

The Unifier



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

June 2024

Grace to you and Peace,

Memorial Day always feels like a symbolic end of the program year and the start of the summer. That said, God does not take the summer off, and neither should our faith or our acts of devotion to God. Now is the time to make commitments to how our summer devotion might look. Of course, we will have worship as usual Sunday mornings at UPC, and it is my prayer that you and your family continue to worship and participate regularly. That said, I want to share a couple of special opportunities to engage your faith this summer through United Protestant Church.

So, I have a June birthday. I have sometimes been known to throw a pity party because Father's Day and my birthday fall on or around the same day. I have no space to complain this year however, because in honor of my birthday and Father's Day, my family donated the construction of a paved terrace on the front lawn of the parsonage. It tidies up and replaces a similar area of flagstones and fake grass/turf that was there previously under one of the lovely old maple trees. I have to tell you that it turned out well beyond my nicest hopes. The talented gentleman who owns the landscaping company whom we hired is named Jesus, so it should not be surprising that it would turn out divine! I believe it is not only a very comfortable space but enhances the curb appeal of the parsonage. As neighbors have walked by, they have complimented the space and that allows me a chance to converse with neighbors, introduce myself as UPC's pastor, and make connections with our community.

We would like to share our terrace with UPC this summer and need your help. I want to spend time with as many UPC members or households as possible for a cup of coffee, a lemonade, or an evening beverage. If you are interested, please email me so that we can set up a date this summer between June 1st and September 15th.

This summer is also an opportunity to join together in some organized outreach and evangelism. Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I am thanking God for our upcoming outreach event. This coming weekend you will see posters going up around town for the Grayslake Revivals, hosted at and by United Protestant Church. As this initiative has developed, it has become clear that while we do have honest and humble hopes of reaching out to invite folks to be a part of our faith community, this is truly about so much more. United Protestant Church is a community called and committed to the work of God in Jesus Christ. While we will be gathering on the front lawn for worship, prayer and The Word, we are also inviting God to get loose again amongst us here in Grayslake. We are proactively bringing the grounding practices of faith into proximity with the world. We are even inviting local congregations to join us in our revivals and hope that we might offer to God and Grayslake a means of Gospel.

A number of things you can do to support the Grayslake Revivals:

1. Join us for one or all of the Revivals.
2. Tell your friends, neighbors and anyone who you think might want to join us.
3. Tell any musicians you know who might want to come and help lead worship and have them email their name, availability and instruments to Pastor Jason.
4. Contact Sue Schmidt if you are willing to help with set-up and hospitality on any of the available dates.
5. Contact Sue Schmidt if you are willing to help distribute flyers around town or in your neighborhood.

Most importantly, however, please pray! Pray that the Holy Spirit uses these events to transform the world and bring people into God's kingdom. Pray that folks might be gathered to come and encounter the Living God. Pray that our planning and leadership is led and inspired by God. Pray that God's Word will find fertile soil in this place, at this time. These events are not ultimately about us, but about our hope that God will act through us.

In Christ,

Rev. Jason Okrzynski, PhD
Senior Pastor

OUTDOOR WORSHIP REVIVAL SCHEDULE



Wednesday evenings in conjunction
with the Grayslake Farmers Market



June 19 & 26

July 10 & 17

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

UPC Front Lawn

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Dear Church Family,

This month, I wanted to take an opportunity to recognize our graduating Senior Class.



Maddie Berkey will be graduating from Warren Township High School. She will be attending Michigan State University.



Sophia Henne will be graduating from Grayslake Central High School. She will be attending Kansas University majoring in Interior Design.



David Knapp will be graduating from Grayslake Central High School. He will be attending Southern Illinois University Carbondale. He will be double majoring in Aviation Flight and Aviation Management.



Kevin Meyer (picture not available) will be graduating from Grayslake Central High School. He will be attending the University of Iowa in the College of Engineering. He is a candidate for the Mechanical Engineering degree.



Congratulations Maddie, Sophia, David, Kevin, and their families for all your hard work. As your church family, we want you to know that we continue to pray for you throughout all your life's journeys. The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace.

We will officially recognize our graduating high school seniors and Christian education teachers on Sunday, June 9 during the 10 a.m. worship service.

Blessings,

Ryan Aubrey, Director of Christian Education

UPC welcomed the 2024 Confirmation Class into membership on Sunday, May 5th.



Pictured above: Ryan Aubrey, Gavin Fries, Soren Okrzynski, Charles Craig, Rev. Jason Okrzynski

Congratulations and Welcome!



Of course, everyone enjoyed the cake!



BREAKER ROCK BEACH

VBS
2024

JUNE
24-27

10AM-NOON

**GOD'S ROCK-SOLID TRUTH IN A
WORLD OF SHIFTING SANDS**
ROMANS 12:2

 **United
Protestant
Church**
of Grayslake

54 S. Whitney
(847)223-8131
upcgl.org

*Register your children, friends, grandchildren
ages preschool through 6th grade now through
June 17th at www.upcgl.org or fill out a
registration form located in the UPC parlor.*

Interested in volunteering?

Contact Ryan Aubrey at:

ryanaubrey@upcgl.org

Music Sunday

Our UPC musicians were recognized on Sunday, May 19th during the worship service. We appreciate all of those listed below who have enhanced our services with their time, talents, dedication, and hard work.

Chamber/Chancel Choir

Emily Aubrey
Ryan Aubrey
Laurie Bethmann
Rick Burg
Lexie Craig
Spencer Craig
Sean DelGrosso
Barb Fischel
Ruth Gheysen
Jackie Ianson
Jan Kendrick
Mary Ann McDowell
Gary Stoodley
Marcia Twadell



Grace Notes Bell Choir

Cinda Bartz
Wende Fry
Ruth Gheysen
Jackie Ianson
Jan Kendrick
Abby Madden
Mary Ann McDowell
Sue Schmidt
Karen Thoms
Lou Thoms
Jerry Wessale

Children's Choir

Anabelle Aubrey
William Aubrey
Nyah Bethmann
Patti Friesema
Elizabeth Madden
Greyson Madden
Kenneth Madden



STEWARDSHIP NEWS

Dear UPC Members and Friends,

Sometimes folks are overheard complaining, "Why is the church always asking for my money?" As chair of our Stewardship Committee, I would like to answer that question.

As Christians, we are asked to share our time, talent and treasure generously as people of God and followers of Christ to make disciples of Christ for the transformation of the world. We believe that generosity broadens our souls, connects us to Christ and fortifies our congregations to fulfill Christ's ministries. Those of us who embrace this theology earnestly desire to make a positive change for the purposes of Christ in the time and space in which he placed us.

Here are some of the ways we interpret this calling at United Protestant:

- We employ a full-time pastor and part-time music director in order to offer uplifting, life changing worship connecting our members to God. (Fortunately, we are warm in the winter and cool in the summer, also.)
- We maintain our beautiful but aging building with the help of a part-time custodian, numerous volunteers and many local vendors so that we can be a safe sanctuary to our members and various organizations like AA and Scouts.
- We employ a Director of Christian Education and Nursery Coordinator to lead our families on their faith walks providing their educational expertise and many supplies needed to carry out the work. We offer a community-wide VBS to encourage children to embrace the stories of our faith.
- We offer a variety of ways to share the love of Christ through the dozens of mission opportunities supported by the UPC. These missions do require space for storage, supplies and financial offerings.
- All that we do as a loving congregation is for the glory of God and the edification of our membership. Much of what we do is not free. It is our hope that pledging money and time to God results from generosity of heart rather than from obligation.

"John Wesley and the early Methodists practiced generosity as an indispensable aspect of discipleship, essential for the maturing of the soul and for the work of the church. Wesley taught Methodists to 'gain all you can, save all you can, and give all you can' (*Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations*, 136)."

Trusting Our God Who Provides,

Carol Roselli-Rasmussen



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



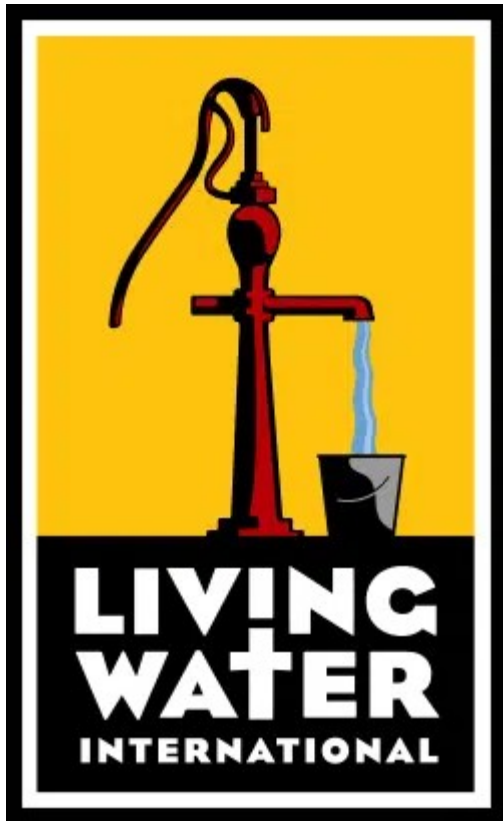


JUNE 2024

UPC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10:00am Worship Service 11:30am Circle 2 (MR)	3 9:00am Park District Preschool Summer Camp (202) 7:00pm Stewardship Committee Meeting (MR) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	4 9:00am Park District Preschool Summer Camp (202) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105)	5 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)	6 9:00am Park District Preschool Summer Camp (202) 7:00pm Staff Parish (MR) 7:30pm AA (106,105)	7 2:00-9:00pm Veritas Music Center Piano Recital (Sanctuary)	8 9:00am-5:30pm Veritas Music Center Piano Recital (Sanctuary)
9 10:00am Worship Service 11:30am Membership Cultivation Committee (MR)	10 9:00am Park District Preschool Summer Camp (202) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	11 9:00am Park District Preschool Summer Camp (202) 5:30pm Circle 9 (Mrs. V's) 6:30pm North Star District Commissioners Meeting (MR) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 PLC (101)	12 9:00am Park District Preschool Summer Camp (202) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm PUSH (Parlor) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	13 9:00am Park District Preschool Summer Camp (202) 7:00pm Budget & Finance (MR) 7:30pm AA (106,105)	14	15
16 HAPPY FATHER'S DAY 10:00am Worship Service	17 9:00am Park District Preschool Summer Camp (202) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	18 9:00am Park District Preschool Summer Camp (202) 7:00pm Ad Council (FH) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105) 7:00pm Nami Family Support Group (MR) 7:00pm Troop 451 Committee Meeting (101)	19 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)	20 9:00am Park District Preschool Summer Camp (202) 7:30pm AA (106,105)	21	22
23 10:00am Worship Service	24 9:00am Park District Preschool Summer Camp (202) 10:00am-Noon VBS 7:00pm Mission Committee (Parlor) 7:00pm Worship Committee (MR) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	25 9:00am Park District Preschool Summer Camp (202) 10am-Noon VBS 7:00pm Membership Cultivation Committee (MR) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105)	26 9:00am Park District Preschool Summer Camp (202) 10:00am-Noon VBS 6:30pm Summer Revival Worship Service (front lawn) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00 Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	27 9:00am Park District Preschool Summer Camp (202) 10:00am-Noon VBS 7:30pm AA (106,105)	28	29
30 10:00am Worship Service						

JUNE JOY SHARING



Living Water International is our June Joy Sharing partner.

Living Water International exists to demonstrate the love of God by helping communities acquire desperately needed clean water, and to experience “living water” - the gospel of Jesus Christ - which alone satisfies the deepest thirst.

Around the world, communities are trapped in debilitating poverty because they constantly suffer from water-related diseases and parasites, and/or because they spend long stretches of their time carrying water over long distances. More than 820,000 people are estimated to die each year due to water-related illnesses; 2.3 billion people live in water stressed countries and 1 in 5 children lack access to basic drinking water.

Safe water access, sanitation, and hygiene are critical for physical and mental health. Drinking contaminated water can lead to diarrhea, cholera, dysentery, typhoid, and polio. Without safe hygiene behaviors and sanitation infrastructure, such as latrines, people are more susceptible to the spread of infectious diseases. Fear and anxiety that come from illnesses related to contaminated water or inadequate sanitation and hygiene facilities can severely impact people’s spiritual, social, and emotional well-being.

In 1990, LWI set out to help the church in North America be the hands and feet of Jesus by serving the thirsty. Remembering the life-changing nature of the first trip in 1990, LWI also leads hundreds of volunteers on mission trips each year, working with local communities, under the leadership of nationals, to implement water projects. It’s hard to know which lives are changed more—those “serving” or those “being served.” Their training programs in shallow well drilling, pump repair, and hygiene education have equipped thousands of volunteers and professionals in the basics of integrated water solutions since 1997.

Joy Sharing Sunday is June 16. Please consider giving generously to this worthy cause.

MISSIONS

Feed My Starving Children

The next UPC packing session at Feed My Starving Children in Libertyville is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 4 from 7:15-8:45 p.m.** If you are interested in participating, please contact Cinda Bartz at bartzc@sbcglobal.net.



The Mission Committee recently received a plea from FMSC staff asking for more volunteers during the week of June 24-29. Over the course of last summer, the Libertyville site ran at just 47% capacity. At the same time, we were (and still are) facing a hunger crisis that is unlike anything we have seen in our lifetimes. In the face of social unrest, conflicts and lost harvests, more and more people are facing food insecurity than ever before. We are asking members, families and friends of UPC to help support FMSC's attempt to end world hunger by joining with other area churches to pack nourishing food. FMSC has 22 shifts available throughout that week. Go to [Search Results \(fmsc.org\)](http://Search Results (fmsc.org)) to register yourself or a group at a time convenient for you, or if you would like to join the UPC packs that are already set for Monday, June 24 at 7:15 p.m., Wednesday, June 26 at 11:30 a.m., or Friday, June 28 at 9 a.m., contact Cinda at 847.727.1552 or bartzc@sbcglobal.net. This is an opportunity to make a huge difference in the life a child and it won't cost you anything except 2 hours of your time. Seated jobs are available. Won't you help?

Operation Christmas Child



During the month of June, we would like to collect reusable cups, small plates or bowls, small kites, fishing kit items, screwdrivers, tape measures, small levels, nails, and dolls to fill 250 shoebox gifts.



UPC Shopper

If you are looking for a gift for a graduate or a father, please consider using gift cards to make your purchase or give the gift of a gift card and let them make their own selection. Shopper profit goes to offset shipping costs for Operation Christmas Child.



FOCUS ON PADS—SUNDAY, JUNE 30 at 10 AM:

Allen Swilley, Executive Director of PADS Lake County will be our guest Mission Moment speaker at the beginning of the 10 AM UPC worship service. Allen will give the latest updates, recent results of the zoning process for possible fixed shelter sites in Waukegan and Gurnee, and a look to the future of PADS Lake County. He will share how the problem of homelessness can be addressed as we work together and draw upon available resources and assets in Lake County to improve the lives of those who are homeless and to better our communities. Allen will be available to chat informally and answer your questions following the worship service. Before and after worship, enjoy browsing through the display of materials and photo albums from 1991 when UPC and St. Gilbert first partnered to provide a church shelter site through 2023. Our involvement in the PADS ministry has evolved and will continue to evolve as we work together to better the lives of our neighbors in need, and in doing so, make Lake County a better place for all to live.

LATEST NEWS FROM PADS LAKE COUNTY:

- **Fixed sites update—Waukegan:** PADS has successfully cleared the first hurdle of the zoning process for the **Travelodge at 3633 North Lewis Avenue**. Next is the City Council vote to rezone the Travelodge to shelter zoning on June 3 at 5 p.m. at City Council Chambers (City Hall). PADS welcomes and needs all support at the city council meeting. This site would be used for families who need shelter. **Gurnee:** As this article is being written, a meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 28 in the process leading up to zoning for **FairBridge Inn Express at 3740 Grand Avenue**. PADS plans to make major improvements to it and have it as a fixed site location for single individuals who are homeless.
- **Current Client Numbers:** We still have over 500 people in shelter (half are children) with more coming to PADS seeking shelter every day. On Thursday, May 16, over 100 people came to 1800 Grand Avenue seeking assistance.
- **Current Needs:** Sack lunches given to those who come to 1800 Grand Avenue to seek help from PADS. The 40 lunches donated most days are not always enough. 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 just call 847-689-4357 to let them know you would like to deliver lunches to the office. Extra lunches can be refrigerated and used the next day.

UPC PADS UPDATE:

- **YOU** provided more food, clothing and other needed items for families in motels during May, including a family with two young boys and a baby girl. Your regular donations of food, gift cards, and your monetary contributions are making significant differences in hundreds of lives! **THANK YOU!**

Contact Rose Pech 847-682-2837 or pads_at_upc@hotmail.com for more info.

HELLO
JUNE

WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

HELLO
JUNE

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.

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, June 2**. Contact Catherine Vick. Circle 2 members sorted food donations that came from the postal carriers in the area and checked for expiration dates for the Avon Township Food Pantry on May 15. Watch for information in September when more dates will be scheduled to volunteer at this food pantry with UPC members and friends invited to join us.

Circle 4/5: Luncheon meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be **at 11:30 AM on June 5 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, June 11**.

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., June 2	11:30 AM	UPC Meeting Room	Catherine Vick
4/5	Wed., June 5	11:30 AM	Culver's in Grayslake	Sue Schmidt
9	Tues., June 11	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: Our WCF mission fund will be discontinued and donations moved to the Tyler & Brittany fund because having WCF donations for Tyler and Brittany's projects go directly into the UPC fund for them will streamline the bookkeeping process. Donations from WCF members which were formerly given to the WCF mission fund should now be marked for the Tyler & Brittany fund. Our latest update from Tyler and Brittany gives two special requests: full healing for Danielle's stomach infection/abscess and wisdom in finalizing the dates for their trip to the capital to renew their visas. The latter is dependent on availability of the once-a-week flight. Their weekly updates are included in the Tuesday Newsday emails.

June Birthdays

6/9 Barb Fischel
6/9 Andrew Schmidt
6/11 Linda Dzwonkiewicz
6/11 June Smith
6/12 Elizabeth Madden
6/15 Charles Craig
6/16 Rosanne Taylor
6/18 Jason Okrzyński
6/19 Denise Fuller
6/19 Lori Rische
6/23 Spencer Craig
6/23 Gavin Fries
6/23 Diane Trowitch
6/30 Cathy Vick

June Anniversaries

6/11 William & Marie Weller
6/21 Gretchen & Jerome Jagla



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

Members: Marlene Badgerow, 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 praises and requests to share as they once again thank us for the support we give through our prayers and gifts. Praises include: 1) they received lots of responses of people praying for them after last week's discouragement; 2) Brittany worked with Luke and Solo twice while Luke's wife watched the girls; 3) Danielle's stomach infection/abscess is almost completely healed; 4) Tyler and Shovel have almost finished transplanting trees. Requests include: 1) giving both girls a deworming treatment, hoping this will help Joanna to eat more; 2) healing for Brittany's earache; 3) favor as Brittany starts speaking (mostly) French to the girls; 4) favor on their work fund finances as that account is currently negative.

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).



**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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Church Office Hours:
Tuesday & Thursday
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Grounded | Empowered | Transformed

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