

The Unifier



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October 2022

It's a Risky Thing to Pray

It is a risky thing to pray, and the danger is that our very prayers get between God and us. The great thing in prayer is not to pray, but to go directly to God. If saying your prayers is an obstacle to prayer, cut it out. Let Jesus pray. Thank God Jesus is praying. Forget yourself. Enter into the prayer of Jesus.

*The best way to pray is: stop. Let prayer pray within you, whether you know it or not. This means a deep awareness of your true inner identity. There are no levels. Any moment you can break through into the underlying unity. —Thomas Merton, *Thomas Merton, Monk*, ed. Patrick Hart (Cistercian Publications, 1974), 89-90.*

As my time here at UPC is winding down, people have been asking what I am going to do once I am no longer Interim Pastor. Here is a list of some of the things I hope to do:

- “Re-enter” my retirement time
- Sleep in
- Read more books
- Get in some more golf
- Travel to see my granddaughter, daughter, and son-in-law
- Simplify my book collection by the boxes

I know there are many other things I can do, and probably will, but there are also some things I cannot do once I leave UPC:

- Serve this community of faith in any way
- I will not be a member or attender of worship or other events unless given permission

I know this seems somewhat abrupt. It is not that I have not loved my time here because I have, but this is the code of ethics I adhere to as an interim pastor. Pastor Jason will be your pastor, and I will be your former interim.

Trust me, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time here. Everyone has been so welcoming, and I have been blessed by your extravagant hospitality.

Oh yes, there is one more thing I will be doing: I will be praying for you during this time of transition to Pastor Jason’s leadership. I will pray for a smooth transition, your welcoming presence falling upon Pastor Jason and his two sons, Pastor Jason’s sharing his faith and leadership with you as you move forward, and your continued ministries that are vital for UPC to move closer and closer to your vision and mission.

Blessings always,

Pastor Steve

Dear Church Family,

I would like to thank you all for a good start to our ministry year. I have been very pleased with our participation in our faith growth opportunities so far.

In our Children's Ministry, the kids talked about creation over the past few weeks. We began and ended the month-long focus on creation with an emphasis being good stewards of what God has given to us. A steward is a person who cares for the interests of another in their absence. In the Garden, God gave Adam and Eve a job: to subdue and rule over all that God had created. This rulership is tied to being created in God's image. We are to be God's representatives here on earth, extending God's rule to all that God created. Jesus gives us the model to follow. He demonstrates perfect stewardship. The question remains whose example will you follow as you seek to live out God's intention for your life. Will you be an extension of God's rulership, or will you be an extension of how society around us seeks to rule?

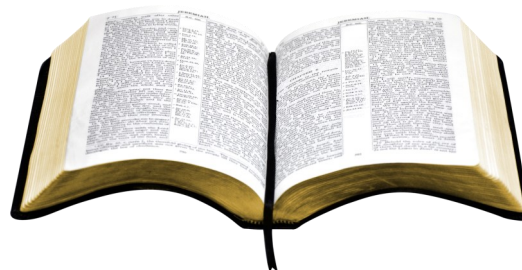
In some ways, this also ties to what we are discussing in our adult class, as well. We are examining Jesus' parable of the Prodigal Son, or to be more accurate, two lost sons. Author and pastor Tim Keller talks about how each son demonstrates a way to find happiness and meaning in our lives. The first son seeks to find it through lavish spending and self-indulgence. The second son attempts to find happiness through moral conformity. The father in the story, who represents God, takes the initiative with each one extending to them his love and a place in the family. The parable emphasizes the condition of the two brothers' hearts. Both are far from the father. As the parable ends, only one heart has softened toward the father. The other remains distant and hard. The question becomes, what is the condition of your heart. Will you be an extension of God's rulership by pursuing the kingdom of God, or will you seek power to extend rulership as the world sees it? If you want a taste of the adult study, you can find the videos for the Prodigal God study through our RightNow Media account.

On the family front, the kids found an item recently they would like to buy. So Emily and I decided they could do some extra work around the house to earn some money. So, one day, William kept asking what he could do, so we showed him how to dust the furniture in our living room. The next day, he wanted more chores, so we sent him outside to weed. He came in after weeding and asked if he could go dust the living room again. He was disappointed to find out that you don't typically dust a room every single day. This morning, he lamented to me that it will take him a long time to earn enough money, because there are not enough chores to do. I am certain that there are more than enough extra jobs around the house that he can help with.

Anyway, thank you for reading. I look forward to continuing our discipleship opportunities this year and hope that you and your family will find ways to grow in your faith individually and in community. I encourage you to explore our RightNow Media account as you seek to grow your faith. If you need help navigating that, please let me know. If you have any questions, concerns, or need resources please let me know. I am happy to help.

Blessings,

Ryan Aubrey
Director of Christian Education



UPC Shopper

With the financial challenges our mission partners will face in 2022, UPC Shopper makes more sense than ever. If you use UPC Shopper cards for your day-to-day purchases - groceries, prescriptions, gas, restaurants, etc., you can add to our missions without spending anything extra. The amount the mission makes from each purchase depends on the store's contribution. The discount percent that is provided to the mission ranges from 1.5% to 50% per card.

Here are some historical examples of how buying shopper cards helps our missions. One couple added more than \$180 from orders placed on-line. (That does not include the numerous times they just picked up a card or two from the Shopper Table.) One week in December 4 UPC members placed orders, presumably for Christmas, and increased the mission's balance by \$135. With around 20 families participating, UPC shopper took in over \$2500 in 2011. Think how much more income we could generate if the number of participating families increased to 40, 60 or even 80. With just 40 families participating, we could raise \$5000 without costing the participants anything. We would all like to give more to support mission work. This is a great no-cost way to do that. In this tough fiscal environment, where every penny counts, UPC shopper just makes good sense.

If you are unfamiliar with UPC shopper, stop by the table in the narthex just about any Sunday and ask Dian. She would be happy to explain the program to you.



October's joy-sharing is **Feed My Starving Children**

Feed My Starving Children (FMSC)

Feeding kids. Feeding spirits. Empowering communities. Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) believes hope starts with food. As a Christian nonprofit, FMSC is dedicated to seeing every child whole in body and spirit. FMSC meals are hand-packed by volunteers and sent to an incredible network of partner organizations that stay with communities for the long haul, empowering them to move from relief to development. In the 2021-2022 fiscal year, March 1, 2021- February 28, 2022, more than 477,486 volunteers came back to pack after Covid and provided enough meals to feed 1,091,787 for a year.

Looking forward to 2022-2023:

When FMSC started the 2022/23 fiscal year on March 1, 2022, they had a goal to produce and ship a record-high 425 million meals. But between war in Ukraine and a new surge in global hunger, partners have requested more than **HALF A BILLION** meals. With millions of refugees in Eastern Europe and catastrophic rates of hunger in Afghanistan, Haiti and across the Horn of Africa, they know this number is only going to increase.

Your gift goes a long way in the fight against world hunger.

- Each meal costs less than 25 cents.
- \$88 feeds a child for an entire year.
- More than 91 percent of every dollar donated goes directly toward feeding kids.
- More than 99.8% of FMSC meals have safely reached their intended destination.
- FMSC has received the highest awards (4 stars) for accountability and transparency from Charity Navigator for 16 consecutive years.

Please consider a generous donation and/or volunteering to pack a shift. Two hours of your time can make a life-saving difference to a child.

UPC PADS SITE UPDATES—OCTOBER 2022



PADS LAKE COUNTY OVERNIGHT EMERGENCY SHELTER SITE SEASON BEGINS OCT. 3!! EVEN THOUGH MORE SITES & VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED, the PADS Lake County overnight emergency shelter site season will open as scheduled. Please **contact Julie Kovacs** at PADS 847-689-4357 if you have any ideas of possible PADS church shelter sites. Various sites have set up online ways to sign up to volunteer at their sites. The following three sites are located near us and have requested that I share their sign-up information:

- **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."

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. Contact Rose Pech at pads_at_upc@hotmail.com or 847-223-8131, ext. 17 for info. Learn more about how you can help improve and save lives by enabling UPC to provide safe shelter and delicious food. Potential volunteers will receive information and training throughout this season as we prepare for the 2023-2024 season. We hope to have our traditional soup & salad meal on the last Thursday evening of September 2023 and to open the site on the first Thursday of October 2023. Volunteers will be needed onsite and offsite for a variety of tasks and with various time commitments. **Onsite volunteers serve once a month if possible—7 times total; some do less and some more. Substitutes are also needed.** Some opportunities to serve are flexible & can be scheduled on other days and times. **The volunteer coordinator (STILL NEEDED!) works from home and has flexible hours.**

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 — OCTOBER 2022

WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

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

Contact info for chairpersons can be found in our church directory, or contact Rose Pech 847-682-2837 or rose4nonna@hotmail.com

WCF BUNCO—OCTOBER 15 at 1 PM—SEE ARTICLE IN THIS OCTOBER UNIFIER!

CIRCLE NEWS

Circle 2 enjoyed fellowship time during Sacred Grounds in the Parlor at UPC on September 25 after having postponed their meeting for a week to allow for schedule changes. Cards were signed for Carolyn Korell and Bobbie Weichman who couldn't attend the meeting and for the family of Vera Morris who passed away on September 13. Plans for the October 9 meeting and donations for Sacred Grounds on that Sunday were discussed, and money was collected to buy BUNCO prizes. Members caught up on each other's latest news and look forward to their meeting on October 9 in the UPC Meeting Room after they serve Sacred Grounds.

Circle 4/5 members met at Culver's in Grayslake on September 7 and enjoyed catching up on each other's news. Plans for BUNCO, which they will host in October, were discussed and the next meeting was planned to be held at Panera Bread in Round Lake Beach at 11:30 A.M. on Wednesday, October 5.

Circle 9 members met at Hillside Restaurant on Tuesday, September 13, to enjoy food and fellowship while catching up with news from several members who hadn't been able to attend for a while. The next meeting at Hillside will be on Tuesday, October 11. All who would enjoy dinner out with fellow UPC women are invited to join the group.

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

Watch for more detailed information regarding other circle meetings & FOR OCTOBER BUNCO in the Tuesday Newsday emails, weekly church bulletin, & our monthly UNIFIER articles.

Circle	Day/Date	Time	Place	Contact
2	Sun., Oct. 9	11:30 AM	UPC Meeting Room	Catherine Vick
4/5	Wed., Oct. 5	11:30 AM	Panera Bread in Round Lake Beach	Sue Schmidt
9	Tues., Oct. 11	5:30 PM	Hillside Restaurant	Ruth Gheysen
10	TBD	TBD	TBD	Jasmine Walker

WCF MISSION FUND: Donations may be made at any time by making your check out to UPC and writing "WCF Mission Fund" in the memo or by putting 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. If you've donated to the UPC Fund or Joy Sharing for Brittany & Tyler, the donation also goes to them. Tyler and Brittany are aware that some WCF members are contributing through the general UPC fund directly instead of through the WCF Mission Fund. The only difference is the time of the year when they receive the funds. WCF has chosen to send the funds the first of the year so they receive the donations sooner than waiting until after Joy Sharing Sunday. Thank you to everyone who's donated in either way. Praying more of you will donate before December 31!

--Blessings, Rose Pech

Cider Sunday is October 2nd following the 10 a.m. worship service. Join us for fellowship and refreshments which include apple cider and donuts provided by the Membership & Outreach Committee. Donuts will also be available for purchase so you can enjoy them at home.



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WCF invites all women of UPC and their friends to join us for BUNCO on Saturday, October 15th from 1-3 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Come enjoy the fellowship of other women as we play BUNCO, converse and have refreshments. Never played before? It's an easy game to learn, so come and try it!

Contact Sue Schmidt at 847-367-1701 or schmidt6134@comcast.net with any questions.

The “Bounce On In” Fall Fest in conjunction with Grayslake Business Trick-or-Treating and hosted by the Children’s Ministry Committee will take place on the **front lawn of UPC between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on October 29th (weather permitting).**

We will have hot coffee for the adults, popcorn and lemonade for all.

Activities include a pumpkin craft, gaga ball, our bounce house, and trunk-or-treat.

Trick-or-treating will be taking place at downtown Grayslake businesses at the same time. Come join us!



Fall Festival

October Birthdays

10/1 Carol Roselli-Rasmussen
10/2 Bill Churchill
10/4 Stefany Howard
10/5 Dennis Craig
10/5 Judy Ziegler
10/8 Sam Cooper
10/16 Sarah Grubbs
10/16 Rose Pech
10/17 Chuck Trowitch
10/18 Ken Craig
10/20 Laurie Bethmann
10/20 Cynthia Floral
10/20 Dian Weinkauf
10/22 Jody Gerzel
10/22 Blake Kutsin
10/26 Abigail Floral
10/26 Grace Floral
10/27 Bonnie Bjerning
10/28 Megan Berkey
10/31 Tracy Celeslie
10/31 Mark Rasmussen

October Anniversaries

10/9 Spencer & Lexie Craig
10/9 Dave & Sue Schmidt
10/11 Ted & Candi Becker
10/16 Ruth & Todd Gheysen



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

Members: Ann Drevalas (death of her mother), Marie Frandsen, Susan Green, Sue Harvey, Carl Heiler, Joanne Lawrence, Marjorie Miller, Rose Pech, Eddie Smith, Pat Wackerlin, and Bobbie Weichman.

Tyler, Brittany & Danielle – Pray that they 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, Brad Fuller, Trish Jelinek, Rick Juern, Tom Nellessen, 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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seniorpastor@upcgl.org

Pastor Steve's cell phone:
847-707-5601

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

Grounded | Empowered | Transformed

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54 S. Whitney Street
Grayslake, IL 60030

