

The Unifier



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Chile Rellenos and Hospitality

Small deeds of kindness and hospitality are far reaching and long lasting. Yesterday, we went to the farmer's market in Grayslake and Diane saw some poblano peppers that looked great. She asked if I would make chile rellenos with them. For years, steak and chile rellenos has been one of my favourite meals. I don't make it often as the process for making chile rellenos is, well, a process. But cooking last night made me think back on the genesis of why this is one of my favourite meals and where I learned to make chile rellenos in the first place. That is a story.

When I was a seminary student at Garrett twenty years ago, I was a typical straight from college into seminary type student. I had worked, but I had had no career other than being a student for 20 years. I had a friend called Steve. I am not sure what Steve did in his previous career, and at this point in my life I can't recall which classes I had with Steve or much of our interactions on campus. What I do remember about Steve was his gracious hospitality, and his invitation to drive to have supper at his house. I lived in Highwood at the time, and I am not exactly sure where he lived. I do remember that this was before GPS and it was quite a drive (I am thinking maybe it was to Arlington Heights). We had steak and chile rellenos. I am not sure I had ever had chile rellenos before, and I am sure that I had never had them cooked at someone's house. And Steve didn't just have me for dinner really. I was there before the meal was cooked. I experienced gracious hospitality.

That was 20 years ago. Two decades. One score. And I still remember it. I don't remember much about Steve. I don't remember his theological points of view. I don't remember if he was a good student or bad student. What I remember was the gracious way he opened his home to a kid who was living a thousand miles from home. Small deeds of kindness and hospitality are far reaching and long lasting.

Hebrews 13.1-3 says, "Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering."

How can we be people who show gracious or lavish hospitality? How can we be the Church outside the walls of our church building and in the places that we live? To this day I love steak and chile rellenos all because of the hospitality of Steve.

Pastor Ryan

Dear Church Family,

Over the course of these past several months, I have spent a lot of time reading. Some of the best books I read over this period were about parenting and child development, particularly brain development. These books combined with recent events have reminded me of one particularly important element of our lives: our words. How is it that we use our words to other people, about other people, and about ourselves? The way we speak not only reveals the true state of our hearts but can also do significant damage or good to the lives of those with whom we interact.

The premise of *8 Great Smarts: Discover and Nurture Your Child's Intelligences*, is that we are all smart. Our smarts express themselves in different ways and different combinations for each person. She identifies eight “smarts” that people can display: word, logic, picture, music, body, nature, people, and self. Each person has these smarts, but at varying degrees. So, a big part of this book is identifying the smarts in ourselves and our children so that we can better understand and help them to recognize that they have value, and they can succeed.

Bringing this back to how we use words, Dr. Kathy Koch throughout the book talks about needing to change or be careful how we speak to ourselves, our kids, and other people. Careless use of words can be detrimental to a person and the way they perceive themselves. On the other side, careful use of our words can lead to flourishing and a healthy self-image. Below are some examples of how simply shifting the ways we talk about a topic can greatly impact what is being communicated.

First, Dr. Kathy Koch talks about her struggles with spelling. The way she states that weakness is significant. She says that spelling does not come naturally to her. It is common for us to say I am not good at x, y, or z. Or we say I cannot do this or that. For myself, I have often said, I am not good at math. Math has never been a subject in school that really excited me or all that enjoyable. But by saying I am not good at math, what I am potentially communicating to myself and others is something intrinsic about me. If I reframe that same statement to “Math does not come naturally to me”, it does not have to do with my identity, rather it is a skill that I have to work harder at than some other people. We each have these areas of weakness, and the way that we frame those areas, shape the way we view ourselves. The way we see ourselves and others controls our behavior.

A second example concerns issues of race and racism. I watched a panel on talking about race in Children's Ministry. It was an excellent discussion. I have used the phrase “colorblind” or “I don't see color” before as it relates to race. One of the members of the panel suggested that this is the wrong phrase, but the right convictions. She talked about how those words not recognizing the unique ways that God has created people. She suggested that a better way to phrase that might be something like “I value the unique ways God made you.” There is nothing lacking in God's creation. The uniqueness of creation is significant. These are difficult questions and issues to think through, but the ways that we use our words can either be for the building up of people or to tear them down. I pray that we seek to build up God's people. I pray that you are doing well and look forward to worshipping together in one place again.

Blessings,

Ryan Aubrey

UPC PADS UPDATE—PART 1

UPC SITE VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED -- 2019-2020 -- CONGRATULATIONS!!

PADS Lake County has had an annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner almost since its beginning. At first it was a potluck where volunteers brought a favorite dish and enjoyed visiting informally. Then the PADS Board of Directors and staff began providing the dinner through donations specifically given for the purpose of thanking volunteers. Next, PADS staff began requesting each site to give names & a brief summary about volunteers who'd "gone above and beyond" in the current season or who'd served an exceptional number of years. Certificates were presented to these volunteers at the dinners. Although the appreciation dinner couldn't be held this year, our UPC PADS Site Leadership Team decided to send certificates to volunteers who met this criteria. Certificates, using the county's template, were printed and mailed to volunteers who'd provided exceptional service this season, who'd served faithfully for 10 years or more, or who'd served at Warren Township Senior Center after our site closed. A few Special Leadership Certificates were also issued.

All of these volunteers have given exceptional service to the UPC Site! The last four have stepped up to major leadership roles over the years when our site has faced challenging circumstances. Their willingness to serve when the need was the greatest ensured the uninterrupted provision of shelter for our guests. It's the unselfish dedication that all of the volunteers listed here exhibited that's enabled our site to operate for 29 years. Hopefully, more volunteers will be joining us & current volunteers will take on leadership roles as we move into our 30th year as a PADS Lake County Emergency Shelter Site this fall!

UPC Adult Volunteers of the Year (2019-2020)

Amy Bechard, Jim Bush, Jane Bryant Klett, Tom Griffin, Marian Kerpan, Pat Klemens, Peter Klett, Kay Lattanzi, Ron Lattanzi, Mary Lillstrom, Mary Ann McDowell, Jorja McEwen, Rachel Neubauer, Bruce Peterson, Mark Rasmussen, Connie Reidel, Ray Reidel, Kevin Rupprecht, Shirleyann Russell, Janette Smock-Wiseman, Paul Steffan, Phyllis Steffan, Yvonne Thompkins, Karen Thoms, and Tom Wiseman.

UPC Youth Volunteers of the Year (2019-2020)

Nolan Cunningham, Lucy Freeman, Dylan Laughlin, and Abigail Taylor

Special Recognition for UPC &/or Warren Township Sr. Center Service

Annette Boban, Jim Deering, Jack Ennenbach, John Fedrico, Anna Garrido-Fisher, Sharon Horgan, Bill Kerpan, Marian Kerpan, Tim Rossi, Sen Sridas, UPC Kitchen Crew, Jerry Wessale, Alice Witt.

UPC Group of the Year

Grayslake Lions Club

Special Recognition for Exceptional Leadership

Linda Rambo, Carol Roselli-Rasmussen, Hank Tussing, Laura-Lee Tussing

All of the more than 300 volunteers who are part of our UPC PADS Site family are amazingly dedicated and devoted!! We want to thank them all once again for their continued service!

...The UPC PADS Leadership Site Team

UPC PADS UPDATE—PART 2

UPC PADS SITE NEEDS:

We expect our 30th PADS Season at UPC to begin on Thursday, October 1, 2020. WE WILL DEFINITELY NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS!! PLEASE READ & SHARE THIS INFO!!

Information will be updated as we receive more “End of the Season” forms from our current volunteers with their requests for the new season. Contact Rose Pech at 847-356-3577 or pads_at_upc@hotmail.com for information or to volunteer. Please share our needs with friends, family, colleagues, & others with whom you have contact.

MAJOR NEEDS CURRENTLY:

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR for 5 MAIN SHIFTS: This volunteer works from home at intermittent times with a varying time commitment. Tasks: **1.** Schedule volunteers to fill 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Late 3rd, and Morning Kitchen Cleanup Shifts for each week of the season prior to the start of the season (October 1) and communicate it to the site managers & site coordinator. **2.** Communicate the weekly schedule to site coordinator & scheduled site managers and volunteers a week in advance by email, text, mail, or phone call. **3.** Problem-solve to fill vacancies throughout the season with the help of an assistant who does this for vacancies occurring Tuesday thru Thursday for each current week. **4.** Serve as liaison between volunteers and PADS staff. **5.** Maintain a master list of all volunteers on these shifts & communicate any changes to Site Coordinator &/or person maintaining the master list for the entire site. **6.** Attend meetings with PADS staff as necessary. **7.** Protect the confidentiality of the records. (Training and help will be provided by outgoing Volunteer Coordinator and Site Coordinator and assistance from Site Coordinator will be available throughout the season.)

ONSITE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED for 2020-2021:

Monthly onsite volunteers we need: 7 times a year or less!

Needed Thursday night/Friday morning October 1 thru April 30.

(Training is required and is planned for Thursday, September 24, from 6 to 9 PM at our “Back to PADS” Soup/Chili & Salad Dinner, if large group gatherings are possible.)

- Kitchen Serve and Cleanup Shift 6 to 9 PM (High school youth)
- 2nd Shift 11 PM to 3 AM (Adults only)
- 3rd Shift 3 to 7 AM (Adults only)
- Late 3rd Shift 4:30 to 7 AM (Adults only)
- Morning Kitchen Cleanup 6 to 7:30 AM (Adults only)

PADS Setup Volunteers: 4:30 - 5:50 PM (No training needed.)

Thursdays Oct. 1 thru April 29 (Youth, Adults, Families w/school-age children, Scouts and Youth/Religious groups, etc. with adult leaders. Scheduling is done in advance according to site’s needs & volunteer’s availability.

VOLUNTEER!

**Welcome people who
are experiencing
homelessness**

as they work to find a

“Happy Home”!!

Artwork by Evan





*UNITED PROTESTANT CHURCH
WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP*



WCF NEWS—LOOKING BACK

Sorting thru my files during these weeks at home, I've found items that trigger special memories. One item is this WCF article from 2012 that I've decided to share with you. May "A Saint Among Us" bring back good memories to some as it introduces Harriet White to others.

"For over a year, many U.P.C. members looked forward to reading Harriet White's 'Spiritual Growth' article in each issue of the UNIFIER. This month I'm taking the liberty of using the space usually devoted to her column to pay tribute to an exceptional lady and most cherished friend. While we no longer have the blessing of her physical presence, it's a blessing to know that Harriet is in a place that's much better for her.

Harriet's smile and positive outlook are two of the characteristics that people remember most about her. Her nickname "Happy" at Laramont School was so very appropriate. Even when she had reason to be unhappy, she still "Put on a Happy Face" as she interacted with others. During Harriet's visitation, I heard so many people make comments about how she was always fun to be with, never spoke badly about others, always had a kind word, looked at the bright side of things, and—like the Energizer Bunny—she just kept going.

Harriet gave rides to people who couldn't drive, continuing to do so even after she needed a walker herself. As long as she was able, she'd put the walker into her car, drive to someone's home, and head to the church or community event they were attending. When the tables were turned, it was difficult for Harriet to accept or ask for the help she needed. We had to remind her of how she'd felt when she'd given help in order to get her to accept it herself.

Throughout her years at UPC, Harriet participated in almost every aspect of church life, holding offices in many areas: Christian Education, Staff-Parish Relations/Ministerial Selection committees, Missions, WCF, Friday Knights, Out O'Tunes, and so on. She was active at district and conference levels of United Methodist Women and tried to organize a similar group that would have united women members of churches in the Fox Valley Association of the United Church of Christ. At the same time, she was active and held leadership positions in community organizations: Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Lake County Fair, Prime Time, and other groups.

Harriet was always open to change in spite of her age, and there were two phrases that she hated to hear: 'We've never done it that way before.' and "We've always done it this way.'

When Harriet started writing her column, she didn't think people would be interested in what she had to say. She was amazed when I told her that people had commented on how they missed her column during the months she wasn't able to write. Not wanting to disappoint anyone, she made an extreme effort to write her last column so it was ready for the August UNIFIER, and it was printed just before her death.

Harriet never let any of us down; in fact, she had a way of lifting us up when we were already feeling down. Her smile, her kindness, and her love will live on with us always. She never wanted praise and was somewhat embarrassed by it. She would get upset with anyone who would call her 'saint Harriet,' but in my opinion she truly was a 'saint' living among us!!! Thank you, 'saint Harriet.'

--Rose Pech, Proud to be a Friend of Harriet White"

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 Papesch (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), Nancy Weinkauff (Dian's mother)

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).

July Birthdays:

- July 3 **Tim Pech, Sr.**
- July 4 **Sharon Michalsen**
- July 5 **Joan Hendricks**
- July 5 **Chaten Howard**
- July 5 **Evan Kutsin**
- July 5 **Christopher Message**
- July 9 **Laurel Bruggen**
- July 10 **Veronica Mussay**
- July 11 **Antoinette Mussay**
- July 12 **Meredith Carroll**
- July 12 **Caroline Walker**
- July 13 **Jill Selinger**
- July 14 **Dave Bartz**
- July 14 **Katlyn Rasmussen**
- July 14 **Tammy Swick**
- July 19 **Marcia Ruth**
- July 20 **Kelsey Helm**
- July 20 **Ann Thompson**
- July 23 **Karen Knapp**

Wedding Anniversaries

- July 11 **Ryan and Emily Aubrey**
- July 12 **Carlos and Jane Sandoval**
- July 14 **Joshua and Sarah Grubbs**
- July 30 **Wendy and Helene Fry**

Joy Sharing for July

This month's Joy Sharing, on the 19th, is in support of Curt's Cafe, an innovative non-profit, providing workforce training and life skills for underserved young adults.

Students are referred by local social services agencies, probation officers, clergy, the State's Attorney's office, and many others. The cafes in Evanston and Highland Park are vibrant neighborhood gathering spots where students can be nourished physically, intellectually, and emotionally.

Many of the students struggle with housing and food insecurity, poverty, and limited family support; others are challenged to overcome interactions with the criminal justice system, which often derail their lives and curtail educational and employment options.

5 - 10 students are enrolled at a time in a 90-day training program of hope and possibilities. A team of food service professionals, social service providers, and other caring adults tutor and mentor the students in subjects ranging from financial literacy to nutrition and well being, all while they are training and working in an operating cafe. When they complete their step-by-step program, they are assisted with job placement and the transition into school or employment.

**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)

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Church Office Hours:
Monday through Thursday
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Grounded | Empowered | Transformed

United Protestant Church of Grayslake
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