

# The Unifier



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February, 2022

## It's the Workers that are Few

It is easy to outsource. Our world is filled with outsourcing. We often hear that about companies who ship jobs overseas or do distance hiring. But we also know outsourcing close to home. We hire someone to coach our kids in sports rather than have parent-coaches. We outsource cooking to the local diner, or these days Grub Hub and Door Dash. We are often in the habit of hiring out for the work that we can or maybe should do ourselves.

Now this article is not to be a criticism or really a commentary on the topics I mention above. But I use them as an illustration of my main point. We cannot outsource our faith. We can't rely on the pastor to read our Bible for us. We can't outsource taking personal responsibility for our own lives of prayer and worship. No one will or can do it for us. In Matthew 9.35-38 we read:

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask then Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

Are we praying for God to indeed send out workers into his harvest field? Are we willing to recognize that almost always the workers we are praying for God to send out is in fact our own selves? What is the work you are doing in God's harvest field?

There are few things that I think we need to recognize here. 1. We work and labor based on the good news of the coming of Christ's Kingdom. We are not the ones who are responsible for manufacturing the Kingdom, but rather we are responsible to point to it. 2. People who need Jesus are lost. They are not the enemy, but rather they are people made in the image of God for us to show compassion and love to. 3. The issue isn't the harvest it is the number of workers. 4. The harvest field belongs to God. We are to never forget the sovereignty of God in our evangelistic endeavors.

Will you work in the fields? Will you pray and will you invite?

Pastor Ryan

Dear Church Family,

What a wonderful beginning of the year we had. Our Adult Spiritual Retreat at the Joseph and Mary Retreat House in Mundelein went well. We spent Friday evening and Saturday morning and afternoon learning about Scripture. Those who participated had a wonderful time together. In addition to our retreat, our adult study of Nehemiah is going well. We are working through Warren Wiersbe's book, *Be Determined*, to help us in our discussions of Nehemiah and the work that God has given to us. This leads me to what I want the focus of my Unifier article.

As last year ended, and I began preparing for this coming ministry year, I began to feel the call to ask two questions. The first was what areas of our church might need to be rebuilt and renewed. Coming out of that question came the second. The second question I began to think and work through was how we can show *care* to those in our community. We want our church to be a place where people feel a growing sense of belonging, are growing in their belief, and in doing so, will become more like Christ. So, as we are working through Nehemiah, talking about our passions, tasks God has given to us, and our big prayer focuses, these are mine. That we might become a community that demonstrates *care*, developing into a community that people desire to belong, growing in our belief about who God is and who we are, and through all of this, becoming more like Christ each day. If you would like to participate more in these discussions, join us on Sunday mornings at 9:00 AM in room 106 or on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 on Zoom.

I am so grateful that the curriculum we are currently using goes along with similar themes. Our kids have explored three BIG questions since last year. The first was who is God. The second, which they just finished at the end of January, was who does God say that I am. The third question they are just beginning to explore is how do I fit into God's family. Each of these questions are so important in our lives, and they begin to address belonging, belief, and become. I am excited to continue to see and hear how our children grow in these areas in the coming months. If your family has not been able to participate in our Children's Ministry, so far, I would encourage you to join us. Our main Sunday School activities are at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

In family news, recently, our son decided he was going to invite some of his teachers over for a meal. I pick him up from the bus and he tells me that he needs to remind his Physical Education teachers that they are coming to our house for dinner on Friday (he is telling me this on Wednesday). He then realizes that he does not have PE the next day and will have to wait until Friday to do it. I look at him kind of confused. Emily and I had not talked about having people at our home for a meal that weekend. He just decided to invite them himself and inform us about it later. Unfortunately for William, they were busy that day, so Emily promised to contact one of his teachers to see if she could come over for hot chocolate after school one day. This seemed to satisfy him. Well, the kids will keep us on our toes. I cannot wait to see who he invites to our house, next.

Thank you to everyone who has to this point helped in our Educational Ministries. We could not do the tasks of the church and discipleship without you. Finally, I would like to leave you with a question. What ways can we, as a church demonstrate *care* to you or your family?

Blessings,

Ryan Aubrey

## **TALKS WITH CHURCHES RE: OPENING SHELTER SITES IN OCTOBER**

PADS Lake County is taking the beginning steps to open 2 or 3 church shelter sites each night of the week and move away from using hotels as emergency shelters when the 2022-2023 Emergency Shelter Season begins in October. UPC and St. Gilbert Parish are committed to opening our UPC PADS Site if we have enough volunteers and can follow the procedures recommended by our UPC Site Leadership Team and Administrative Council.

As we move into 2022, pray about whether this is a ministry in which God might be leading you to serve. Many opportunities exist, some onsite and some offsite. Our UPC PADS Site would plan to be open on Thursday nights. Onsite volunteers serve on various shifts with the first volunteers arriving at 4:30 p.m. & the last leaving the site at 7 a.m. Other opportunities to serve our PADS Site can be scheduled on other days and times. Contact Rose Pech, [pads\\_at\\_upc@hotmail.com](mailto:pads_at_upc@hotmail.com) or 847-223-8131, ext. 17 for more info.

## **NEED CONTINUES FOR UPC PADS SITE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR**

**Please pray and advertise** for this message to reach the person God wants to serve at UPC!!

## **HOTELS CONTINUE TO SERVE AS MAIN PADS SHELTER AT THIS TIME**

Guests are still being housed in hotels with some guests who go to the PADS Lake County office between the hours of 8 am and 4 pm Monday through Friday being transported by PADS to the church shelter site that is open that night. Guests who are dropped off by the police after the church site opens are also served by the site that is open that night.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED NOW AT SOME CHURCH SHELTER SITES**

The major current volunteer need continues to be at **1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church Site on Wednesdays**. To help, use the sign-up genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0a4bafa722a3f49-pads7>

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](http://www.shepherdofthelakes.org)

For **The Chapel of Grayslake**, call 847-201-2777 and ask for information on volunteering on **Saturday nights at the Grayslake location**.

## **SO MANY TO THANK FOR MAKING POSSIBLE THE GIFT OF SHELTER!!**

UPC PADS Site began welcoming guests in the fall of 1991 and has continued to actively help provide shelter for those experiencing a housing crisis in Lake County ever since (through support of the main PADS program and assisting at St. Mary of Vernon throughout the pandemic). This is all thanks to the support of so many people within the UPC congregation, St. Gilbert Parish & School, various organizations, businesses, groups, and individuals in Grayslake and the surrounding communities.

**THANK YOU!!!!**

—UPC PADS Site Leadership Team



# *UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP*



## **WCF NEWS—FEBRUARY 2022**

### **WCF MISSION FUND:**

We're **HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE** that a check for **\$540.29** was sent from our WCF Mission Fund to help support Tyler and Brittany's projects in West Africa. Thank you to all who were so generous in contributing!! I'm hopeful that WCF can continue to provide support in the form of a one-time contribution at the beginning of 2023.

When I shared this news with Tyler and Brittany, they were extremely grateful. Brittany shared the news that they have received 100% of the needed monthly commitments for their 2022 budget. PRAISE GOD!!

February is Joy Sharing at UPC for Tyer and Brittany, and I know many of you plan to contribute to their support through that giving. These one-time annual donations provide funds for increasing their ability to reach their many goals. We thank God for their devotion and service!!

### **BUNCO MAY RETURN!**

Plans are in place for BUNCO on Saturday, March 5, at 1 PM if Covid numbers are down and we can safely gather for a fun afternoon!! Watch the Tuesday Newsday emails and weekly bulletin for more details or cancellation. A special email will also be sent to WCF members closer to the beginning of March with detailed plans or notice of cancellation, depending on the Covid numbers at that time. **WCF WELCOMES ALL 18 & OVER!! PLEASE JOIN US!!**

### **CIRCLE NEWS:**

Circles plan to resume regular meetings in March if we can meet safely. Watch for detailed information regarding circle meetings in the Tuesday Newsday emails & weekly church bulletin.

<b>Circle</b>	<b>Day/Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Sun., Mar., TBD</b>	<b>12:15 p.m.</b>	<b>UPC Parlor</b>	<b>Catherine Vick</b>
<b>4/5</b>	<b>Wed., TBD</b>	<b>12:30 p.m.</b>	<b>UPC Parlor</b>	<b>Sue Schmidt</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Tues., TBD</b>	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Hillside Restaurant</b>	<b>Ruth Gheysen</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>Jasmine Walker</b>

Contact info for chairpersons can be found in our church directory or by contacting Rose Pech at 847-682-2837 or [rose4nonna@hotmail.com](mailto:rose4nonna@hotmail.com). Blessings to all, Rose Pech

## Birthday List:

2/1	Frank Garnier	2/22	Madison Eisenhour
2/1	Rose Craig Tyler	2/23	Michelle Adams
2/2	David Schmidt	2/23	Warren Bell
2/3	Cherlyn Lowe	2/28	Wendy Holliman
2/4	Prashant Singh		
2/7	Marjorie Miller		
2/8	John Rambo		
2/9	Kelly McDowell		
2/10	Lil Eldridge		
2/16	Heather Eisenhour		
2/17	James Muehleman		
2/21	Alva Mall		

## Anniversary List:

2/5	Andrew & Diane Sawicki
2/18	Karen & David Runyon
2/22	Craig & Barb Fischel
2/26	Ken & Anne Craig
2/26	Dale & Nancy Message

## Joy Sharing for February:

Tyler, Brittany, and Danielle (1.5 years old) support Bible Translation by starting a Demonstration Farm in West Africa. The farm will feature *cashews* as a *cash crop* and *tropical fruit trees* for local nutrition. Their *top strategic prayer requests* are for more farm teammates and improved transportation (domestic flights and paved roads in their host country).

## Sacred Grounds Fellowship:

Beginning February 13, we are looking for volunteers to bring treats...prepackaged and pre-cut to share on Sundays for Sacred Grounds Fellowship.

## Family Game Night!.

Please join us for Family Game Night on 2/26/22 @ 6:30 pm. Event will be hosted by Membership & Outreach. Games will be provided. You can also bring your own games. Snacks and drinks will be served. Come join us in Fellowship Hall and join in the fun! All are Welcome!

**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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8131

E-mail: [upc@upcgl.org](mailto:upc@upcgl.org)

Pastor: Rev. Ryan Kiblinger

[pastorryan@upcgl.org](mailto: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**

