

The Unifier



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

September 2023

Grace to You and Peace from God Our Father,

On the morning of Tuesday, August 29th, Bill Churchill, Dale Message, Sue Schmidt and myself met with Dr. Abe Singh, Associate Superintendent of Grayslake Community High School District 127, and his Executive Assistant, Amy Doyle, to finalize an agreement for UPC to be a “reunification site” for the High School in the case of an emergency evacuation. The possible situations in which the UPC building would be used as a gathering site are highly unlikely, and we pray that none of them ever occurs. Nonetheless, it was a particular joy to cooperate with the school district to be as prepared for such emergencies together. It is part of our vocation of being our church, in our location, to help our city shepherd our young people in whatever way we can.

The Bible includes frequent stories about those outside the established covenanted communities of faith, partnering with God to care for the world. Pharaoh’s daughter rescues Moses from the river. Rahab conspires with Joshua to take Canaan for Israel. Ruth gives care to her mother-in-law Naomi and travels with her to Israel. These are just a few examples of those outside the claim of circumcision or baptism, partnering to get God’s work done in the world.

It is an important part of our vocation as a church to partner with our non-Christian neighbors to care for and repair the world. We are called to do this not just because we want to spread the good news about Jesus, but because it is part of the primary work of Jesus to care for the world. Our Jewish brothers and sisters have a phrase for this in Hebrew that I absolutely love: *Tikkun Olam*. *Tikkun Olam* roughly translates to “repairing the world.” Jews and Christians share *tikkun olam*, working to repair the hurt and damage done to the world, as a primary calling and responsibility bestowed on Human Beings by God.

Our mission work and partnerships are some of the most obvious examples of *tikkun olam* at UPC. However, consider some of the subtler ways that we work to repair the world. Worshipping on the lawn last Sunday is something we did because we enjoyed it; however, it is also a light and a witness that we are privileged to offer by being a Church downtown. I am so thankful to all the volunteers as well as the Membership & Outreach and Worship committees for making it happen. This fall, our participation in Fall Fest and the tree lighting are other contributions to our community to care for and repair the world.

This Sunday September 3rd, UPC welcomes Rev. Dr. Terry Gallagher into our pulpit. Pastor Terry was educated originally as an engineer and following a 30-year career as an industrial manufacturing executive, answered the Call to Ministry. In response to the escalating global crisis of unsustainable economics and ecological destruction, he has focused his ministry on providing faith based ecological-justice education, advocacy and action. Terry has answered the call to repair the world in a most literal way; by teaching, preaching and advocating for the good stewardship of the earth.

UPC, God has blessed you with a generous and passionate will to answer the Divine call to repair the world through mission and service. Thank you for all the many ways you say “yes” to that call every season and every day of our life together. It is my prayer that as we gather each week, you are restored, resurrected, and rejuvenated to answer the call to repair the world as we leave. May you be Blessed and be a blessing this day!

Rev. Jason Okrzynski, PhD

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Dear Church Family,

It is hard to believe that September has already arrived. I am really excited about what we are planning on offering during our ministry year. One reason that I am so excited about the beginning of our education classes is that the curriculum of our Children's Ministry and Adult Ministry will be very connected.

Throughout this year, our Children's Ministry will be tracing the theme of covenant throughout Scripture. This is an important theme that is a common thread throughout the Bible and shows us something about who God is and how He connects with His people. These divine-human partnerships are an important theme that we need to understand to see one part of the single story of Scripture. So, as our kids explore these covenants, it is important to emphasize that the divine-human partnerships seen throughout the Old Testament find their climax in Jesus, and therefore we need to understand the covenants.

The book of Hebrews is full of the theme of Covenant. Throughout the book we see pictures of Jesus compared with the covenants that were made between God and His people in the past. Through the book of Hebrews, we discover how Jesus is the anchor of our faith and how in these last days God has spoken and revealed Himself in Christ. God has made Jesus the guarantor and mediator of the new and better covenant (Hebrews 7:22; 9:15). Now, through Jesus, all people may enter in and become members of the covenant family of God.

My plan is that as we go through our ministry year, we will continue to see connections between our various ministries and our larger worship themes on Sunday morning. I think it is important for us to have these opportunities run in parallel with each other and with other elements of our Sunday morning. My hope is that in having these connections, we can begin to encourage faith discussions over similar topics inter-generationally. I pray that we would continually learn how to read God's word and to experience it in community together.

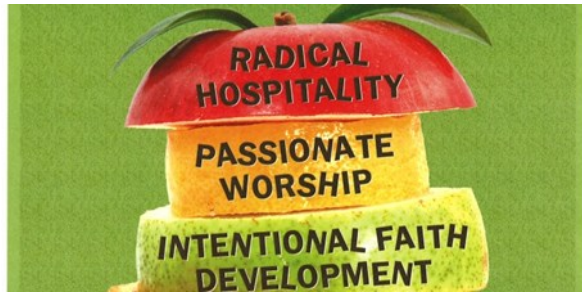
On the home front, the beginning of the school year means new opportunities to learn and hear music from music class. In Anabelle's first week of school, they worked on a welcome song. She performed it for Emily while she recorded it. William wanted to be involved, so he began to dance during the video. Unfortunately, his dancing was distracting Anabelle, so he was asked not to distract her. So, like any good brother, he moved behind his sister just far enough not to be noticed. So, when Anabelle watched the video, there he was dancing behind her throughout the movie. Technically, he did not distract her. Thank you for reading. As always, if you have any questions or need any resources, please let me know. I would love to help find ways for you to continue to grow in your faith.

Blessings,

Ryan Aubrey
Director of Christian Education



STEWARDSHIP NEWS



Dear Members and Friends,

INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT is our next focus of the *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* (Robert Schnase). As Christians, we strive to develop and grow as disciples through study, learning and discipline. We acknowledge that growing in Christ-likeness requires more than weekly worship. Therefore, we endeavor to spend our time studying spiritual material, joining with other disciples in Bible studies, forming small groups of like-minded Christians to grow in our faith and praying for one another. Remember, Jesus chose to teach to communities of believers. Perhaps He chose to do this so that we would discover Him in others. "We learn the life of Christ and will of God by studying God's Word and through experience with other people of faith" (R. Schnase).

When we gather together in the familiarity of small groups, we learn from writers, mentors and leaders but also from our classmates -- fellow travelers in our congregation and other faith-filled groups with whom we associate. God's grace can and does bear the faces of our fellow sojourners.

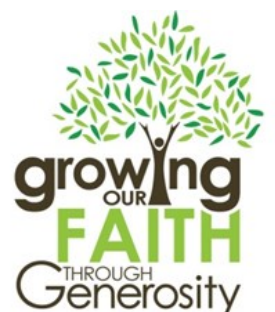
The United Protestant Church has a rich history in its dedication to Christian Education, small group ministries and consistently offering educational opportunities for all ages. Furthermore, the UPC includes on its staff of professionals a Director of Christian Education (Ryan Aubrey) whose primary responsibility it is to lead us all closer to Christ-likeness through Bible studies, Sunday School, individual studies, retreats, and other programs in which we are taught what it means to walk in Christ's footsteps.

Please consider joining one of our education classes, Bible studies, programs and/or retreats. If you are interested in serving the church, why not volunteer to serve on one of our education committees? If you have questions, I encourage you to speak to our DCE, Ryan Aubrey, whose office is right next to the elevator and adjacent to the Narthex on the main floor.

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." (Acts 2:42)

Trusting Our God Who Provides,

Carol Roselli-Rasmussen, Stewardship Chairwoman



STEWARDSHIP TESTIMONIAL

Presented by Lillian Eldridge on August 27th

As a child I was brought up in a Catholic Church. I knew it was important to love God and I did. I was introduced to the Methodist faith by my in-laws. I felt more at ease there. I was able to connect with the message. My husband, children, and I moved to Ohio and we continued to attend the Methodist Church.

In 2001, we had the opportunity to move back to Illinois, our home state. We moved to Grayslake and began looking for a church home. That is how we discovered UPC. The warm welcome received from church members convinced us this was where we should be. Once we joined the church, I immediately became involved. I became part of the Membership Involvement Committee and eventually, I became the committee chair. During my membership here, I've been involved with many committees. Currently, I am the commission chair for Spiritual Life and Outreach. I volunteer at Feed My Starving Children when I'm able. I enjoy working side by side with other church members.

What I've enjoyed and cherish here are the adult education classes. With each class I've attended, I have not only learned from the facilitator but also the participants. The sharing of interpretation of readings, the knowledge of the Bible and backgrounds of various church upbringings helped clarify the topic. I've learned to love God in a deeper way. My spiritual journey has been elevated. I could not have experienced these things without the leadership of UPC.

When I faced challenges, health issues, deaths, and fear, I turned to Carol Roselli-Rasmussen and her PUSH ladies. PUSH stands for "Pray Until Something Happens." Believe me, there is power in prayer; I've seen it in action.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to share my UPC experience with you.

SEPTEMBER 2023

UPC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 10:00am Worship Service 11:00am All Church Picnic, Ice Cream Social, & Back-to-Church School Celebration (front lawn)	28 7:00pm Mission Committee (Parlor) 7:00pm Worship Committee (MR) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	29 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105)	30 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	31 7:00pm Grace Notes Bell Rehearsal (Choir Room) 7:30pm AA (106,105)	1	2
3 10:00am Worship Service	4 7:00pm Stewardship Committee (MR) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	5 9:00am Park District Preschool (202) 6:30pm Pack 451 All Dens Meeting (FH) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105)	6 11:30am Circle 4/5 (Culver's) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Board of Review (101) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	7 9:00am Park District Preschool (202) 7:00pm Grace Notes (Choir Room) 7:00pm Staff Parish (MR) 7:30pm AA (106,105)	8	9 9:00am Grayslake Car Show (UPC Parking Lot)
10 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service	11 7:00pm Children's Ministry Committee (MR) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	12 9:00am Park District Preschool (202) 5:30pm Circle 9 (Hillside) 6:30pm Pack 451 Den Meetings (FH) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105)	13 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm PUSH (Parlor) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	14 9:00am Park District Preschool (202) 7:00pm Budget & Finance (MR) 7:00pm Grace Notes (Choir Room) 7:30pm AA (106,105)	15	16
17 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service	18 5:00pm Nominating Committee (MR) 6:00pm Christian Ed. Commission (MR) 7:00pm Ad Council (FH) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	19 9:00am Park District Preschool (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)	20 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	21 9:00am Park District Preschool (202) 4:00pm PADS (FH/ Kitchen) 7:00pm Grace Notes (Choir Room) 7:30pm AA (106,105)	22	23
24 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service 11:30am Circle 2 (MR)	25 7:00pm Membership & Outreach (FH) 7:00pm Mission Committee (Parlor) 7:00pm Worship Committee (MR) 7:30pm AA (106, 105)	26 9:00am Park District Preschool (202) 6:30pm Pack 451 Den Meetings (FH) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105)	27 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Membership Cultivation Committee (MR) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH)	28 9:00am Park District Preschool (202) 4:00pm PADS (FH/ Kitchen) 7:00pm Grace Notes (Choir Room) 7:30pm AA (106,105)	29	30



AUGUST 27th CELEBRATION & PICNIC



**FUN
FOOD
FELLOWSHIP**

MISSIONS

UPC Joy Sharing for September

INK180 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 Baker provides his time, supplies and artwork, entirely free of charge to the victims. INK 180 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. Joy Sharing Sunday is September 17th.

Feed My Starving Children

The next UPC packing session at Feed My Starving Children in Libertyville is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 5th** from **7:00-8:45 p.m.** If you are interested in participating, please contact Cinda Bartz at bartzc@sbcglobal.net.

Operation Christmas Child

For September, we would like to collect toys with an emphasis on balls, dolls, and small stuffed animals.

UPC Shopper

With school starting again, we find ourselves even more on the run than ever. We have to get the kids to school, practice, events, and still get our errands run. We may find ourselves grabbing quick meals more often than usual. Please consider stopping by the UPC shopper table and check out the array of fast-food restaurant gift cards we have in stock. Maybe you just need some extra energy to get everything done. Get a Starbuck's or Dunkin' card and give yourself a boost to get through the day. All proceeds from the shopper cards benefit Operation Christmas Child.

Come, join the conversation on how to keep you and your family safe from sexual predators and other threats while using social media.

Chris Baker of INK180* will lead a discussion with social media users. Adults and youth are encouraged to participate. This topic is pertinent for all genders.



When: **NOON** on Sunday, **September 17th**

Where: United Protestant Church at 54 S. Whitney St., Grayslake

Why: Many pedophiles and human traffickers use social media to find their victims.

Questions: Call United Protestant Church at 847.223.8131

* Chris Baker, the founder of INK180, is a consultant with the FBI where he assists in the location and recovery of trafficking victims. INK180 is a ministry that does free tattoo removal for human trafficking survivors, former gang members, domestic abuse survivors and self-harm survivors. See INK180.com for more information.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS

The Worship Committee is looking for greeter volunteers for each Sunday morning before the worship service begins. If you are interested in being a greeter, please sign up on the calendar provided in the parlor, or contact Barb Fischel at 847-612-7356 or cbfischel@aol.com.

WELCOME Vanessa Martinez, who started on August 6th as our new nursery coordinator. We are looking for volunteers to help in the nursery each Sunday morning during worship. If you are interested in helping Vanessa, please contact her at vm32097@gmail.com.



You may have noticed some improvements within our building recently. The carpets in our sanctuary, parlor, upstairs classrooms, and offices have all been cleaned. The main level water fountain has been replaced with a new water cooler, the floor in room 106 has been replaced, and the front doors have been stained. Thank you to the Operations Commission and volunteers for getting these things done!

**Thank
YOU!**



The Worship Committee would like to thank the following people for providing special music this summer for our congregation:

Ladies Choir (Jan Kendrick, Jackie Ianson, Lexie Craig, Abby Madden, Barb Fischel, Mary Ann McDowell, and Emily Aubrey), Anabelle and William Aubrey, Lou Thoms, Marcia Twadell and Megan Twadell, and Sean DelGrosso. Your talents were greatly appreciated and certainly added to our worship services.



Mark your calendars now for Cider Sunday on October 1st following the worship service where apple cider and apple cider donuts will be provided courtesy of Membership & Outreach.

WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

LADIES BUNCO COMING OCTOBER 14th:

Ladies, mark your calendars now for another afternoon of BUNCO, scheduled for Saturday, October 14th from 1-3 PM in Fellowship Hall. Join us for fun, fellowship, refreshments, and prizes! Never played before? It's an easy game to learn. If you know how to roll dice and count to 21, you're already an expert. For more information, contact Sue Schmidt at schmidt6134@comcast.net or 847-529-9326.



WCF CIRCLES: VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Circle 2 meets at 11:30 AM in the Meeting Room one Sunday a month, except for the months of January and February, after visiting with others following worship. The next meeting date is September 24. Contact Catherine Vick.

Circle 4/5 meets on the first Wednesday of the month, except for January, at 11:30 AM at Culver's in Grayslake. The next lunch meeting will be September 6. Contact Sue Schmidt.

Circle 9 meets most months year-round at 5:30 PM on the second Tuesday of each month at Hillside Restaurant on Rt. 83 in Grayslake. Occasionally, a meeting must be cancelled so please check with Ruth Gheysen or one of the Circle 9 members prior to going to Hillside.

Circle 10 does not meet in person on a regular basis, but members are in contact with each other on Facebook. Contact Jasmine Walker.

Circle	Day/Date	Time	Place	Contact
2	Sun., Sept. 24	11:30 AM	UPC Meeting Room	Catherine Vick
4/5	Wed., Sept. 6	11:30 AM	Culver's in Grayslake	Sue Schmidt
9	Tues., Sept. 12	5:30 PM	Hillside Restaurant	Ruth Gheysen
10	TBD	TBD	TBD	Jasmine Walker

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Contact the chairpersons (see church directory or contact Sue Schmidt at 847-529-9326 or schmidt6134@comcast.net).

WCF MISSION FUND: Tyler and Brittany need a monthly income of \$2,000 to meet their budget. We encourage those who can donate now and anytime during 2023 to do so by either going online to www.ilad.ngo/D2002 or by paper check payable to ILAD with D2002 written in the memo. Mail checks to ILAD, Atten: D2002, P.O. Box 383153, Duncanville, TX 75138-3183. Donations for 2024 can be made with checks payable to UPC with "WCF Mission Fund" in the memo or by cash in an envelope marked WCF Mission Fund.

September Birthdays

9/4 Ruth Gheysen
9/6 Justin Trowitch
9/10 Ryan Aubrey
9/10 Olivia Henne
9/19 Rachel Meyer
9/20 Jeanne Yomine
9/24 Connor Bethmann
9/24 Ann Drevalas



September Anniversaries

9/7 Margaret & John Porteous
9/19 Karen & Lou Thoms
9/30 Cinda & Dave Bartz

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

Members: Bill Churchill, Marie Frandsen, Susan Green, Joan Hendricks, David Holliman, Joanne Lawrence, Dale Message & family, Marjorie Miller, John Porteous, Ann Thompson, Pat Wackerlin, Dan Watkins, Bobbie Weichman, and Dian Weinkauf.

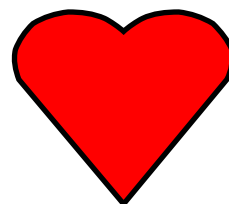
Tyler, Brittany & Danielle, & Joanna – Prayers for Tyler's father as he has been diagnosed with liver cancer and is in need of a liver transplant. They are looking for live donors with blood type O or A who live within a day's drive of Chicago. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a donor, please contact brittanyd@ongoingchange.org for more information.

Relatives & Friends: Allen Anglin, Joann Baraksa, Kathy Behm, Joe Boccaleoni, Kathy Weichman Bradley, Megan Brown, Lorine Cooper, Patricia Davis, Judy Hendrickson, Mary Mason, Gloria Meier, Pat Mielke, Tommy Nellessen, Sohail Rana, Gary Sadlack, Leslie Stahl, 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, Brad Fuller, Trish Jelinek, Rick Juern, Conny Kappler, Ben Kelly-Fuller, Sue (PADS friend), Wendy (friend of Rose Pech), and Michelle (friend of Linda Markham).



**LOVING GOD,
HEAR OUR PRAYER.**



**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. Jason Okrzynski

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

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

