

# The Unifier



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October 2024

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

I hear somewhat frequently that nobody loves to listen to their pastor talk about money. That said, it would come as a shock to you that most pastors don't relish preaching about money either. I believe most pastors love preaching about God and Jesus, and about the power of faithful, gracious, loving and daring people of faith. Money can certainly be a sensitive, even painful topic for people.

However, as much as I dislike preaching about money, there is nothing I am more passionate about than the Christian church being able to do what it is called to do! Children of all ages come to church and hear that God loves them so much that he gave his only son. People from every walk of life, country, culture and color gather together as a church every week to pray, praise, speak and share our gratitude and awe with God. The entire world receives indispensable oceans of volunteer hours, and charitable giving from church goes the world around.

As I think you know, I am saying all this because we are entering the third week of our stewardship campaign. United Protestant Church is a remarkable community of faith, full of wonderful people of faith. I am hoping and praying for 2025's budget. There is remarkable energy in this community to serve the world and to share the love of God. My prayer is that together we might increase our budget next year for two reasons. First and foremost, the culture we live in is more in need of evangelism than ever before.

I want to see more opportunities to share the good news of Jesus, and to invite those around us to join us in changing the world through our discipleship and our worship of God in Jesus. Secondly, there is nothing that worries our members like finances. From time to time, I see members who hold back from doing more ministry in order to save money.

Money is a reality, but so is the need for evangelism and excellent mission in the world. I have said it before and I will say it again, I know that there are many ways to give, and that many folks may not pledge but are still giving. However, allow me to step out of my comfort to urge you again to prayerfully consider if you might be able to increase your pledge this year, or if you might offer a pledge this year if you haven't in the past.

Our giving does not reflect our amount of faith, the quality of our congregation, or the goodness of individual members. It does, however, reflect an opportunity to plan, grow and intensify our shared concrete plans for mission and evangelism in the coming year.

Thank you for all that you gave last year, and whatever you are able to give this coming year! May God provide and bless our service to the mission of Jesus Christ in the world this year.

In Christ,

Rev. Jason Okrzynski, PhD  
Senior Pastor

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Dear Church Family,

We have moved quickly through the month of September, and our Fall programming is well under way. The Adult class finishes the SHAPE class the week of October 13<sup>th</sup>. I am hoping to offer this class again probably toward the beginning of 2025. Be watching for more information regarding that opportunity. Beginning October 20<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Jason will be taking us through the Desert Fathers. I hope that you will join us as we examine these important figures and examine their contributions to our faith.

Our Children's Ministry is walking through the Narrative Lectionary, just like we are during the Sunday morning worship service. The first major block of lessons, our kids have avoided the sneaky snake, walked with Abraham, dreamt with Joseph, and experienced Passover. I am excited that our kids can explore the same passages as the worship service. Some have made that connection during the Scripture reading of the service, which is great to hear. I look forward to continuing along this journey with them and pray that they will grow in their worship of God.

Be watching for information about our upcoming events. Here are some dates to mark on your calendar.

- October 26<sup>th</sup> – Fall Fest (Noon – 2 PM)
- December 6<sup>th</sup> – Intergenerational Event
- December 13<sup>th</sup> – Caroling at Library Lane
- December 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve Services

Blessings,

Ryan Aubrey  
Director of Christian Education



*(Pictures from the September 29th Intergenerational Family Worship Service.)*



# STEWARDSHIP NEWS



We are in the middle of our 2025 Stewardship Campaign, and as Stewardship Chairperson, I have spent the last 6 months praying, reading, and attempting to discern how I might emphasize the meaning of this spiritual work to achieve the greatest understanding. God answered my prayer through my prayer group when one of our members introduced us to the book *7 Men and the Secret of Their Greatness* by Eric Metaxas where we read about seven extraordinary Christian men, some with the remarkable gift of stewardship.

Meet Eric Liddell, or do you already know him? Eric was the Christian Missionary to China featured in the movie *Chariots of Fire*, who won a gold medal for the 400-meter race in 1924 for Great Britain, being of Scottish descent. You see, Jesus, in His wisdom, bestowed the gifts of running (very fast), public speaking (evangelism/teaching), faith and mercy upon Eric, and he found a way to use all his time and gifts serving Jesus in all circumstances such as in sickness and in health and when it was easy or tough.

After winning gold, Eric became a local hero. However, hanging around and reveling in his fame was not his call. He answered God's call to return to war-torn China and spread the gospel to people who had not been previously blessed with the Good News. In China, he taught, preached, did manual labor, prayed, and persistently encouraged others until dying at the age of 43 in a Japanese internment camp. Near the end, he was separated from his family (wife, three children), extremely sick (brain tumor) and living in sparse and then foul living conditions; however, every day he smiled, praised the Lord, and did everything he could to ease others' suffering.

From Eric, I learned to persevere in doing God's assigned work no matter how difficult it may be. I discovered that it is God's will that we care for one another even when we are sick and tired or frankly distracted from His Truth. Finally, I find it inspiring that Eric lived as though "God has great plans for each of us. Those plans may include giving up something we value highly. But those who give up what we may most desire-if God has demanded it-the Lord will truly honor." (*7 Men*, pg. 87, by E. Metaxas)

On Behalf of Stewardship,

Carol Roselli-Rasmussen



**Consecration Sunday is October 20th. Please turn in your pledge form by this date. If you did not receive one, please notify the church office.**

A Free **ADVANCED FUNERAL PLANNING LUNCH AND LEARN EVENT**

Sunday, October 20, 2024

11:30am-12:45pm

UPC Fellowship Hall

Light lunch provided

Please register with the church office ([churchsec@upcgl.org](mailto:churchsec@upcgl.org))



# OCTOBER 2024

## United Protestant Church CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 6:30pm Pack 451 All Dens Meeting (FH) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105)	<b>2</b> 11:30am Circle 4/5 (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)	<b>3</b> 9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 6:30pm Staff Parish (MR) 7:00pm Grace Notes (Choir Room) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> World Communion Sunday 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service 11:30am Governance Task Force (MR)	<b>7</b> 7:00pm Stewardship Committee (MR) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	<b>8</b> 9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 5:30pm Circle 9 (Mrs. V's) 6:30pm North Star District Commissioner Meeting (MR) 6:30pm Pack 451 Den Meetings (FH) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 PLC (101)	<b>9</b> 6:00pm Confirmation Class (Loft) 6:00pm North Star District Nominations Committee (MR) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	<b>10</b> 9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 2:00pm Budget & Finance (MR) 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Grace Notes (Choir Room) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	<b>11</b> 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting (FH)	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> Cider Sunday 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service	<b>14</b> 7:00pm Children's Ministry (MR) 7:30pm AA (106, 105) 8:00pm Christian Ed. Commission (MR)	<b>15</b> 9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 6:30pm Pack 451 Monthly Pack Meeting (FH) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105) 7:00pm Nami Family Support Group (MR) 7:00pm Troop 451 Committee Meeting (101)	<b>16</b> 6:00pm Confirmation Class (Loft) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm PUSH (Parlor) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	<b>17</b> 9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 7:00pm Grace Notes (Choir Room) 7:30pm AA (106,105)	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 1:00pm Ladies BUNCO (FH)
<b>20</b> Consecration Sunday 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service 11:30am Funeral Planning Seminar (FH)	<b>21</b> 7:00pm Ad Council (FH) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	<b>22</b> 9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 6:30pm Pack 451 Den Meetings (FH) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105) 7:00pm Membership Cultivation Committee (MR)	<b>23</b> 6:00pm Confirmation Class (Loft) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	<b>24</b> 9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Grace Notes (Choir Room) 7:30pm AA (106,105)	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 11:00am Setup for Fall Fest Noon-2pm Fall Fest (Front Lawn)
<b>27</b> 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service 11:30am Circle 2 (MR)	<b>28</b> 6:30pm Worship Committee (MR) 7:00pm Mission Committee (103) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	<b>29</b> 9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105)	<b>30</b> 6:00pm Confirmation Class (Loft) 6:00pm North Star District Nominations Committee (MR) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	<b>31</b> 9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 7:00pm Grace Notes (Choir Room) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)		



United Protestant Church's Annual  
**FALL FEST**

Saturday, October 26th ~ 12-2pm

Join us for fun and food  
on UPC's front lawn.

*\*Weather dependent*



**United  
Protestant  
Church**  
*of Grayslake*

54 S. Whitney  
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# MISSIONS



The next UPC packing session at Feed My Starving Children in Libertyville is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 1 from 7:15-8:45 p.m.** If you are interested in participating, please contact Cinda Bartz at [bartzc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bartzc@sbcglobal.net).

During the month of October, we would like to collect kaleidoscopes, puzzles, games, toy cars, trucks, boats and stuffed animals to fill 250 shoebox gifts.



## UPC SHOPPER

Do you ever wish that you could donate to a mission, but don't have any extra funds? UPC Shopper can help. The profits we earn from selling shopping cards that you use to purchase everyday items like groceries, clothing, meals or gas, go to support Operation Christmas Child. The best part is you don't pay anything extra when buying your cards at the shopper table. Don't remember to buy cards on Sunday morning? Just sign up on the app and you can get your egift cards sent to your phone – even while you wait in line at the store. Last month Lynn Hallen earned over \$50 for OCC just by doing her regular shopping. Sound too good to be true or you're not quite sure how this all works? Stop by the shopper table in the narthex any Sunday morning and talk to the sales people. There are also informational videos at [Raiseright.com](http://Raiseright.com). Want to sign up? Follow this link [Enrollment](#). Donations at no extra cost to you.

## JOY SHARING FOR OCTOBER

Our Joy Sharing opportunity for October is Feed My Starving Children, an organization quite familiar to many of us. Something you may not be as familiar with is the fact that all the food ingredients are purchased by FMSC with donated funds. The packaged food is then donated to as many as 112 countries around the world, and incredibly, the food is given to partner organizations in those countries, and those partner organizations pay for the shipping of the food, creating accountability.

Listed below are some impressive statistics to share with you. Volunteers from UPC have made a huge impact at FMSC. The current 2024 year-to-date statistics are:

- Number of volunteer hours = 999
- Meals packed = 242,554
- Kids fed for a year = 749

And since tracking of UPC's volunteering began in 2012, the totals are incredible!

- Total number of meals packed by UPC = 2,023,438 (that's right ... over 2 million!)
- Total number of kids fed for a year = 5,840!

So please realize that every time you commit to volunteering at FMSC with our church on the first Tuesday of the month, or with those who volunteer weekly on Wednesdays and Fridays, you are making a profound difference in someone's life! You are literally saving lives! For October's Joy Sharing, please prayerfully consider how you can support this God-led mission financially and/or by volunteering. Thank you!



## **PADS LAKE COUNTY & UPC PADS:**

- The 2024 PADS Pathway to Progress Celebration, “A Night at the Speakeasy Casino,” in Hawthorn Mall was a fun-filled event which also brought in much needed funds for PADS Lake County programs! UPC and our UPC PADS volunteers were well represented, and **\$800 had been donated to PADS** on Rose Pech’s Fundraising page by September 27. **Thanks to all who donated!**
- **Current client numbers:** As of September 27, 2024, **460 people** who are experiencing a housing crisis were housed in motels in Lake County. This number included **72 families with 177 children under the age of 18.**
- **Current Needs:** 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’d like to deliver lunches to the office. Lunch and dinner items as well as cleaning supplies are needed daily and can be donated here at UPC, delivered to 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church in Libertyville on Wednesdays from 4 to 6 PM, or purchased at this Amazon link and delivered directly to 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church.  
[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/XD5I2ZRQKE5?ref =wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/XD5I2ZRQKE5?ref =wl_share)
- **Clothing Donations now accepted by** Family First Center of Lake County staff. Call 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.
- **Walmart gift card purchases made at UPC** allow you to give to two missions at once if donated to UPC PADS because a percentage of the price goes to Operation Christmas Child! We have shoppers who use these cards to buy and deliver food or clothing as needed by PADS clients.

## **COMPANIONS JOURNEYING TOGETHER**

Cards for 2024 need to be donated by Sunday, October 20, in order to be sorted and packed on October 21. Card packets with a slip of suggested messages are available in the small box on the Mission Counter in the UPC Narthex. Contact Rose Pech or Cinda Bartz for more info.

## **GLEANING**

In the fall, many of us think about apples – delicious, juicy snacks for everyone. Gleaning apples involves picking them up off the ground and putting them in bags. They are then taken to the Northern Illinois Food Bank where they are provided free of charge to area food pantries who supply them to those in need of food in Lake County (also for free). If you would be interested in participating in gleaning the apples at an orchard in Green Oaks, please contact Cinda at 847.727.1552 or [bartzc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bartzc@sbcglobal.net).

P.S. We are still gleaning corn out of the Stade’s field on Mondays at 9am if you are interested in helping.



## *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.

**LADIES BUNCO** is scheduled for Saturday, October 19 from 1-3 PM in Fellowship Hall. Mark your calendars now! Refreshments will be provided. Hope to see you there!

**Circle 2:** 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, October 27**. 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.

**Circle 4/5:** meets on the first Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be at **11:30 AM on October 2 at Culver's** in Grayslake. Contact Sue Schmidt.

**Circle 9:** 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, October 8**.

**Circle 10:** 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!**

<b>Circle</b>	<b>Day/Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Contact</b>
2	Sun., Oct. 27	11:30 AM	UPC Meeting Room	Catherine Vick
4/5	Wed., Oct. 2	11:30 AM	Culver's in Grayslake	Sue Schmidt
9	Tues., Oct. 8	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.

**Tyler, Brittany, Danielle, & Joanna:** See their prayer requests on the next page. Donations can be made any time online at [www.ilad.ngo/D2002](http://www.ilad.ngo/D2002) or to the local UPC Tyler & Brittany Fund in addition to the special Joy Sharing Sunday which the Mission Committee provides each year. Thank you for your support.



## October Birthdays

10/1 Kevin Meyer  
10/1 Dylan Okrzynski  
10/1 Carol Roselli-Rasmussen  
10/2 Bill Churchill  
10/5 Dennis Craig  
10/5 Judy Ziegler  
10/8 Sam Cooper  
10/9 James Taylor  
10/12 Greyson Madden  
10/14 Andrew Friesema  
10/16 Sarah Grubbs  
10/16 Rose Pech  
10/17 Chuck Trowitch  
10/18 Ken Craig  
10/20 Laurie Bethmann  
10/20 Cynthia Floral  
10/22 Blake Kutsin  
10/26 Abigail Floral  
10/26 Grace Floral  
10/27 Bonnie Bjerning  
10/28 Megan Berkey  
10/30 Ava Henne  
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 Todd & Ruth Gheysen



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

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

**Tyler, Brittany & Danielle, & Joanna:** Prayer requests include: 1) Teammates—African Xian to run brick machine; 2) Trees—favor on newly transplanted trees; 3) Translation—Brittany and Solo work on OT summary; 4) Treatment—good health and availability of Malaria Vaccine; and 5) 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).

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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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

