

# The Unifier



54 South Whitney Street, Grayslake, Illinois 60030 | (847) 223-8131 | [upc@upcgl.org](mailto:upc@upcgl.org) | [www.upcgl.org](http://www.upcgl.org)

March 2023

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

It is my hope and prayer that you are enjoying a meaningful Lent. While Lent is supposed to be a time of increased prayer and self-examination, there is a surprising amount of news I want to share with you this month. First, we are undergoing a significant transition this month. In the one hand we are welcoming our new Director of Music, Kay Sutton, and at the same time are thanking our Music Director of twelve years, Sean DelGrosso. Please introduce yourself to Kay and help her get acquainted. In a few weeks we will also recognize Sean's years of service and thank him as a church member together. Fortunately, we do not need to say "goodbye" to Sean as he is staying involved at UPC as a member. Nonetheless, please be encouraged to take a moment to thank Sean for his inspired leadership and service over the years.

Looking ahead to April, Holy Week and Easter are fast approaching. Our Holy Week schedule is as follows:

Palm Sunday	10:00 a.m. Sunday, April 2
Maundy Thursday Tenebrae (with Communion)	7:00 p.m. Thursday, April 6
UPC Easter Egg Hunt	2:00 p.m. Saturday, April 8
Easter Vigil	6:30 p.m. Saturday, April 8
Easter Sunrise Service	6:30 a.m. Sunday, April 9
Easter Breakfast	Between Services Sunday, April 9
Easter Morning Service	10:00 a.m. Sunday, April 9

I am also excited to share that after Easter we will be joined by Associate Conference Minister, Rev. Stephanie Perdew, PhD of the Illinois Conference, UCC; who will be teaching a four week series on the Didache. This class will dovetail beautifully with our journey through Matthew's Gospel and lead us into a rich Easter Season. Please mark all of these events on your calendar, and share them with a friend, neighbor, or even some random person at the grocery store!

Finally, I want to let you know that I will be away from Sunday, March 5<sup>th</sup> through Thursday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. During this time I will not be checking emails, and only rarely checking my work phone. If you have an emergency, please contact my friend and colleague Rev. Alex Molozaiy, of Community Protestant Church in Mundelein at (224) 522-2033.

Blessings!

*Pastor Jason*

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Dear Church Family,

I invite you to join us in our season of Lent. Our Adult class is working through *40 Days Living the Jesus Creed* by Scot McKnight, reflecting on how we can live our daily lives in line with loving God and loving our neighbor. These are the two greatest commandments. The call of the Christian life in so many ways can be boiled down to these two callings. Both are accomplished by the power of the Holy Spirit changing our hearts from just loving ourselves to opening them to the heart of God and to the needs of our neighbor. I still have books available, and our weekly discussions are on Sunday mornings in the Parlor space. Join us throughout this Lenten season as we seek to live out our calling as Christ's disciples.

There are a couple upcoming events that I would like to make you aware of so that you can put them on your calendar and join us as we come to Easter and the celebration of our risen Christ. Both are for the day before Easter, Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Our **Annual Easter Egg Hunt** will be held on **April 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.** on the Front Lawn, weather permitting. Join us and invite any kids you know to hunt for Easter Eggs, hear the Easter story, and enjoy some treats. Be watching for more information on this to come soon!

We are also holding an **Easter Vigil** on **Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** This is a wonderful opportunity to walk through the story of the Bible and how God from the very beginning of creation is rescuing His people and by His grace reaching out to them. Each of the stories will be told in a variety of ways by different groups in the church, so come join in the fun as we reflect upon the works of God throughout history and await the resurrection of Christ.

Coming soon to Adult Education is Discipleship and the *Didache*. The *Didache*, which means "teaching" in its original Greek language, is a Christian worship and discipleship manual that arose in parallel to the Gospel of Matthew. As UPC dwells in the Gospel of Matthew this lectionary season we will explore the *Didache* as a piece of Christian history and as a guide to our own Christian discipleship.

The four sessions will meet April 16 and 23, and May 7 and 14, taught by Rev. Stephanie Perdew, Ph.D. We have known Rev. Perdew as Associate Conference Minister here in Illinois. As of April 1 she is serving as the Director of the Damascus Project, the collaborative theological education ministry of the Minnesota and Wisconsin Conferences of the United Church of Christ. The Damascus Project provides training and education for lay leaders and courses for those seeking authorized ministry in the UCC. Rev. Perdew continues in her role as affiliate professor of Christian history at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

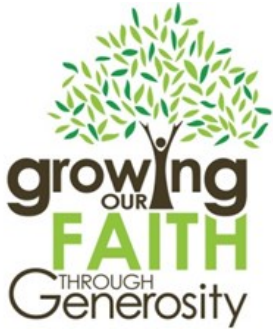
I look forward to participating in this season of preparation both individually, but also together as a church. If you have any questions or need anything, please let me know. I would love to meet with you or help however I can.

Blessings,

Ryan Aubrey  
Director of Christian Education



## STEWARDSHIP NEWS



Hear the good news from *The Hole in Our Gospel* by Richard Stearns, former President of World Vision. PUSH recently finished reading and discussing this book, and we were all moved by Stearns' insights into what the lives of true Christian stewards look like, and the difference we are all called to make!

*"One of the most common mistakes we can make is to believe that we have nothing of significance to offer--that we're not rich enough, smart enough, skilled enough, or spiritual enough to make much difference at all, especially in the face of huge global problems. But the very good news for those of us who want to follow Christ and be part of God's plan for our world is that he uses what we have to offer, no matter how unimportant we think it might be."*

As we learn together at UPC what a dedicated Christian steward is, each of us may face changes to our attitudes toward our time, talents and money and what gratitude and generosity mean to our Creator God to whom all of Creation belongs. Let's prepare to explore together, as a church family, what our generosity can mean for God's world and our lives!

***Give as freely as you have received! Matthew 10:8b***

Trusting the God that provides,

Carol Roselli-Rasmussen  
Stewardship Committee

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KAY SUTTON as our new Director of Music at UPC. Kay is a former member of UPC and brings many years of musical background and experience to our music program. Welcome Kay!



SEAN DEL GROSSO for his many years of service and dedication to our music program as Music Director. We wish Sean well as he explores new paths and adventures. Best wishes Sean!

## **MISSIONS**

### **Joy Sharing for March**

Joy Sharing Sunday is March 19 and benefits Northern Illinois Food Bank. As Northern Illinois Food Bank marks 40 years of helping our neighbors in 2023, we need your support more than ever so that individuals and families can continue to access food and resources with dignity, equity and convenience. While we wish we could put ourselves out of business, the reality is that food insecurity remains a complex issue, influenced by many factors, and nearly half a million people depend on our Food Bank network to meet their nutritional needs and feed their families across our 13-County service area. We relocated our North Suburban Center to Lake Forest last year to improve agency access and provide an improved volunteer experience and would love to see you join us as a volunteer. Visit [www.solvehungertoday.org](http://www.solvehungertoday.org) to learn more about food resources in your community or how you can help.

### **Feed My Starving Children**

The next monthly UPC packing session at Feed My Starving Children is Tuesday, March 7 from 7:00-8:45 p.m. in Libertyville. Please contact Cinda at [bartzc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bartzc@sbcglobal.net) to reserve your spot if you wish to participate.

### **Adult Mission Trip**

It's official! Our adult mission trip this year will be revisiting Mayfield, Kentucky where a severe tornado hit just before Christmas in 2021. We will leave Sunday, April 16 and return Saturday, April 22. We'll be repairing existing and potentially new construction. The cost is \$125 for lodging. We will prepare our own meals in a wonderful commercial style kitchen. Please let Rick Burg know as soon as possible so we can get the process moving. His contact info: cell 224-612-2409, email [rickburg10@gmail.com](mailto:rickburg10@gmail.com). Don't be afraid to ask a friend or neighbor to join in the fun. Everyone is welcome!

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

March 7 - Packing Session at Feed My Starving Children 7:00-8:45 p.m.  
March 11 - BUNCO and Games 1-3 p.m. in Fellowship Hall (Everyone welcome!)  
April 2 - Palm Sunday Worship Service at 10 a.m.  
April 4 - Packing Session at Feed My Starving Children 7:00-8:45 p.m.  
April 6 - Maundy Thursday Tenebrae with Communion at 7:00 p.m.  
April 8 - Easter Party & Egg Hunt at 2 p.m. (UPC front lawn weather permitting)  
April 8 - Easter Vigil at 6:30 p.m.  
April 9 - Easter Sunday Worship Services at 6:30 a.m. and 10 a.m.

***MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND JOIN US!***





**JOIN US FOR BUNCO & GAMES**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 11th**

**1-3 PM IN FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**ALL AGES WELCOME!**

Join WCF and Membership & Outreach for an afternoon of BUNCO & Games. Everyone is welcome to participate. Refreshments will be provided and there will be prizes. BUNCO is an easy game to learn and play. Come try it! Other games will be available to play as well. Come spend an afternoon of fellowship with other UPC members and friends. We look forward to seeing you there!



Children (PreK-6th Grade) are invited to

*UPC's Annual  
Easter Egg Hunt  
and Party*

Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>  
2pm

*Bring your Easter basket and join us  
for an Easter book followed by  
the egg hunt and some refreshments.*



## UPC PADS SITE UPDATES—MARCH 2023



### **WHAT'S HAPPENING AT UPC PADS SITE NOW?**

UPC is starting training of new volunteers & new shift leaders NOW.

- **WHO:** ALL interested adults & youth! (SHARE THIS INFORMATION!)
- **WHAT:** **UPC PADS & PADS Lake County OVERVIEW with ORIENTATION** for new & prospective adult & youth volunteers & info for others interested in learning about UPC PADS & PADS Lake County programs.
- **WHERE:** United Protestant Church FELLOWSHIP HALL
- **WHEN:** THURSDAY, MARCH 16 from 7 TO 8:30 PM.

Watch an 11-minute video giving an overview of all PADS Lake County programs. Take a "walk-thru" our UPC Site & receive an overview of local site operations.

Questions and comments welcomed. If you have questions, please contact Rose Pech at [pads at upc@hotmail.com](mailto: pads@upc@hotmail.com) or 847-682-2837.

**NECESSARY FOR OPENING: BOTH St. Mary of Vernon & UPC sites need enough volunteers** to provide a safe environment for guests & volunteers.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR OUR MAIN SHIFTS:** (Times are approximate)

- 1<sup>st</sup> shift: 5:30 – 11 PM (4 adults needed; at least one male)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> shift: 11 PM – 3 AM (2 adults needed)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> shift: 3 – 7 AM (4 adults needed; at least 2 male)
- Late 3<sup>rd</sup> shift: 4:30 to 7 AM (1 adult needed)
- A.M. Kitchen Cleanup: 6 – 7 AM (3 adults needed)

**SPECIFIC SHIFT TRAINING** will be done in September if our site opens this fall.

### **PADS LAKE COUNTY "SHOUT OUT" REGARDING FIXED SITE LOCATION:**

PADS offer for purchase of a site was not signed by seller. Need seller in an area near public transportation where zoning & selling to PADS Lake County for a fixed site won't be a problem.

**Contact Eric Foote** [efoote@padslakecounty.org](mailto: efoote@padslakecounty.org) if you know of places (including hotels) for sale or places that owner may be interested in selling—the NE area of Lake County, away from commercial & residential, but near public transportation preferred, but anywhere in the county will be considered if public transportation is nearby.

### **PAD VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL IN CRITICAL NEED: check out a nearby site!**

Sign up online or contact church! (Sign up for any nights that work for you!)

**Monday: Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church, Washington St.**

◇ <https://signup.com/go/nVVtqLp>

**Tuesday: Wildwood Presbyterian Church, Gages Lake Road**

◇ <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D44A5A72BA1FAC61-pads>

**Friday: St. Mark Lutheran Church, Grand Ave., Lindenhurst**

◇ signup genius is on the St. Mark Lutheran Church website under Ministry Partners PADS: Friday Night PADS Sign Up ([signupgenius.com](https://www.signupgenius.com)).

**Thanks for your great support of PADS from our UPC PADS Site Leadership Team!**



**WCF NEWS — MARCH 2023**  
**WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**  
**WCF WELCOMES ALL WOMEN 18 & OVER!! PLEASE JOIN US!!**

**MARCH**

**MEANS... GAME TIME, FOOD, & DRINK!!!**



**AND  
MORE...**



**WOMEN, MEN, YOUTH, CHILDREN!!!**  
**WCF joins Membership and Outreach in offering an afternoon**  
**FUN FOR ALL!!**  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 11th at 1 P.M.**  
**UPC FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**CIRCLE NEWS**

**Circles 2, 4/5, & 9** members resume their regular meetings and welcome visitors! **See chart for all circles' meeting information & find a day & time that work for you!**

Watch for more detailed information regarding changes for circle meetings in the Tuesday Newsday emails, weekly church bulletins & our monthly UNIFIER articles. To contact chairpersons: See the church directory or contact Rose Pech (847-682-2837; [rose4nonna@hotmail.com](mailto:rose4nonna@hotmail.com)).

| <b>Circle</b> | <b>Day/Date</b>                       | <b>Time</b>     | <b>Place</b>               | <b>Contact</b>        |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>2</b>      | <b>Next Meeting<br/>Sun., March 6</b> | <b>11:30 AM</b> | <b>UPC Meeting Room</b>    | <b>Catherine Vick</b> |
| <b>4/5</b>    | <b>Next Meeting<br/>Wed., March 1</b> | <b>11:30 AM</b> | <b>Culver's—Grayslake</b>  | <b>Sue Schmidt</b>    |
| <b>9</b>      | <b>Tues., March 14</b>                | <b>5:30 PM</b>  | <b>Hillside Restaurant</b> | <b>Ruth Gheysen</b>   |
| <b>10</b>     | <b>TBD</b>                            | <b>TBD</b>      | <b>TBD</b>                 | <b>Jasmine Walker</b> |

**WCF MISSION FUND:** Tyler, Brittany, & Danielle are getting settled in West Africa where they will live & work for 3 months. They will return to the U.S. in May & stay until their new baby is born & ready to make the trip back to West Africa with them. They will return to West Africa in late October for a full term. Throughout 2023, they need a monthly income of \$2,000 to meet their budget. Donations to the WCF Mission Fund may be made at any time for 2024. Make checks payable to UPC with "WCF Mission Fund" in the memo or put a donation into an envelope marked WCF Mission Fund. However, we also encourage those who can to donate now and anytime during 2023 to do so by either going online to [www.ilad.ngo/D2002](http://www.ilad.ngo/D2002) or by paper check payable to ILAD with D2002 written in the memo. Mail checks to ILAD, Atten: D2002, P.O. Box 383153, Duncanville, TX 75138-3183.

--Blessings, Rose Pech



### March Birthdays

3/3 David Holliman  
3/6 Priscilla Wackerlin  
3/6 Jeffrey Ziegler  
3/12 Thomas Christensen  
3/14 Marie Frandsen  
3/15 Kim Lenzen  
3/17 Tessa Fuller  
3/19 Donald Vick  
3/20 Beth Floral  
3/20 Wendell Fry  
3/21 Lloyd Lowe  
3/21 Max Mansell  
3/22 Gregg Helm  
3/22 Samia Mall  
3/29 Donna Obrecht  
3/31 Kaitlyn Fuller  
3/31 Mitchell Fuller

### March Anniversaries

3/9 Sarah & Erik Fries  
3/24 Terese & Warren Bell  
3/30 Cynthia & Richard Floral



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

**Members:** Doris Craig, Marie Frandsen, Susan Green, Ben Kelly-Fuller, Joan Hendricks, Joanne Lawrence, Mary Ann McDowell, Marjorie Miller, Eric Stahl, Pat Wackerlin, Dan Watkins, Bobbie Weichman, and Dian Weinkauf.

**Tyler, Brittany & Danielle** – are grateful for prayers answered since their return to Africa. All 3 are sleeping better and the truck was repaired. However, prayers are still needed as they are living in very cramped conditions, some of the fruit tree roots are showing problem signs, and for donations to provide the needed income of \$2,000 per month for 2023. They ask that we always pray for them to have the same peace Paul did in Philippians 4:11-13 regardless of their circumstances.

**Relatives & Friends:** Allen Anglin, Kathy Behm, Joe Boccaleoni, Kathy Weichman Bradley, Megan Brown, Lorine Cooper, Patricia Davis, Judy Hendrickson, Mary Mason, Gloria Meier, Tommy Nellessen, Gary Sadlack, Stephan, Erik and Kacie Stanley, their son and Erik's mother, Diane.

**Long-term prayers:** Bruce Baird, Flora Boehm & family, Betty Bournes, Thomas Bournes, Mary Brase, Don & Tina Busch, Pat Curnow, Brad Fuller, Trish Jelinek, Rick Juern, 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

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

Phone: 847-223-8131

E-mail: [upc@upcgl.org](mailto:upc@upcgl.org)

Pastor: Rev. Jason Okrzynski

Email:  
[seniorpastor@upcgl.org](mailto:seniorpastor@upcgl.org)

Church Office Hours:  
Tuesday & Thursday  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Grounded | Empowered | Transformed

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

