

# 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 2024

Grace to you and Peace,

I write this after the single strangest week of weather I think I have seen in my lifetime. Perhaps it is for the best however, because the warm weather is a reminder that we are only weeks away from Easter. In fact, this week we are half way through Lent already!

It is my prayer that these final three weeks of Lent may continue to be spirit-filled and focused for our members. It is perhaps also a good moment to step back and take perspective on this journey of Lent. Our Lent drama series, Turning Towards God, is providing a significant opportunity for all of us to reflect critically on the very nature of "sin" and the patterns of human behavior and attitudes that make humanity so vulnerable and ignorant of its wages. This, however, is not the complete end of our journey. Rather, this austere time of self-examination is only completed on Easter, when Christ rises from the tomb as an entire new creation, the first-born of the dead.

This ridiculous hope, that God has mixed all that is divine and all that is human together in the crucified and resurrected Jesus, is the goal of this entire Lenten journey. God has already completed God's project in Jesus Christ! Our calling is to walk with Jesus on this side of eternity. We are claimed by God's promise that we too shall have our place in glory by the gift of God in Christ. It is because this promise is so wonderful, that we take this time on earth to seriously examine our lives and turn again towards the One God who made all this possible.

Below, you will see our Holy Week and Easter schedule. Please make your plans to join us at the end of the Lenten journey to bear witness to the last week of Christ, his passion and death, and most of all to proclaim his resurrection!

In Christ,

Rev. Jason Okrzynski, PhD  
Senior Pastor

## **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

<b>Sunday, March 24</b>	Palm Sunday Worship Service	10:00 AM
<b>Thursday, March 28</b>	Maundy Thursday Worship Service	7:00 PM
<b>Friday, March 29</b>	Good Friday Worship Service	7:00 PM
<b>Saturday, March 30</b>	Easter Party & Egg Hunt for Children	2:00 PM
<b>Sunday, March 31</b>	Easter Sunrise Service	6:30 AM
<b>Sunday, March 31</b>	Easter Breakfast in Fellowship Hall	7:00-10:00 AM
<b>Sunday, March 31</b>	Easter Worship Service	10:00 AM

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Dear Church Family,

As we continue to walk through this period of Lent, I have been struck while thinking through our Lenten Study just how the flow of Jesus's life is toward his crucifixion and resurrection. I am excited because this is one of the times of the year that our Children's Ministry and Adult Ministry are discussing related topics. The kids will be exploring Jesus's crucifixion and resurrection while the adults continue to explore Holy Week.

I have really enjoyed reading and discussing *Entering the Passion of Jesus* by Amy-Jill Levine with you. As I read the third chapter, this topic of the elements of Holy Week pointing to what Jesus was going to do at the end of the week came to mind. Dr. Levine talks about the widow who gave all that she had. She then connects the widow's giving with Jesus. As Jesus in the garden and then on the cross commits to giving all of himself, so too, the widow gives all that she is/has. It raises an important question for us in this Lenten Season and beyond: How might we give all of what we have to continue Jesus's life and ministry. This is an important question for us to continually ask ourselves. I encourage you in the second half of Lent to pray and think through this question. How can we as individuals and a church be carrying out Jesus's life and ministry to those around us? To help us work through some of these questions, our first adult study in the Fall will be about discovering our SHAPE, so watch for more information regarding that opportunity later this year.

Our Children's Ministry hosted a Kids Night Out at the beginning of February. It was a wonderful opportunity to provide parents with some time together. We had a fun time watching a movie, eating pizza, and playing games together. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make it a success. The Children's Ministry Committee will be looking at offering this again. Until then, I encourage you to join us on Saturday, March 30<sup>th</sup> for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Invite friends and other families to join us on the front lawn (hopefully we will continue to have such nice weather) for a time of hearing the Easter story, gathering Easter eggs, and refreshments.

Let me know if you have any questions regarding our Educational Ministries here at United Protestant Church.

On the family front, we recently went to visit my sister and her family. We were joining a birthday celebration of one of the cousins. The kids had a wonderful time. Anabelle enjoyed spending some time with the youngest who is just starting to learn how to stand on her own. Anabelle and William would both watch and laugh as she stood up and then flopped down onto an oversized stuffed animal. The little cousin, realizing she was getting some laughs out of this then began doing it repeatedly. While this was fun to watch, Anabelle was a little frustrated that all the pictures she tried to take of her cousin were blurry because she kept falling before Anabelle could take the picture.

Blessings,

*Ryan Aubrey*

Director of Christian Education



A colorful poster for an Easter event. The background is light blue with white clouds and a yellow sun. A large pink Easter egg is the central focus, containing the event title. Two brown rabbits with white floral patterns are positioned on the left and right sides. A yellow Easter egg is on the bottom left, and a green grassy area with white daisies is at the bottom. The text is in various colors and fonts, including white, yellow, and black.

# UPC'S EASTER PARTY AND EGG HUNT

**SATURDAY,  
MARCH 30TH  
2-3PM**

**Join us for an Easter book  
and egg hunt, followed by  
candy and refreshments!**



**United  
Protestant  
Church**  
*of Grayslake*

54 S. Whitney  
(847)223-8131  
[upcgl.org](http://upcgl.org)

The Children's Ministry Committee is accepting candy donations for the Easter Egg Hunt through March 24. If you are interested in contributing, please bring your candy donations to Ryan Aubrey or the church office.



## STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Dear Members,

With the passing of the 2024 budget at the Annual Meeting in January, the Staff Parish Relations Committee now has the funds available to hire a new **part-time Choir Director** to fill the vacated position. We have posted the position on Indeed, sent the job description to the UMC local and international job offerings site, and Pastor Jason is working on sending the position description to the UCC, some local universities/colleges and some clergy friends.

We welcome other suggestions for posting this vacancy as well as your help passing the word to friends/associates that you think may be a good fit. **The Choir Director will be responsible for directing both the bell choir and the vocal adult choir Labor Day through Memorial Day, including weekly practices and Sunday performances.**

Musical experience is a must and experience in directing is a plus. All interested persons should contact Carol Roselli-Rasmussen at [Rasmuss4@aol.com](mailto:Rasmuss4@aol.com) or send their resume to:

Carol Roselli-Rasmussen  
United Protestant Church  
54 S. Whitney Street  
Grayslake, IL 60030.

Thanks for your help!

Regards,

Carol R-R



# WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



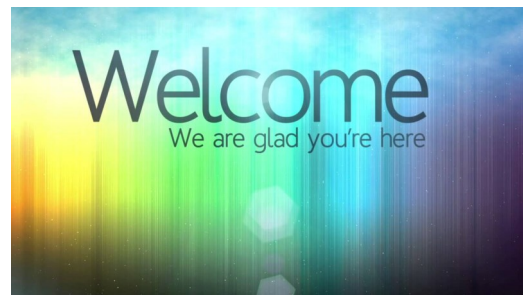
**Lynn Hallen**



**Richard & Linda Dzonkiewicz**



**Andrew, Ann, Joseph & Patti Friesema**



**Of course we had lots of cake!**

# STEWARDSHIP NEWS



Dear UPC family,

Stewardship encompasses the sharing of our Time and Talents along with our Treasures. UPC has many opportunities to volunteer and share your time and talents while enjoying the company of your fellow members and friends. In addition, other opportunities are available to participate in recycling to help sustain His creation.

Here are just a few examples of each of these opportunities. Please look on our Mission table in the Narthex area and on the UPC website, under Missions, for more detailed information.

## Volunteering:

1. The first Tuesday evening of each month, a group from UPC serve together at *Feed My Starving Children* in Libertyville to pack food for malnourished children in over 100 countries. There are jobs for all levels of ability from sitting and labeling, packing food or working in the warehouse. Sign-up sheets are on the Mission table.
2. Come to our *Operation Christmas Child* (OCC) packing party in the UPC Fellowship Hall in November. We have a great time packing shoe boxes to send to children around the world who learn about Jesus as they receive these gifts. All year the Mission team publishes an 'Item of the Week' in the Tuesday email for donations so that we have the needed items to fill the shoe boxes in November. (Contact our Administrative Assistant, Sue, in the church office at 223-8131 to sign up to receive the Tuesday email.)
3. Donate Christmas and birthday cards and/or write notes for our *Companions Journeying Together* mission. The cards go to prisoners to help them stay connected to their families, and the notes of encouragement go to the prisoners.

## Recycling:

1. Donate old ink cartridges, any size. They are recycled and the money that is received is donated to our Joy Sharing partner, *INK180*. The donations cover part of the cost of tattoo removal for past gang members and those rescued from human trafficking.
2. Donate shoes for *Soles For Jesus* (SFJ). These shoes are sent to partner organizations in Africa to distribute to those living in extreme poverty to help reduce injuries and the spread of disease while spreading the Word of Jesus.

If you have any questions, please contact our Mission Committee.

God Bless you for all that you do!

Linda Rambo  
Stewardship/Missions







# MARCH 2024

## UPC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 5:30pm Fellowship Dinner
3 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service	4 7:00pm Stewardship Committee (MR) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	5 9:00am Park District Preschool (202) 6:30pm Pack 451 Den Meetings (FH) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105)	6 11:30am Circle 4/5 (Culver's) 6:00pm Confirmation Class (Loft) 7:00pm Youth Group (Loft) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH) 7:15pm Troop 451 Board of Review (101)	7 9:00am Park District Preschool (202) 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Staff Parish (MR) 7:00pm Grace Notes (Choir Room) 7:30pm AA (106,105)	8 6:00-8:00pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting (FH-Aubrey)	9
10 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service 11:30am Circle 2 (MR)	11 7:00pm Children's Ministry Committee (MR) 7:30pm AA (106, 105) 8:00pm Christian Ed. Commission (MR)	12 9:00am Park District Preschool (202) 5:30pm Circle 9 (Mrs. V's) 6:30pm North Star District Commissioner Meeting (MR) 6:30pm Pack 451 Den Meetings (FH) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 PLC (101)	13 6:00pm Confirmation Class (Loft) 7:00pm Youth Group (Loft) 7:00pm PUSH (Parlor) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	14 9:00am Park District Preschool (202) 7:00pm Budget & Finance (MR) 7:00pm Grace Notes (Choir Room) 7:30pm AA (106,105)	15	16
17 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service 2:00pm Knapp Eagle Court of Honor (Sanctuary)  	18 7:00pm Ad Council (FH) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	19 9:00am Park District Preschool (202) 6:30pm Pack 451 Pack Meeting (FH) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105) 7:00pm Nami Family Support Group (MR) 7:00pm Troop 451 Committee Meeting (101)	20 6:00pm Confirmation Class (Loft) 7:00pm Youth Group (Loft) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	21 9:00am Park District Preschool (202) 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Grace Notes (Choir Room) 7:30pm AA (106,105)	22	23
24 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service  	25 7:00pm Mission Committee (Parlor) 7:00pm Worship Committee (MR) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	26 9:00am Park District Preschool (202) 6:30pm Pack 451 Den Meetings (FH) 7:00pm Membership Cultivation Committee (MR) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105)	27 6:00pm Confirmation Class (Loft) 7:00pm Youth Group (Loft) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105)	28 9:00am Park District Preschool (202) 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service 7:30pm AA (106,105) 8:00pm Grace Notes (Choir Room)	29 7:00pm Good Friday Service  	30 2:00pm Easter Party & Egg Hunt (front lawn- weather permitting)  
31  6:30am Easter Service 7:00-10:00am Easter Breakfast (FH) 10:00am Easter Service						

# MISSIONS

## Feed My Starving Children

The next UPC packing session at Feed My Starving Children in Libertyville is scheduled for Tuesday, March 5 from 7:00-8:45 p.m. If you are interested in participating, please contact Cinda Bartz at [bartzc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bartzc@sbcglobal.net).

## Operation Christmas Child

For March, we would like to collect toy cars, trucks and boats, sewing kit items, underwear, yo-yos and dolls to fill 250 shoe box gifts.



## March Joy Sharing

The Joy Sharing for March will benefit the Adult Mission Trip. UPC will have a group of adults returning to Mayfield, KY in June to participate in Habitat for Humanity's Blitz Build to help build new homes for those who lost theirs in the devastating EF4 tornado in December 2021. Joy Sharing Sunday will be March 17. Please donate if you are able to this worthwhile cause.

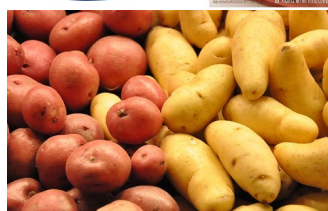
## Fifth Sunday Donations

In our goal to *Do More In 2024*, the Mission Committee has enhanced its Joy Sharing calendar to add a Fifth Sunday Donation opportunity. During the three Fifth Sundays during the year, we will highlight organizations that are currently supported by our congregation through year-round collections of physical items. We hope to bring greater attention to their mission and needs.

Our first Fifth Sunday donation recipient in March is The Lord of Glory Food Pantry. They serve the Grayslake area by providing a welcoming place for people to receive needed food, care and support.

The current list of needed items includes:

- Macaroni & Cheese
- Hamburger Helper
- Dry Cereal & Oatmeal
- Rice & Potatoes
- Canned Tuna
- Canned Soups & Ravioli
- Canned or Dry Beans



The donation bin is found in our Narthex.



## Companions Journeying Together

**LENT IS A TIME FOR SELF-EXAMINATION:** Do you feel drawn to do more for Christ? If so, here's an idea! In just 5 minutes a day of "down" time during Lent, you could copy or write one or two sentences into a Christmas card and sign it. It would be one small way to make a BIG difference in someone's life. Christ said, "In as much as you have done it unto one of the least of these my brothers (or sisters), you have done it unto me."

Packets of 10 Christmas cards with a paper of sample messages attached are available in the decorated box on the UPC Mission Counter. Help yourself!

Put completed cards into the container on the Mission Counter marked "Companions Journeying Together". Each year thanks to passionate volunteers, Companions Journeying Together sends over 8,000 Christmas cards, spreading joy to people who are imprisoned in Illinois.



-- Contact Rose Pech or Cinda Bartz for more information.



*Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 10. Don't forget to change your clocks one hour ahead on Saturday night, March 9.*

**PLEASE NOTE:** No member of the UPC Staff will ever solicit personal financial assistance from any member of the congregation through email. With digital hacking on the rise, always check the email address of the sender before opening or responding. Emails from Pastor Jason are identified as [seniorpastor@upcgl.org](mailto:seniorpastor@upcgl.org). Emails from Ryan Aubrey are identified as [ryanaubrey@upcgl.org](mailto:ryanaubrey@upcgl.org). Emails from the church office or Sue Schmidt are identified as [churchsec@upcgl.org](mailto:churchsec@upcgl.org). Any other email addresses for these individuals are false and should be deleted. Please report any issues to staff members if you receive questionable emails related to UPC. Thank you!



## **CURRENT NUMBER OF LAKE COUNTY RESIDENTS NEEDING HOUSING AND SHELTER SURPASSES EVERY PAST YEAR SINCE RECORDS HAVE BEEN KEPT!**

- **The number of people without shelter interviewed and offered assistance between the hours of 10:00 P.M. and 2:30 A.M. on January 31, 2024, was 3 TIMES the number counted during that same time period any year** since the Lake County Coalition for the Homeless has done an annual “Point in Time Count” of unsheltered people, according to the report given at our February 25 PADS meeting. They were in woods, alleys, ravines, under viaducts, etc.
- **PADS Lake County reported more than 430 clients in motels (42% children) on February 25—surpassing all previous PADS numbers.**

## **LATEST NEWS FROM PADS LAKE COUNTY:**

- PADS has been actively in conversation with most communities in Lake County as efforts are being made to move toward more effectively meeting clients’ needs by having a fixed site. Most responses have been positive. Funds for the purchase of available hotels and/or other properties would include funds currently available and additional funding for property and for transition expenses. PADS will NOT be opening the emergency church sites as was done in the past. The future use of a combination of motels transitioning into fixed sites will meet the needs of clients in a much safer, more efficient, and more effective manner. Watch for details as soon as this summer or early fall when some of us will have the opportunity to give testimony to the difference a fixed location makes in serving PADS clients.
- **More than 110** of the PADS clients **currently rely on donations**, including the food and other needed items **being dropped off by churches as the source of their daily meals and other necessities**. Any of these items can be donated at UPC or delivered to 1800 Grand Avenue in Waukegan. The PADS Lake Co. website: [www.padslakecounty.org](http://www.padslakecounty.org) has **complete wish lists** for general food, clothing and survival items needed.

**UPC PADS UPDATE:** UPC PADS plans to continue collecting and delivering healthy shelf-stable and microwavable food items year-round.

- **Printed lists of needed food items** are available on the PADS food container on shelving near the Director of Christian Education’s office and elevator.
- **Lists of specific items needed by clients and requested by Case Managers** are being updated regularly. Items needed immediately are purchased using funds available from donations made for PADS through both UPC and St. Gilbert Church, which recently donated \$1,000 in gift cards for food.
- Lists of other specific items will be shared in Tuesday Newsday updates as needs arise.

Contact Rose Pech 847-682-2837 or [pads\\_at\\_upc@hotmail.com](mailto:pads_at_upc@hotmail.com) for more info.



# WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP



## **BUNCO WAS A BLAST! WATCH FOR PHOTOS IN APRIL'S UNIFIER!**

If you missed out, join us for our next BUNCO event on October 19.

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

**Circle 2** meetings are held at **11:30 A.M. in the UPC Meeting Room** one Sunday each month from March through December and will resume on **March 10**. Contact Catherine Vick.

**Circle 4/5** meets on the first Wednesday of each month, and the next meeting will be at **11:30 A.M. on March 6 at Culver's** in Grayslake. Contact Sue Schmidt.

**Circle 9** meets year-round at **5:30 P.M.** on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. **The March 12 meeting will be 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 going to a meeting.

**Circle 10** does not meet in person on a regular basis, but 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., March 10	11:30 AM	UPC Meeting Room	Catherine Vick
4/5	Wed., March 6	11:30 AM	Culver's in Grayslake	Sue Schmidt
9	Tues., March 12	5:30 PM	Mrs. V's in Round Lake Beach	Ruth Gheysen
10	TBD	TBD	TBD	Jasmine Walker

**\*Contact information is available online in the Instant Church Directory or at the UPC office.**

**Tyler, Brittany, Danielle, & Joanna** give praise for all the love and support they receive through prayers, messages, and donations. Their 5 top prayer requests at this time: **Teammates**—short-term Nanny and African Xian for brick machine, **Trees**—good recovery for the 181 trees they just imported, **Translation**—Brent's exegetical check while Luke and Solo draft, **Treatment**—good health and availability of the Malaria Vaccine, **Treasure**—increase monthly funds by \$325. **Thanks to all of you who pray for Tyler & Brittany, their family, and their projects and to those who gave to February's UPC Joy Sharing or have provided direct financial support. You all continue to be such a blessing!**



## March Birthdays

3/3 David Holliman  
3/6 Evelyn Munts  
3/6 Jeff Ziegler  
3/12 Tom Christensen  
3/14 Marie Frandsen  
3/15 Kim Lenzen  
3/17 Tessa Fuller  
3/19 Donald Vick  
3/20 Beth Floral  
3/20 Wende Fry  
3/21 Ann Friesema  
3/21 Lloyd Lowe  
3/21 Max Mansell  
3/22 Gregg Helm  
3/27 William Aubrey  
3/29 Donna Obrecht  
3/30 Doris Hanke  
3/31 Kaitlyn Fuller  
3/31 Mitchell Fuller



## March Anniversaries

3/9 Sarah & Erik Fries  
3/24 Terese & Warren Bell  
3/28 Abby & Drew Madden  
3/30 Cynthia & Richard Floral



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

**Members:** Marlene Badgerow, Marie Frandsen, Susan Green, David Holliman, Joanne Lawrence, Marjorie Miller, John Porteous, Roger Richardson, Dan Watkins, Bobbie Weichman, and Dian Weinkauf.

**Tyler, Brittany & Danielle, & Joanna:** current prayer requests include good health and availability of the Malaria vaccine, increase of monthly funds by \$325, balancing farm/family with Tyler's online MBA (5-10 hours/week for a year), and Shovel to continue learning quickly as there are always new things to be done. They continue to give thanks for all the prayers and other support they receive.

**Relatives & Friends:** Allen Anglin, Kathy Behm, Joe Boccaleoni, Kathy Weichman Bradley, Lorine Cooper, Patricia Davis, Judy Hendrickson, Mary Mason, Gloria Meier, Pat Mielke, Tommy Nellessen, Sohail Rana and the Alam family, Gary Sadlack, 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).

*Lord, in your  
mercy, hear our  
prayer.*



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)  
Cell: 224-463-2171

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

Grounded | Empowered | Transformed

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

