

# The Unifier



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## These Days

In some ways, it would seem, we are in unprecedented times. None of us can likely remember a time in which the government and health officials demanded that we stayed in our homes as much as possible. Likely, none of us has known a time in which one of the best ways we could love each other was to stay away from each other. For us, there have never been times such as these. But I don't believe that these days are so unprecedented. I don't believe they are as unique in human history as we would make them out to be. I do believe that crisis moments like this can often serve to remind us of what our priorities in life should be. I also believe it in these moments that we often can see God most near.

I think back to the history of Israel. The times in which things seemed as if there was no way forward. Being slaves in Egypt for four hundred years. Being set free only to be caught between the Red Sea and the Egyptian army. Crossing the Jordan River to enter the promised land only to find that it was already filled with peoples far greater than the Israelites. In all of these times God did not abandon His people or the world, but He saw them through.

We have known plagues and pandemics since. Even in the modern ages. They have been hard times to say the least. But my prayer in these days is that we spend more time in worship, more time reading God's Word, and more time in prayer. Might God bless us all and might we all turn to Him.

Pastor Ryan

# *Upward, Inward, & Outward*



Join us for a weekend spiritual retreat at the beautiful Joseph and Mary Retreat House in Mundelein, IL **Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm to Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm**. Pastor Ryan will be discussing Spiritual Disciplines in three categories. Spiritual Disciplines that help us connect with God (Upward), with ourselves (Inward), and the world (Outward). The cost for the retreat is **\$98** which covers 3 meals, a private bedroom with a bathroom, all materials, the retreat leader, and beautiful space around the Joseph and Mary Retreat House.

Please contact Pastor Ryan Kiblinger to register.

Dear Church Family,

The past month has been strange to say the least. The uncertainty of these times often brings people to questioning the realities around them. Christ followers as well as non-Christ followers question things they have thought or were taught as children regarding the spiritual realm. Questions of God's goodness, of the reality of death and what it means to die, and questions regarding the purpose or seemingly purposelessness of life are all brought to the forefront of people's minds during times such as these. How is it that we are to respond? How do we begin to grapple with these sorts of issues?

Thankfully, we are not left to our own devices in the search for answers. God in His mercy has provided numerous resources for us as we seek truth. First, God has provided us with His Word. God speaks to us in our daily life. He speaks to us in our struggles. When we consistently remain in God's Word, we come to a greater understanding of ourselves, the nature of the created world around us, and of God Himself. Three basic questions can be asked as we read and talk with others about Scripture: "What does this teach us about God?" (who He is and how He acts), "What does this teach us about ourselves?" (who we are, what our natural nature is, and the inclinations of our heart), and "How do those things shape how I should respond/live?". Remember, though the study of God's Word is best done in community, not merely individually trying to decipher God's secret message for us. It is to be done in communication with our community of faith (our church body, both local and global), with those who have gone before, and in partnership with the Holy Spirit (through constant prayer).

God not only provides His Word for us as we continue to seek Him and His purposes, but He also provides us with the record of the saints who have gone before us. Ecclesiastes states that, "There is nothing new under the sun." This is indeed true. The suffering we undergo are the same as those before us have faced. The questions that we ask regarding how things are or how they ought to be have been asked before. Numerous books have been written by those who have gone before us in this race: St. Augustine, Thomas A Kempis, Boethius, CS Lewis, Ruth Paxson, Watchman Nee, and many more. Faithful believers have asked the same questions we have at this time and struggled through what God's Word says. These are not replacements for Scripture but are to be used alongside of Scripture.

Finally, it is important to remember that often we are not able to give a proper explanation to why things are happening or why certain things are not happening. One of the great aspects of the book of Job is that we as the reader know the heavenly dealings that lead to and shape the events of the rest of the book. Job is clueless to the spiritual realities and spiritual battle that is going on through all the brokenness and suffering in his life. He is not able to ascribe a specific purpose to his struggles, despite his friends' best efforts. Like Job, we often are left grasping for straws about the circumstances all around us. We as humans, especially post-enlightenment people, desire explanations for things. We want to be able to put events, circumstances, and struggles boxes. We desire to analyze them with the hope of understanding the "hows and whys" of our lives. The reality though, is that there are some events, circumstances, times of brokenness that we will never be able to answer rationally or scientifically. This is where two things come in to play: Faith in the character of God and at times lamentation over the condition of the world. If you have the time, theologian N.T. Wright wrote an excellent piece for [TIME](#) on not having answers during this time. I encourage you to read it if you get the chance.

The questions and issues of our times are difficult and important. I pray that we will continue to seek God in these times. Relying upon God's promises and what we know to be true of His character. Stay rooted in God's Word. Remain in communion with those who have gone before. Continue to have faith conversations with those in your families, in your church, and in your neighborhood. As always, if you ever have any questions, desire a person to talk with, or need resources, do not hesitate to ask. Feel free to email me, [ryanaubrey@upcgl.org](mailto:ryanaubrey@upcgl.org) or contact me some other way. I am happy to come alongside of you as you continue to seek after God.

You might be wondering how we are surviving our lockdown here at the Aubrey house. Well, most days things move smoothly and there is minimal confrontation. The kids really enjoy playing with one another most of the time, which is wonderful to watch. We had two birthdays over the quarantine time, and with that, meant new toys. Anabelle got a Playmobile playground, that has been a big hit. Recently, though the toy people ran into an all too real problem. The playground was closed. They had built a block fence around the playground and there was much lamenting by the toys that they could not play. They may be young, but they have ears and a basic understanding of some of the issues going on around us. Thank you for reading.

Blessings,

Ryan Aubrey

Director of Christian Education



I would like to start off by thanking all those who have supported Feed My Starving Children with donations, prayers and volunteering the first Friday of each month. Sadly due to Covid19 FMSC will not take volunteers till after 7/31/20. If you want to support them financially donations can be made on the FMSC Libertyville website.

Wish you and your families good health.

God bless

Lillian Eldridge



Joy Sharing

This month's Joy Sharing will benefit Ink 180, a non-profit Christian Ministry. They provide free tattoo– cover-ups and removals to former gang members and human trafficking victims, who are trying to get the lives back on track. Please support this worthwhile cause.



**UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH  
WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP  
MAY, 2020**



As I write this article, it's the end of April, and we know we'll be continuing our time apart using social distancing when we do need to be in public settings. We can be certain that wherever we are and whatever we're doing, God is always with us; we are never alone! We also want to remind you that we are as close as your phone if you need to contact any of us to just chat.

Prayers continue for you and your loved ones as we move forward, trusting in God's Love and His promises. Please reach out to Pastor Ryan or to the church office to allow our church family to help you if you have any needs during these days. Remember, we are here for you!

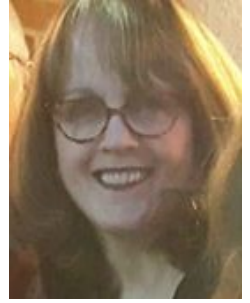
**THERE ARE NO SCHEDULED WCF MEETINGS, but we want to remind you of our WCF chairpersons, and the dates and times that circles usually meet. Watch for church announcements regarding any summer circle meetings.**

Circle	Day/Date	Time	Place	Contact
2	TBD	11:45 a.m.	Small Meeting Room	Catherine Vick
4/5	TBD	12:30 p.m.	Church Parlor	Sue Schmidt
6	TBD	11:30 a.m.	Whitney St. Restaurant	Marie Frandsen Diana Thompson
9	TBD	5:30 p.m.	Hillside Restaurant	Candi Becker
10	TBA	TBA	TBA	Jasmine Walker
Task Force	Choose projects/ministries to help; no meetings			Rose Pech

Some circle meetings will be scheduled once gatherings are safe. Contact Rose Pech: [rose4nonna@hotmail.com](mailto:rose4nonna@hotmail.com) or 847-356-3577 for information on how to reach any circle chairperson. Watch for announcements coming from the church through the Tuesday Newsday, special emails, etc

--Blessings to all, *Rose Pech*

# UPC PADS Update



## A Huge Thank You to Carol Roselli-Rasmussen!

Carol has been a PADS volunteer at our site for most of the 29 years the site has been open. She's volunteered for almost every shift, has served as a shift leader, and during the past ten or more years has been the Volunteer Coordinator for the main PADS shifts. Carol has done an outstanding job and will be greatly missed. Her resignation was official the end of April. We wish Carol the very best as she continues to serve in other ways within UPC and in other ministries and as she has more personal time for her family and her many other interests. We will need a new Volunteer Coordinator, and Carol has agreed to meet with that person to help ensure a smooth transition. Watch for more information.



**Thank You, Suzanne Christensen!** Suzanne has been working with all 15 PADS Lake County Shelter Sites as Director of Shelters for the past 2 years. She provided excellent support for all of the sites and was especially instrumental in helping our guests clothing needs were met. All good wishes for Suzanne as she leaves PADS for a position which will allow her more time with her family and other interests.

**CONTINUING TO MEET PLADS CLIENTS' NEEDS:** Since April 8, all PADS Lake County clients have been in hotel rooms. This was the best way to limit any potential exposure. Thank you to everyone who filled a shift or provided food while guests were at the Warren Township Senior Center.

PADS is still filling boxes with food for the clients in the hotels. If you are able to help with donations for that, the donations can be dropped off at PADS, 1800 Grand Avenue in Waukegan, Monday-Friday, between 8am and 4pm. You will not need to enter the building. Staff members can "grab and go". Just pull up and ring the bell. Again, PADS is trying to maintain the safe distance of 6 feet away. Some of the items needed for hotel stays are those that are pop top cans and microwavable items. These are some suggestions for donations:

- Dinty Moore meals, Progresso or Chunky Chicken Noodle soups, Ravioli, Spaghetti and Meatballs, Ramon cups, shelf microwavable meals ( beef stew, etc.) Cans must have pop tops!
- Loaves of bread
- Beef Jerky, Slim Jim, Meat Sticks, Spam Packets, Tuna Packets, Chicken packets
- Breakfast Cereal bars or granola bars, small boxes of cereal, Pop Tarts
- Fruit cups or Pudding cups
- \$10 gift cards to McDonald's with Note "Attention Nicole"

If you have questions, the main number for PADS Lake County is 847-689-4357

On Behalf of people experiencing homelessness...the UPC PADS Site Team



**May they rest in peace: Continued prayers for UPC members and friends/relatives of members:** Fred Berchtold (abdominal cancer), Christian and Seth, Desiree Craig (friend of Karen Caviness), Takara Dalton (fluid on the brain, Shelly Kutsin's goddaughter, Loretta Dodson (chronic pain), Barb Fischel (back pains), Curt Grabo (Bob Mielke's cousin, recovering from open heart surgery), Judy Hendrickson (mother of Laura Hendrickson), Lynne Henne (mother of Brett Henne), Norean Hill (cancer), Jae, Charles Madsen (brother of Karen Caviness), Skip Madsen (nephew of Karen Caviness), 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, friend of Karen Caviness), 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) Karen Caviness, Barry Craig, Pat Curnow, Elaine Francis, Brad Fuller (stroke, brother of Jamie Fuller), Susan Green, Vivian Gwaltney, 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).

**May Birthdays:**

<b>05/01</b>	<b>Pech, James</b>	<b>05/22</b>	<b>Hamilton, Tevari</b>
<b>05/02</b>	<b>Culbertson, Zachary</b>	<b>05/24</b>	<b>Celeslie, Jacquelyn</b>
<b>05/03</b>	<b>Craig, Anne</b>	<b>05/25</b>	<b>Francis, Elaine</b>
<b>05/04</b>	<b>Sandoval, Jane</b>	<b>05/26</b>	<b>Craig, Lexie</b>
<b>05/05</b>	<b>Richards, Jordan</b>	<b>05/26</b>	<b>Helm, Jill</b>
<b>05/06</b>	<b>Cooper, Jennifer</b>	<b>05/29</b>	<b>Grubbs, Joshua</b>
<b>05/08</b>	<b>Craig, Richard</b>	<b>05/29</b>	<b>Harvey, Lucas</b>
<b>05/09</b>	<b>McDowell, Mary Ann</b>	<b>05/29</b>	<b>Message, Dale</b>
<b>05/09</b>	<b>Richradson, James</b>	<b>05/30</b>	<b>Bjerning, Phil</b>
<b>05/10</b>	<b>Fletcher, Noah</b>		

**5/10 Rasmussen, Serena**

**May Anniversaries:**

<b>05/13</b>	<b>Smith, Terry</b>	<b>5/10</b>	<b>Donald &amp; Cathy Vick</b>
<b>05/14</b>	<b>Daly, Maureen</b>	<b>5/12</b>	<b>James &amp; Laurie Bethman</b>
<b>05/16</b>	<b>Bell, Terese</b>	<b>5/13</b>	<b>Brett &amp; Kori Henne</b>
<b>05/17</b>	<b>Aubrey, Emily</b>	<b>5/26</b>	<b>Mark &amp; Carol Rasmussen</b>
<b>05/17</b>	<b>Walker, Jasmine</b>	<b>5/28</b>	<b>Brian &amp; Debbie Garbutt</b>
<b>05/21</b>	<b>Garbutt, Debbie</b>	<b>5/30</b>	<b>David &amp; Wendy Holliman</b>

**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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Pastor: Rev. Ryan Kiblinger

[pastorryan@upcgl.org](mailto: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**

