merely convinced of Jesus to being confident in who He is, what He has done, and who we have become in Him. Confidence is one characteristic that defined Peter's life. He confidently declares Christ to be the Messiah. We see him step out of a boat and walk toward Jesus without a moment's hesitation. On the eve of Christ's death, Peter confidently states that he would never leave Christ's side and fall away. Peter's life is defined by moments of confidence. We are going to look at one of these moments, when he seemingly moves from being convinced of Andrew's assessment of who Jesus is (Luke 5) and states with confidence who Jesus is himself.

When Andrew, Peter's brother, first met Jesus, he came to Peter and said, "We have found the Messiah." (John 1:41) Those five words set Peter off on a journey to learn for himself who this Jesus is. Through listening to Jesus' teachings and witnessing Jesus' miracles, Peter became convinced the Andrew was correct in his assessment, and he answers Jesus' call to follow and be a fisher of man. Just as that question shifted the trajectory of Peter's life, Jesus will ask a question that continues Peter's journey of faith.

Each of the four Gospels record this question, Jesus asks first asks his disciples, "Who do the people say that I am?" The disciples answer that the people see Jesus, in general, as a prophet. Some say a specific prophet, John the Baptist, Jeremiah, or Elijah. Some see Him as a generic prophet, maybe one from history, or a new one in the mold of one who had come before. Jesus then shifts the focus to His disciples asking, "Who do you say that I am?". His disciples have given up everything and are following Him. They have heard all His teaching and seen all His miracles. Peter speaks for the twelve answering, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." (Matthew 16:16) As the disciples have walked with Jesus and been with Him, they have become convinced of who He is.

Peter's confession on behalf of the disciples is significant, because it demonstrates the work that is being done by God in their hearts and minds. In Matthew 16:24, Jesus says to Peter, "You are blessed, Simon son of Jonah, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Father in heaven!" One of the things we have talked about in the *Reimagining Evangelism* class on Sunday mornings is that only God can change hearts. God is the one who possesses life-changing power. Peter and the other disciples faithfully followed, listened, watched, and were with Jesus throughout His earthly ministry, but it was only by the power of God at work in their hearts that they were able to see Jesus for who He truly is.

What has God used in your life to bring you to the point of being confident of who He is? Maybe you still have some questions about how you would answer Jesus' question. That is okay, too. The way of a disciple is a journey. Jesus shows us the way, and as the author of Hebrews states, is the pathfinder or pioneer of our faith. God is at work both in the hearts of His people and in the world. Like the disciples, we are to be faithful in following, and God is the one who changes our hearts and the hearts of those around us. If you have a story of God's transform-

It was an exciting Christmas and New Years in the Aubrey household this year. Shortly before leaving to visit family, our daughter, Anabelle came up and proudly exclaimed that she had a loose tooth. The prospect of losing a tooth at Grandma and Grandpa's house was very exciting. Though she was concerned about the tooth fairy coming when we weren't at our house. Having been assured that the tooth fairy would find her and her tooth, we left for Minnesota. As the days passed and the tooth had still not come out, she expressed hope that it would fall out while we were still with Grandma and Grandpa. That tooth hung on really well. Through much twisting and wiggling, it surprising was still in her mouth. Finally, at supper, the night before we were going to leave (at 4 AM), she comes in excitedly with her tooth in one hand and a slightly bloody smile. It had finally come out. She stood there very proudly holding her tooth. It was quite the scene. This new development though did raise some new concerns. How would the tooth fairy find her tooth? We reassured her that the tooth fairy would visit either before we left or while she slept in the car. So, she went to bed with her tooth under her pillow expectantly waiting the tooth fairy's arrival. When Emily got the kids up right around 4 AM for our drive home, Anabelle sat up and the very first thing she did was thrust her hand under the pillow to see if the tooth fairy had come. To her relief, the tooth was gone, and the tooth fairy had left a little present for her. Thank you for taking the time to read this. Have a wonderful month.

Blessings,

Ryan Aubrey

Director of Christian Education

ryanaubrey@upcgl.org

Joy Sharing for February

Our Joy Sharing for February is for Tyler and Brittany's mission in Africa. Tyler is a long time member of our church and was called to serve as a missionary. Be sure to consider them on the 16th of February and listen to your heart. We have some new pictures and updates for you to see that Sunday.



UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH OMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP



WCF members invite all women of the church to visit a circle of your choice for any monthly meeting 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 FEBRUARY

Circle	Day/Date	Time	Place	Contact
2*	Sun., Feb 9	11:45 a.m.	Small Meeting Room	Catherine Vick
4/5	Wed/. Feb/ 5	12:30 p.m.	Church Parlor	Sue Schmidt
6	Thurs., Feb. 6	11:30 a.m.	Whitney St. Restaurant	Marie Frandsen Diana Thompson
9	Tues., Feb. 11	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 now has its meeting day and time on the second Sunday of the month at 11:45 a.m. in the small meeting room. Their date will be changed in March so members can attend the Bingo & Dessert offered by the church youth.

All circles will meet monthly for the remainder of the school year. Watch the church bulletin, Tuesday Newsday, & future *Unifier* articles for info regarding summer meetings. Contact Rose Pech: rose4nonna@hotmail.com or 847-356-3577, or call the church office, to reach any circle chairperson.



WCF invites all women of UPC and their friends to join us for another BUNCO event on Saturday, February 22 from 1-3 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Come enjoy the fellowship of other women as we play BUNCO, converse and have refreshments. Never played before? It's an easy game to learn, so come and try it! Please bring an appetizer, dessert, or other snack item to share with the group. Drinks will be provided.

Contact Sue Schmidt at 847-367-1701 or schmidt6134@comcast.net with any questions.

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UPC PADS UPDATE

FINAL PADS SEASON ORIENTATION/TRAINING OFFERS!

Spread the word!! February 29 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. will be the next scheduled volunteer orientation/training session. If there's an interest, sessions can be offered from 7 to 9 p.m. on Monday, March 2, or Tuesday, March 3. These will be the last orientation/training offerings for the 2019 – 2020 PADS Season.

PADS shelter sites close at the end of April. Our UPC PADS Site will offer training for experienced and new volunteers on Thursday, September 24 in preparation for the 2020 – 2021 PADS Season. Mark your calendars now!

ONSITE VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED FOR FINAL 2 MONTHS:

2nd shift (11p.m. to 3 a.m.) – **1 male** on 1st week Mar/Apr; **2 males** for Apr. 30

3rd shift (3 to 7 a.m.) – **1 volunteer** on 3rd week Feb/Mar/Apr; **2 strong volunteers** for Apr. 30

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

Substitutes are needed when regular volunteers call off for 1st shift & Morning Kitchen Cleanup in addition to every shift listed above.

MENTAL HEALTH 1ST AID COURSES OFFERED AGAIN AT UPC!

Staff members from PADS Lake County will offer two training sessions for PADS Staff and volunteers who wish to become certified in Mental Health 1st Aid. The training IS open to UPC members and friends. The first class will be from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 29. The second will be offered from 5:30 to 10:00 p.m. on two evenings, Monday and Tuesday, March 2 & 3 with attendance required on both evenings. Online signup is available and is being emailed to everyone who receives Tuesday Newsday. If you're interested in this 8-hour training for certification & need more information, please contact Rose Pech.



SLEEPOUT FOR SHELTER:

Once again, PADS Lake County and Six Flags are partnering to offer an opportunity on the night of May 2/3, 2020 to raise funds for the services provided to clients/guests experiencing homelessness .

See the flyer found in this UNIFIER for more information. If you'd like to captain or be a member of a UPC PADS Team and participate in the SLEEPOUT, please contact Rose Pech.

For more information about our needs or any items in this article, please contact Rose Pech at 847-356-3577 or pads_at_upc@hotmail.com.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND CONTINUED SUPPORT!!

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



Let's SleepOut for Shelter!

Saturday, May 2 – Sunday, May 3 | 5PM - 6AM
Six Flags Great America | Gurnee, IL

PADS Lake County is thrilled to partner with Six Flags Great America again for our annual Sleepout for Shelter fundraiser. We can't wait to raise awareness and important funds all while enjoying **exclusive after-hours ride time only available to attendees and the opportunity to sleep under the stars on the Six Flags campus!**

All proceeds from the event will support the vital programs and services that PADS Lake County provides to the men, women, and children experiencing homelessness in our community.

Want to host a SleepOut in your backyard, run a digital fundraiser, or create your own unique experience instead of SleepingOut at Six Flags? You can still be a part of the event and raise awareness and support for our nei

ghbors experiencing homelessness by **creating your own event or digital fundraiser.**

There are only 250 spots available to SleepOut at Six Flags - grab your friends & family, start a team, and sign-up today!

UPC Leadership Conference

This conference will give everyone an opportunity to learn the structure, administration and direction of UPC as we move forward into a new year.

When: Saturday, February 22, 2020 – in the sanctuary from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

What will be covered:

During the first part of this conference we will review:

The UPC Constitution and By-Laws.

The governance structure of UPC along with the roles and responsibilities of elective members of the Administrative Council, Commissions and Committees.

The elements of conducting an effective meeting.

During the second part of the conference Pastor Ryan will present “And who is my neighbor?” during which he will discuss his thoughts for UPC during the upcoming year.

Who should plan on attending: All Administrative Council, Committee and Commission members and all other interested church members.

Continued prayers for UPC members and friends/relatives of members: Judy Baird (cancer, wife of Bruce Baird), Christian and Seth, Desiree Craig (friend of Karen Caviness), Loretta Dodson (chronic pain), Barb Fischel (back pains), Lorrie George-Baskin (sister of Darlene George Craig), 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), 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 Papesch (cancer, mother-in-law to the Fischel's daughter), Judy Ruhnke, Darwin Schwaderer (fall), 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: 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).

February Birthdays:

02/01 Ruhnke, Judy
 02/01 Tyler, Rose Craig
 02/02 Alvin, Hall
 02/02 Sandoval, Nicholas
 02/02 Schmidt, David
 02/03 Lowe, Cherlyn
 02/04 Knapp, Timothy
 02/04 Singh, Prashant
 02/05 Richards, Bryanna
 02/05 Richards, Kamrynn
 02/07 Miller, Marjorie
 02/08 Rambo, John
 02/09 McDowell, Dan
 02/09 McDowell, Kelly
 02/10 Eldridge, Lillian
 02/11 Martin, Leah
 02/11 Taylor, Jeffrey
 02/13 Martin, Owen
 02/15 Leishman, Jean
 02/15 Richardson, Sarena
 02/16 Eisenhour, Heather

February Wedding Anniversaries:

02/05 Andrew and Diane Sawicki
 02/18 David and Karen Runyon
 02/22 Craig and Barb Fischel
 02/26 Ken and Anne Craig
 02/26 Dale and Nancy Message

02/17 Muehleman, James
 02/21 Mall, Alva
 02/21 Perry, Elizaeth
 02/22 Eisenhour, Madison
 02/23 Adams, Michelle
 02/23 Bell, Warren
 02/24 Bartz, Amanda
 02/27 Hinkley, James
 02/28 Frahm, Kay
 02/28 Garbutt, Kara
 02/28 Holliman, Wendy

Greeter Schedule

8:15

10:30

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
March 1	Felix Flok	Sue Harvey, Cathy Vick
March 8	Bill Churchill	Cynthia Lee, Jerry Wessale
March 15	Terry & Joyce Norton	Donna Obrecht
March 22	Mary Ann McDowell	Doris Craig, Pat Barker
March 29	Kori Henne	Linda Markham, Rose Pech
April 5	Bill Churchill	Dian Weinkauf, Marie Frandsen
April 12	Wende Fry	William Pfeil, Judy Ruhnke
April 19	Kim Schwaderer	Laurel Bruggen, Pat Barker
April 26	Jeff Ziegler	Alice Broadhurst, Sue Harvey
May 3	Felix Flok	Craig & Barb Fischel
May 10	Rosanne Taylor	William Pfeil, Judy Ruhnke
May 17	Mary Ann McDowell	Sharon Michalsen, Rose Pech
May 24	Jay and Lil Eldridge	Laurel Bruggen, Marie Frandsen
May 31	Linda Rambo	Donna Obrecht, Jerry Wessale

**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

