

The Unifier



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July 2025

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from Jesus Christ,

I am still feeling an incredible amount of gratitude for the 75th celebration, and for the privilege of being with you during this meaningful season. I have also not grown tired of expressing gratitude to everyone who contributed so generously to making that Sunday a success. The day was a joy because of the tremendous outpouring of joyful generosity from so many diverse members of this congregation and her history. I wish we could celebrate our anniversary in such a grand fashion every week.

However, instead of celebrating our anniversary every week, we have an even more important task before us. Namely, getting on with the next 75 years! Last Sunday reflects what I see (and hear repeatedly) as the history of United Protestant. From its very first days, UPC has been a community of Christians committed to working together to respond to the Gospel by doing whatever is needed for the community. That included starting a church of course, but it has also included partnering with local charities to care for the world, offering space(s) for members of Grayslake to gather, volunteering, serving in various roles in the community and military; and improvising to be the hands, feet, and voice of Jesus wherever and however the Spirit calls.

In closing, I want to make sure that you have heard of the "\$75K for 75 Years Campaign." The 75th Anniversary Committee, Stewardship Committee, and Budget & Finance have all combined their efforts to raise money to replenish the UPC Endowment Fund. Their stated goal is to raise \$75,000 for the endowment fund between now and February 2026. The combined committees have already raised \$30,000 of matching funds to get the process started. Those same committees are also in the process of planning a fundraising event later this year or early next year to help supplement our fundraising efforts. Please consider if you are able and interested in contributing any amount of money to the "\$75K for 75 Years Campaign," and stayed tuned for more information about how you can help support the upcoming "\$75K for 75 Years Campaign" fundraiser.

Enjoy the weekend!

In Christ,

Rev. Jason Okrzynski, PhD

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

\$75K for 75 Years Campaign

Dear UPC Members and Friends,

As announced in June's newsletter and in last Sunday's announcements from the pulpit, it is our hope to invest \$75,000 to our Endowment Fund to celebrate \$75K for 75 of UPC's Years of Keeping Faith. We would welcome your gifts and/or pledges between now and the 70th anniversary of the consecration of UPC's present sanctuary in February 2026. To help achieve this goal, several donors have volunteered to match your gifts and/or pledges in the amount of \$30,000.

If you would like to make a gift or pledge between now and February 2026, in a level your budget and comfort will allow, we welcome it. Checks should include "75 for 75" in the memo line. Pledge cards will also be available on the back table in the parlor. If you wish, you can "split" your gift between 2025 and 2026 to potentially take advantage of any tax benefits.

The chart on page 3 of this newsletter shows our current amount received of \$5,500 towards our matching amount. This chart will be updated as gifts and pledges are received. Between our generous advance donors and your gifts and/or pledges, we know we can reach \$75K or beyond to celebrate UPC's 75+ Years of Keeping Faith!

Blessings,

The Stewardship Committee and Budget & Finance



FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY



Too hot to cook? The Mission Committee invites all UPC members, friends, and neighbors to eat their breakfast, lunch or dinner (or all three) at the **Panera** located at 6440 Grand Avenue in **Gurnee** on **Wednesday, July 16**. Panera will pay UPC **30%** of all sales from people who turn in the flier in this week's bulletin or a digital copy (or use the promo code **FUND4U** if ordering online.) Your meal can be dine-in, pick-up, drive-thru or delivery. All funds raised will go to help lower our budget deficit. Don't forget to purchase Panera gift cards from **UPC Shopper** and benefit Operation Christmas Child at no extra cost.

Watch for more fundraising opportunities coming this fall.

\$75K for 75 Years

Endowment Fund

Our Endowment Giving Goal

\$45K

Our Giving

\$40K

\$35K

\$30K

\$25K

\$20K

\$15K

\$10K

\$5K

Promised Matching Gifts

\$30K

Legend

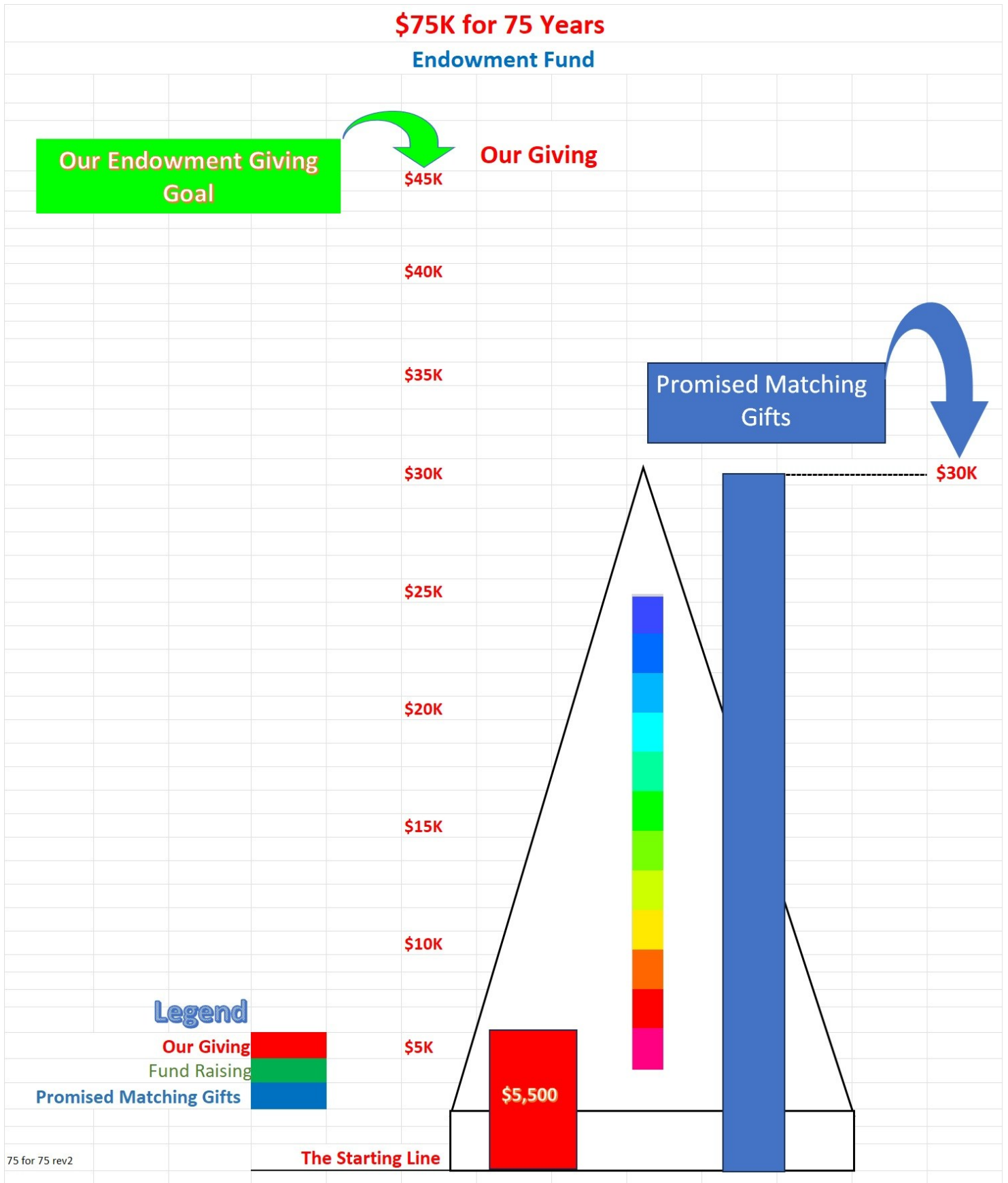
Our Giving

Fund Raising

Promised Matching Gifts

\$5,500

The Starting Line



Celebrating UPC's 75th Anniversary



1950-2025







JULY 2025

United Protestant Church CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105)	2 11:30am Circle 4/5 (Culver's) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105)	3 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	4 JULY 4TH HOLIDAY	5
6 10:00am Worship Service	7 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	8 5:30pm Circle 9 (Mrs. V's) 7:00pm Troop 451 PLC (101) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105)	9 6:30pm Governance Task Force (MR) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm PUSH (Parlor) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	10 2:00pm Budget & Finance (MR) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	11	12 7:30am Grayslake 5K Walk/Run
13 10:00am Worship Service 11:30am Circle 2 (MR)	14 7:00pm Children's Ministry Committee (MR) 7:30pm AA (106, 105) 8:00pm Christian Ed. Commission (MR)	15 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105) 7:00pm Nami Family Support Group (MR) 7:00pm Troop 451 Committee Meeting (101)	16 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	17 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	18	19
20 10:00am Worship Service 11:30am Youth Activities (FH)	21 7:00pm Ad Council (FH) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	22 7:00pm Stewardship Committee (MR) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105)	23 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	24 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	25	26
27 10:00am Worship Service	28 6:30pm Worship Committee (MR) 7:00pm Mission Committee (103) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	29 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105)	30 6:00pm Staff Parish (MR) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	31 7:30pm AA (106, 105)		

MISSIONS UPDATE



The next UPC packing session at Feed My Starving Children in Libertyville is scheduled for **Tuesday, July 1 from 7:15-8:45 p.m.** If you are interested in participating, please contact Cinda Bartz at bartzc@sbcglobal.net. The August session is scheduled for Tuesday, August 5. Mark your calendars now and sign up.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (OCC)

We are collecting the following items for Operation Christmas Child throughout the month of July: dolls, musical instruments (harmonicas and recorders), combs and brushes, small totes or purses, solar or crank flashlights, and balls.

JOY SHARING FOR JULY

The Mission Team is excited to announce a new Joy Share opportunity for July. Feed6 organizes meal packaging events in the Chicagoland area, partnering with schools, churches, corporations, and civic organizations. Volunteers come together to package nutritional meals of pasta in a tomato basil sauce fortified with soy and vitamins—producing an entree more nutritious than popular brands available in the super-market. Each meal package the volunteers lovingly package has 6 meal portions. The meals are distributed locally through food banks to food insecure neighbors here in our own communities. Co-founder Bill Kanatas will be at UPC on July 20 to speak and answer any questions you might have. For further information, please visit their website at Feed6.org. Flyers are available on the Mission table.



AVON TOWNSHIP CENTER



Our next session for UPC Community Project volunteers to help at Avon Township Center will be from **6:30-8:00 PM on July 22**. All future sessions will also be scheduled from 6:30-8:00 PM, but volunteers are encouraged to come at 7:00 if 6:30 PM is too early. Meet at Avon Township Center, 433 W. Washington St., Round Lake Park. Park on the east side of the building (side closer to Hainesville Rd. intersection). Enter through the door on

that side of the building, then walk through the door immediately to your left, and continue walking until you reach the sorting and storage room.

Questions? Contact Rose Pech at rose4nonna@hotmail.com or 847-682-2837.

It's garage sale season. If your neighbors have a sale, please consider stopping in to ask them if they will donate any unsold shoes to **Soles for Jesus**. They can give the shoes to you to bring to UPC, or if there are too many, they can contact Cinda at 847-727-1552.

Saturday, July 12—UPC needs 20 volunteers to help with the Grayslake 5K Run starting at 7:45 a.m. We currently have 17 people signed up but need 3 more. Please contact the church office if you can help. This is a community event that we can help support. Contact Pastor Jason or Sue Schmidt with any questions.



ATTENTION UPC YOUTH!

UPC Youth—from those just completing 6th grade through 2025 high school graduates—and their friends will gather for a pizza lunch after worship on **Sunday, July 20** to be followed by an activity/event of their choosing for summer fun! The activity for the day will be selected from the list of ideas submitted by the young people after they have noted their top choices and narrowed it down to one that can be done on that afternoon. Text or call Rose Pech at 847-682-2837 or email rose4nonna@hotmail.com if you're planning to attend. Give your name and contact information, the number of friends who will be coming with you, and your top 3 choices for the activity after the pizza lunch. The activity getting the most votes will be the one we use for that day. Be sure your choices are ones that can be scheduled for that afternoon. Watch for future announcements as plans will be coming soon regarding the big August Kickoff for the 2025-2026 Youth Program.

FIFTH SUNDAY MISSION

Our 5th Sunday Mission collection was announced on Sunday, June 29, and highlights PADS Lake County. PADS staff members continuously praise UPC and our UPC PADS supporters—St. Gilbert Church, Grayslake Lions Club, Grayslake Exchange Club, and many others—for the many ways in which we have helped to meet their clients' needs **for 34 YEARS!** Non-food items should go into the PADS "Clothing" bin at UPC. Food donations may go into the "Food" bin at UPC, delivered to First Presbyterian Church in Libertyville between 4:00 & 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, or delivered directly by using their Amazon wish list link:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/XD5I2ZRDQKE5?ref=wl_share

If you don't wish to shop, those of you who are able could purchase Walmart gift cards and donate them to UPC PADS for the purchase of items needed by PADS clients. UPC receives funds from these purchases to help ship OCC boxes. Contact Rose Pech at 847-682-2837 or rose4nonna@hotmail.com if donating large items and/or large quantities of items other than food. Thank you to all who donated and who continue to do so! Donations may also be made to the UPC PADS Fund. **Update on PADS gift cards and funds:** Another \$300 worth of food purchased using donated Walmart gift cards was delivered to First Presbyterian Church PADS pantry the last Wednesday of June. **Some gift cards earmarked for food are still available** for purchasing needed food during the next couple of months. However, **we used the last gift cards available for clothing and shoes, diapers, formula, toiletries, cleaning supplies, and other types of clients' needs in June.** Money has been transferred from our UPC PADS Fund to purchase \$1,000 worth of cards to allow us to continue providing for these types of clients' needs. Our **UPC PADS Fund is now at its lowest level in over 20 years.** Your prayers are needed more than ever for the continued financial support necessary to continue to be the backup when other PADS resources are not available to meet the clients' needs.



PADS Lake County: 137 clients currently in shelter; 62 are children. Clients have been consolidated in the Super 8 Motel in Mundelein. Some permits are still needed before construction can begin on the fixed family shelter, but the goal is still to open the shelter on North Lewis Avenue in Waukegan by January. As this time approaches, PADS is looking for churches to once again partner as we did prior to the pandemic by providing meals, especially hot dinners to that shelter.

UPC PADS Support for PADS Lake County:

The way UPC hopes to answer the above call from PADS Lake County, in addition to what we're doing now, is to provide a hot dinner meal for 60 people once a week, just as we did from 1991 until 2020. Plans are for the meal to be prepared at UPC on Thursdays and delivered to the fixed shelter site on Friday. We also hope to have restaurant donations which could be picked up and delivered on Fridays. To do this, we'll need volunteers! **Kitchen volunteers will prepare a meal at UPC on most Thursdays** and refrigerate the food there because it won't be prepared in time to be delivered for dinner that day. Other **volunteers will deliver the meal to the shelter sometime on Friday** where it can be warmed up for the clients to eat that evening. The shelter will have the ability to warm food, but not to cook. We already have 5 previous PADS volunteers who've agreed to be scheduled monthly to help prepare meals and 2 others who've volunteered to deliver them. In addition to kitchen and delivery volunteers, we'll need **someone to contact restaurants to request meal donations** which can be **picked up and delivered by volunteers** some weeks to help reduce our food costs and the number of volunteers required. We also hope to have **a volunteer coordinator to schedule the kitchen volunteers** and another **volunteer to schedule the delivery drivers**. We plan to start organizing and scheduling in November, so we're prepared by late December or early January if our help is needed that soon. At this point, we are seeking the names and contact information of people who would like to know more and who think they'd be interested in volunteering in one of the positions in bold print above. The kitchen and driving positions can be once a month or more frequently. The coordinators would be ongoing volunteer positions for a length of time to be determined by the volunteers involved as the positions are being filled. Contact Rose Pech for more information: rose4nonna@hotmail.com or 847-682-2837.

UPC Financial Update as of May 31, 2025:

YTD Income:	\$101,805.73
YTD Expenses:	\$115,358.62
YTD Deficit:	\$-13,552.89

UPC T-shirts are available for sale. Cost per shirt is \$20 for sizes S-XL. Larger sizes can be special ordered for \$25 each. Contact the office if you are interested in purchasing.



WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY!

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT WCF? Contact Sue Schmidt, Catherine Vick, Ruth Gheysen, Rose Pech, or call the church office at 847-223-8131 for more info! See the church bulletin, Tuesday Newsday, and UNIFIER for updates.

USE INFORMATION BELOW and the TABLE BELOW to choose what works for you!

Circle 2 meets once a month on a Sunday at **11:30 AM in the UPC Meeting Room**. Sundays vary monthly based on other UPC events. They will work on more **donations for Operation Christmas Child during their July 13 meeting**. Sally Kelly will provide the devotions. Contact Catherine Vick for more information.

Circle 4/5 meets on the first Wednesday of the month at **11:30 AM at Culver's** in Grayslake. Contact Sue Schmidt to join these ladies for **lunch on July 2**.

Circle 9 meets year-round at **5:30 PM on the second Tuesday** of each month **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 Circle 9 members prior to joining these ladies for **dinner on July 8**.

Circle 10 does not meet in person on a regular basis, but members are in contact with each other on Facebook. Contact Jasmine Walker.

Circle	Day/Date	Time	Place	Contact
2	Sun., July 13	11:30 AM	UPC Meeting Room	Catherine Vick
4/5	Wed., July 2	11:30 AM	Culver's in Grayslake	Sue Schmidt
9	Tues., July 8	5:30 PM	Mrs. V's in Round Lake Beach	Ruth Gheysen
10	N/A	N/A	N/A	Jasmine Walker

Tyler, Brittany, Danielle, & Joanna are giving praise for Tyler's opportunity to travel all expenses paid to share his project at a convention in Rome and to learn more when he visits a farm in the Netherlands. Major prayer requests at this time are for his safe travel and for Brittany as she faces the challenges of living in the small village, caring for their girls and the household, and continues her translation tasks. Donations are always much needed and may be made at <http://www.ilad.ngo/D2002> or to their UPC fund at any time.

UPC STAFF:

SENIOR PASTOR
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
ACCOMPANIST
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/CLERK
TREASURER
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Rev. Jason Okrzynski, PhD
Kurt Mockenhaupt
Marcia Twadell
Sue Schmidt
Lynn Hallen
Jan Kendrick, Cinda Bartz

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
7/16 Abigail Madden
7/20 Ann Thompson
7/23 Karen Knapp
7/27 Katherine Christensen

July Anniversaries

7/14 Joshua & Sarah Grubbs
7/30 Wendell & Helene Fry



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

Members: Bill Churchill, Craig Fischel, Marie Frandsen, David Holliman, Jan Kendrick, Joanne Lawrence, Joyce & Terry Norton, John Porteous, Dan Watkins, Bobbie Weichman, and Jeff Ziegler.

May he rest in peace: Ralph Gotlund

Tyler, Brittany, Danielle, & Joanna: give praises for prayer support that is so greatly needed and for other ongoing support received from people like those of you at UPC. Prayer requests: continued encouragement for Brittany as she deals with the challenges of rural village living; Tyler's visit at Solar Guy's farm in Netherlands June 27- July 3; prayers for wisdom in ordering farm items for **shipping container** from Holland; for all projects to **increase progress rate** to complete at least **4%** of a Bible/year, and for networks of churches using Kon Scripture to grow and multiply.

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

Long-term prayers: Bruce Baird, Betty Bournes, Mary Brase, Don & Tina Busch, Brad Fuller, Trish Jelinek, Rick Juern, Ben Kelly-Fuller, David Novak, Sue (PADS friend), Wendy (friend of Rose Pech), and Michelle (friend of Linda Markham).

**HAVE A SAFE &
HAPPY FOURTH
OF JULY!**



**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. Jason Okrzynski

Email:
seniorpastor@upcgl.org
Cell: 224-463-2171

Church Office Hours:
Tuesday & Thursday
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Grounded | Empowered | Transformed

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

