

# The Unifier



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November, 2021

## The Mercy of God

Recently in worship we looked at the healing of Bartimaeus found in Mark 10. In that story, Bartimaeus was crying out to Jesus, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" He was calling out so loudly and so persistently that it annoyed the people and many told him to be quiet. Jesus hears him and calls out for him and as we might remember or imagine, Jesus heals him.

Bartimaeus was clearly sober minded when it came to his condition. He knew that what he wanted was healing, but he knew that in order for him to be healed, he needed mercy. Now our society doesn't talk that much about mercy. What is mercy? How might we define it?

mer·cy  
/'mɜrsē/

*noun*

compassion or forgiveness shown toward someone whom it is within one's power to punish or harm

This is the definition given with a Google search and I think it is a good one. In other words, we might say mercy is when we **don't** get what we **do** deserve. Bartimaeus knew, that not only was he unworthy to demand healing, but that he also didn't want what he knew he did deserve.

Peter writes this in 1 Peter:

"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." 1 Peter 2.9-10

I believe (and I preach to myself more than to anyone) that we all need to think deeply upon the mercy God has given us. Rightly contemplating the mercy we have received should remind us: 1. Of our need for a Saviour but also 2. The greatness of the love that our Saviour has for us.

Praise be to God that in the greatness of His love He had not given us the punishment we deserve.

Pastor Ryan

Dear Church Family,

It is hard to believe that it is already November. Time goes by so quickly. This month, I would like to provide you with a brief update on our upcoming educational ministries.

Our Adult studies will continue through the month of November. On Sunday mornings, we are exploring Christian Community and on Tuesday evenings, on Zoom, we are working through the book of James. I encourage you to join us as our studies come to a conclusion. Our Advent series will begin on November 28<sup>th</sup>.

This year, we will be doing something a little different. First, our Advent study will be held immediately following the 10:00 AM worship service. So, there will be no education hour at 9:00 AM during Advent. Second, our study will be an all-church study. We encourage people of all ages to join us as we walk through the book *SENT: Delivering the Gift of Hope at Christmas*. Watch for more details related to our joint Advent Study. I really look forward to this opportunity to have faith conversations all together as a church.

Our Children's Ministry continues to seek answers to the BIG question "Who Does God Say That I Am?". Through various Bible stories students discover who they are created to be and who they are in Christ. This is a wonderful opportunity to help facilitate conversations seeking to help our kids work through questions of identity and belonging. Each week, I love hearing my children describe their Sunday School lesson. What an opportunity to help our kids learn more about who God is and who they are.

On the family front, the time I have dreaded has finally arrived. Both of our kids are in a dual language program at school. William's teacher teaches 90% of his day in Spanish and 10% English. Anabelle has English instruction in the morning followed by teaching in Spanish in the afternoon. So, from the day Anabelle started the program, I have been waiting for the day they both decide to just talk to each other in Spanish at the table where they know I have no idea what they are saying. Last night, that day arrived. It is great to hear them utilizing (at least hopefully decently, because I have no idea) what they are learning about in school.

I hope that you all are doing well, and I look forward to continuing to grow in our relationship with God together. How wonderful it is to do this work in community.

Blessings,

Ryan Aubrey

Director of Christian Education

## **FALL COLLECTION DRIVE - NOV. 29 - DEC. 7, 2021**

The NIC Board of Global Ministries is organizing a fall collection drive to support recovery efforts from the 2021 Hurricanes and the recent devastating earthquake in Haiti.

### **Relief items requested:**

#### **Items listed here have been requested by non-profits working in Haiti:**

- Blankets - can be gently used
- Powdered milk with expiration date of 12 months or more
- Hygiene Supplies:
  - Toilet Paper
  - BabyWipes
  - Diapers - adult or child

#### **Hurricane Recovery and the Relief Supply Network needs Cleaning Kits:**

##### **ITEMS MOST NEEDED**

- Liquid Laundry Detergent - 32-64 oz.
- Liquid Household Clean - 16-40 oz.
- Liquid Dish Soap - 14-32 oz.
- Toothpaste-2.5 oz or larger

Other MMDC kits will be accepted, but please no electric sewing machines or bikes are needed at this time.

#### **Christmas Game/Toy Collection for nonprofits serving poor children in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Jamaica, and Haiti.**

- Jump ropes, Simple musical instruments (recorder, harmonica, percussion)
- Sports balls (soccer, basketball, softball, baseball) Board Games (no batteries required)
- Pumps to inflate sports balls (Candyland, Connect 4, Jenga, Trouble, or other simple games)

Leave any donations in the container near the mission table at church between Nov. 29 and Dec. 7.



# PADS UPDATE



November 2021

## **PADS EMERGENCY SHELTER SITES OPEN WITH SPECIFIC GUIDELINES:**

The PADS Emergency Shelter Program opened the first church site for this season on Tuesday, October 12, and one church site is open each night. However, only guests who go to the PADS Lake County office between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. and are transported to the site by PADS and guests who are dropped off by the police will be allowed in the site.

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT SEVERAL CHURCH SHELTER SITES:**

Volunteers are needed at the **1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church Site on Wednesday nights** and at the **Chapel of Grayslake on Saturday nights!** To help at **1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian**, use the sign-up genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0a4bafa722a3f49-pads7>

To help at **The Chapel of Grayslake**, call **847-201-2777** and ask for information on volunteering on **Saturday nights at the Grayslake location.**

To volunteer at **Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church in Grayslake** on Monday nights, use the online PADS signup at the church's website: [www.shepherdofthelakes.org](http://www.shepherdofthelakes.org)

Watch the Tuesday Newsday emails for updated information.

## **UPC PADS SITE VOLUNTEERS AT ST. MARY OF VERNON ON THURSDAYS:**

Seventeen guests were welcomed on October 14, the first Thursday night for UPC and St. Mary of Vernon (SMV) volunteers to work together at St. Mary of Vernon in Indian Creek. UPC volunteers reported that everything went well, and they enjoyed volunteering with the friendly and welcoming SMV volunteers. Our UPC PADS Kitchen Crew will be providing dinners monthly throughout the season. A special thank-you to all of our volunteers!!

## **PADS LAKE COUNTY NEEDS:**

In addition to continuing to make donations to the PADS Lake County office as you've been doing for the past 18 months, PADS has informed us that they are currently running low on backpacks. They are specifically looking for **waterproof hiking back packs**. Here is a link to the type of backpack they're looking for: [https://www.amazon.com/dp/B078H6Z3C4/?coliid=111L12VVAWYADL&colid=ZK4KVX8VAV3A&psc=1&ref=lv\\_ov\\_liq\\_dp\\_it](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B078H6Z3C4/?coliid=111L12VVAWYADL&colid=ZK4KVX8VAV3A&psc=1&ref=lv_ov_liq_dp_it)

**Items always needed:** individual, ready-made meals (i.e. Dinty Moore), Granola Bars, Pop-Tarts, Chef Boyardee Meals, Canned Soup (with pop-tops), Tuna, 90-second Rice Packets, Ramen Noodles, Easy Mac, Cereal, Instant Oatmeal Packets, Chips, Apple Sauce, Instant Coffee, Water Bottles, Gatorade, Wal-Mart & Jewel Gift cards from \$10 to \$50 and \$10 fast-food gift cards.

## **NEED CONTINUES FOR VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR FOR UPC PADS SITE:**

Please **pray and advertise** for this message to reach the person God wants to serve at UPC!!

**THANKFUL FOR YOU:** Your prayers, donations, & support and the active participation of our volunteers make a real difference! Contact Rose Pech at [pads\\_at\\_upc@hotmail.com](mailto:pads_at_upc@hotmail.com) or 847-356-3577 for more information or to volunteer. –UPC PADS Site Leadership Team



# *UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP*



## 2022 WCF DIRECTORY INFORMATION:

Sue Schmidt hopes to complete our 2022 WCF Directory before our December circle meetings. If you haven't already done so, please check your 2021 WCF Directory and verify that the info is correct or send her the changes if any of your information needs to be updated.

**IMPORTANT CHANGE AS OF LAST MONTH:** If you choose to help support Tyler and Brittany's ministry project **through WCF for 2022**, contributions should be made to the **WCF Mission Fund. Checks should be payable to UPC with WCF MISSION FUND written in the memo.** Donations can be given to Sue Schmidt, Rose Pech or put into the church offering. These are needed **BEFORE** December 1, 2021, in order for us to determine the amount we'll be able to send monthly. We'd love to be able to continue giving \$50/month by collecting \$600.

## CIRCLE NEWS:

**Circles 2 and 4/5** will be meeting at UPC, and both circles welcome visitors as well as new members. See our meeting times in the table at the end of this article.

**Circle 9** hopes to have a new chairperson soon. Their plans will be shared in future UNIFIER articles and UPC emails. Rose Pech will continue to share communications with Circle 9 members until then.

**Circle 10** continues to communicate via Facebook and is not meeting in person.

**WCF WELCOMES ALL WOMEN FROM 18 TO 108 & OVER. PLEASE JOIN US!!** Contact info for chairpersons can be found in our church directory or by contacting Rose Pech at 847-356-3577 or [rose4nonna@hotmail.com](mailto:rose4nonna@hotmail.com). Blessings to all, Rose Pech

Circle	Day/Date	Time	Place	Contact
2	Sun., Nov. 14	11:15 a.m.	UPC Parlor	Catherine Vick
4/5	Wed., Nov. 3	12:30 p.m.	UPC Parlor	Sue Schmidt
9	TBD	5:30 p.m.	Hillside Restaurant	TBD
10	TBD	TBD	TBD	Jasmine Walker

## **Birthday List:**

11/05 Wynelle Wharton  
11/07 Stephanie Clark  
11/07 Sofia Henne  
11/08 Doreen Churchill  
11/09 Candi Becker  
11/13 Marissa Churchill  
11/13 Orrell Ruth  
11/14 James Bethmann  
11/16 Kaila Sparkman  
11/19 Barbara Weichman  
11/20 Leah Taylor  
11/22 Susan Schmidt  
11/25 Craig Fischel  
11/27 Katelyn Selinger  
11/28 Judy Peters

## **Anniversary List:**

11/15 Jamison and Denise Fuller  
11/24 Ralph and Gail Gotlund  
11/24 Gregg and Jill Helm  
11/30 Richard and Melanie Carlson

## **Veterans' Christmas Program:**

**November is when we start getting ready for the Veteran's Christmas Program. This year will be a repeat of last year due to Covid and the governmental restriction on visits. I know the joy of giving a package with a present inside, but we are not allowed to do that . Last year we raised over \$3,300.00 which we converted into purchase power for the hospital to purchase the gifts the veterans chose and they were given in the name of our church. Be alert for further information**

**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**

