

The Unifier



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

May, 2022

What Will Be Your Witness

We all know the term, 'evangelism'. But what does it mean? To some of us it may have a negative connotation of taking advantage of someone or being rude or forcing our beliefs upon someone else. But evangelism is not these things. What is evangelism? Evangelism comes from the Greek word, 'euangelion', which very simply means 'good news'. Evangelism then is simply telling 'good news'. But what is the good news we have to tell? We tell the good news of Jesus Christ. But I am increasingly convinced of this reality. That what we tell in the good news of Jesus Christ cannot be, only, the historic reality of Jesus who was born and died and was raised again. We cannot tell only, the theological truths about Jesus; that He was born of the Virgin, is fully God and fully man. No, in order for us to tell the good news of Jesus Christ, we have to not only have had a real experience with the risen Christ ourselves, but we must also have an ongoing relationship with Jesus.

For far too many of us, our relationship with Jesus is old. It is more than old, it was a once was. We knew Jesus, we believed, but we ended things there. It was almost as if we had a wedding, but we don't have a marriage. We can look back in the picture album in our mind and point to the memories of a glorious day in which we came to faith. Or perhaps our relationship is relegated to the slide show of vacations of yesteryear. We can remember the good times of where we went and what we experienced with Christ, but we have no real vibrancy and depth of an ongoing relationship with Jesus.

I am convinced that the main reason that our evangelism is so weak is because our discipleship is so weak. So let me suggest three steps to helping you grow in your discipleship no matter where you are currently:

Worship with the Church. There is no substitute for being together with other Christians in the local church worshipping and being encouraged by the Holy Spirit and each other.

God's Word. Read the Bible at home and study the Scriptures with others through education opportunities at church.

Pray. Daily be in the presence of God be praying, talking and listening to God throughout your day.

Pastor Ryan

Dear Church Family,

It is hard to believe that we are already entering into the end of this ministry season. I want to begin by expressing my sincere thanks to everyone who has helped make this year's opportunities be a success. Thank you to all the volunteers in Children's Ministry. The kids really enjoyed the lessons and activities throughout the year. Thank you to all the parents and volunteers who helped with Confirmation. We had to navigate some challenges, but you all helped navigate those changes.

Just because our current ministry season is coming to an end, does not mean that our programs are not offering anything over the course of the month. I am really excited about returning to our Nehemiah study in Adult Ministries. Our children are returning to seeking answers to the BIG Question: how do I fit into God's family.

This summer, we are also planning a handful of fellowship opportunities and activities, so be watching for those, and join us as we seek to create a community of belonging where people can grow in their belief and become more like Christ.

This year, at Vacation Bible School, we are *Making Waves* learning that what you do today can change the world around you. VBS will be held June 21st – 23rd from 10:00 am to Noon! I really look forward to this opportunity. We are still in need of some volunteers to help us run a successful program. If you are interested in participating in VBS, this year, either as a volunteer or have kids who would like to join us, please contact me. We are always looking for more volunteers and more kids to participate.

In family news, both of our kids began soccer in the past few weeks. Watching 5- to 8-year-old kids playing soccer is an adventure. This was especially true when watching the boys group. If any of you have interacted with our son, you know that he freely shares and talks to just about anybody. So, during the game portion of the practice, he was on the same team as one of his friends from school. Throughout the game, we had to remind him that he needed to pay attention to the game and not just talk with his friend.

I hope that you have a wonderful summer and will join us throughout the summer for some fellowship activities and fun. If you have any questions or need help with anything, please let me know.

Blessings,

Ryan Aubrey

Director of Christian Education



PADS UPDATE



May 2022

PADS LAKE COUNTY SLEEPOUT: SATURDAY/SUNDAY, MAY 14/15, 6PM-7AM

IT'S NOT TOO LATE!!! YOU CAN raise consciousness & solidarity (& life-saving funds) for Lake County folks experiencing homelessness by joining the sleepout either in person at Joy Lutheran Church in Gurnee to enjoy games & food at the church & sleep in your tent or car, or virtually by camping out in your backyard/living room/ campground or by hosting a digital fundraiser. **YOU CAN ALSO REGISTER WITHOUT SLEEPING OUT! GO TO THE WEBSITE LINK** for more info: www.padslakecounty.org/sleepout

If you're not participating in the SleepOut and would like to donate to Rose Pech's fundraiser for the SleepOut, go to <https://secure.givelively.org/donate/pads-lake-county-inc/2022-sleepout-for-shelter/rose-pech>.

PADS VOLUNTEERS WHO SERVED AT ST. MARY OF VERNON:

OUR UPC PADS volunteers who served onsite this season are being recognized twice this month. Thursday, May 5, we've been invited to join the regular St. Mary of Vernon PADS volunteers at 6 PM for a potluck dinner. Invitations were emailed by the SMV Leadership Team. If you volunteered at St. Mary of Vernon & didn't receive an invitation, please contact Jim Wogan at SMV or Rose Pech at UPC.

OUR SECOND RECOGNITION will be at the PADS Lake County Volunteer Appreciation Event on Saturday, May 21 from noon until 4 P.M. Live music, food, raffle prizes, etc. for those present! Invitations were sent by Evite with details included. If you volunteered for PADS this season & didn't receive an evite, please contact Rose Pech ASAP! **THANKS TO ALL WHO VOLUNTEERED DURING THE PAST SEASON!**

CONTACTING POTENTIAL VOLUNTEERS FOR UPC PADS:

MOST PAST & PRESENT PADS VOLUNTEERS HAVE BEEN CONTACTED by email or regular mail & asked to indicate if and how they're willing to serve PADS onsite during the coming Emergency Shelter Season. Follow-up contacts will be made to those who haven't responded during the next couple of weeks. An email will also be sent to anyone who's expressed an interest in volunteering with UPC PADS and didn't receive the initial email. PLEASE SHARE OUR NEEDS & PRAY THAT THE RESPONSE FROM ALL CONTACTS MADE WILL PROVIDE UPC WITH A VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR & ENOUGH VOLUNTEERS FOR OUR UPC PADS ministry; PRAY about whether YOU are one of those whom God is calling to serve others in this way.

If all needs are met, our UPC PADS Site will be open each Thursday night/Friday morning from October 6/7, 2022, thru April 27/28, 2023. Both onsite & offsite opportunities exist. Onsite volunteers are scheduled for shifts of various lengths from approximately 4:30 P.M. Thursday until about 7 a.m. on Friday. Volunteers are scheduled for 7 or fewer times during the season (once/month). Some opportunities to serve our PADS Site can be scheduled on other days and times. The volunteer coordinator works from home and has flexible hours. Contact Rose Pech, pads_at_upc@hotmail.com or 847-223-8131, ext. 17 for more info.

THANKS SO VERY MUCH for your prayers, donations & time. We can't thank you enough for your continued dedication!
--UPC PADS Site Leadership Team



WCF NEWS--MAY 2022

WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

WCF WELCOMES ALL WOMEN 18 & OVER!! PLEASE JOIN US!!

Contact info for chairpersons can be found in our church directory or contact Rose Pech at 847-682-2837 or rose4nonna@hotmail.com for this & more information.

GREAT NEWS!! VERA MORRIS RETURNING TO UPC MONTHLY:

Vera's missed everyone so much! Plans are for her to attend worship once a month on the date Circle 2 meets and stay afterwards to join the ladies of that circle. Vera's is a long-time member of WCF and became an honorary member when Circle 6 disbanded. We're delighted to have her returning to circle meetings! Be sure to give her a big welcome back!

CIRCLE NEWS:

Circle 2 will continue meeting throughout the summer with dates varying according to schedules. Mark your calendars now for May 1, June 5, July 10, & August 7 when we'll be meeting here at UPC in the parlor or outside on comfortable sunny days.

Circle 4/5 will take the summer off following their May outing on May 4 to Culver's in Grayslake. Watch for news when they resume meeting in September on the first Wednesday of the month.

Circle 9 plans to continue meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month enjoying time with members and friends who can come for food and fellowship at Hillside Restaurant in Grayslake.

See chart below for May meeting information for all 3 of these circles.

Watch for more detailed information regarding other circle meetings in the Tuesday News-day emails, weekly church bulletin, & our monthly UNIFIER articles.

Circle	Day/Date	Time	Place	Contact
2	Sun., May 1	11:15 a.m.	UPC Parlor	Catherine Vick
4/5	Wed., May 4	11:30 a.m.	Culvers in Grayslake	Sue Schmidt
9	Tues., May 10	5:30 p.m.	Hillside Restaurant	Ruth Gheysen
10	TBD	TBD	TBD	Jasmine Walker

WCF MISSION FUND:

Donations may be made at any time throughout the year, and the amount in the fund at the end of December 2022 will be sent to help support the projects undertaken by Tyler & Brittaney in West Africa during 2023.
Blessings, Rose Pech

May Birthday List:

05/03 Anne Craig
05/06 Jennifer Cooper
05/08 Richard Craig
05/09 Warren Bell
05/09 Mary Ann McDowell
05/09 James Richardson
05/09 Danielle Runyon
05/14 Maureen Daly
05/16 Terese Bell
05/16 Victoria Held
05/17 Emily Aubrey
05/17 Jasmine Walker
05/26 Lexie Craig
05/26 Jill Helm
05/29 Joshua Grubs
05/29 Dale Message
05/30 Phil Bjerning

May Anniversaries

05/10 Donald & Cathy Vick
05/12 James & Laurie Bethman
05/13 Brett & Kori Henne
05/26 Mark Rasmussen & Carol
Roselli-Rasmussen
05/28 Brian & Debbie Garbutt
05/30 David & Wendy
Holliman

Joy Sharing for May:

The timely Joy Sharing for May is support for the victims of the Ukraine. We are directing all donations to the United Methodist Church's Bishop's Appeal. Many of us feel helpless to know how to show our support of these innocent people, and here is a way we can confidently offer financial support. Please prayerfully consider your contribution to the relief of this country that is dealing with so much unjust destruction and death. Thank you.

Feed My Starving Children:

After an incredibly long hiatus, UPC is again organizing a group to volunteer at Feed My Starving Children once a month. We will now focus on the first Tuesday of the month, so mark your calendar for June 7 from 7:00pm until 8:45. However, we will volunteer on Tuesday, May 17 (NOT the first Tuesday of the month) at the same time, 7-8:45 pm. Feed My Starving Children is located at 742 E. Park Avenue in Libertyville. You can pack food, help with the warehouse or put labels on bags (a sit-down job). Please sign up by contacting Mary Ann McDowell at either 630-294-7224 or maryann.mcdowell@icloud.com. FMSC is a great place to spend a couple hours and know you have truly made a difference in people's lives!

**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

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

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

