

The Unifier



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Jesus was once asked what the most important commandment was. His response was, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” Matthew 22.37-40

And how is it that in 2021 we love our neighbours? I think that we must, as individuals, and a church ask ourselves that very question. How do we consider others before ourselves? I think this is necessary work in order for us to be the local congregation God desires us to be. This means that we must think of UPC as a place that is outwardly focused. We exist not for the benefit of ourselves, but for the benefit of those around us; our neighbours. How do we see UPC being a vital part of the community around us?

Likewise, how are you a neighbour? How do you love those who interact with you on a regular basis? Those who live near you? Those with whom you work? Family members? Acquaintances? Do you demonstrate not only the fruit of the Spirit in your interactions, but do you actively seek to be an ambassador for Christ? Do you regularly speak of what God is doing in our own life? Do you regularly invite people into conversations about Jesus? Do you invite them to church?

This has indeed been a different time in our life on earth. We have been separated and isolated from each other physically in ways many of us have never known. We have been forced to rely on technology in order to be in community with one another. I pray that as we begin to emerge from this isolation that we have an increasing hunger and burden to share Christ with those around us.

Pastor Ryan

Dear Church Family,

It is hard to believe that a year has passed since shutting down our in-person ministry opportunities. A lot has happened over the past year. Thank you all for your continued support and participation in our various ministry offerings. I look forward to continuing to grow in our relationship with God, both individually and as a church.

Right now, we continue to work through our Lenten Series: *The Passion of the King of Glory* by Russ Ramsey. The past two weeks, we have explored Christ's obscurity by coming to earth as a poor unexpected child, and the increasing popularity of Jesus' ministry. As we continue over the rest of this Lenten season, we will look at the rejection of Jesus, his turning toward Jerusalem, and the Passion of the King of Glory. I hope that you will join us in reading through this study and discussing the life, ministry, and passion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In mid-April, we will be holding a book club styled discussion of the book *Where is God When It Hurts?* by Philip Yancey. The past year has been filled with a variety of suffering and challenges, so I encourage you to think of a person or two who be interested in participating in this discussion. We will explore questions related to suffering and God's presence. I challenge you to reach out to friends, family, neighbors, or co-workers and see if they would be interested in examining these issues alongside us.

Finally, our semester of exploring suffering and trials will culminate in an examination of how to hear God's voice. During times of trial and difficulties, who's voice do we hear most often? When things are going well in our lives, do we continue to hear God's voice, or do we block it out because we seemingly don't need Him? Jesus often tells his listeners, "those who have ears, let them hear" and the prophets of the Old Testament calls their listeners to hear the Word of the Lord. In this study, I hope to explore how to have ears that hear and a heart ready to listen. I hope that you will join us later this Spring.

If you have any questions or need any help, please let me know. I would be happy to talk with you and continue to support you in various ways as you seek to continue along the pathway of discipleship.

Blessings,

Ryan Aubrey

Director of Christian Education

UPC PADS UPDATE

EMERGENCY SHELTER AND HOUSING FOR PADS CLIENTS:

The extremely cold weather in February meant a large increase in the number of guests seeking shelter with PADS Lake County. As of February 10, PADS was housing more than 240 guests in the three different motels/hotels. The majority continue to be in a single location where PADS has filled more than half of the hotel. The motel that was housing 25 guests now has about 40, and the remaining guests are still at the third location.

Local police departments and the sheriff's office continue to be very supportive and are helping whenever they find someone on the streets.

Please encourage anyone who is homeless to contact the PADS office 847-689-4357 or to go there in person (See photo of 1800 Grand Avenue PADS.) 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday thru Friday or to call their local police department for emergency shelter during other hours and weekends.



UPC PADS IN ACTION: NOW PROVIDING 30 INDIVIDUAL HOT MEALS EACH THURSDAY:

PREPARING & DELIVERING MEALS: Margaret Hilliard and our UPC PADS Kitchen Crew cooked and delivered dinners for 25 guests their first week, but that number has now risen to 30 guests needing meals in the motel where the meals are delivered. The other 10 guests at that location are able to furnish their own dinners.

DONATIONS FOR DINNERS: We are very appreciative of the donations that have started to arrive at UPC to help pay for the food to make the dinners for the guests. If you're willing and able to contribute any amount, please send a check payable to UPC with "PADS dinners" or "PADS food" written in the memo section. These donations are being used to pay directly for the food purchased to make the dinners.

OTHER DONATIONS are not being collected at UPC, but arrangements can be made for Rose Pech to meet you at the church if you have items that need to be delivered to the main office in Waukegan, and you aren't able to deliver them yourself. (See Rose's contact info below.)

PADS LAKE COUNTY'S GREATEST NEEDS:

Cleaning supplies (Clorox wipes, Lysol spray, etc.)

Paper products (Toilet paper, paper towels, sturdy paper plates & bowls)

Nonperishable food items in packages or pop-top cans, especially high-protein foods

Toiletries and stick deodorant

The office has enough hand sanitizer at this point, and **clothing donations must be first checked out with Nicole Harris.**

Contact Nicole Harris at 847-689-0541 or nharris@padslakecounty.org for other hotel item needs, including clothing, and for information on the Housewarming Project items for guests who are finding housing.

Contact Rose Pech at 847-356-3577 or pads_at_upc@hotmail.com for other information.

—On behalf of those without homes, The UPC PADS Site Leadership Team



*UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH
WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY*



WCF NEWS—KEEPING IN TOUCH

A BRIEF FLASHBACK -- A TIDBIT OF WCF HISTORY:

At one time WCF had three Career Girls' circles: Career Girls Circle 1, which was mentioned in last month's article, followed shortly by Career Girls Circle 2, and finally the Young Career Girls' Circle. This last circle was started when UPC had a large number of young women in their late teens and early 20's who had grown up in the church and were living & working in the Grayslake area. Beth Bishop, wife of the church's pastor, asked Rose Pech to act as chair to get the new group started. The circle was a great success, with vibrant and energetic members who were very active in the church and community. The name changed over the years as the "girls" married, became mothers, and some moved away. However, many of those friendships have continued to this day. Today it's Circle 9, and Candi Becker is the one remaining member from the original circle & its current chairperson.

STAYING CONNECTED!

During these days while we're still staying relatively secluded in our own households or mini-family/friend groups, our members who are living alone are very grateful for any contact they receive. It's great to hear about calls, cards, or notes they're receiving from you and from other members of UPC. Please continue to share with others via phone calls or regular mail, or start doing this if you haven't been.

For women who aren't yet members of WCF, consider visiting either Circle 2 or Circle 4/5 when we have outdoor meetings after the weather warms up. Join Circle 9 when those meetings start at Hillside Restaurant after members agree that it's safe enough to meet in that setting. If you'd like an updated WCF brochure, I'd be happy to email a copy, or you can stop by the church to pick up one of the printed brochures from the holder on the wall next to the mission table on Tuesdays or Thursdays between 10 and 2 when the office is open. If you'd like any information about WCF, please contact Rose Pech at rose4nonna@hotmail.com or 847-356-3577.

Circle	Contact
2	Catherine Vick
4/5	Sue Schmidt
9	Candi Becker
10	Jasmine Walker

REPORT ON WCF SUPPORT FOR TYLER & BRITTANY:

All WCF members are reminded to send their donations (\$10/\$15, or whatever you can) to Sue Schmidt if you haven't already done so. We're continuing our support for Tyler and Brittany, and Sue has received \$490 toward our needed \$600. Tyler and Brittany are so grateful for our \$50 monthly donation. --Blessings, Rose Pech

Continued prayers for UPC members and friends/relatives of members: Fred Berchtold (abdominal cancer), Alice Broadhurst, Christian and Seth, Desiree Craig, Takara Dalton (fluid on the brain, Shelly Kutsin's goddaughter, Loretta Dodson (chronic pain), Barb Fischel, Marie Frandsen (colon cancer), Curt Grabo (Bob Mielke's cousin, Judy Hendrickson (mother of Laura Hendrickson), Lynne Henne (mother of Brett Henne), Norean Hill, Charles Madsen, Skip Madsen, 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, 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), Barry Craig, Pat Curnow, Brad Fuller (stroke, brother of Jamie Fuller), Susan Green, 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).

March Birthdays:

03/01 Steve Howard
 03/03 David Holliman
 03/04 Kim Fletcher
 03/06 Evelyn Munts
 03/06 Pat Wackerlin
 03/06 Jeff Ziegler
 03/09 Richard Carlson
 03/09 Brian Divis
 03/11 Andrew Vick
 03/12 Cynthia Ryckman
 03/14 Marie Frandsen
 03/15 Lauren Bunke
 03/15 Kim Lenzen
 03/17 Tessa Fuller
 03/17 Tessa Richardson
 03/19 Janet James
 03/19 Donald Vick
 03/20 Beth Floral
 03/20 Wende Fry
 03/20 Christina Harris
 03/20 Carl Heiler

March Anniversaries:

03/24 Warren and Terese Bell
 03/30 Cynthia and Richard Floral

**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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8131

E-mail: upc@upcgl.org

Pastor: Rev. Ryan Kiblinger

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

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