

The Unifier



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This past week during my sermon I mentioned this phrase from Pastor David Daniels: “Prayer should be a first response and not a last resort.” I wonder how central prayer is to the Christian life? I wonder how central prayer is to your life? I also wonder at times how well the Church has taught prayer. Do we even know what prayer is?

Let me say just a few words about prayer and how we should pray. There are many types of prayer. We speak of public and private prayer. We pray aloud, responsively, and silently. But whether we pray together or alone, aloud or silently, prayer is simply a listening to and speaking with God. A listening to and a speaking with God. There are many things that we might say to God when we speak to Him. We may want to thank Him for all He has done and we likely are wise to recount the blessings in our lives. We may want to praise Him for who He is, and worship Him for His very presence in our lives. We likely also have questions to ask and petitions to make about what is going on in our lives and in the world today. All of these are right things to talk to God about. We are free (and again likely wise) to talk to God about most things in fact.

But prayer is not just talking to God (or talking at God as we might want to do). Prayer is also a listening to God. Prayer involves us listening to God as He calls to mind Scripture to us. It is a being still and feeling the presence and the power of God with us through our day and also in times that we set aside for prayer. Let us spend our days listening and speaking with God.

Pastor Ryan

Dear Church Family,

It is hard to believe that it is already June. Lots has happened in the last few months, yet it feels as if nothing has really happened. Over the past few weeks, I have been reflecting on Noah and the Flood. If you have followed along with the devotional, I send out each Thursday, you would have had the opportunity to walk through the story as well. There have been a few elements of the story that have really struck me as I studied and prepared those lessons.

The first, is not limited to account of Noah and the Flood, but also extended to the Cain and Abel story. In each of these stories, we see repetition of the first three chapters of Genesis. Noah and the Flood begins with the sinfulness of humanity, moves to destruction of creation, which is an outflow of the devastation wrought by sin on the created world, and then we see God in His gracious mercy begin the process of recreation and re-establishing a connection with His creation. In each of these elements, as we saw in the first three chapters, amid the destructive impact of sin on creation and humanity, God graciously extends mercy and grace. We saw this in the promise of the [seed](#) of Eve destroying the serpent, the provision of [coverings](#) for Adam and Eve as they exited the Garden, the provision of [a mark](#) of protection on Cain, [setting Noah apart](#) from the destruction of creation, [remembering Noah](#) while he was on the ark, and establishing a [covenant](#) with Noah.

The second element of the story of Noah that struck me, probably because of the uniqueness of these days we are living in, was the amount of time Noah spent on the ark. Often when the story is read, the amount of time we focus on is the 40 days and 40 nights of rain. While that would be hard enough to live through, that is not the extent to which Noah was floating around on the ark. From the time the Flood engulfed creation, Noah was on the ark for a full year ([Genesis 7:6, 8:13](#)). I cannot even begin to imagine that. Probably having stayed at home during these past few months has really put this part of the story in a new perspective. It is not just the amount of time that really had me thinking, but it is the phrase at the beginning of chapter [8](#), "But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and domestic animals that were with him in the ark. God caused a wind to blow over the earth and the waters receded." God does not forget His creation. He is in control and holds us each in His hand. Just as He did not forget Noah, or leave Him, He will not leave us. In this time apart, take comfort in the knowledge that God, in His mercy, is there watching over His creation. He does not leave it. He does not forget it.

In family news, things are going well here at the Aubrey house. Anabelle finished Kindergarten, which was bittersweet. It is sweet to have it done, but there is some sadness in just how her first school year ended. William is still loving having his family at home. Recently, during supper, we were talking, and William said that he wanted to marry his cousin, Oliver. We had to have the discussion that we do not marry our cousins. Through this conversation, we found out that what he meant was that he wanted to live with his cousin. So, we told him that he and Oliver can still be roommates, just like I was a roommate with one of my cousins. This seemed to satisfy him for the time being. I hope that you are all doing well. I look forward to worshiping with each of you again in person. If you need anything, have a questions, or would like resource suggestions, feel free to email me: ryanaubrey@upcgl.org. Thanks for reading.

Blessings,

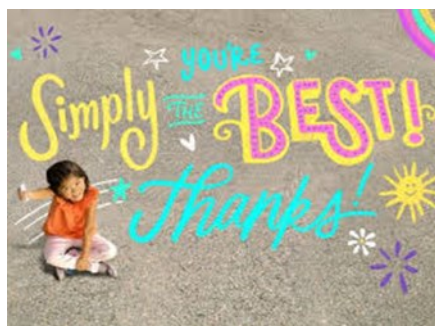
Ryan Aubrey

Joy Sharing for June

This month's Joy Sharing is a combined one for UMC Bishop's Appeal and UCC Neighbors In Need. Last year Joy Sharing for these missions was held on two separate Sundays but this year will be combined into one on June 21st.

The recipient of this year's UMC Bishop's Appeal is The Global Mission Secondary School with The United Methodist Church in Tanzania. Donations will help complete the second phase of construction on the co-ed boarding school for children ages 13-18.

UCC Neighbors In Need is a special mission offering that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities.



Thank you to all who've prayed for me, sent wishes, cards, called and shared your love during my recent illness!! I am so blessed to be part of such a loving and caring church family!!! I'm doing so much better and can even go for mile long walks without running short of breath or having to stop to rest. I praise God and give thanks to Him, my pulmonologist, and all who prayed for me!!

My prayer is for all of you to be healthy and stay well. I look forward to the days when we can be together in worship. In the meantime, we can continue to be a support and comfort to each other from our current locations.

Love and blessings, Rose Pech



UPC'S WCF

Some circle meetings will be scheduled once gatherings are safe. Contact Rose Pech: rose4nonna@hotmail.com or 847-356-3577 for information on how to reach any circle chairperson. Watch for announcements coming from the church through the Tuesday Newsday, special emails, etc

--Blessings to all, *Rose Pech*







From Buildings and Grounds and your custodians, a special Thank You!

Hello everyone, I would like to take this opportunity to say a very special thank you to all of the wonderful people that have come in to UPC and given their time and energy these past several weeks. We have accomplished so many things that have needed attention in our building. Jasmine and I would never have been able to do half of the projects that have gotten done.

I am planning a picture board so that you can check out all of the improvements whenever we are able to gather together again.

Thank you to each and every one of you that helped.

Lillian Eldridge, Sue Schmidt, Shelly Kutsin, Karen Thoms, Jackie Ianson, Phil Bjerning, Wende Fry, Skip Runyon, Linda Rambo, Jack Powell, Dale Message, Sean Delgrosso, Dan McDowell, Rick Burg and MaryAnn McDowell. And an extra big Thank You to Barb and Craig Fischel for supplying the mulch for the grounds, to Jerry Wessale for being my right hand man and consultant!!! Jerry you are awesome!

Also a thank you to Cliff Grost for letting us use his equipment for a couple of weeks!

Please take a moment to thank these people for working so hard and putting up with me,

Blessings,

Kelly



Do you like flowers and playing in the dirt? I am looking for a few people to just stop by here and there and pull a few weeds whenever it is a nice day and you have a little time. Nothing organized, bring a friend if you would like to or just enjoy the peace and quiet for a while. A few of us are working hard to get the grounds and garden area looking nice, but I would love a little help keeping it that way. Right now we have a mama mallard duck sitting on a nest of 10 eggs hiding in the tall garden grass!

Thank you,

Kelly

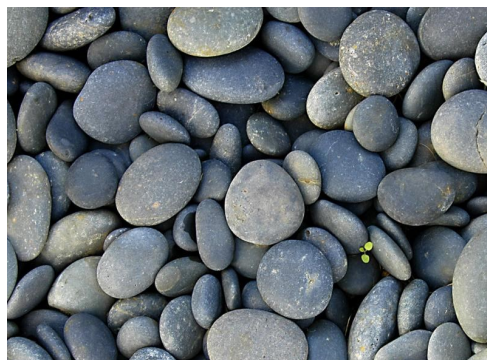


ROCKS!!

UPC—Building & Grounds is in search of rocks. I would like to fill in the Space between the building and the playground with stones. If you or someone you know can help with this project please let me know.

Thanks,

Kelly Truckenbrod



UPC PADS UPDATE—UPC SITE

THANK YOU UPC PADS VOLUNTEERS & SUPPORTERS!

Our 29th Season as a PADS Site just ended, and we want to thank our supporters and the hundreds of volunteers who worked onsite to allow us to welcome the guests each week until we had to close the site during the second week of March. We also want to thank the many volunteers and supporters who have continued to help as the PADS clients are housed in hotels. Words can't express how it feels to be a part of such an amazing and caring team!

UPC PADS SITE NEEDS:

We expect our 30th PADS Season at UPC to begin on Thursday, October 1, 2020. We must have enough volunteers & leaders to welcome the guests who'll be arriving. Currently, we see the positions below as our major needs. Information will be updated as we receive more "End of the Season" forms from our current volunteers with their requests for the new season. Contact Rose Pech at 847-356-3577 or pads_at_upc@hotmail.com for information or to volunteer. Please share our needs with friends, family, colleagues, & others with whom you have contact.

Volunteer Coordinator for the 5 main shifts: This volunteer works from home at intermittent times with a varying time commitment. Tasks: 1. Schedule volunteers to fill 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Late 3rd, and Morning Kitchen Cleanup Shifts for each week of the season prior to the start of the season (October 1), confirm that schedule with them, and communicate it to the site managers & site coordinator. 2. Communicate the weekly schedule to site managers and volunteers a week in advance by email, text, mail, or phone call. 3. Problem-solve to fill vacancies throughout the season with the help of an assistant who does this for vacancies occurring Tuesday thru Thursday for each current week. 4. Serve as liaison between volunteers and PADS staff. 5. Maintain a master list of all volunteers on these shifts & communicate any changes to Site Coordinator &/or person maintaining the master list for the entire site, 6. Attend meetings with PADS staff as necessary. 7. Protect the confidentiality of the records. (Training and help will be provided by outgoing Volunteer Coordinator and Site Coordinator and assistance from Site Coordinator will be available throughout the season.)

Monthly Onsite Volunteers Needed Thursday night/Friday morning October 1 thru April 30. (Training is required and will be offered Thursday, September 24 at our "Back to PADS Soup/Chili & Salad Dinner" from 6 to 9 PM.)

- Kitchen Serve and Cleanup Shift 6 to 9 PM (High school youth)
- 2nd Shift 11 PM to 3 AM (Adults only)
- 3rd Shift 3 to 7 AM (Adults only)
- Late 3rd Shift 4:30 to 7 AM (Adults only)
- Morning Kitchen Cleanup 6 to 7:30 AM (Adults only)

PADS Setup Volunteers 4:30 to 5:50 PM Thursdays Oct. 1 thru April 30

(Youth, Adults, Families w/school age children, Scouts with adult leaders, Youth/Religious groups with adult leaders, etc.)

--No special training is required for PADS Setup, and scheduling is done in advance according to site needs and each volunteer's availability.

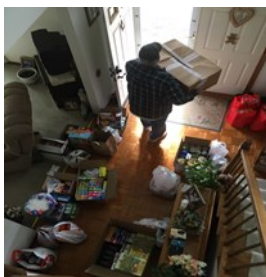
--On behalf of people experiencing homelessness...the UPC PADS Site Team

UPC PADS UPDATE-- PADS LAKE COUNTY

AMAZING RESPONSE TO PADS CLIENTS' NEEDS—THANK YOU, LAKE COUNTY!!

PADS Lake County staff reports that the response from surrounding communities has been outstanding. The donations have allowed them to meet the needs of the clients who continue to rely on our support. Food, gift cards, and other needed supplies have been flooding in so there is a continual supply that is ample enough to meet the ongoing needs. These needs will continue through the month of June and to a lesser amount after that. Photos show an SUV and van that were completely loaded for just one of the trips UPC PADS Site Manager Laura Tussing & friends made delivering items to Warren Township Senior Center while guests were there in March & April & to the main office in May.

Photo credit: Laura Tussing



JUNE PLANS TO MEET CLIENTS' NEEDS: PADS Lake County clients have been working with their case managers throughout the time they've been in the hotel rooms. Fortunately, some have been helped to find housing already, and the remainder of the guests will be phased out of the hotel setting starting June 1st.

As stated above, **Thank you** to everyone who's helped by providing food, gift card, and other supplies while guests were in the hotels. The monetary gifts have also been so very helpful and are still greatly needed. Please watch the Tuesday Newsday email for updates on the needs.

As PADS continues filling boxes with food for the clients in the hotels, please help if you're able. The donations can be dropped off at PADS, 1800 Grand Avenue in Waukegan on Monday – Friday, between 8am and 4pm. You will not need to enter the building. Just pull up and ring the bell. Staff members can “grab and go.” PADS is trying to maintain the safe distance of 6 feet away.

These are some suggestions for donations:

Cloth face masks

Meals in **pop top cans** and microwavable items: Dinty Moore meals, Progresso or Chunky

Chicken Noodle soups, Ravioli, Spaghetti and Meatballs, Ramon cups, Easy Mac, shelf microwavable meals (beef stew, etc.)—**Cans must have pop tops!**

Loaves of bread

Beef Jerky, Slim Jim, Meat Sticks. Spam Packets, Tuna Packets, Chicken packets

Breakfast Cereal bars or granola bars, small sized boxes of cereal, Pop Tarts

Fruit cups or Pudding cups

\$10 Gift cards to McDonald's with Note “Attention Nicole”

Donations to PADS Lake County: See the website at www.padslakecounty.org for more information on how to donate.

If you have questions, the main number for PADS Lake County is 847-689-4357.

Continued prayers for UPC members and friends/relatives of members: Fred Berchtold (abdominal cancer), Christian and Seth, Desiree Craig (friend of Karen Caviness), Takara Dalton (fluid on the brain, Shelly Kutsin's goddaughter, Loretta Dodson (chronic pain), Barb Fischel (back pains), 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 Papesh (cancer, mother-in-law to the Fischel's daughter), Bonnie Ross (pancreatic cancer, friend of Karen Caviness), Judy Ruhnke, 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: Bruce and Judy Baird (cancer), Marno Benande, Mary Brase (sister of Rose Pech), Betty Bournes (sister of Rose Pech), Thomas Bournes (brother-in-law of Rose Pech) 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 Nellessen (brother of Margie Scheibler), Darwin Schwaderer, Chester Pinkowski (relative of Maureen Daly), Sandra Richard, Orrell Ruth, Marcia Ruth, 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), 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).

June Birthdays:

Wedding Anniversaries

06/04 Gregory, Brandon
 06/04 Hayes, Cally
 06/09 Fischel, Barb
 06/09 Schmidt, Andrew
 06/10 Adams, Cami
 06/13 Runyon, Shane
 06/14 Waddelow, Annette
 06/15 Craig, Charles
 06/15 Hill, Norean
 06/16 Schmidt, Eric
 06/16 Taylor, Rosanne
 06/19 Fuller, Denise
 06/23 Craig, Spencer
 06/23 Richardson, Roger
 06/23 Trowitch, Diane
 06/24 Garbutt, Wesley
 06/26 Barker, Patricia
 06/30 Vick, Cathy

06/11 William and Marie Weller
 06/15 Craig and Janet James
 06/21 Gretchen and Jerome Jagla
 06/30 Jeffrey and Monique Taylor

**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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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

