The Unifier



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

November 2024

Grace to You and Peace from God our Father, AMEN.

This Sunday, November 3 is All Saints' Sunday. All Saints' is one of the most sacred Sundays. Let us not take for granted how profound and beautiful this day is. Since at least the 7th century, congregations and Christians have dedicated a day to remember those who have passed into life eternal. We will name names, tell stories, and honor again all those in our lives through whom God has been made known to us.

As usual, we will have a named candle for each UPC member who has passed this year. This Sunday, we will give thanks and honor the following blessed memories:

Laurel Bruggen Donna Obrecht

Diane Caldwell Roger Richardson

Felix Flok, Sr. Dian Weinkauf

Susan Green Edna Houston Witte

Deanna Hinkley

Last week, we welcomed our new Director of Music, Kurt Mockenhaupt. I believe that we are very lucky to have Kurt. He is passionate about worship, liturgy, church music, and choirs. Kurt will bring both passion and professionalism to his role. I am also grateful that he has agreed to play a special solo handbell piece in honor of All Saints' Sunday. I hope that you will come to hear him and introduce yourself.

All Saints' brings a sacred and grounded time of ritual and observation at a time we need it. It has been an unusually busy month at UPC. In addition to hiring Kurt, we have seen Ryan Aubrey introduce a new intergenerational program; we completed our annual stewardship program; the Governance Task Force has launched its efforts; and we will soon be installing our new audio-visual setup. The next few weeks will bring Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, and New Year's, along with all the church and non-church activities that come with that. Time does, as they say, fly; and this Sunday, All Saints' Day, is most certainly a needed day. Please join us to slow down, name our departed beloveds, and give thanks ... for each day we have on earth, and every fleeting moment we share with each other.

In Christ,

Rev. Jason Okrzynski, PhD Senior Pastor



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Dear Church Family,

We had another wonderful Fall Fest on October 26. It is always wonderful to see everyone out on the front lawn connecting with members of the Grayslake community. Thank you to everyone who came out to enjoy the day, and especially to those who helped with set-up, serving refreshments, and clean-up. I am looking forward to next year's event.

Advent is right around the corner. Beginning December 1, we will be going through the



Advent Devotional, *Everyday Gospel: Christmas Devotional* by Paul Tripp. I look forward to walking through this season of Advent with all of you. I pray that we will remember the deep significance of Jesus' incarnation.

I encourage you all to set aside time on the evening of Friday, December 6. We will be holding a celebration of the Feast of St. Nicholas. This will be a time of fun, food, and the story of St. Nicholas. I really look forward to this event. We will share with one another Christmas time traditions from our families, as well as learn about who St. Nicholas was and how we can live like him, and share in some fun activities together. Furthermore, in the spirit of St. Nicholas, we will be collecting donations for Lake County Haven. There will be more details regarding this event soon. I hope that you will be able to join us.

On the family front, soccer season is wrapping up for Fall, so soon our weekends will be much less busy. Both kids have grown so much in their abilities. It is always fun to watch the kids play, and one of the kids after the game will come up to you and tell you everything that happened in the game, even though you had just watched it. If only we could all be that excited about something in our lives.

Thank you for reading, and I hope to see you at our Advent events in December.

Blessings,

Ryan Aubrey
Director of Christian Education

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

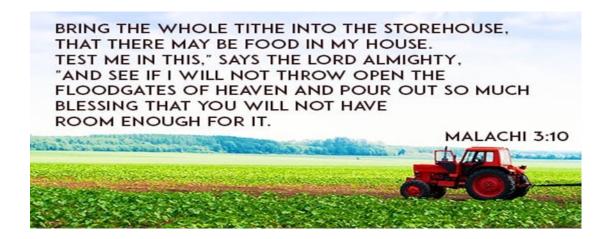
Dear Friends,

We have reaped the first pledges of our 2025 pledge campaign, and we have been promised approximately \$137,000 thus far. Compared to the first week of last year's pledge receipts, we are \$7,000 ahead. This is promising, and we heartily thank those of you who have made your pledge to support the United Protestant Church, its staff, ministries, programs, and Christian mission to make disciples for the transformation of the world. However, this first pass falls far short of our final 2024 budget. I would be remiss if I did not state this.

"When we look at Jesus' teaching in the Bible, it is easy to see that money was an important subject. He had more to say about money and its influence on our lives than about any other topic. One cannot listen to Jesus without [knowing] He saw money as a challenge to our relationship with Him. (W. V. Gunst and B. Arkema)."

During your time of prayer and meditation, please consider reading and meditating on the following Scripture to get a fuller perspective of Jesus' point of view where financial offering is concerned.

- Mark 10:25
- Matthew 6:24
- Luke 12:13-21
- Luke 6:38
- 2 Corinthians 9:6-15
- Malachi 3:10



Trusting Our God Who Provides,

Carol Roselli-Rasmussen, Stewardship Chairperson



Introducing our new Director of Music, Kurt Mockenhaupt, who began with UPC on October 17. Kurt is directing both our bell and vocal choirs. He lives in Chicago, is a member of The Agape Ringers, and comes to us with decades of musical experience. Please welcome

Kurt to UPC and introduce yourself to him. If you are interested in joining either of the choirs, please talk to him: see his message below.

WELCOME!



A Note from our Director of Music

The Chancel Choir is looking for a few singers to fill out our ranks. Do you like to sing in the shower? Do you sing along to your favorite song(s) when they come on the radio? Then you might be just the person we are looking for! Rehearsals are Thursdays at 6 p.m. in the sanctuary. If you have any questions, please speak with Kurt.

Kurt is also looking to put together a list of instrumentalists from within the congregation. It is nice to be able to include other instruments from time to time, both in the service and as additional voices on anthems. If you play an instrument and are willing to help us "make a joyful noise," please let Kurt know.

UPCOMING EVENTS - SAVE THE DATES

Sunday, November 17 OCC Packing Party 11 AM to 2 PM in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, November 24 Hanging of the Greens 11 AM

Tuesday, November 26 Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at St. Andrew's 7 PM

Thursday, November 28 Happy Thanksgiving! Office is closed.

Sunday, December 1 Advent begins

Friday, December 6 Feast of St. Nicholas Intergen Event & Potluck 5:30 PM

Friday, December 13 Caroling at Library Lane 7 PM

Tuesday, December 24 Christmas Eve Services:

Family Service 3 PM

Intergen Candlelight Service 7 PM

Candlelight & Communion Service 11 PM



NOVEMBER 2024

United Protestant Church CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service 5:00pm Confirmation Mentor Orientation (FH)	7:00pm Stewardship Committee (MR) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 6:30pm Pack 451 Den Meetings (FH) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106)	(Loft) 6:00pm North Star District Nominations Committee (MR)	9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Grace Notes (Choir Room) 7:00pm Staff Parish (MR)	8 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting (FH)	9
			7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH) 7:15pm Troop 451 Board of Review (101)	7:30pm AA (106, 105)		
9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service 11:30am Circle 2 (MR)	11 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 5:30pm Circle 9 (Mrs. Vs) 6:30pm North Star District Commissioner Meeting (MR) 6:30pm Pack 451Den Meetings (FH) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106) 7:00pm Troop 451 PLC (101)	6:00pm Confirmation Class (Loft) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm PUSH (Parlor) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 2:00pm Budget & Finance (MR) 6:30pm Staff Parish (MR) 7:00pm Grace Notes (Choir Room) 7:30pm AA (106,105)	OCC Packing Party Setup (FH)	OCC Packing Party Setup (FH)
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service 11am-2pm OCC Packing Party (FH)	7:00pm Ad Council (FH) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 6:30pm Governance Task Force (Parlor) 6:30pm Pack 451 Monthly Pack Meeting (FH) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106) 7:00pm Nami Family Support Group (MR) 7:00pm Troop 451 Committee Meeting (101)	6:00pm Confirmation Class (Loft) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Grace Notes (Choir Room) 7:30pm AA (106,105)		Setup for Hanging of the Greens
24 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am Hanging of the Greens	25 6:30pm Worship Committee (MR) 7:00pm Mission Committee (103) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 6:30pm Pack 451 Den Meetings (FH) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106) 7:00pm Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church	27 6:00pm Confirmation Class (Loft) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	28 HAPPY THANKSGIVING! OFFICE CLOSED 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	29	30



DECEMBER 2024

United Protestant Church CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00am Education Hour	7:00pm Stewardship	3 9:00am Park District	4 11:30am Circle 4/5	5 9:00am Park District	6 5:30pm Feast of St.	7
10:00am Worship Service	Committee (MR) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	Preschool Class (202) 6:00pm AA Ladies Holiday Party (106, 105) 6:30pm Pack 451 Den Meetings (FH)	(Culver's) 6:00pm Confirmation Class (Loft) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH) 7:15pm Troop 451 Board of Review (101)	Preschool Class (202) 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Grace Notes (Choir Room) 7:00pm Staff Parish (MR)	Nicholas Intergen Event (FH)	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service 11:30am Circle 2 (MR)	7:30pm AA (106, 105)	9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 5:30pm Circle 9 (Mrs. Vs) 6:30pm North Star District Commissioners Meeting (MR) 6:30pm Pack 451 Den Meetings (FH) 7:00pm Troop 451 PLC (101) 7:00pmAA Ladies (106)	6:00pm Confirmation Class (Loft) 7:00pm PUSH (Parlor) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 2:00pm Budget & Finance (MR) 7:00pm Grace Notes (Choir Room) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	3:00-8:00pm Veritas Music Center Recitals (Sanctuary) 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting (FH) 7:00pm Caroling at Library Lane	9:00am-5:00pm Veritas Music Center Recitals (Sanctuary)
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service	7:00pm Ad Council (FH) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 6:30pm Governance Task Force (Parlor) 6:30pm Pack 451Monthly Pack Meeting (FH) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106) 7:00pm Nami Family Support Group (MR) 7:00pm Troop 451 Committee Meeting (101)	6:00pm Confirmation Class (Loft) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Grace Notes (Choir Room) 7:30pm AA (106,105)		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service	7:30pm AA (106, 105)	3:00pm Christmas Eve Family Service 7:00pm Christmas Eve Intergen Candlelight Ser- vice 7:00pm AA Ladies (106) 11:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service	MERRY CHRISTMAS! 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105)	OFFICE CLOSED 7:30pm AA (106,105)		
29	30	31				
10:00am Worship Service	7:30pm AA (106, 105)	OFFICE CLOSED 7:00pm AA Ladies (106)				

MISSIONS



The next UPC packing session at Feed My Starving Children in Libertyville is scheduled for **Tuesday**, **November 5 from 7:15-8:45 p.m.** If you are interested in participating, please contact Cinda Bartz at bartzc@sbcglobal.net.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (OCC)

The 2024 goal has been set at **250** shoebox gifts to help spread the gospel to children and their families. Last year, UPC provided 206 shoebox gifts to children around the world including Trinidad and Tobago, The Bahamas, Paraguay, Jamaica, and Chile. This year's goal represents an approximate 25% increase. "We can do more in 2024."

There are still a few items we need to provide well-rounded boxes. Any of the following that you can provide will be greatly appreciated. (All items must be new.)

- Small stuffed animals
- Notebooks or notebook paper
- Scissors
- Balls
- Toothbrushes
- Toy cars

The **2024 UPC Packing Party** will be **Sunday**, **November 17** from **11 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Please mark your calendar and plan on attending for all or part of the time. Guests are welcome too!

God ALWAYS puts the right box in the hands of the right child! Pack and pray!

<u>JOY SHARING FOR NOVEMBER</u>

The Mission Committee is proud to highlight the Veteran's Giving Tree once more for our November Joy Sharing. We will be providing Christmas gifts for so many deserving veterans at the VA Hospital in North Chicago. This year we will again be placing gift tags for the veterans on a Christmas tree in the parlor. These tags are created from lists that the VA provides from the veterans' 'wish lists'. 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. The tag must be attached to the wrapped package. A deadline for the gifts to be dropped off at UPC has yet to be determined. Watch Tuesday Newsday emails and the Sunday bulletins for more information in the future. Thank you all for your continued and generous giving to show gratitude to those who have given so much for our country.

And speaking of GENEROUS! The Mission Committee would like to thank you all for supporting each of our Joy Sharing recipients. We are amazed by your abundant support for our continuing and new recipients.

- Malaria No More \$790
- Living Water International \$770
- World Relief \$445
- American Foundation for Suicide Prevention \$715
- INK180 \$1,052.50





UPC SHOPPER

When buying your Thanksgiving turkey and all the fixings, don't forget to plan ahead and use some UPC Shopper gift cards. We carry many grocery stores like **Jewel**, **Garden Fresh**, **Mariano's**, **Peapod**, **Meijer's and Sunset Foods**, as well as **Target and Walmart**.

If you are heading out for some early Christmas shopping or hitting those Black Friday sales, pick up some UPC Shopper gift cards to use for your purchases.

Don't see cards for a store you shop at? Ask the sales person to request a special order. Many more stores are available than just what we keep in stock. Special orders are usually available in two weeks and do not cost extra. Want those cards even faster? Ask Lynn about using the app on your phone and getting the cards immediately.

Did you know that this year the profits from the UPC Shopper will be going to help pay the shipping costs for our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes? We hope to ship 250 boxes which would amount to \$2,500 in shipping fees and a lot of very happy children. If you love OCC, please consider purchasing gift cards to help support the cause.

COMPANIONS JOURNEYING TOGETHER

We said, "We can do more in 2024!" and you proved us right with an increase of over 50%!

Card type with notes to the inmate	2023 Total	2024 Total
Christmas	131	216
Card types the inmates can send to their family		
Christmas	986	1,579
Birthday	108	151
Blank	64	148
Thinking of you	40	26
Thank you	15	12
Friendship	0	10
Miscellaneous	8	0
Total	1,352	2,142

Cards of each of these types are now being accepted for 2025, and packets of Christmas cards are on the Mission table with suggested messages for signing them. Inmates who stay connected to family and friends are more successful upon their release.

<u>GLEANING</u>

As gleaning season comes to a close, we thank the 11 volunteers who went into the fields and orchards 11 times on behalf of UPC and saved 85 pounds of apples, 264 pounds of potatoes, and 3,780 pounds of corn from going to waste. This food was provided to the Northern Illinois Food Bank that helps feed our hungry neighbors. We also thank Vernon Stade of Stade's Farm & Market in McHenry for his kind generosity in donating all of this food. This year we were also able to encourage other volunteers in the area to glean with us, and through their efforts 530 pounds of potatoes, 3,094 pounds of apples, and 9,307 pounds of corn were also donated to various area food pantries and the Food Bank. Our thanks also to Anthony DeMoon of Heinz Orchard in Green Oaks for much of the apples.











PADS LAKE COUNTY & UPC PADS:

- **Update on UPC PADS GALA Fundraising Page:** Donations exceeded the \$1,000 goal! Thanks to all who donated!
- Current Food Needs: Lunch and dinner items are needed daily and can be donated here at UPC, delivered to First Presbyterian Church in Libertyville on Wednesdays from 4-6 p.m., or purchased at this Amazon link to be delivered directly to First Presbyterian Church.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/XD5l2ZRDQKE5?ref =wl share

Sack lunches are always needed at 1800 Grand Avenue for those seeking help from PADS. Lunches can be delivered to PADS at 1800 Grand Avenue during any weekday. Use their online signup genius for an open date, or call 847-689-4357 to let them know you would like to deliver lunches to the office.

- Winter coats and other fall and winter clothing donations are now needed in addition to other clothing items. Family First Center of Lake County staff can be called (224-421-0948) to arrange a drop-off time and location. PADS clients can select clothing they need in a room at the Hometowne Motel PADS location. Contact Rose Pech at 847-682-2837 before you bring large amounts of clothing to UPC.
- Walmart gift card purchases made at UPC allow you to give to two missions at once if you donate the cards to UPC PADS because a percentage of the price goes to Operation Christmas Child, and we use the cards to buy and deliver food, clothing, and other items needed by PADS clients.
- Diapers are needed in sizes 1 through 5. PADS is accepting any brand that is donated. Bring them to UPC to be delivered where they are needed.

<u>Curt's Café Invitation</u>

On Wednesday, December 11, a few of us from UPC will be heading to Curt's Café in Highland Park to support the mission and its students. We will meet there around 1:30-1:45 p.m. for a Dutch-treat lunch. Please sign up on the Mission table or contact Cinda (847-727-1552 or bartzc@sbcglobal.net) by December 9 if you would like to join the group. It will be good fellowship and good food.





WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT WCF? Call the church office at 847-223-8131 for information or talk with Cathy Vick, Sue Schmidt, Ruth Gheysen, Rose Pech, or other Circle members. See the church bulletin, Tuesday Newsday, and UNIFIER for updates.

FUN, FELLOWSHIP & FOOD at BUNCO: Several ladies from UPC had a great time visiting and snacking as they played BUNCO at the



Fall Bunco Party on October 19. Gift cards were won by Judy Ziegler, Mary Ann McDowell, Bobbie Weichman, and Sue Schmidt. Watch for our Spring BUNCO date in the February 2025 UNIFIER and Tuesday Newsday announcements.



<u>Circle 2</u>: Meetings are held at 11:30 AM in the UPC Meeting Room one Sunday each month from March through December. Our next meeting will be **Sunday**, **November 10**. Contact Catherine Vick. Plans for UPC members and friends to join us as we volunteer at Avon Food Pantry will be finalized and advertised in future Tuesday Newsday and UNIFIER articles. Plans are to schedule dates starting after the holidays.

<u>Circle 4/5</u>: meets on the first Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be **at 11:30 AM on November 6 at Culver's** in Grayslake. Contact Sue Schmidt.

<u>Circle 9</u>: Meetings are held year-round on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 PM 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 other Circle 9 members if you plan to attend. The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, November 12**.

<u>Circle 10</u>: does not meet in person. Members are in contact with each other on Facebook. Contact Jasmine Walker.

Check the table below for meeting information and choose what works for you!

Circle	Day/Date	Time	Place	Contact
2	Sun., Nov. 10	11:30 AM	UPC Meeting Room	Catherine Vick
4/5	Wed., Nov. 6	11:30 AM	Culver's in Grayslake	Sue Schmidt
9	Tues., Nov. 12	5:30 PM	Mrs. V's in Round Lake Beach	Ruth Gheysen

^{*}Contact information is available online in the **Instant Church Directory** or at the UPC office.

<u>Tyler, Brittany, Danielle, & Joanna</u>: send love and thanks for UPC support. See prayer requests on the next page. Donations are appreciated at any time online at www.ilad.ngo/D2002</u> or locally to UPC's Tyler & Brittany Fund or annually on a Sunday when the Mission Committee highlights the mission and has a special collection.

November Birthdays

- 11/7 Sofia Henne
- 11/8 Doreen Churchill
- 11/9 Candi Becker
- 11/14 James Bethmann
- 11/17 Cheyenne Grubbs
- 11/18 Lynn Hallen
- 11/19 Barbara Weichman
- 11/20 Leah Taylor
- 11/22 Sue Schmidt
- 11/25 Craig Fischel

December Birthdays

- 12/3 Emma Henne
- 12/4 Katie Gheysen
- 12/5 Reese Divis
- 12/9 Charlie Grubbs
- 12/9 Jackson Grubbs
- 12/9 Nancy Johannsen
- 12/13 Kenny Madden
- 12/13 Julius Mall
- 12/15 Suzanne Harvey
- 12/15 Polly Muehleman
- 12/20 Jackie lanson
- 12/26 Darlene George Craig
- 12/31 John Porteous

November Anniversaries

11/6 Richard & Linda Dzwonkiewicz

11/15 Jamie & Denise Fuller

11/24 Gregg & Jill Helm

December Anniversaries

12/5 Julius & Alva Mall

12/13 Shelly & Felix Kutsin

12/14 Aimee Divis & Dennis Wong

12/16 Richard & Nancy Johannsen



Daylight Saving Time ends on November 3. Don't forget to change your clocks back one hour.

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

Members: Craig Fischel, Marie Frandsen, David Holliman, Joanne Lawrence, Marjorie Miller, John Porteous, Dan Watkins, Bobbie Weichman, and Jeff Ziegler.

Tyler, Brittany & Danielle, & Joanna: Prayer requests include: Teammates—African Xian to run brick machine; Trees—favor on newly transplanted trees; Translation—Brittany and Solo work on OT summary; Treatment—good health and availability of Malaria Vaccine; and Treasure—increase monthly funds by \$325.

Relatives & Friends: Allen Anglin, Kathy Behm, Joe Boccaleoni, Kathy Weichman Bradley, Lorine Cooper, Patricia Davis, Judy Hendrickson, Jennifer Hitch, Mary Mason, 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, Thomas Bournes, Mary Brase, Don & Tina Busch, Brad Fuller, Trish Jelinek, Rick Juern, Conny Kappler, Ben Kelly-Fuller, David Novak, Sue (PADS friend), Wendy (friend of Rose Pech), and Michelle (friend of Linda Markham).

The next issue of The Unifier will be a combination of December 2024 and January 2025, and may not be available until mid-December.



Contact Us

United Protestant Church 54 S. Whitney Street Grayslake, IL 60030 Phone: 847-223-8131 E-mail: upc@upcgl.org

Pastor: Rev. Jason Okrzynski

Email:

seniorpastor@upcgl.org Cell: 224-463-2171

Church Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Grounded | Empowered | Transformed

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