

The Unifier



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

September 2024

Grace to you and Peace,

United Protestant Church, thank you! Thank you for being an incredibly generous church.

Usually, people say they do not want to sound like a broken record, but on this note I do. UPC, you are incredibly generous and thank you! I want to tell you that just since January, UPC has given over \$5,000 to our monthly Joy Sharing charities, above and beyond your regular pledges and giving commitments. What is more, this number does not even consider all the many, many hours of service to mission partners and each other that we share in each week.

It is one of the great privileges of being a pastor to see and share the good news of a congregation's generosity. I hope I say "thank you" half as generously as you give.

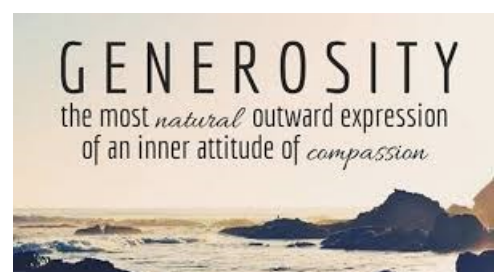
I am looking forward to another program year of worshipping, praying, and serving God with this congregation. The good news is that the opportunities to be generous will continue to arise. In just two weeks, on Sunday, September 15th, we will be joined by one of our congregation's favorite missions: Ink180's Chris Baker. Chris and his family are their own remarkable witness to Christ-centered generosity, and his witness is always inspiring.

In closing, I want to share an opportunity to increase generosity even when you are caring for yourself. You likely are aware of our shopper card ministry. Well, I want you to know about a new opportunity. You can now contribute to UPC through literally any purchase you make by downloading the Raise Right app, or going to www.raiseright.com. There you can purchase gift cards or shop online with nearly 600 different retailers, and UPC will automatically receive as much as twenty-five percent of your purchase amount. Just enter the code 5AF864L64792, and set up your account.

Ultimately, we gather to give thanks to the God whose generosity inspires our own. I give thanks for kicking off another year of faithful, generous Christian life and worship with you all!

In Christ,

Rev. Jason Okrzynski, PhD
Senior Pastor



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Dear Church Family,

I am so excited for the beginning of our new ministry year. We have some wonderful opportunities planned throughout our educational ministries. Last month, I told you about our first Adult class, S.H.A.P.E., where we will be exploring our Kingdom Purpose and Divine Design. I would highly recommend that you participate in this class, Sundays at 9:00 AM or Tuesdays at 7:00 PM on Zoom, so that you might begin to feel equipped for the service that God called you to (Ephesians 2:10). This month, I want to take some time to tell you about what the children in our Children's Ministry will be exploring over the course of the year.

This year, our 9:00 Children's Sunday School will be moving to a curriculum called, *Living the Word*. This is a curriculum that utilizes the narrative lectionary, which tells the story of Scripture from Creation to the Early Church. One of the goals of this switch is to continue our process of connecting our educational ministries with all that we do in our Sunday morning worship. Our kids at 9:00 on Sundays will be examining the same or similar passages of Scripture as we will during the 10:00 worship service. I am really excited about the opportunities that this can provide for our families. One hope that I have is that we can help build into our children a sense of value and belonging, where they are able to contribute and understand our Worship service in greater ways. I also hope that they will be able to take the lessons home with them and have valuable faith conversations with their parents about what we did in Sunday morning worship. Helping make our church into a place where kids can experience true belonging, value, and service is such an important part of their faith formation. We pray that we will create an environment where our kids' faith sticks.

On the family front, the family has returned to school. Anabelle began 5th grade this year, and William is in 3rd grade. This means they are once again at the same school and riding the same bus, which makes afternoon bus pick-up a little easier. At the beginning of the summer, Anabelle made a goal to visit all the playgrounds listed on the Mundelein Parks Department website. She did well, though there are a few we still need to visit. On the last day of the summer, I took the kids to three different playgrounds. They mostly enjoyed their time at the parks, but what was probably the favorite part of these playgrounds? Was it the monkey bars? Was it the slides or maybe jungle gyms? No, by far one of the favorite parts of the playgrounds we visited were the bushes that they turned into houses. I am glad that they can still use their imaginations to play with almost anything.

Thank you for taking the time to read. I hope that you will join us beginning September 8th at 9:00 AM for our educational ministries. I am really excited for the various programs that we will be offering this coming ministry year.

Blessings,

Ryan Aubrey

Director of Christian Education



OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE & CELEBRATION— AUGUST 25, 2024



STEWARDSHIP NEWS

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

offered by the United Protestant Church Stewardship Committee

Sunday, October 20, 2024

11:30am-12:45pm

Fellowship Hall

Light lunch provided



Kelly Owens, Funeral Prearrangement Specialist for over 16 years, will walk us through her experiences, both personally and professionally, on the advantages of making funeral plans in advance of need. Learn the steps of funeral planning, the benefits both emotional and financial, and receive answers to some of the most frequently asked questions.

Each attendee will receive a complimentary information packet that includes a variety of thought-provoking materials and conversation starters for you and your family on this important subject.

Additionally, at the conclusion of the presentation, you will have the opportunity to set a time to meet with Kelly individually or as a family to discuss your own needs on a more personal level.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED for this event. Register by email to Carol at Rasmuss4@aol.com or by phone to Sue at the UPC office, 847-223-8131. Just give us your name, where we can reach you in case of changes and how many will be attending with you. We encourage you to bring friends and family!

Feel free to reach out to Carol with any questions at Rasmuss4@aol.com.

Trusting our God Who Provides,

Carol Roselli-Rasmussen



*Please remember the
United Protestant Church
in your Estate Planning.*





SEPTEMBER 2024

United Protestant Church CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| 1 10:00am Worship Service with Communion | 2 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED 7:30pm AA (106, 105) | 3 9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 6:30pm Pack 451 All Dens Meeting (FH) 7:00pm AA Ladies (106, 105) 7:00pm Stewardship Committee (MR) | 4 11:30am Circle 4/5 (Culver's) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH) 7:15pm Troop 451 Board of Review (101) | 5 9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Grace Notes (Choir Room) 7:00pm Staff Parish (MR) 7:30pm AA (106, 105) | 6 | 7 6:00am-3:00pm Annual Grayslake Car Show (UPC parking lot) |
| 8 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service | 9 7:00pm Children's Ministry Committee (MR) 7:30pm AA (106, 105) 8:00pm Christian Ed. Commission (MR) | 10 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) | 11 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm PUSH (Parlor) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH) | 12 9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 2:00pm Budget & Finance (MR) 7:00pm Grace Notes (Choir Room) 7:30pm AA (106, 105) | 13 6:00pm Girl Scout Troop Meeting (FH) | 14 |
| 15 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service with Joy Sharing—INK180 11:30am Confirmation Orientation (Loft) | 16 7:30pm AA (106, 105) | 17 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) | 18 6:00pm Confirmation Class (Loft) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH) | 19 9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary) 7:00pm Grace Notes (Choir Room) 7:30pm AA (106,105) | 20 | 21 |
| 22 Stewardship Campaign Begins 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Worship Service 11:30am Circle 2 (MR) | 23 7:00pm Mission Committee (103) 7:30pm AA (106, 105) | 24 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) | 25 6:00pm Confirmation Class (Loft) 7:00pm Alanon (106, 105) 7:00pm Troop 451 Meeting (FH) | 26 9:00am Park District Preschool Class (202) 7:00pm Grace Notes (Choir Room) 7:30pm AA (106,105) | 27 | 28 |
| 29 9:00am Education Hour 10:00am Intergenerational Family Worship Service | 30 6:30pm Worship Committee (MR) 7:00pm Ad Council (FH) 7:30pm AA (106, 105) | | | | | |

Important Stewardship Dates for Fall 2024

- ✓ Kick-off for the **2025 Stewardship Campaign** on September 22 with Stewardship Packets arriving in your homes that week.
- ✓ Consecration of our pledges in worship on **OCTOBER 20**.
- ✓ **Free Funeral Pre-planning Luncheon and Speaker** on **OCTOBER 20** from 11:30AM to 12:45PM in Fellowship Hall. Registration required. See the Stewardship page in this copy of the *Unifier*.
- ✓ The Stewardship Committee is encouraging all members to take part in the adult education class kicking off the school year. **Discovering Your Shape** will prove invaluable to you in identifying how you can serve the Lord through your church in a way uniquely suited to you.

Repair the Harm to Children Campaign

Please click on the linked title above to view the Repair the Harm to Children flyer from the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church to see how you can help.



Do you love music? If you answered yes, please consider joining the Grace Notes handbell choir. Can't read music? We will teach

you. All you really need is a desire to play, a willingness to learn, the ability to count to 6 and a commitment to attend rehearsals on Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30pm. We will help you with the rest. If interested, contact Cinda at bartzc@sbcglobal.net or 847.727.1552 or call the church office.

Thank you to everyone who donated backpacks for children in need within our community! We collected and blessed 62 backpacks on August 25 which were then taken to Prairieview School in Hainseville to be distributed.



SAVE THE DATES

- October 6** — World Communion Sunday
- October 13** — Cider Sunday after Worship
- October 19** — Ladies BUNCO 1-3pm
- October 20** — Consecration Sunday
- October 20** — Advanced Funeral Planning Lunch & Learn Event 11:30am-12:45pm
- October 26** — UPC Fall Fest 11am-2pm

Intergen Worship

September 29, 2024

Join us Sunday, September 29 at 10:00 AM for our first Intergen Worship service. This will be a special worship service where our members of all ages participate and engage in worship together. Our goal is to bring all generations together to worship in a way that complements our whole church and its mission to be grounded, empowered, and transformed. It will be a time where the whole church will participate and worship together.



HUNGER ACTION MONTH

Taking a stand against hunger.

September is Hunger Action Month.

Many people think hunger is only found in other areas – not where we live. This is not true. In a report published in 2022, more than 44 million people (including 1 in every 5 children) in America faced hunger. In Lake County Illinois, more than 70,000 people were food insecure. That's 9.9% of the population. **YOU** can do something about this problem.

Our church works against hunger and other social issues in many ways. Here are just a few of the missions we support that work against hunger as well as suggestions on how you can help.

1. The **Northern Illinois Food Bank** which supplies food to area food pantries is located at 13950 Business Center Drive in Lake Forest. Consider volunteering there as an individual, family or group of friends or co-workers. Most of the time, the volunteers spend their time inspecting, sorting and packaging food for those in need locally. There are tasks available for all skill levels. Ages 8 and up are welcome with adult supervision. Want to know more? Go to www.solvehungetoday.org or ask some of the members who already volunteer, such as Jack Powell, Linda Rambo, or Cinda Bartz.
2. **Avon Community Food Pantry** which supplies food to local residents in need is located at 433 E. Washington Street in Round Lake Park. They run a small food pantry that is always looking for donations and/or volunteers. If you have questions about what is required of the volunteers, please contact a member of Circle 2 as they have volunteered there before.
3. **Feed My Starving Children** located at 742 E. Park Avenue in Libertyville provides meals to children around the world who are not just hungry, they are starving. Around 6,200 children die each day due to undernourishment related causes. Volunteers at FMSC pack nutritious meals to help feed these needy children. There are volunteer jobs for everyone aged 5 and over with adult supervision. Want to know more? Go to www.FMSC.org or talk to a member of the Mission Committee or various other UPC members who have volunteered.
4. **PADS** is a Lake County organization that is always in need of food to support those being housed in local facilities who cannot afford to feed themselves and their families. Please consider picking up some extra items at the grocery store the next time you are shopping. All items must be shelf-stable. It doesn't have to be a lot. Every donation is appreciated. Contact Rose Pech, Rick Burg or Cinda Bartz if you have questions.
5. **Lake County Haven** is a social-service agency dedicated to meeting the needs of homeless women and children and helping them get back on their feet. They can use grocery items or even home cooked meals to help sustain them. Groceries can be left in the bin in the narthex. If you would like to provide a home cooked meal, contact the Mission Committee for more info.
6. Join other UPC members in going to area farms and orchards and picking corn or apples or other produce to donate to Northern Illinois Food Bank or Avon Food Pantry. Learn more from Dave Bartz, Dale Message or Cinda Bartz.
7. Consider wearing the color **orange** on Hunger Awareness Day which is September 10. If someone comments on the color choice, explain just how big an issue hunger is in the world today.
8. Become an Advocate – Learn about essential anti-hunger policies and how to contact your elected representatives.

No matter what action you choose to take, every action counts in the fight against hunger.

MISSIONS



The next UPC packing session at Feed My Starving Children in Libertyville is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 3 from 7:15-8:45 p.m.** If you are interested in participating, please contact Cinda Bartz at bartzc@sbcglobal.net.

During the month of September, we would like to collect crayons, colored pencils, blunt-tip scissors, erasers, pencil sharpeners, rulers and protractors to fill 250 shoebox gifts.



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 Starbucks or Dunkin' card and give yourself a boost to get through the day. All proceeds from the shopper cards benefit Operation Christmas Child.

Did you know that you can order gift cards on your phone or computer and get them almost instantly? For more information, see Cinda Bartz, Linda Rambo or Mary Ann McDowell.

SOLES FOR JESUS

When I was a child, going back to school meant new shoes – gym shoes and dress shoes. Usually, I had outgrown my last pair over the summer. Well, it's that time of year again, and the Mission Committee is hoping you will help us collect new or used shoes for Soles For Jesus. You can help by:

- cleaning out your closets and basement. Shoes in any condition are accepted.
- buying new shoes to donate.
- tell a friend or neighbor about Soles For Jesus.



Collected shoes will provide hope and diminish disease for children in rural Africa. Drop your donations off in the bin in the narthex.

All sizes are needed: Toddler thru Adult Size

New shoe laces are also needed.

See members of the Mission Committee if you have questions.

Soles For Jesus will also be holding its 15th **Luncheon & Auction** on Saturday, November 9, 2024 at the Brookfield Conference Center. Silent Auction: 10:30am-Noon, Luncheon: Noon-2pm. Grammy Award-nominated songwriter, Britt Nicole, will be performing, Sarita Chitapa of Every Home for Christ will share a special message.

Go to [Luncheon 2024 – Soles For Jesus](#) for more information or to buy tickets.





PADS LAKE COUNTY:

In addition to regular food supplies for clients in hotels, sack lunches are a continuing need for people who come to 1800 Grand Avenue to seek help from PADS. Lunches can be delivered to PADS at the Grand Avenue location during any weekday. Sign up on their online signup genius for an open date, or call 847-689-4357 to let them know you would like to deliver lunches to the office.

PADS continues to need lunch and dinner items and cleaning supplies. Thanks to all who are bringing food and other PADS donations to UPC and who are using the link below to have food sent directly to First Presbyterian Church in Libertyville. All of these donations are helping tremendously. Below is the link to the Amazon wish list.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/XD5I2ZRDQKE5?ref_=wl_share

JOIN PADS FOR A CELEBRATION: On Saturday, September 28 from 7:00-10:00 p.m., PADS will host its 2024 Path to Progress Celebration, dubbed "A Night at the Speakeasy Casino," at Hawthorn Mall in Vernon Hills. This event will be an exquisite blend of 1920's glamour, excitement, and philanthropy, all in support of PADS Lake County. Tickets to the event are available through their website at padslakecounty.org. Click on the website link for more information. Hope to see you there!

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, drug addiction 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. 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 who have already suffered so much.

Let's help these survivors take one more step towards being truly free by donating to INK180. Joy Sharing Sunday is September 15 and Chris will be with us during worship to share his message.



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, or Rose Pech. 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, September 22**. Contact Catherine Vick.

Circle 4/5: meets on the first Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be at **11:30 AM on September 4 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, September 10**.

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!

| Circle | Day/Date | Time | Place | Contact |
|--------|-----------------|----------|------------------------------|----------------|
| 2 | Sun., Sept. 22 | 11:30 AM | UPC Meeting Room | Catherine Vick |
| 4/5 | Wed., Sept. 4 | 11:30 AM | Culver's in Grayslake | Sue Schmidt |
| 9 | Tues., Sept. 10 | 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 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.

September Birthdays

9/2 Patti Friesema
9/4 Ruth Gheysen
9/6 Justin Trowitch
9/10 Ryan Aubrey
9/10 Olivia Henne
9/13 Joseph Friesema
9/20 Jeanne Yomine
9/24 Connor Bethmann
9/24 Ann Drevalas
9/27 Christopher Markham



September Anniversaries

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



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

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

Tyler, Brittany & Danielle, & Joanna: praises include: 1) Tyler is making progress on organizing the "man-room;" 2) Brittany reorganized the kitchen for more play space; and 3) they finally received their passports with renewed biometric visa. Prayer requests include: 1) wisdom in designing future farm house so they can estimate how many bricks will be needed and how much it will cost; 2) wisdom in scheduling October branch MAF flights; 3) property management company to find tenants for their rental house; 4) wisdom as Brittany is language learning coach for several colleagues; and 5) patience with neighbor kids who come regularly to play with the girls.

Relatives & Friends: Allen Anglin, Kathy Behm, Joe Boccaleoni, Kathy Weichman Bradley, Lorine Cooper, Patricia Davis, Judy Hendrickson, Jennifer Hitch, Cindy Holloway & family, 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.

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).



*Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayers.*

**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

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