

# The Unifier



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September 2022

## “Cracked Cisterns Can Hold No Water”

When my wife and I lived in Seymour, Indiana, we decided to place in our backyard a garden plot. Our neighbors were the inspiration of our garden I would say. They had always had this great garden, well-maintained, producing a large selection of vegetables for eating as well as canning.

I will have to say, however, our efforts failed in comparison to theirs. Ours became overgrown with weeds. We did have a large amount of pumpkins and zucchini. Do you know how many different ways one can make zucchini? These items, however, overran our weed-infested garden with long lengthy vines.

Now you might suggest we were not the best caretakers of our garden, and you would not get an argument from me or my wife. It was embarrassing to live next door to the “master gardener.”

The reason I share this story with you is because our neighbors, once they canned the vegetables, they placed them in a “cistern”—One that you could walk underground and place your produce for safe keeping!

But here is the thing about cisterns—Sometimes they crack and can hold no water. Case in point, our scripture reading talks about the problem with the “cracked” cisterns of God’s people in Jeremiah. The brokenness came because of a need for more spiritual depth among the people.

<sup>12-13</sup> “Stand in shock, heavens, at what you see! Throw up your hands in disbelief—this can’t be!”  
God’s Decree.

“My people have committed a compound sin: they’ve walked out on me, the fountain  
Of fresh flowing waters, and then dug cisterns—  
cisterns that leak, cisterns that are no better than sieves. (Message Translation)

The good news for us is that Jesus explains how you and I can start mending our brokenness by practicing what God desires: “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. <sup>13</sup> But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. <sup>14</sup> And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.” (Luke 14:12b-14)

*Pastor Steve*

**Dear Church Family,**

I am so very excited about our upcoming ministry year. This September, we have some great things to offer you as you seek to grow in your faith.

All our discipleship ministries begin on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Children's Ministry and Adult Ministry both begin Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM. Children will be beginning the year by exploring Creation during the month of September, and at the end of the month for our Unity Sunday, they will learn about stewardship. Adults will begin the year working through Tim Keller's *The Prodigal God*, exploring the parable of the prodigal son(s). I am very excited for both of these opportunities.

Confirmation also begins September 11<sup>th</sup>. Confirmation will continue to be held from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM. I am looking forward to walking through The Heidelberg Catechism with our students, exploring the foundations of our faith, and examining how we put them into practice in our lives.

There are two other fantastic opportunities that will be coming to our church this year.

The first is we will be offering Children's Church during the Sunday Morning service. This will be held in the preschool room (#203) during the sermon portion of the service. Children will be dismissed for Children's Church right before the sermon, and on Sundays where there is communion, the children will return to their parents at that time, so that they can participate in the life of the church. On noncommunion Sundays, children will stay in Children's Church through the end of the service. We are planning on this beginning in September. A reminder will be sent out to families the week before the service as a reminder.

The Christian Education Commission and I are really excited about our second additional opportunity. I cannot provide the full details at this point but be watching for an announcement and information no later than Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. Simply put, soon you will be able to have access to an incredible wealth of discipleship materials in your home. There will be resources for all ages, almost any topic, or Bible study you would want to do. My family has really enjoyed this resource, and we are very excited to bring it to you in a couple of weeks!

On the family front recently, we had some great excitement in our home. William lost two teeth in the same day. The first fell out in a neighbor's pool. Thankfully, we were able to recover this tooth to provide to the tooth fairy. The second tooth fell out while he was brushing his teeth. Unfortunately, we were unable to recover this one as it went down the drain. So, William was very concerned that since he only had one tooth, the tooth fairy would not know he lost both teeth, so we had to write a little note to the tooth fairy. If you want to hear more about it, ask him, he loves telling the story.

Thank you so much for reading, and I am really looking forward to our discipleship ministries for this year. If you have any questions or need anything, please let me know.

Blessings,

Ryan Aubrey  
Director of Christian Education

**SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT**  
**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**September 11, 2022 shortly after the 10 AM service**

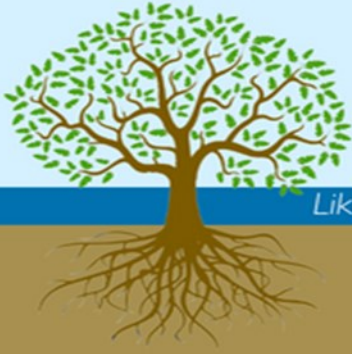
We are pleased to announce that we have found a candidate to present to the congregation for our position of Settled Pastor here at the United Protestant Church. Pastor Jason Okrzynski comes to us from the United Church of Christ denomination, and has 15 years of pastoral experience.

The Pastoral Search Committee interviewed the candidate several times and made the recommendation that he be referred to the Administrative Council for consideration. The Staff Parish Committee met several times to discuss and develop the administrative components of the position. The Administrative Council met and interviewed Pastor Jason and has made the recommendation to present him to the congregation.

Please plan on attending the church service on September 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM during which Pastor Jason will be delivering the sermon. The Special Congregational Meeting will begin shortly after the conclusion of the 10:00 AM service. During the Special Congregational Meeting, Pastor Jason will tell the congregation about himself and his faith journey, and thereafter, there will be a question-and-answer period. After that, a vote will be taken concerning his acceptance as Settled Pastor here at UPC.

Please plan on attending this important meeting as we will be setting the direction of UPC for the years to come. Your participation in the process is very important, so please make every effort to attend and meet Pastor Jason.

Lloyd Lowe  
Moderator



# Fox Valley Association Fall Meeting

*Like a tree planted by water... (Jeremiah 17:8)*

**Monday, September 12, 2022  
6:30 PM via Zoom**

## **Fox Valley Association Fall Meeting Monday, September 12, 2022 6:30 PM via Zoom**

*Like a tree planted by water...*  
Jeremiah 17:8

Fox Valley Association Pastors and Members,

Join us for the 2022 Fox Valley Association Fall Meeting. Rev. Selena L. Blackwell will serve as moderator for the meeting. Rev. Dr. Stephanie Perdew, Transitional Associate Conference Minister of the Illinois Conference, will lead worship. The full agenda is below.

Call to Order  
Worship Moment  
Announcements & Speak-Outs  
Illinois Conference Annual Celebration  
Other  
General Synod 2023  
Business Meeting  
Election of Officers and Committees  
Conference Minister's Report (Including 2023 Budget)  
Adjournment

All clergy and authorized ministers are voting delegates. Each church is also allowed one adult lay delegate and one youth lay delegate (under 22).

Please register for the meeting by clicking on the button below. **REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.** After registering for the meeting, you will receive a confirmation email from Zoom with the information to join. If you do not receive your confirmation email, need it resent, or have any other questions please call the Conference office at 708-344-7740, Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

[Register Here](#)

## **FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN**

The World Food Programme calls 2022 “a year of unprecedented hunger.”

The ripple effect of Russia’s attack on Ukraine has spread across the globe – sending hunger rates soaring in the most vulnerable nations like Angola, Afghanistan and Haiti. Never before has FMSC navigated so many simultaneous global crises.

FMSC partners are getting food exactly where it needs to be. FMSC is stepping out in faith to produce more meals, but they need your help. Please join us for the next UPC monthly packing session on Tuesday, September 6 from 7:00 to 8:45pm.

FMSC is located at 742 E. Park Avenue in Libertyville. You can pack food, help in the warehouse or put labels on bags (a sit-down job). All jobs are vital to provide the needed meals. Please use the sign-up sheet on the missions table in the church narthex or contact me directly if you would like to help or have questions (Cinda 847-727-1552 or [bartzc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bartzc@sbcglobal.net)). FMSC is a great place to spend a couple hours and know you have truly made a difference in the lives of God’s neediest children.

## **JOY SHARING - SEPTEMBER 18**

**INK 180** transforms the painful reminders of destructive situations into beautiful art by covering the tattoos or scars left from a former life in a gang, enslavement in human trafficking, domestic violence or self-harm (cutting) to help people get their lives back on the right track. INK180 is also working to stop human trafficking and aid those who are rescued.

We have all heard of gang tattoos, but did you know that human traffickers often tattoo their victims to identify them as their personal property? How awful would it be to go through life with that kind of permanent reminder on your body?

Chris provides his time, supplies and artwork, entirely free of charge to the victims. INK180 is entirely funded by donations; no charge is ever asked of the people receiving Chris’ ministry. He cannot operate any other way; beautiful second chances are totally free, already paid in full by the One who paid it all. They were for Chris, they are for us, so they must also be for those with so much already suffered.

Let’s help these survivors take one more step towards being truly free by donating to INK180.

## UPC PADS SITE UPDATES—SEPTEMBER 2022



**UPC PADS SITE WILL NOT OPEN FOR 2022 - 2023 SEASON:** As was announced the week of August 15, our UPC PADS Site will NOT be open this season. We do not have enough shift leaders or volunteers to allow us to serve as a site. Therefore, **our leaders and many of our volunteers will be serving at St. Mary of Vernon in Indian Creek** as we did last season.

**PADS LAKE COUNTY NEEDS MORE SITES** to open for this coming season! Another site is needed for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, & Saturday nights. The 2022-2023 Emergency Shelter Season begins October 3. Please spread the word for the need for these sites. At this point, at least one church site will be available each night. With answered prayers, extra sites will be opened! Please **contact Julie Kovacs** at PADS 847-689-4357 if you have any ideas.

**UPC PADS SITE PLANS TO OPEN FOR THE 2023-2024 EMERGENCY SHELTER SEASON, AND WE NEED YOU &/OR OTHERS YOU CAN IDENTIFY AS GOOD PADS VOLUNTEERS, IN ORDER FOR THIS TO HAPPEN! Learn more about how you can help improve and save lives** by enabling UPC to provide safe shelter and delicious food. We'll be contacting potential volunteers throughout this season and offer training sessions during the spring as we prepare for the 2023 -2024 season. We'll 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.** Contact Rose Pech at pads\_at\_upc@hotmail.com or 847-223-8131, ext. 17 for info.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED 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 — SEPTEMBER 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](mailto:rose4nonna@hotmail.com)

**WCF BUNCO—OCTOBER 15 at 1 PM—SEE ARTICLE IN NEXT MONTH'S UNIFIER!**

#### **CIRCLE NEWS:**

**Circle 2** will meet at the home of Rose Pech at approximately 11:30 AM on September 18, following UPC worship and fellowship time in Sacred Grounds. On October 9, we'll be volunteering for Sacred Grounds and gathering afterwards in the UPC Meeting Room.

**Circle 4/5** will resume meeting on the first Wednesday of each month on September 7 when they will meet at 11:30 AM to enjoy lunch at Culver's in Grayslake.

**Circle 9** meetings resumed on August 9, and members plan to continue meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, enjoying time with members and friends who can come for food and fellowship at Hillside Restaurant in Grayslake.

**See chart below for September 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., Sept. 18	11:30 AM	Rose Pech's Home	Catherine Vick
4/5	Wed., Sept. 7	11:30 AM	Culver's-Grayslake	Sue Schmidt
9	Tues., Sept. 13	5:30 PM	Hillside Restaurant	Ruth Gheysen
10	TBD	TBD	TBD	Jasmine Walker

#### **MINISTRY STARTED BY PAT CURNOW WITH CIRCLE 2 EXPANDS TO CHURCHWIDE MISSION:**

For many years, various members of WCF and our friends have donated Christmas cards to Companions Journeying Together, thanks to Pat Curnow who told us about this wonderful organization and mailed cards for us. Blank cards are given to prison inmates to use in contacting their family members and friends. Volunteers write messages on other cards before they're sent, and Companions Journeying Together gives these cards to prison inmates who have little or no family/friend connections. The UPC Mission Committee has now adopted Companions Journeying Together as a churchwide mission. Thanks to this, we've received more Christmas cards than in the past and are looking forward to receiving even more!

People are needed to write messages on the cards. Directions and sample messages are on sheets in a small container marked for Companions Journeying Together on the Mission Table. Cards meeting the guidelines found on the direction sheets can be placed in the same container. Cards for writing messages are available from Rose Pech, 847-682-2837.

#### **WCF MISSION FUND:**

**REMEMBER:** Donations may be made at any time throughout the year, and 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.

Blessings, Rose Pech



### September Birthdays

9/4 Ruth Gheysen  
9/6 Justin Trowitch  
9/10 Ryan Aubrey  
9/10 Olivia Henne  
9/11 Tyler Depke  
9/20 Jeanne Yomine  
9/24 Ann Drevalas  
9/25 Vera Morris



### September Anniversaries

9/19 Louis & Karen Thoms  
9/24 Steve & Stefany Howard  
9/30 Dave & Cinda Bartz



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

**Members:** Marie Frandsen, Susan Green, Sue Harvey, Carl Heiler, Joanne Lawrence, Marjorie Miller, Eddie Smith, Pat Wackerlin, and Bobbie Weichman.

Tyler, Brittany & Danielle—Demonstration Farm in West Africa

**Relatives & Friends:** Joe Boccaleoni, Patricia Davis (friend of Bob and Pat Mielke), Judy Hendrickson, Mary Mason, Gloria Meier, Gary Sadlack, Larry Smith, Stephan, Erik and Kacie Stanley, their son and Erik's mother, Diane.

**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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Pastor: Rev. Steve Welker

[seniorpastor@upcgl.org](mailto: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

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

