

The Unifier



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February 2023

Grace to you and Peace!

This month I want to take a moment to speak with UPC about pastoral visits. One of the great joys and privileges with which ordained ministers are blessed, are pastoral visits. There is no higher priority for me than to be present to these invitations. It is my desire to pray with you in the hospital before or visit after a procedure, to join you to prayerfully listen to your challenges and hurts, or to shepherd your family through the final weeks, days or even minutes of our earthly journey with God. Permit me to share my thoughts on the best practices and policies for visits and calls.

“If I know I go.”

These words of wisdom were given to me by my first senior pastor; and they remain to this day my rule of thumb for pastoral visits. There are two pieces in this phrase I want to highlight with you all. First, I want everyone to hear the high importance I place on being present to your pastoral needs. It truly is an amazing privilege. Secondly, I want to stress that I need your help to make this happen. I can only be present if I am notified and invited in a timely fashion.

While those are my two key stresses, permit me to take this opportunity to share a few other thoughts on best practices. First, it is always best if a request is made directly by the person desiring a visit or a member of their immediate family, as opposed to by another church member or friend. Notifying us on behalf of someone else without their expressed need is not welcome.

When possible, the best and preferred method of notification of pastoral needs is an email to both myself (seniorpastor@upcgl.org) and our administrator, Sue Schmidt (churchsec@upcgl.org). When possible, earlier is always better. Also, please include you desire care as clearly and directly as possible (i.e. a personal visit, phone call, or just a prayer in church).

Of course, calling or texting me directly is also encouraged and at times is the primary and best method of contacting me. In particular, when a need is of a highly personal or sensitive nature and pastoral confidence is essential, or when the need is urgent, unexpected or an emergency. In these instances a direct call or text is not only appropriate but highly encouraged. In fact, let me take this time to share with you my new phone number, **(224) 463-2171**. This number is for church related calls only. This phone line is precisely so that I can put a premium on being available for pastoral emergencies. Please use this number for me moving forward and be encouraged to use it, as that is what it is for!

Finally, I do ask in advance for grace and patience. I am committed to responding in a timely fashion and to be present when needed. There are occasions when despite my best efforts, I may take a day or two to respond. Please know this is never a reflection of your importance to me but just a reflection of my limits.

I am so grateful to serve as your minister and I give thanks to God for each one of you. It is food for my heart and soul to be privileged to offer pastoral support and care to all of you as God's people. I look forward to walking both to blessed and challenging times with you all as United Protestant Church together.

In Christ,

Pastor Jason Okrzyński

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Dear Church Family,

As we enter our time of preparing for Lent, I want to take some time to introduce our Lenten study for this year. One of the themes we will be returning to throughout the year is the Sermon on the Mount. This extended sermon by Jesus is important for our Christian lives. It helps us to know how to live in the world around us. The sermon shows us how to fulfill the two greatest commands: love God and love your neighbor. So, this year for Lent, we will be exploring this creed established by Jesus and how it impacts our lives.

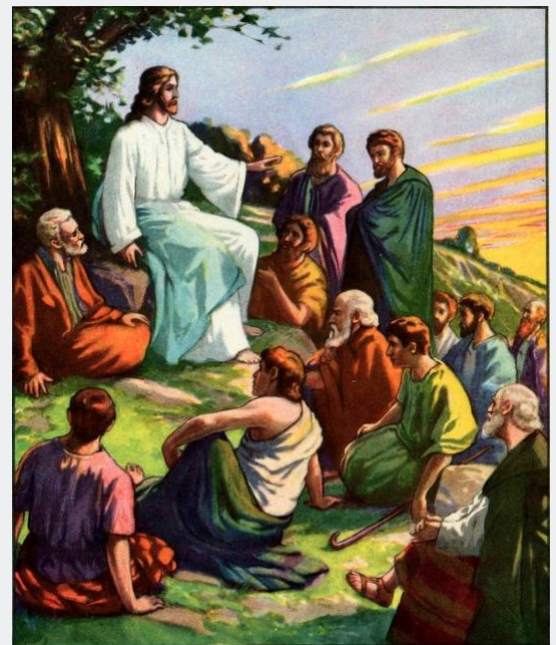
Our study will be *40 Days Living the Jesus Creed* by Scot McKnight. It is a devotional reading based on his book, *The Jesus Creed: Loving God, Loving Others*. This is ultimately the message of Jesus and a topic the epistles help us work out how to live out. My prayer for this Lenten season is that these daily readings and our weekly discussions will teach us how to put into practice Jesus' call to love both God and our neighbor well. I hope that you will join us for this journey throughout Lent. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of the sanctuary.

Our youth team is looking forward to offering a mission trip for our youth in June. We are hoping to hold two meetings this month. At our first meeting, Sunday, February 5th at 11:30 AM, we will finalize a location for our trip with input from those interested in going. We will then hold an informational meeting about the trip and set out a schedule for fundraising and preparing for the trip. This is a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and to grow in our trust in God.

In family news, over winter break, Emily signed up for a 10k race in Wisconsin. One of her friends, who also is one of the PE teachers at our kids' school, lives close to the race, so Emily invited her to run it with her. When Emily told William that her friend was going to run it with her, William gave a concerned face. He was conflicted and said he didn't know who to cheer for. Thankfully, Emily assured him it isn't that kind of race and he can cheer for everyone.

Blessings,

Ryan Aubrey
Director of Christian Education



STEWARDSHIP NEWS



The new UPC Stewardship Committee for 2023 plans to serve our generous God year round through a new stewardship initiative including, but not limited to, this *Unifier* column, sermons, music, screen time in worship, Bible study, classes for all ages on both stewardship and finance, corporate and personal prayer, programs and/or retreats, and personal testimonials as to what the United Protestant Church means to the speakers. Look here each month to see what is new on the horizon regarding the stewardship of our TIME, TALENTS and TREASURES.

Today I remind you of the call to the Stewardship Committee as stated in the By-Laws of the United Protestant Church:

- Assist the congregation in understanding the biblical and theological basis of stewardship,
- Provide programs and educational opportunities for the church regarding stewardship of time, talents and treasures. Further, we will encourage tithing,
- Work with the Budget and Finance Committee in canvassing of members and friends for support of the church budget, and
- Provide informational resources requested or necessary regarding long-term/perpetual stewardship for members to use in pre-retirement planning, planned giving and estate planning.

***From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another.
(John 1:16)***

Trusting the God that provides,

Carol Roselli-Rasmussen
Stewardship Committee Chairperson

MISSIONS

UPC Shopper News

With Valentine's Day just a couple of weeks away, now is the perfect time to pick up or order UPC Shopper gift cards for that special someone. You can give them as gifts or use them to buy the gifts or food for your celebration. If you are going to the movies, dinner, or even taking a trip, we can help. Besides the most common restaurant gift cards we keep in stock, there are **many** others available to order. See Dian Weinkauff to order **before February 5th** to assure the cards are here before Valentine's Day. **Remember each gift card you buy supports Operation Christmas Child.**

Joy Sharing for February

Tyler & Brittany serve an unreached people group in a remote area of **West Africa**. We support Translation by establishing a **Demonstration Fruit Tree Farm**.

Starting a Farm to meet people's physical needs is a great way to reach our community. Research shows that most people need repeated exposure to the good news before making a worldview change. We're starting by translating an **OT Summary** to explain why JC's sacrifice was necessary. Brittany does Comprehension Checking and we'll use our network of farmers for distribution.

We believe this **combination of Word and Deed will transform lives!**

So far in establishing the Demonstration Farm we:

- Bought *420 acres of land, drilled 3 water wells, training national employees*
- *Researching best practices* like living fences, intercropping, and irrigation
- *Imported* from a neighboring country and *transplanted grafted cashews*
- *Imported* from the U.S. over a dozen varieties of *grafted tropical fruit trees*

Most people are undernourished so in addition to cashews as a cash crop, we're planting tropical fruit trees and perennial greens for increased **nutrition**.

Our Strategic Requests:

- **Teammates:** urgent need for agriculture teammates!
- **Trees:** good growth & protection from fire
- **Translation:** progress on OT Summary
- **Treasure:** as farm and family grow we need to raise \$2,000/month by end of 2023



UPC PADS SITE UPDATES—FEBRUARY 2023

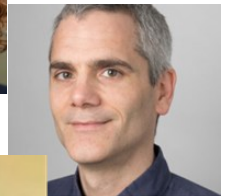


CHANGES IN PADS LAKE COUNTY ADMINISTRATION:

Meghan Powell-Filler resigned as Executive Director as of January 23, 2023. Thanks to Meghan for her outstanding service & support and best wishes in her future endeavors.



Eric Foote is Interim Executive Director as PADS searches for a new director. We look forward to his leadership.



Samantha Houck began as **Director of Shelter** in January. Welcome to Samantha in her new role.



PAD VOLUNTEERS ARE IN CRITICAL NEED TUESDAY, FRIDAY, & SATURDAY NIGHTS!! Sign up online or contact church! (Sign up for any night that works for you!)

Sunday: 1st Presbyterian Church of Deerfield (Men only site)

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e45a9a929a5fcc52-pads>

Also Sunday: Christian Assembly in Zion (Women only site)

Contact church for info: 847-872-3541; christianassembly@outlook.com

Monday: Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church, Washington St.

<https://signup.com/go/nVVtqLp>

Tuesday: Wildwood Presbyterian Church, Gages Lake Road

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D44A5A72BA1FAC61-pads>

Wednesday: 1st Presbyterian Church of Libertyville

<https://firstpreslibertyville.org/serve-page/>

Friday: St. Mark Lutheran Church, Grand Ave., Lindenhurst

signup genius is on the St. Mark Lutheran Church website under Ministry Partners
PADS: Friday Night PADS Sign Up (signupgenius.com).

Friday & Saturday: Friday hosted by Libertyville Campus & Saturday by Grayslake Campus—both use same online signup <https://chapel.org/pads/>

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT UPC FOR PADS?

- Welcoming **Amy Bechard**, UPC PADS Site Volunteer Coordinator for main shifts!!
- New shift leaders will be trained in February to be prepared for fall. STILL NEED an additional 3rd shift leader (3 - 7 AM) and a 2nd shift leader (11 PM - 3 AM).
- **13 more volunteers are still needed** for the main shifts; training begins in March.

– From the UPC PADS Site Leadership Team

WCF NEWS — FEBRUARY 2023

WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

WCF WELCOMES ALL WOMEN 18 & OVER!! PLEASE JOIN US!!



GREAT NEWS FROM TYLER, BRITTANY & DANIELLE:

“AND THEN THERE WERE 4...” “DEP-DEP” IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE THIS COMING SUMMER AFTER THE FAMILY RETURNS TO THE USA FOLLOWING THEIR 3 MONTHS IN WEST AFRICA!

CIRCLE NEWS

Circle 2 will have their next meeting on March 6. The members meet following worship on one Sunday of every month EXCEPT January and February.

Circle 4/5 members will be taking a break in February and will resume meeting in March when they will finalize details for hosting our March 11 BUNCO game time!

Circle 9's December and January meetings included only 2 of their members as the rest of the members had other commitments. Those who could be present enjoyed the personal time to visit.



WCF SPRING MEETING: BUNCO ON SATURDAY, MARCH 11!
Mark your calendars NOW!! WATCH FOR DETAILS in TUESDAY NEWSDAYS, SUNDAY BULLETINS, and the MARCH UNIFIER.

See the chart for meeting information for all Circles. Only Circle 9 is scheduled to meet in February.

Watch for more detailed information regarding changes for circle meetings in the Tuesday Newsdays emails, weekly church bulletins, and our monthly UNIFIER articles. To contact chairpersons: See the church directory or contact Rose Pech 847-682-2837; rose4nonna@hotmail.com.

Circle	Day/Date	Time	Place	Contact
2	Next Meeting Sun., March 6	11:30 AM	UPC Meeting Room	Catherine Vick
4/5	Next Meeting Wed., March 1	11:30 AM	Culver's—Grayslake	Sue Schmidt
9	Tues., Feb.14	5:30 PM	Hillside Restaurant	Ruth Gheysen
10	TBD	TBD	TBD	Jasmine Walker

WCF MISSION FUND: Donations made to this fund for Tyler & Brittany totaled \$387.50. The money should be in their account at ILAD by the time they begin their next 3 months in West Africa.

Some members contributed to the main UPC Joy Sharing Fund for Tyler & Brittany, and that money will be sent sometime after Joy Sharing donations are received for Tyler & Brittany during February.

Donations may be made to the WCF Mission Fund for Tyler & Brittany at any time during 2023. Make checks payable to UPC with “WCF Mission Fund” in the memo or put a donation into an envelope marked WCF Mission Fund. To donate online at any time, go to www.ilad.ngo/D2002. Donations made by paper check are payable to ILAD with D2002 written in the memo. Mail checks to ILAD, Atten: D2002, P.O. Box 383153, Duncanville, TX 75138-3183.

--Blessings to All, Rose Pech

February Birthdays

2/1 Frank Garnier
2/1 Rose Craig Tyler
2/2 Dave Schmidt
2/3 Cherlyn Lowe
2/7 Marjorie Miller
2/10 Lillian Eldridge
2/11 Jeffrey Taylor
2/16 Heather Eisenhour
2/17 James Muehleman
2/21 Alva Mall
2/23 Michelle Adams
2/23 Warren Bell
2/28 Wendy Holliman

February Anniversaries

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



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

Members: Marie Frandsen, Susan Green, Ben Kelly-Fuller, Joan Hendricks, Joanne Lawrence, Mary Ann McDowell, Marjorie Miller, Eric Stahl, Pat Wackerlin, Dan Watkins, and Bobbie Weichman.

Tyler, Brittany & Danielle – are happy to announce a coming addition to their family. The baby (Dep-Dep) is due in late June, so their request for a nanny has become a request for a nanny for 2 children. Prayers for this request to be answered and for their plans to work out for serving in West Africa from February through May, working from their Florida base from May to October, and returning for a full term in West Africa in late October. As always, pray for them to have the same peace Paul did in Philippians 4:11-13 regardless of their circumstances.

Relatives & Friends: Allen Anglin, Kathy Behm, Joe Boccaleoni, Kathy Weichman Bradley, Lorine Cooper, Patricia Davis, Judy Hendrickson, Mary Mason, Gloria Meier, Tommy Nellessen, Gary Sadlack, Stephan, Erik and Kacie Stanley, their son and Erik's mother, Diane.

Long-term prayers: Bruce Baird, Flora Boehm & family, Betty Bournes, Thomas Bournes, Mary Brase, Don & Tina Busch, Pat Curnow, Brad Fuller, Trish Jelinek, Rick Juern, Sue (PADS friend), Wendy (friend of Rose Pech), and Michelle (friend of Linda Markham).



**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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Grayslake, IL 60030

Phone: 847-223-8131

E-mail: upc@upcgl.org

Pastor: Rev. Jason Okrzynski

Email:
seniorpastor@upcgl.org

Church Office Hours:
Tuesday & Thursday
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Grounded | Empowered | Transformed

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

