

# 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)

May 2025

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from Jesus Christ, AMEN.

This coming Sunday, May 4, United Protestant Church will celebrate with Joseph Friesma, Timothy Knapp, and Evan Kutsin as they confirm their baptism. At infant baptism, it is the family, godparents and church who gather to create a covenant around the gift of new life; namely to raise that child in the faith and to raise them in the faith. Confirmation, as we practice it today, is an initiation to the young people to publicly recognize that reality with their faith community and to enter fully by choice into that covenant with the community of faith.

For over 75 years, United Protestant Church has been bringing babies, children, and adults into the church through baptism and confirmation! While Christians are not in unified agreement about the appropriate age of baptism, we are in agreement that baptism is the sacrament through which one becomes a member of the earthly church, but even more so, by dying and rising with Christ, is formally adopted as a child of God and enters into the church universal and eternal. In this way, baptism is a foundational practice for the institution that we call "The Christian Church."

Confirmation also represents a certain transition, from the development of faith into adult faith. However, the truth is we all need a faithful church across the entire life cycle to sustain our faith and keep us growing. The Catholic church often refers to the church as the "mother of faith." This image is meant to conjure the primary and personal way that the church nurtures Christian faith into life and health. Confirmation is a day for everyone as it is also a day we celebrate the church as the mother of our faith. It is also thus particularly fitting that the Sunday following confirmation, **Sunday, May 11** is Mother's Day; the day when we celebrate and recognize literally our mothers as a culture.

When we call the church the mother of faith, it is also reference to all the many ministries which form, nurture, and ultimately carry persons in the faith. Just as many mothers sing to their children to sooth and comfort them, so the church sings and creates music in order to strengthen faith. We will complete our trifacta of special Sundays in May on **May 18** when we celebrate UPC Music Sunday together. I do hope you will join us that day, as we not only celebrate Kurt Mockenhaupt and all of our members who minister to us through the gift of music, but also take a moment to give thanks for 75+ years of making music together as a church!

May is a busy month, full of wonderful things! I look forward to sharing it with all of you!

In Christ,  
Rev Jason Okrzynski, PhD

# THINGS TO KNOW

## Christian Education Schedule for May

May 4 – Confirmation Sunday Worship Service with Communion at 10 a.m.

May 11 – Last day of Children's Church during 10 a.m. Worship until September

May 18 – Last day of Christian Education Classes at 9 a.m. until September

*Thank you to everyone who donated candy for our annual Easter Egg Hunt! The children had a great time. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!*



## SAVE THESE DATES:

May 18 – Music Sunday Worship Service at 10 a.m. with recognition of UPC choirs

May 26 – UPC to participate in Grayslake's Memorial Day Parade at 9:30 a.m.

May 31 – UPC & Parsonage Spring Clean-up at 9 a.m.

June 22 – UPC's 75th Anniversary Worship Service at 10 a.m. and Luncheon at 11 a.m.



*The UPC Parking Lot will be **closed starting Monday, May 5 and ending Friday, May 9** for resurfacing work and restriping as part of the Village of Grayslake's construction project. During this week, please park along Whitney Street or Park Avenue. Thank you for your cooperation!*

## SPRING CLEAN-UP AT UPC

Help is needed to clean up outside around UPC and the parsonage beginning at **9 a.m. on Saturday, May 31** (weather permitting). Many hands make light work. Let's beautify our building and lawn in time for our 75th anniversary celebration on June 22. Contact Sue Schmidt at [churchsec@upcgl.org](mailto:churchsec@upcgl.org) with any questions.

## **UPC Financial Update as of March 31, 2025:**

YTD Income: \$ 58,671.44

YTD Expenses: \$ 73,380.80

YTD Deficit: **\$-14,809.36**



# MAY 2025

## United Protestant Church CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> 9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Grace Notes (Choir Room) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	<b>2</b> 4:00pm Troop 671 Pancake Breakfast Setup (FH/Kitchen)	<b>3</b> 7-11am Troop 671 Pancake Breakfast (FH/Kitchen)
<b>4</b> CONFIRMATION SUNDAY 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service	<b>5</b> UPC PARKING LOT CLOSED FOR REPAIR 7:00pm Stewardship Committee Meeting (MR) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	<b>6</b> UPC PARKING LOT CLOSED FOR REPAIR 9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 6:30pm Pack 451 Den Meetings (FH) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105)	<b>7</b> UPC PARKING LOT CLOSED FOR REPAIR 11:30am Circle 4/5 (Culver's) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	<b>8</b> UPC PARKING LOT CLOSED FOR REPAIR 9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 2:00pm Budget & Finance (MR) 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Grace Notes (Choir Room) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	<b>9</b> UPC PARKING LOT CLOSED FOR RE- STRIPING	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> MOTHER'S DAY 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service	<b>12</b> 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	<b>13</b> 9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 5:30pm Circle 9 (Mrs. V's) 6:30pm Governance Task Force (MR) 6:30pm Pack 451 Den Meetings (FH) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 PLC (101)	<b>14</b> 7:00pm PUSH (Parlor) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	<b>15</b> 9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Grace Notes (Choir Room) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> MUSIC SUNDAY 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service 11:30am Circle 2 (MR) 11:30am 75th Anniversary Team Meeting (106)	<b>19</b> 7:00pm Ad Council (FH) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	<b>20</b> 9:00am Park District Preschool Class (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)	<b>21</b> 6:30pm North Star District Commissioner Meeting (MR) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	<b>22</b> 9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Grace Notes (Choir Room) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 10:00am Worship Service	<b>26</b> MEMORIAL DAY 9:30am Grayslake's Memorial Day Parade 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	<b>27</b> 6:30pm Pack 451 Den Meetings (FH) 7:00pm Mission Committee (103) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105)	<b>28</b> 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	<b>29</b> 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 9:00am Spring Cleanup at UPC & Parsonage (weather permitting) 9:00am-5:00pm Veritas Music Center Recitals (Sanctuary)

# MISSIONS UPDATE



The next UPC packing session at Feed My Starving Children in Libertyville is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 6 from 7:15-8:45 p.m.** If you are interested in participating, please contact Cinda Bartz at [bartzc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bartzc@sbcglobal.net).

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (OCC)

We are collecting the following items for Operation Christmas Child throughout the month of May: toothbrushes, wash cloths, paddle balls, and dolls.

## COMPANIONS JOURNEYING TOGETHER

Hundreds of Christmas cards without personal messages have been donated, but Christmas cards with handwritten messages inside mean so much more to the people who receive them, especially if these people can't be with their families! Have you written messages in our Christmas cards for inmates to whom we reach out?



In 2023, we sent 131 cards with messages. In 2024, the number jumped to 216. **So far in 2025, we have received 40 cards with messages** to send for distribution to Illinois inmates from UPC members and friends! Our goal for 2025 is to send at least 300! It's not realistic to expect 2 people to do 150 cards each or 3 people to do 100, but **WE CAN DO THIS** in one of several other ways: 30 people could write messages in just 10 cards, 25 people could do 12 cards each, 20 people - 15 cards, 15 people - 20 cards, 12 people - 25 cards, 10 people - 30 cards. Could you be in one of these groups and make sure we reach our goal? Packs of 10 cards each along with a sheet of message ideas are on the Mission Table, and more can be set out as those are taken. Take a pack this month for yourself to write in or ask someone you know to write the messages. Be a part of making this mission "Thrive in 2025!" Put each completed card into a blank unsealed envelope. Put finished cards into the plastic container on the Mission Table or on the desk in the office. Thanks for being part of making this happen!

## UPC SHOPPER CARDS

Not sure what to get mom for Mother's Day? Why not give her a gift card and let her pick out something special? Bath & Body Works, Ulta Salons, DSW Shoes, local theatres, Starbucks or Barnes and Noble are just a few recommendations.

Want to make it more personal? Buy a gift card and use it to purchase her present, such as Kohl's, Spafinder, Mario Tricoci, Express, JC Penney, iTunes, Macy's, Michael's or Royal Caribbean.

Taking her out to dinner so she doesn't have to cook? We have gift cards for a variety of restaurants and can order many others—plain or fancy, expensive or inexpensive. Choose from Taco Bell to Lou Malnati's Pizza to Maggianos to Ruth's Chris Steakhouse. Just ask if you need help. If we don't have what you are looking for in stock, ask to have it ordered for you.

Did you know that this year the profits from the UPC Shopper will be going to help pay the shipping for our Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes? We hope to ship 200 boxes which would amount to \$2,000 in shipping fees and a lot of very happy children. If you love OCC, please consider purchasing gift cards to help support the cause.



## JOY SHARING FOR MAY

Malaria is one of the world's most common and serious tropical diseases, with about half the world's population at risk of being infected with malaria. Although preventable and treatable, malaria causes significant morbidity and mortality, with the greatest numbers of cases and deaths in resource-poor regions and among young children.



- **Globally in 2022, there were an estimated 249 million malaria cases and 608,000 malaria deaths in 85 countries.**
- **The WHO African Region carries a disproportionately high share of the global malaria burden. In 2022, Africa was home to 94% of malaria cases (233 million) and 95% (580,000) of malaria deaths.**
- **Children under 5 accounted for about 80% of all malaria deaths in Africa.**

There is a connection between climate change and malaria. Changes in temperature, humidity and rainfall can influence the behavior and survival of the malaria-carrying Anopheles mosquito. Extreme weather events, such as heatwaves and flooding, can also directly impact transmission and disease burden. Catastrophic flooding in Pakistan in 2022, for example, led to a five-fold increase in malaria cases in that country.

In addition to extreme weather events, other drivers of malaria epidemics and spikes in malaria cases include humanitarian crises, biological threats, such as drug and insecticide resistance, and socioeconomic constraints.

There are, however, grounds for optimism. Successes include, among others: the roll-out of the world's first malaria vaccine and the recommendation by WHO of a second safe and effective vaccine; the current availability of a new generation of dual-active ingredient insecticide-treated nets; the scale-up of seasonal malaria prevention for children at high risk of severe malaria; and progress towards or the achievement of malaria elimination in a widening circle of countries. By donating to Malaria No More, you can help work towards the day when malaria is eliminated in other countries as it was in the US in 1951. In 1900, malaria was present in approximately 53% of the world. In 2022, that number had shrunk to 27%. World-wide elimination is possible. However, progress is threatened because of proposed funding cuts. It is estimated the cuts could lead to an additional 18 million new cases and 166,000 new deaths a year. Won't you please help? Joy Sharing Sunday is May 18.

## LAKE COUNTY HAVEN

We collected a Joy Sharing offering in January for The Lake County Haven, but there are other ways to support them all year long. One way is by providing breakfasts, lunches, and dinners. The Haven has two houses in Libertyville, each with 10 residents. The Mission Committee has been providing dinner every other month, switching houses each month. There are three ways to do this: provide homemade dinners, purchase ready-made dinners from restaurants, or buy groceries to make their meal. You can help too! Check out other ways to volunteer at [lakecountyhaven.org](http://lakecountyhaven.org), or call 847-680-1703, or ask a Mission Committee member for more information. The Haven helps homeless women and children achieve permanent, independent living.



### **PADS LAKE COUNTY & UPC PADS:**

Your prayerful support of PADS Lake County and its clients and programs is so vital in providing the ongoing assistance that clients need to receive. Support for clients and PADS programs is still being provided as members of UPC, St. Gilbert, other churches, various other organizations, and individuals donate regularly and also provide specific items as these are requested. Remember, you can purchase gift cards at UPC and donate them to UPC PADS for us to purchase necessities if you would rather not do the shopping, or you can deliver food donations directly to the First Presbyterian Church in Libertyville or PADS Lake County at 1800 Grand Avenue, Waukegan, IL.

### **Food Needs as of May 1, 2025:**

Donation deliveries to Libertyville have become somewhat more regular with the nicer weather. However, **all food items and cleaning supplies** are needed and can be donated at UPC, delivered to First Presbyterian Church in Libertyville from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, or provided directly to First Presbyterian Church by using this link:

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/XD5I2ZRDQKE5?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/XD5I2ZRDQKE5?ref_=wl_share)

Please reach out to people you know and collect more food items for us to deliver because current donations at UPC have slowed down.

### **UPC COMMUNITY MINISTRY-- Avon Township Center Update:**

Volunteers spent over an hour sorting clothing on April 22 following the appeal for donations for an Avon Township family who had lost everything in their home and their pet dog in a devastating fire. More donations are coming in and need sorting as they arrive at the Center on 433 E. Washington Street, Round Lake Park.



Avon Township UPC Community Ministry needs Youth & Adult Volunteers: Friday May 9 & Tuesday, May 27 & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday every month.

### **EXTRA SORTING HELP IS NEEDED!**

**Call the Avon Township Supervisor's office to schedule the times you can volunteer at (847) 546-1446.**

Food donations from Grayslake School District 46's Food Drive were **delivered April 28**. Much **more food** from the U.S. Postal mail carriers' food drive **on May 10 will be arriving**. Join us **at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 9 and/or Tuesday, May 27** to sort food and other donations. The Grayslake Senior Center has invited their members who are interested to volunteer on these dates--and also from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Come when you're available! Contact Rose Pech, 847-682-2837 or [rose4nonna@hotmail.com](mailto:rose4nonna@hotmail.com) for more information.



## ***WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP*** **HAVE A VERY BLESSED MEMORIAL DAY!**

**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 updates.

**USE INFORMATION BELOW and the TABLE BELOW** to choose what works for you!

**Circle 2** meets once a month on a Sunday at **11:30 AM in the UPC Meeting Room**. Sundays vary monthly based on other UPC events. Members will volunteer on Friday, May 9 at 7 PM to sort food at the Avon Township Food Pantry and welcome anyone who would like to join. They will sort and strip crayons for SCARCE donations **at UPC during their May 18 meeting**. Contact Catherine Vick for more information.

**Circle 4/5** meets on the first Wednesday of the month at **11:30 AM at Culver's** in Grayslake. Contact Sue Schmidt to join these ladies for **lunch on May 7**.

**Circle 9** meets year-round at **5:30 PM** on the second Tuesday of each month **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 joining these ladies for **dinner on May 13**.

**Circle 10** does not meet in person on a regular basis, but members are in contact with each other on Facebook. Contact Jasmine Walker.

<b>Circle</b>	<b>Day/Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Contact</b>
2	Sun., May 18	11:30 AM	UPC Meeting Room	Catherine Vick
4/5	Wed., May 7	11:30 AM	Culver's in Grayslake	Sue Schmidt
9	Tues., May 13	5:30 PM	Mrs. V's in Round Lake Beach	Ruth Gheysen
10	N/A	N/A	N/A	Jasmine Walker

**Tyler, Brittany, Danielle, & Joanna** are thankful for the prayers offered for their recent branch meeting; it was great! They appreciate all our prayers, the messages, and the financial support they receive from us. See their recent praise items and prayer requests on the UPC Prayer List. Donations are always much needed and may be made to their UPC fund or at <http://www.ilad.ngo/D2002> at any time.

### May Birthdays

5/3 Anne Craig  
5/6 Jennifer Cooper  
5/8 Richard Craig  
5/9 Mary Ann McDowell  
5/16 Terese Bell  
5/17 Emily Aubrey  
5/17 Jasmine Walker  
5/19 Dick Dzwonkiewicz  
5/24 Drew Madden  
5/26 Lexie Craig  
5/26 Jill Helm  
5/29 Joshua Grubbs  
5/29 Dale Message

### May Anniversaries

5/10 Don & Cathy Vick  
5/12 James & Laurie Bethmann  
5/13 Brett & Kori Henne  
5/30 David & Wendy Holliman



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

**Members:** Bill Churchill, Craig Fischel, Marie Frandsen, David Holliman, Jan Kendrick, Joanne Lawrence, John Porteous, Dan Watkins, Bobbie Weichman, and Jeff Ziegler.

**Tyler, Brittany, Danielle, & Joanna:** have constant praise for God and for the many ways in which they receive support for their demonstration farm and translation work in West Africa. During the month of May, their ongoing most strategic request is for God's provision of an African believer to help them by living on and helping manage the farm. They also ask for ongoing prayers for a nanny from July 2025-April 2026 and for 6+ months starting in October 2026. Finally, they request prayers for success in meeting their goal of completing the first half of OT Summary in the next year.

**Relatives & Friends:** Allen Anglin, Kathy Behm, Kathy Weichman Bradley, Lorine Cooper, Patricia Davis, Judy Hendrickson, Jennifer Hitch, Mary Mason, Albert Meier, 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, and Bri Walters.

**Long-term prayers:** Bruce Baird, Betty Bournes, Mary Brase, Don & Tina Busch, Brad Fuller, Trish Jelinek, Rick Juern, 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 prayers.*





**UPC STAFF:**

SENIOR PASTOR  
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC  
ACCOMPANIST  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/CLERK  
TREASURER  
FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Rev. Jason Okrzynski, PhD  
Kurt Mockenhaupt  
Marcia Twadell  
Sue Schmidt  
Lynn Hallen  
Jan Kendrick, Cinda Bartz



*You are invited to join Boy Scout Troop 671 for their annual Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, May 3 from 7-11 a.m. at United Protestant Church in Fellowship Hall. Come support this Troop and bring your appetite!*

**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 3 p.m.

Grounded | Empowered | Transformed

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

