

The Unifier



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

July 2024

Grace to you and Peace,

Happy 4th of July!

As you likely know, we have been hosting a series of Grayslake Revivals on the UPC front lawn. The last two Wednesdays, a small group has gathered to sing, pray and contemplate God's Word together on the front lawn. Both services have been an absolute blessing. Everyone from UPC who has come has enjoyed this relaxed opportunity for worship and prayer. Whether or not any of the many passers-by have been at all curious to join us at some point, I cannot say. I will leave that up to the Holy Spirit. I am very grateful for the support and the risk we have taken in trying something new to reach out to the community.

Most Americans are very aware this 4th of July that, right now, our nation is most going through some growing pains in its relatively young history as a nation. How the country will look whenever it emerges from this transitional period no one really knows. One change that is clear, however, seems to be the importance of church participation. Recent studies indicate clearly that most congregations have seen a significant decline in membership. I am convinced that this correlates more with the moment in our culture than anything else. Nonetheless, there are a significant number of congregations who have bucked that trend and seen significant growth in recent years, even through the pandemic.

UPC is in its own season of transition and re-birth. It is up to the Spirit to guide us into a new season and chapter as a congregation. However, it is up to us to cooperate with what God will do, and in order to do that, we must be open and attentive to the Spirit.

Now is the time to listen and watch together for signs of the new thing the Spirit is preparing at UPC.

In Christ,

Rev. Jason Okrzynski, PhD
Senior Pastor

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Dear Church Family,

Whenever I reflect on the education ministries at UPC, I am so thankful for all our volunteers. We could not run our ministries effectively without your amazing help and willingness to serve.

As I look forward to this upcoming year, we need a few more volunteers for our Adult and Children's Ministry. To run these programs most effectively, our church needs one or two more people willing to teach in our Children's Ministry and more people who would be willing to be a Sunday School helper. Often, this means you would commit to leading a children's class once per month, though you could certainly assist more if you'd like!

People who volunteer to lead children's Sunday school are provided with the lesson plan and materials and supplies needed about a month in advance. They are also given flexibility to adjust and tailor the lesson to their needs, and I am a resource to help support wherever needed. The curriculum UPC uses is designed to be user-friendly and connect well with the kids.

I am also looking to expand the variety of teachers for our Adult Education classes. These classes typically vary from topical discussions to exploring books of the Bible. The structure of the class is usually flexible depending upon the person leading. If this is something you would be interested in, please let me know. I would love to provide opportunities for a variety of people to serve in our various educational ministries, so that the people of our church can utilize their giftings as well as we can be taught by a variety of voices.

On the family front, we recently went on our annual family vacation with my side of the family. This year's trip was to New Orleans. We had a wonderful time; the kids were especially excited to visit Storyland. Early on, we were reminded of just how God works even in the small decisions that we make. Just over two hours into the drive, our check engine light turns on and is flashing. Thankfully, we were right next to an exit, and so we managed to get to a gas station. I called my parents to update them on our situation, and they said they would see if they were close by to help.

Amazingly, they were at the same exit, just on the other side of the interstate. So, they came over and took the kids to get a treat and occupy them for a while. After a few hours of waiting for a tow truck, they took the kids on to our hotel in Memphis. We were finally able to get a tow truck, and the driver suggested a local mechanic. We got to the auto shop around 3 pm, and thankfully, they were able to get the car fixed and back on the road by around 6 pm. Emily and I made it to our hotel in Memphis by 1 am.

God made all this work out so well, despite the stress of having to find a tow truck and mechanic in rural Illinois on a Saturday. There were so many decisions that God put together before our trip that showed His hand and care. My parents had thought about flying, but decided to drive down instead. Also, they ended up leaving a little later than expected, which meant that they were at the same exit when I called. It truly felt like a miracle. We praise God for His wonderful provision.

Blessings,

Ryan Aubrey, Director of Christian Education

STEWARDSHIP NEWS



Dear UPC Members and Friends,

This month in my exploration through stewardship books, videos, and additional religious study, I encountered a neat little book written by a retired farmer and his daughter entitled *Giving That Matters to God* by Wendell Van Gunst and Betty Arkema. They share insightful ideas about true Christian stewardship with the reader of which, over the course of our stewardship education this year, I hope to share.

This month I offer you this wisdom from a farmer and his daughter to contemplate as you examine your own journey as a Christian steward.

If we lived every day convicted of the truth that Jesus came here to live among us, to teach and love people, to suffer and die for people, to conquer death, then don't you think it would affect what we do, what we say, and even how we spend our money? The idea that the gospel of Jesus Christ matters to everyone should motivate everything we do. It should drive the conversations I have with people, where I spend my time, and how I spend my money. What more valuable thing could there be to spend our time and money on than people's eternity?

Trusting Our God Who Provides,

Carol Roselli-Rasmussen



**Please remember the
United Protestant Church
in your Estate Planning.**





JULY 2024

UPC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 9:00am Park District Preschool Summer Camp (202) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	2 9:00am Park District Preschool Summer Camp (202) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105)	3 9:00am Park District Preschool Summer Camp (202) 11:30am Circle 4/5 (Culver's) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH) 7:15pm Troop 451 Board of Review (101)	4 OFFICE CLOSED 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	5	6
7 10:00am Worship Service 11:30am Circle 2 (MR)	8 9:00am Park District Preschool Summer Camp (202) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	9 9:00am Park District Preschool Summer Camp (202) 5:30pm Circle 9 (Mrs. V's) 6:30pm North Star District Commissioner Meeting (MR) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 PLC (101)	10 9:00am Park District Preschool Summer Camp (202) 6:30pm Summer Revival Worship Service (front lawn) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH) 7:30pm PUSH (Parlor)	11 9:00am Park District Preschool Summer Camp (202) 7:00pm Budget & Finance (MR) 7:30pm AA (106,105)	12	13
14 10:00am Worship Service 2:00pm Parks & Practices for Families (location TBD)	15 9:00am Park District Preschool Summer Camp (202) 7:00pm Ad Council (FH) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	16 9:00am Park District Preschool Summer Camp (202) 6:30pm Staff Parish (Parlor) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105) 7:00pm Nami Family Support Group (MR) 7:00pm Troop 451 Committee Meeting (101)	17 9:00am Park District Preschool Summer Camp (202) 6:30pm Summer Revival Worship Service (front lawn) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	18 9:00am Park District Preschool Summer Camp (202) 7:30pm AA (106,105)	19	20
21 10:00am Worship Service 2:00pm Parks & Practices for Families (location TBD)	22 9:00am Park District Preschool Summer Camp (202) 7:00pm Mission Committee (Parlor) 7:00pm Worship Committee (MR) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	23 9:00am Park District Preschool Summer Camp (202) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105) 7:00pm Membership Cultivation Committee (MR)	24 9:00am Park District Preschool Summer Camp (202) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	25 9:00am Park District Preschool Summer Camp (202) 7:30pm AA (106,105)	26	27
28 10:00am Worship Service	29 9:00am Park District Preschool Summer Camp (202) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	30 9:00am Park District Preschool Summer Camp (202) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105)	31 9:00am Park District Preschool Summer Camp (202) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00 Troop 451 Meeting (FH)			

OUTDOOR WORSHIP REVIVAL SCHEDULE



Wednesday evenings in conjunction
with the Grayslake Farmers Market

July 10 & 17

6:30 p.m. to 7:15 p.m.

UPC Front Lawn

Bring a lawn chair or blanket

*Picnic tables are also available for
additional seating*



Some UPC members and friends joined together for lunch at Curt's Café in Highland Park on Wednesday, June 12 after packing meals at Feed My Starving Children in Libertyville. Some Mission Committee members were there to present a Joy Sharing check to Curt's for \$1,115 that was collected from our awesome congregation.

(Pictured: Skip and Karen Runyon, Mary Ann McDowell, Ruth Gheysen, Linda Rambo, Lynn Hallen, Jack Powell, Amanda Bartz, Dave Bartz, Cinda Bartz, and Karen Thoms. Not pictured: Sue Schmidt)



**HAVE A SAFE AND
HAPPY 4TH OF JULY
HOLIDAY!**

MISSIONS



The next UPC packing session at Feed My Starving Children in Libertyville is scheduled for **Tuesday, July 2 from 7:15-8:45 p.m.** If you are interested in participating, please contact Cinda Bartz at bartzc@sbcglobal.net.



During the month of July, we would like to collect musical instruments such as harmonicas and recorders, combs, brushes, small tote or purses, solar or crank flashlights, and bouncy balls to fill 250 shoebox gifts.

The Mission Committee would like to thank this amazing congregation for their continued generosity to our Joy Sharing partners. Listed below are the amounts raised for each partner so far this year:

- ♦ The Lake County Haven—\$680
- ♦ Tyler & Brittany—\$585
- ♦ Adult Mission Trip—\$360
- ♦ Curt's Café—\$1,115
- ♦ Malaria No More—\$490
- ♦ Living Water International—\$690

Thank you!

JOY SHARING

Our Joy Sharing for July is World Relief. Founded in the aftermath of World War II, World Relief is a global Christian humanitarian organization that partners with local churches and communities to develop sustainable, locally-driven solutions to some of the world's most urgent problems. They envision thriving, welcoming communities where families flourish, and people experience restorative relationships with God, their neighbors, themselves, and all creation.

Humanitarian crises are on the rise, fueled by increasing conflict and climate events around the world. Tragic events such as crisis in the Middle East, war in Ukraine, conflict in DR Congo and the Sudanese refugee crisis in Chad have caused immense suffering and loss in recent years. More people than ever have been forced to flee for their lives, desperately seeking refuge in a country or community not their own. Over 40% of these refugees are children. Read the latest news at worldrelief.org. Joy Sharing Sunday is July 21.



PADS LAKE COUNTY:

• LAKE COUNTY'S 1ST FIXED FAMILY SHELTER SITE ZONING APPROVED!

Waukegan's City Council unanimously approved the conditional zoning for PADS to use the current **Travelodge at North Lewis Avenue as a fixed shelter site for families who are being served by PADS Lake County**. PADS hopes to complete renovations and have the site open by this coming spring or early next summer. Both DuPage County PADS and the city of Evanston have fixed sites which have been successfully operating for some time. We are thrilled to join them in moving forward for those experiencing homelessness. The future for help depends on fixed sites and affordable housing, as well as other systematic changes.



- **Gurnee: FairBridge Inn Express, 3740 Grand Avenue**, is the proposed site for a fixed shelter for individuals. Meetings continue to be held with hopes that this property will become the next fixed shelter site. If zoning is approved, PADS Lake County will begin renovating it and hope to open it sometime next year. Pray that zoning is approved and that it will be an asset for people who are homeless and for people who have businesses and/or homes in the area.



- **Current client numbers:** At last report, **approximately 520 people** who are experiencing a housing crisis were housed in motels in Lake County.
- **Current Needs:** In addition to regular food supplies for clients in hotels, sack lunches are a continuing need for people who come to 1800 Grand Avenue to seek help from PADS. Lunches can be delivered to PADS at 1800 Grand Avenue during any weekday. Sign up on 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.

JOIN PADS FOR A CELEBRATION: On Saturday, September 28 at 7 p.m., PADS will host its 2024 Path to Progress Celebration, dubbed "A Night at the Speakeasy Casino," at Hawthorn Mall in Vernon Hills. This event will be an exquisite blend of 1920's glamour, excitement, and philanthropy, all in support of PADS Lake County. Tickets to the event will be available through their website (padslakecounty.org) beginning in July. Hope to see you there!

UPC PADS UPDATE:

- **Thanks** to members of the **Grayslake Senior Center**, an extra carload of food was taken to the First Presbyterian Church for PADS clients. Thanks to everyone who continues to donate! Every item each of you brings makes a difference!
- **July 8-September 11**, contact the church office for any PADS information.



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, or Rose Pech. See the church bulletin, Tuesday Newsday, and UNIFIER for updates.

Circle 2: Meetings are held at **11:30 AM in the UPC Meeting Room** one Sunday each month from March through December. Our next meeting will be **Sunday, July 7**. Contact Catherine Vick. Watch for information in September when dates will be scheduled for UPC members and friends to join us as we volunteer at the Avon Food Pantry.

Circle 4/5: meets on the first Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be at **11:30 AM on July 3 at Culver's** in Grayslake. 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 next meeting will be **Tuesday, July 9**.

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., July 7	11:30 AM	UPC Meeting Room	Catherine Vick
4/5	Wed., July 3	11:30 AM	Culver's in Grayslake	Sue Schmidt
9	Tues., July 9	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: In a recent email, we learned that holidays in their West African village are like Halloween for the children who live there because they dress up, but in nice clothes and not costumes, and go around collecting candy. Prayer requests sent at the end of June are for Tyler and teammates as he helps consult on building a carport to mount solar panels, for a solution for West Africa Branch's URGENT need for an onsite administrator, for all projects to increase their progress rate to complete at least 4% of the Bible each year, and for networks of churches using Kon Scripture to grow and multiply. Remember that donations can be made any time online or to the local UPC Tyler & Brittany Fund in addition to the special Joy Sharing Sunday which the Mission Committee provides each year.

July Birthdays

7/3 Joanne Lawrence
7/3 Tim Pech, Sr.
7/5 Joan Hendricks
7/5 Evan Kutsin
7/8 Dan Watkins
7/12 Caroline Walker
7/14 David Bartz
7/14 Katelyn Rasmussen
7/16 Abigail Madden
7/20 Ann Thompson
7/23 Karen Knapp
7/27 Katherine Christensen
7/28 William Weller

July Anniversaries

7/11 Ryan & Emily Aubrey
7/14 Joshua & Sarah Grubbs
7/30 Wendell & Helene Fry



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

Members: Marlene Badgerow, Cinda Bartz, Marie Frandsen, David Holliman, Joanne Lawrence, Mary Ann McDowell, Marjorie Miller, John Porteous, Dan Watkins, Bobbie Weichman, and Dian Weinkauf.

Tyler, Brittany & Danielle, & Joanna: have several requests to share: 1) healing for Solo's toddler who burned his leg in boiling water; 2) wisdom as they add 2 nannies to their schedule; 3) good health and availability of the Malaria Vaccine; and 4) increase their monthly fund by \$325.

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

Long-term prayers: Bruce Baird, Flora Boehm & family, 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

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