

# The Unifier



54 South Whitney Street, Grayslake, Illinois 60030 | (847) 223-8131 | [upc@upcgl.org](mailto:upc@upcgl.org) | [www.upcgl.org](http://www.upcgl.org) April 2020

## These Days

In some ways, it would seem, we are in unprecedented times. None of us can likely remember a time in which the government and health officials demanded that we stayed in our homes as much as possible. Likely, none of us has known a time in which one of the best ways we could love each other was to stay away from each other. For us, there have never been times such as these. But I don't believe that these days are so unprecedented. I don't believe they are as unique in human history as we would make them out to be. I do believe that crisis moments like this can often serve to remind us of what our priorities in life should be. I also believe it in these moments that we often can see God most near.

I think back to the history of Israel. The times in which things seemed as if there was no way forward. Being slaves in Egypt for four hundred years. Being set free only to be caught between the Red Sea and the Egyptian army. Crossing the Jordan River to enter the promised land only to find that it was already filled with peoples far greater than the Israelites. In all of these times God did not abandon His people or the world, but He saw them through.

We have known plagues and pandemics since. Even in the modern ages. They have been hard times to say the least. But my prayer in these days is that we spend more time in worship, more time reading God's Word, and more time in prayer. Might God bless us all and might we all turn to Him.

Pastor Ryan

Dear Church Family,

God's call to discipleship is a call to courageous living. Courageous in that we are to live lives different from the world around us. Our ambitions, goals, and purposes are to be focused on things of eternal value, rather than success, power, and happiness as defined by the world. The book of Acts depicts this radically different life well. The early church cared for the most vulnerable within society, sought to care and show love toward those within its community, and boldly proclaimed the message of the Kingdom.

The Holy Spirit had fallen upon the disciples. Causing people in the surrounding area to pay attention as they each heard the disciples speaking in their native languages. Peter stood up and spoke courageously to the crowd. Peter had never been one to shy away from speaking. Here in his first act since being called back to lead the apostles by Christ (John 21), we see a new picture of Peter. The Lord he denied three times knowing, is the same Lord he here describes as the Messiah. Peter, just as Christ had done, explained from all of Scripture how Jesus was who He claimed to be. Peter boldly proclaims that, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know beyond a doubt that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36). This speech initiates the beginning of a movement within Jerusalem which draws persecution (Acts 3 – 8:4). The disciples continued to proclaim Christ in the face of tribulation.

As we become courageous disciples, we begin to seek opportunities to minister to those around us. The first disciples were scattered across the region and took with them a message of hope. The Jewish people had experienced years of silence from God, and when God chose to speak again, in the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of His son, Jesus, it was like no other event. Jesus entered into the world to begin God's powerful work of restoration and recreation. He left the Holy Spirit for us to work in us and through us to reach the world with that same goal. How will you partner with the Holy Spirit and courageously seek to minister God's transforming power to your neighbors, co-workers, family members, and friends who are in desperate need of the hope and peace only found in Christ?

The process of discipleship is nonlinear. In reality, this process is more like a spiral. It moves continually deeper into areas of our lives we stubbornly refuse to surrender to God. Our transformation to be more like Christ will not be complete in this life, and God is faithful to bring the work He has begun to completion. He took Peter, a man of self-confidence and self-reliance, and transformed him to be part of the foundation of the Church. Peter came to realize his dependence and confidence could only be found in Christ. I pray this will be true for all of us, as we continue to seek God's transformation in our lives.

On the family front, Anabelle love kindergarten. When I picked her up on the last day before it was cancelled, she quickly told me about the homework that she got. In the morning, Emily and I got up to find Anabelle sitting at the table working on one of her homework sheets. Not to be outdone, William started working on his "homework", which consisted of drawing on two pieces of paper and then "reading" the book he just wrote. He even used his finger along the page as if he were tracking each of the words as he read them. It was a very intense story. Thank you for reading. I pray that we will seek ways to partner with the Holy Spirit as we continue to be transformed more and more into disciples of Christ.

Ryan Aubrey

# UPC PADS UPDATE

## MEETING GUESTS' NEEDS DURING THIS TIME OF CRISIS:

As our UPC PADS Site and other PADS Lake County shelter sites have had to close our doors for the health and safety of guests and volunteers, PADS Lake County is finding alternative locations where guests can stay and volunteers can safely continue to provide assistance as they are able while following social distancing and other safety guidelines. Guests are being vetted to be sure they don't have symptoms before they are allowed into the shelter sites and overnight emergency locations. Those with symptoms are being checked out and treated in accordance with Lake County Health Department, State of Illinois, and CDC guidelines. Some sites are still able to remain open, while volunteers from our site and other closed sites are helping meet the supervision and meal needs for the guests who are at new locations.

UPC PADS Site Manager Laura Tussing and Food Coordinator Margaret Hilliard are coordinating scheduling of volunteers and food delivery/service from our site with Suzanne Christensen, PADS Lake County Director of Shelter. Please contact Laura or Margaret if you are a current PADS volunteer and would like to help. Laura has sent out updates with her contact information. If you aren't a PADS volunteer and would like to provide some type of assistance, please see the info below and/or contact me so I can direct you to the best person.

As you can imagine, the PADS office staff is overwhelmed dealing with this crisis. Suzanne is keeping us posted on provisions made with the Health Department. The focus from our site management perspective is to limit the exposure not only to our volunteers, but to our extremely vulnerable guests.

## MOST URGENT NEEDS CURRENTLY:

PRAYERS!! Regularly thanking God for the people and provisions that are fighting this disease & seeking more answers, for those who are able and are reaching out to help others, petitioning God for healing, containment and an end to the spread of the disease, seeking patience and comfort during these times of stress, and for the feeling of peace that comes from our Lord.

Donations of cold breakfast items - cereal, pop tarts, breakfast bars, sandwich crackers, etc. Contact Laura or Margaret, or call PADS 847-689-4357 to make delivery arrangements.

**Hand sanitizer** - large sizes containing at least 60% alcohol preferable

Forehead thermometers

Make a gift online at [www.padslakecounty.org](http://www.padslakecounty.org)

Donations of hand sanitizer and thermometers can be dropped off or mailed to our Day Resource Center at 1800 Grand Ave. Waukegan, IL 60085.

**For more information about our needs or any items in this article, please contact Rose Pech at 847-356-3577 or pads\_at\_upc@hotmail.com.**

Thank you so very much for continuing to be tremendously supportive of UPC PADS and the services provided by PADS Lake County, Inc. God bless you all!

**--On behalf of people experiencing homelessness...the UPC PADS Site Team**

## May they rest in peace: Mildred Kulin and Marno Benande

**Continued prayers for UPC members and friends/relatives of members:** Fred Berchtold (abdominal cancer), Christian and Seth, Desiree Craig (friend of Karen Caviness), Takara Dalton (fluid on the brain, Shelly Kutsin's goddaughter, Loretta Dodson (chronic pain), Barb Fischel (back pains), Curt Grabo (Bob Mielke's cousin, recovering from open heart surgery), Judy Hendrickson (mother of Laura Hendrickson), Lynne Henne (mother of Brett Henne), Norean Hill (cancer), Jae, Charles Madsen (brother of Karen Caviness), Skip Madsen (nephew of Karen Caviness), Mary Mason (sister of Loretta Dodson), Gloria Meier (sister-in-law of Ann Thompson), Marjorie Miller, Linda Papesh (cancer, mother-in-law to the Fischel's daughter), Bonnie Ross (pancreatic cancer, friend of Karen Caviness), Judy Ruhnke, Andrew Sawicki, Larry Smith (battling depression, friend of Laurie Bethmann), Stephen (26-year-old friend of Lil Eldridge who is battling cancer), Martha Walker (grandmother of Alisha, Gabby and Caroline Walker), and David Walters (friend of Bob Mielke, recovering from a stroke).

**Long term prayers:** Bruce and Judy Baird (cancer), Marno Benande, Mary Brase (sister of Rose Pech), Betty Bournes (sister of Rose Pech), Thomas Bournes (brother-in-law of Rose Pech) Karen Caviness, Barry Craig, Pat Curnow, Elaine Francis, Brad Fuller (stroke, brother of Jamie Fuller), Susan Green, Vivian Gwaltney, Carl Heiler, Tucker Hupp (grandson of the Lockhart's), Trish Jelinek (friend of Rose Pech, severe cellulitis in leg), Rick Juern (cousin of Judy Ziegler), Vivian Kuzelka, Tom Nellessen (brother of Margie Scheibler), Darwin Schwaderer, Chester Pinkowski (relative of Maureen Daly), Sandra Richard, Orrell Ruth, Marcia Ruth, and Bobbie Weichman.

Please keep in your prayers the following individuals who are currently serving their country: All First Responders, Andrew Vick (son of Cathy and Don Vick), Bob Sisco (brother of Lexie Craig), Dennis Jackson (friend of Lexie Craig), Philip Norton (grandson of Joyce and Terry Norton), Duneley Rochino, and Michael Nilles (great-nephew of Barb and Craig Fischel).

### April Birthday:

4/01 Bartz, Cinda  
4/02 Watkins, Paula  
4/04 Waddelow, Robert  
4/05 Aubrey, Anabelle  
4/05 Gotlund, Brett  
4/05 Gotlund, Brian  
4/08 Mall, Ramsha  
4/08 Wessale, Jerry  
4/11 Divis, Aimee  
4/11 Henne, Brett  
4/11 Martin, Jacob  
4/11 Weichman, Roger  
4/12 Gotlund, Eric  
4/12 Ryckman, Griffin  
4/13 Carroll, John  
4/13 Gotlund, Kari  
4/15 Hayes, Isabella

### April Anniversaries:

4/15 Lee, Cynthia  
4/18 Gregory, Christopher  
4/18 Kutsin, Milla  
4/18 Walker, Gabrielle  
4/19 Criag, Emma  
4/19 Johnson, Julie  
4/19 Rambo, Linda  
4/20 Floral, Richard  
4/23 Celeslie, Chris  
4/23 Fuller, Jamison  
4/23 Thoms, Karen  
4/23 Trowitch, Carter  
4/25 Thoms, Sean  
4/27 Craig, Matthew  
4/29 Plotner, Judy  
4/30 Sparkman, Carson

**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

United Protestant Church 54  
S. Whitney Street Grayslake,  
IL 60030 Phone: 847-223-  
8131

E-mail: [upc@upcgl.org](mailto:upc@upcgl.org)

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**

