

The Unifier



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November 2022

"Faith is the way we as receivers relate appropriately to God as the giver. It is empty hands held open for God to fill."-Miraslov Volf

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

As I write my first Unifier article, I am overwhelmed with gratitude. I am so thankful to be at United Protestant Church. As I continue to get settled and get to know you more and more, I am only feeling more and more gratitude. I am thankful for too many of you to name, who have been so welcoming and supportive. I am feeling immense gratitude to Ryan Aubrey, Sue Schmidt and the volunteers who made my first community event, Fall Fest, an unmitigated success. I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the call committee, the council, our Moderator Lloyd Lowe; as well as the chairs and members of so many committees who have been both patient and generous in welcoming me and helping me get on board with this blessed community of saints.

With so much to be grateful for however, I must also offer a serious caveat! Brothers and Sisters in Christ, **brace yourselves:** *On Tuesday November 1st at 4:00pm a certain Chicago radio station is switching its program to play music related to a certain holiday with tree and lights and a jolly fat man in a red suit.* I am not quite sure that I am ready to be inundated with Christmas music!

Now, it is true that Advent is coming early this year; the First Sunday of Advent and the Hanging of the Greens is coming up in three short Sundays on November 27th! However, we must resist rushing towards Christmas because November itself holds some of the most important stuff of the entire church year.

This Sunday we open November with our annual All Saint Commemoration. In a simple sense this is a day to remember those we have lost. However, All Saints is a gift in itself as a day that the church is called to see the generosity and love of Christ incarnated in all the faithful who went before us. On all saints, we remember not just the recently deceased, but those who loved us into the faith. God the giver gives God's self to us through Jesus AND through the saints. Grandmothers, Sunday School teachers, fathers, pastors, friends, dentists, and anyone else in our lives who loves us as they also live their faith before us are the wrapping through which God's love gets loose in our lives.

God loves us into faith through the loving acts of the faithful.

If All Saints kicks off this final month of the church year, then November as a whole is a month for us to gather in overwhelming gratitude. November, of course, also holds Thanksgiving, our national day to stop and give thanks. People of faith do well to note the important spiritual character of this wonderful and blessed day.

Finally, on November 20th, the traditional final Sunday of the liturgical year, we observe Christ the King Sunday, when we give thanks for Christ's promised reign in a kingdom where:

He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,^[c]
and God himself will be with them and be their God;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away." -Revelation 21: 3, 4

I look forward to continuing this journey of worship, prayer and gratitude with you all this November. Even more so I look forward to journeying together in covenant together with our amazingly gracious God, Creator, Redeemer and Lord.

In Christ, Pastor Jason Okrzynski

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Dear Church Family,

I want to provide you with an overview of what our various discipleship opportunities explored in the past couple months and a look to what they will be exploring in the lead up to Advent.

Over the past couple of months, we have explored the parable of the prodigal son. We talked about how both sons are lost and need to return home. We talked briefly about how the father takes the initiative with and invites them into his feast. The father in the story depicts God and how God reaches out and takes the initiative with us to call us home, to our true home. The character of the father is the focus of our adult discipleship opportunity in the lead up to Advent. We explore the character of God as presented in Exodus 34:6 – 7. The descriptors in this passage are repeated throughout Scripture to describe who God is and how He relates to His people. This will be a wonderful starting point as we approach the Advent season. Be watching for news about this year's Advent study; there will be more information provided about that soon.

Our Children's ministry is continuing their journey in faith, by examining Israel's wandering in the wilderness. Kids have enjoyed their time witnessing the mighty acts of God in creation (September) and rescuing His people from Egypt (October). Thank you to all the volunteers who continue to make this Fall a success.

I have also been glad to offer Children's Church during the sermon time of our worship service. It has been a great opportunity to help the families in our congregation as well as an additional opportunity to teach them about God's Word. We are working through a video curriculum called, *What is in the Bible*, which walks us through what the Bible is, who wrote the Bible, traces the major themes of each of the books, and demonstrates how each portion of Scripture connects to God's great story of His redemptive plan for His creation.

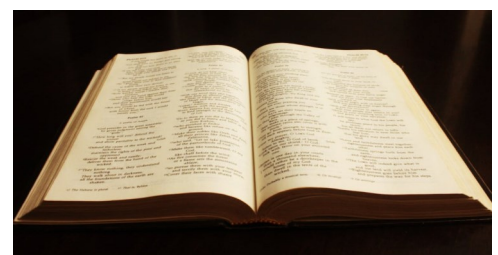
Confirmation continues to walk through the Heidelberg Catechism. Some weeks, we have brought in questions from the New City Catechism to provide some clarification and address some related topics. The past couple of months, we are walking through the first thing we need to know to live out the reality that we are not our own but belong to God. This is that we are honest about the greatness of our sin and misery. We will soon be transitioning to the second issue we need to know: how we are redeemed from our sin and misery.

Thank you for taking the time to read updates on our discipleship ministries here at UPC. I am excited for what we will discuss during November and into the coming calendar year. If you have any questions or need anything, I would love to connect with you.

Blessings,

Ryan Aubrey

Director of Christian Education



November Joy Sharing

The November Joy Sharing will be presented by Wende Fry on November 13 and will focus on the Veterans' Giving Tree. In past years, we would receive tags from the veterans at Great Lakes listing an item or more of their wishes for Christmas gifts, and we would shop, wrap, bring them to church and a group from UPC would deliver them. The last two years we have been giving gift cards due to the pandemic. This year we will once again be placing gift tags for the veterans on the Christmas tree in the parlor. You are encouraged to select one or more gift tags and shop for the items requested on the tags. Gifts must be wrapped and brought to UPC to be delivered to the VA facility. Due to safety reasons, only the VA staff will be delivering the gifts directly to the veterans. A deadline for the gifts to be dropped off to UPC has yet to be determined. Watch for more information in the Tuesday emails and the Sunday bulletins.



Mark your calendars for an all-church potluck on November 13 in Fellowship Hall immediately following the worship service to welcome Pastor Jason and his sons to UPC. Please bring a dish to pass. Drinks and paper products will be provided. Help setting up and cleaning up is welcomed and appreciated.



Reminder: Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday, November 6. Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour before you go to sleep on Saturday night, November 5.

A Thanksgiving message from the Home Team:

We wish all of you a very blessed and Happy Thanksgiving!! May the day be filled with many good memories, and the year ahead be filled with many blessings.



UPC PADS SITE UPDATES—NOVEMBER 2022



PADS LAKE COUNTY HAS REAL NEEDS!!!

- **SITES NEED VOLUNTEERS!!** Just days before some sites are supposed to be ready to welcome guests each week, they are reaching out to other sites' volunteers and to the public to have enough volunteers for their night. The following three sites are located near us and have requested that I share their sign-up information with you so you can volunteer &/or share the info with someone who will:
- **Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church, Washington St., Monday:**
<https://signup.com/go/nVVtqLp>
- **Wildwood Presbyterian Church, Gages Lake Road, Tuesday:**
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D44A5A72BA1FAC61-pads>
- **St. Mark Lutheran Church, Grand Ave., Lindenhurst, Friday:**
Go to church website; click on Ministry Partners; scroll down to PADS Lake County; click in right column on "Check here for a link to sign-up to serve."
- **PEOPLE WITHOUT A PLACE TO SLEEP WERE TURNED AWAY!!** After only three weeks of the church sites being open, some guests have been turned away because the number of guests PADS can take is limited on some nights that have only one church site open. PADS tries to provide the "turn-aways" with a tent, sleeping bag, & gift cards for food, but there isn't any room for them inside a shelter.

WE CAN BE PART OF THE SOLUTION!! WITH YOUR HELP, OUR UPC PADS SITE INTENDS TO OPEN NEXT OCTOBER FOR THE 2023-2024 EMERGENCY SHELTER SEASON; CARING TRAINED VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED TO MAKE THIS POSSIBLE. Watch for the UPC PADS INFO email the middle of each month to get more specific information! Contact Rose Pech at pads_at_upc@hotmail.com or 847-223-8131, ext. 17 for info. **We must have a Volunteer Coordinator, more trained shift leaders, and onsite volunteers willing to serve once a month if possible-7 times total for the season. Substitutes are also needed.** Some opportunities to serve are flexible & can be scheduled on other days and times.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING PRAYERS & SUPPORT!

--UPC PADS Site Leadership Team

Welcome people who are experiencing homelessness
as they work to find a happy home!
(Artwork credit to Evan)

WCF NEWS — NOVEMBER 2022

WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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

WCF BUNCO--OCTOBER 15:

"Small but mighty" described the group of ladies who gathered in Fellowship Hall for fellowship, food, & BUNCO on the 3rd Saturday of October. A fun time was had by all, and prizes were won by Cynthia Lee, Darlene Dorfler, Susan Green, & Catherine Vick.



CIRCLE NEWS

Circle 2 held a brief meeting after enjoying fellowship time during Sacred Grounds in the UPC parlor on October 9. Cards were signed for Carolyn Korell and Bobbie Weichman and for Interim Pastor Steve whose last Sunday would be October 16. Devotions were provided by Catherine Vick. Members caught up on news & signed up to provide for Sacred Grounds on October 30. The November meeting is scheduled for November 20.

Circle 4/5 members enjoyed lunch at Panera Bread in October & are looking forward to their November lunch meeting at 11:30 on November 2 at Culver's in Grayslake.

Circle 9's October meeting was cancelled because of members' schedule conflicts. Check with Ruth Gheysen if you're interested in attending their November meeting to make sure that election day doesn't cause a change in their schedule.

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

Watch for more detailed information regarding other circle meetings in the Tuesday Newsday emails, weekly church bulletin, & our monthly UNIFIER articles. To contact circle chairpersons: See the church directory or Rose Pech 847-682-2837; rose4nonna@hotmail.com.



Circle	Day/Date	Time	Place	Contact
2	Sun., Nov. 20	11:30 AM	UPC Meeting Room	Catherine Vick
4/5	Wed., Nov. 2	11:30 AM	Culver's—Grayslake	Sue Schmidt
9	Tues., Nov. 8	5:30 PM	Hillside Restaurant	Ruth Gheysen
10	TBD	TBD	TBD	Jasmine Walker

WCF MISSION FUND: Tyler & Brittany need to raise additional funds to fill the gap caused by some **unforeseen expenses** which have occurred since their return to the US. Their work funds are slightly negative (-\$1,330) since they didn't plan for these expenses when budgeting for 2022: See the separate article in this UNIFIER for more detailed information. Donations may be made at any time online for them to receive funds before the end of the year. For donations to be sent in 2023, you can make your check out to UPC and write "WCF Mission Fund" in the memo or put a donation into an envelope marked WCF Mission Fund. The amount in the fund at the end of December 2022 will be sent to help support the projects undertaken by Tyler & Brittany in West Africa during 2023. Praying more of you will donate before December 31!

--Blessings, Rose Pech

UPC REACHES OUT TO PRISON INMATES THROUGH COMPANIONS JOURNEYING TOGETHER:

Thanks to many of you, cards weighing a total of almost 18 lbs. were sent to Companions Journeying Together to be given to inmates at various prisons here in Illinois. More than 300 of these cards were Christmas cards with individual messages written inside for inmates, **thanks to Joan Hendricks, Kim Lenzen, Mary Ann Mc Dowell, and Rose Pech.** Other cards are for inmates to use themselves to keep in contact with their family members and friends. These included Christmas cards, general greeting cards, and blank note cards. **THANKS TO ALL WHO DONATED CARDS,** we have additional Christmas cards waiting to have notes written in them for mailing next October!! **If you'd like to help and get an early start,** contact Rose Pech at any time: rose4nonna@hotmail.com or 847-682-2837.

A Request from Tyler and Brittany

NEED FOR GOD'S PROVISION: Tyler recently sent information regarding a financial need that he & Brittany have and requested that we pray for "God's provision." We're sharing the facts about this need with our UPC family and friends so that we can all be in prayer and so those of us who are able might also help by being a direct part of that provision. Please read the following information and pray!

Tyler & Brittany's Finance Facts:

In 2021, your generous donations gave us a healthy \$10,000 margin. Unfortunately, since returning to the US, some **unforeseen expenses** have eaten that margin and our work funds are slightly negative (-\$1,330) since we didn't plan for these expenses when budgeting for 2022:

2 Upcoming Ag. Missions Conferences	\$ 1,000
2 Online Compressed Earth Brick Classes	450
25+ Tropical Trees for Importing	1,110
Container Shipping/Import Fees	1,850
Housing During Tyler's Tree Class	4,300
Landcruiser Repairs	900
Organization Fees	960
TOTAL	\$10,560

We still get our salary but won't get outstanding reimbursements until more funds are raised. 2022 year-end donations will cover 2023's additional expenses and so we are needing to raise funds to cover this gap before then. **Join us in praying for God's provision!**

November Birthdays

11/5 Wynelle Wharton
11/7 Sofia Henne
11/8 Doreen Churchill
11/9 Candi Becker
11/14 James Bethmann
11/19 Barbara Weichman
11/20 Leah Taylor
11/22 Sue Schmidt
11/25 Craig Fischel
11/28 Judy Peters

November Anniversaries

11/15 Jamison & Denise Fuller
11/24 Gregg & Jill Helm



A reminder from the Home Team: The Home Team provides transportation for Sunday worship. Also, transportation is provided (when possible and with enough notice) to medical appointments (within reasonable distance) throughout the year for those who need assistance. Please contact Cherlyn Lowe at 847-356-2911 or June Smith at 224-540-3084 for assistance or questions.

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

Members: Ben Kelly-Fuller (Guillain-Barre Syndrome), Marie Frandsen, Susan Green, Carl Heiler, Joanne Lawrence, Marjorie Miller, Eddie Smith, Pat Wackerlin, and Bobbie Weichman.

Tyler, Brittany & Danielle – need extra prayers following a car accident where another car hit them and their car will likely be totaled. Tyler has a facial fracture but will not need surgery. Please add prayers for Tyler's healing and God's provision of a reliable vehicle to your prayers for the additional funds to cover the unexpected expenses mentioned last week. To donate electronically, please visit the project page at www.ilad.ngo/D2002 or to donate by paper check, make checks payable to ILAD with D2002 written in memo, and mail the check to this address: ILAD, Atten: D2002, P.O. Box 383153, Duncanville, TX 75138-3183. See posters at UPC with detailed information. We also continue to pray for them to have the same peace Paul did in Philippians 4:11-13 regardless of their circumstances.

Relatives & Friends: Kathy Behm, Jim Bethmann, Joe Boccaleoni, Kathy Weichman Bradley, Lorine Cooper, Patricia Davis, Judy Hendrickson, Mary Mason, Gloria Meier, Debbie (Behm) Pakaluk, Ken Pidgeon, Gary Sadlack, Larry Smith, Stephan, Erik and Kacie Stanley, their son and Erik's mother, Diane, and George and his family.

Long-term prayers: Bruce Baird, Flora Boehm & family, Betty Bournes, Thomas Bournes, Mary Brase, Don & Tina Busch, Barry Craig, Pat Curnow, Sandy Findlay, Brad Fuller, Trish Jelinek, Rick Juern, Tom Nellesen, Sue (PADS friend), Wendy (friend of Rose Pech), and Michelle (friend of Linda Markham).

**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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Phone: 847-223-8131

E-mail: upc@upcgl.org

Pastor: Rev. Jason Okrzynski

Email:
seniorpastor@upcgl.org

Church Office Hours:
Tuesday & Thursday
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Grounded | Empowered | Transformed

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

