

*Urbandale
United
Church of
Christ*

A Just Peace and Open and Affirming Congregation



December 2018

The CALL

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Ponderings from your Pastor

When the magi had departed, an angel from the lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up. Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod will soon search for the child in order to kill him." (Matthew 2:13, The Common English Bible)

Lately, I have found that I think more and more about how living our faith makes a difference in the world. So many problems seem intractable. Poverty and hunger persist. Violence and hate are rampant. The environment is assaulted on multiple fronts. Refugees are a constant reality. People I admire and respect turn out to be more human than I want them to be. People I love face challenges and setbacks and even death itself. How does a person continue to believe in "Good News" when the world is so consumed by what can only be thought of as bad news?

The story of the Magi is a good example. It is an uplifting story about one of the elements of the birth of Jesus that we love to hear. Wise, educated aristocrats, well-versed in prophesy and astrology, (and loaded to boot!) come to Bethlehem and acknowledge Jesus as a new king. They leave expensive gifts and have the political savvy to know not to let Herod know where Jesus is. That's when the story turns unexpectedly macabre. Herod is furious! So much so that he uses the forces at his disposal to commit mass murder among his own people!

I sometimes wonder if the Magi ever found out about this. Did their sources from Palestine tell them about that terrible day when the soldiers came – when the innocent were cut down just when their lives had begun? Did they feel the pangs of guilt for having introduced Herod to his own fear of losing his power? Had they heard the angels sing "Peace on Earth" and then wonder what the heck went wrong? There is an old Christmas carol (I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day) that says, "And in despair I hung my head. 'There is no peace on earth,' I said. For hate is strong and mocks the song of Peace on Earth, Goodwill to men." (sic)

Maybe we set ourselves up for disappointment by thinking too much about the glitter, tinsel and ribbon that we have used to adorn what is essentially a fierce struggle. The Word becomes flesh and lives in the middle of humanity, where there are fears and hatreds that warp what God has created. God reaches into our existence and unveils a reality that stands in stark contrast to what we expect – a reality in which love overrides the anxious striving of humanity. Our fears and doubts and hatreds and insecurities are exposed for the ridiculous farces they truly are. And if we cannot let go of them, we become angry and frightened and behave in callous and cruel ways.

What is tragic about all this is not that the birth of Jesus made no difference (it did!). The tragedy is that we humans have been shown the path to peace and are continually seduced by the world's glitter and tinsel of power and wealth. The fact that the world is not a peaceful, prosperous, idyllic place says more about our lack of faith than God's inability to come up with a good plan!

My celebration this year will be an embrace of the struggle. It will be a refusal to cave in to the voices of fear and suspicion. I will sing the carols and deck the halls and bake the cookies, and be for those around me an example of how to be Peace on Earth. And if it seems that no one is listening or watching or caring, I will remember that once, a long time ago, Magi came to Bethlehem.

Merry Christmas. Amen

Moderator Moment

When frosty winds moan, I am very thankful for furnaces and for places where we filled the gaps to keep out the cold.

So, I am thankful Leadership Team just approved the replacement of several of our **furnaces and air conditioners**—all funded by the Building on the Promise Campaign. These replacements will help make our building significantly more energy efficient and reduce our carbon footprint. So, expect changes to be happening this winter. And please be sure to keep up on your campaign pledge.

On a related note, I'm thankful for our top-notch **Building & Grounds Team (B&G)**, most recently for their work in getting bids and working with contractors; and especially Gordon Dunn who crawled & climbed & measured & planned & worked with an energy efficiency consultant to model options—all to get the best setup for us. Gordon & other B&G members have also worked at plugging the gaps, often in difficult places.

In choir recently, we were practicing “In the Bleak Midwinter,” the one that flows in a minor key. Remember how it goes?

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.

And it hit me—Gordon was like that shepherd in his giving.

And the next words struck close to home too.

What I can I give him:

Give him my heart.

What would it look like to really *give my heart*?

Would I crack open that pocketbook a little wider? Would I let go of one of my *extras* so the church could meet *needs*? When I hear about something that needs done, could I say, “Hey, that’s something I could help with,” and pitch in?

At our stewardship luncheon Nov. 11, we collected 68 pledges for a total of \$229,414. There is always a gap between the initial pledge drive results, and the final budget. The 2018 budget relies on \$306,476 from 106 pledges. Can you help fill the gap?

If you haven't pledged yet, please consider it—as simple as emailing financial@urbucc.org

If you have pledged, did you give your heart? Could you consider helping plug the gap?

Don't forget this year—please keep your 2018 pledge up to date. If you've procrastinated on it, now is the time to plug the gap.

Connect and catch the spirit.

Connect and come alive.

Gail George

World AIDS Day is December 1st

World AIDS Day marked its 30th anniversary on December 1st. This year's theme is "Know Your Status".

Significant progress has been made in the AIDS response since 1988, and today 3 in 4 people living with HIV know their status. More progress needs to be done, and this year's theme emphasizes the importance of knowing one's status and calls for the removal of all barriers in accessing HIV testing.

"BE A TRANSFORMER"

The day to "Be a Transformer" is here! Come to church on Saturday, December 1st, at 10:00 a.m., and help *transform* our worship space for the Advent and Christmas seasons. Then what? After the decorating is done, enjoy a bowl of soup! No experience needed, -- just come!

CLIMATE REVIVAL CONFERENCE

Mark your calendar for **February 9th**! We have a great opportunity—the Climate Revival Conference, a city-wide event at Plymouth Congregational UCC. Leading the conference is Rev. Jim Antal, UCC national spokesperson on climate change and author of *Climate Church, Climate World: How People of Faith Must Work for Change*. Registration begins in December at www.iowaip.org.

Comments after reading the book:

- This book renewed my hope and invigorated me to see how urgent it is to take action.
- Global warming intensifies all forms of injustice.
- We don't have to act alone. Social change is fueled by bottom-up engagement when people claim their collective power. (Book gives examples, so we can see how we can do it too.)
- Climate change is an opportunity for which the church was born. ~Bill McKibben

Get ready to dig in--Urbandale UCC will have related discussions Sunday mornings at 9:00 am on **January 20th & 27th**. You do not have to read the book to participate in the discussions. If you want to read it, it is available from libraries in Urbandale, Des Moines & Johnston, as well as for purchase at Beaverdale Books & online.

CHRISTMAS FUND OFFERING

The Christmas Fund is one of the four annual special offerings of the United Church of Christ. The funds are used to provide help for those who would otherwise fall through the cracks. This year's offering will be received on **Sunday, December 23rd**.

Thank you. *SMI Team.*

ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION (ASF) ~ 9:00-9:45am IN FELLOWSHIP HALL:

December 2nd: The Path to Citizenship

Presenters: Justin Cross and Chris Rottler, Immigration Attorneys

December 9th: The Journey to Iowa

Presenters: Nicole, Freddy, and Emilio

December 16th: Working with Immigrants in our Community

Presenter: Erica Johnson

December 23rd: CHRISTMAS BREAK—NO SS/ASF

December 30th: NEW YEAR'S BREAK—NO SS/ASF

Please note there is NO Sunday school or Adult Spiritual Formation on Sunday, December 23rd or Sunday, December 30th so our volunteers can have time with their families.

Christmas Eve Services:

5:30 pm~ Family Service with candles and Communion

9:00 pm~ Service of Lessons & Carols with candles and Communion



❄️❄️❄️ ***Reception*** ❄️❄️❄️

There will be an informal reception in Fellowship Hall following the 5:30 pm service at 6:30 pm and at 8:00 pm prior to the 9:00 service. You are invited to take this opportunity to enjoy conversation and light refreshments with family and friends.

If you have Christmas cookies, candy or other snacks you could provide for this event, please bring them with you that evening.

Because we want to encourage families to worship together, nursery care will not be offered during these services.

***Those who donate poinsettias for the Chancel and who wish to take their plant home, may do so following the 9:00 pm Christmas Eve Service.**

December 2018 Who... What... Where... When...

	December 2 Communion	December 9	December 16	December 23	December 24 Christmas Eve	December 30
Scripture	I Thessalonians 3:9-13	Philippians 1:3-11	Sunday School Christmas Program	Luke 1:39-45	5:30 & 9:00 pm The Christmas Story	TBD
Preaching	Pastor Dave	Pastor Dave		Rev. Susan Sickelka	Pastor Dave	TBD
Liturgist	Jon Greising	Laura Fefchak Jennifer Gardner UUCG Youth	7 th -12 th Grade Youth	TBD	TBD	TBD
Music Leadership	Adult Choir Adult Handbells	Adult Choir Raggedy Band		Adult Choir	Adult Choir	Adult Choir
Ushers & Greeters	Jeff Couch Kathy Marean Carol Looney Steve Looney	Jim Nervig Adam Dirks Diane Gladson Mary Minard	Bob Shoemaker Diane Shoemaker Dianne Woods Jerry Woods UUCG Youths: Nora Gibbens Cooper Quinn Jacob Walters Stephen Walters	Margaret Christian Sharon Johnson John Young Bob Harding	5:30 pm Walters' Family 9:00 pm Wallt Rehberg Barb Rehberg Matthew Siegel Sarah Siegel	David Spaulding Mason Thies Jim Nervig Jerry Wiley
Acolytes	Edwards Family	Luncsford Mays Family	Boelts Family	McCord Family	5:30 pm Edwards Family 9:00 pm Kathy Marean	Lunchford-Mays Family
Nursery	Anjy Allen Susan Joynt	Anjy Allen Susan Joynt	Anjy Allen	Anjy Allen	NO Nursery	Anjy Allen Deb Beery
Opening the Church	Chris Jordan	Jeff Couch	Mark Siegel	Jerry Woods	TBD	Bob Shoemaker
Offering Recorders	Chris Jordan Ruth Rasmussen	Carla Briggs Taena Fowler	Steve Chandler Mark Siegel	Kathleen Trujillo Roush Jeff Couch	TBD	Joe Walters Jim Nervig
Sound Booth	Jon Duvick	Scott Davis	Scott Gardner	Scott Gardner	TBD	Scott Gardner

January 2018 CALL DEADLINE: Friday, December 14th
This January CALL deadline is firm, due to the Christmas holiday schedule.

Events & Activities

December 2018

December 2018							January 2019						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
						1			1	2	3	4	5
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	31		
30	31												

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 25	26	27	28	29	30	Dec 1 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">9:00am Bowtie Boyz</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">10:00am Decorating the Sanctuary</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">3:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">5:00pm Private Lessons</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">6:00pm Matu Bethel Church</div>
2 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">9:00am Sunday School & Adult Spiritual Formation</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">10:00am Worship: Communion</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">11:00am OWL K-2nd Grade Info</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">12:30pm Matu Bethel Church</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">12:30pm Light Mission Pentecostal</div>	3	4 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">11:00am Staff Meeting</div>	5 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">5:30pm SOS Choir</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">6:15pm Adult Handbells</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">6:45pm Confirmation</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">7:00pm Adult Choir</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">7:30pm AA</div>	6	7 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">1:00pm Private Meeting</div>	8 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">1:00pm Private Group</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">1:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">3:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">6:00pm Matu Bethel Church</div>
9 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">9:00am Sunday School & Adult Spiritual Formation</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">10:00am Worship</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">12:30pm Matu Bethel Church</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">12:30pm Light Mission Pentecostal</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">5:30pm PJ Party</div>	10 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">6:00pm Green Boat</div>	11 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">11:00am Staff Meeting</div>	12 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">9:30am Caregivers</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">5:30pm Spaghetti Dinner</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">5:30pm SOS Choir</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">6:15pm Adult Handbells</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">6:45pm Confirmation</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">7:00pm Adult Choir</div>	13 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">10:00am CCPE</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">7:00pm Leadership Team</div>	14	15 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">10:00am Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">1:00pm Green Coalition</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">3:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">6:00pm Matu Bethel Church</div>
16 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">9:00am Sunday School & Adult Spiritual Formation</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">10:00am Worship: Christmas Program</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">12:30pm Matu Bethel Church</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">12:30pm Light Mission Pentecostal</div>	17 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">5:00pm Private Party</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">6:00pm Book Club</div>	18 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">11:00am Staff Meeting</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">7:00pm Newcomers' Gathering</div>	19 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">5:30pm SOS Choir</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">6:15pm Adult Handbells</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">6:45pm Confirmation</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">7:00pm Adult Choir</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">7:30pm AA</div>	20	21	22 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">3:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">6:00pm Matu Bethel Church</div>
23 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">10:00am Worship</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">12:30pm Matu Bethel Church</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">12:30pm Light Mission Pentecostal</div>	24 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">CHRISTMAS EVE--OFFICE CLOSED AT NOON</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">12:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">5:30pm Christmas Eve Service</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">9:00pm Christmas Eve Service</div>	25 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">OFFICE CLOSED</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">CHRISTMAS DAY</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">12:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church</div>	26 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">7:30pm AA</div>	27	28	29 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">3:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">6:00pm Matu Bethel Church</div>
30 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">10:00am Worship</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">12:30pm Matu Bethel Church</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">12:30pm Light Mission Pentecostal</div>	31 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">NEW YEAR'S EVE--OFFICE CLOSED AT NOON</div>	Jan 1, 19	2	3	4	5

PLEASE NOTE

As we draw close to the end of our fiscal year, now is a good time to make sure you are up to date on your pledge. Please remember—**your final pledge payment of the year must be received by Monday, December 31** in order to be recorded in 2018. Thank you for your support of Urbandale United Church of Christ in 2018.

Holiday Office Hours

The church office will be closed from noon on Christmas Eve, December 24th; closed Christmas, December 25th-26th; closed at noon New Year's Eve, December 31st and closed New Year's Day, January 1st.



Children & Youth News

Preschool-5th Grade Sunday School: Christmas Program Rehearsals

It's that time of year again when we get to pull out the costumes, sing familiar Christmas songs, remember the Christmas Story, use the ever-exciting microphone in church and pray to the Holy Spirit that all is well and meaningful! We continue to rehearse during the Sunday school time of 9-9:45am and begin in the sanctuary as usual. Please add the following dates to your calendar so we can practice and ensure our children feel confident in their parts.

Sunday Morning Rehearsals 9-9:45am: December 2nd, 9th & 16th.

Dress Rehearsal: Saturday, December 15th from 10-11:30am in the sanctuary.

Liturgist & Usher/Greeter Opportunities on 12/16: Please consider you and your child(ren) taking a part as Ushers/Greeters or liturgist in our worship service. We need readers for the scripture and offertory prayer. Please let Rev. Amy know if your child(ren) is interested in any of these parts.

6th-12th Grade Sunday School Group Mission Opportunity Urbandale Community Action Network: Adopt-A-Family

This year the 6th -12th Grade Sunday School group will be supporting a family of 6 with 2 adults and 4 children. This family has requested winter coats and boots. We are always so grateful for the generosity of our congregation. **We will be collecting monetary donations after church on December 2nd, 9th & 16th.** We will shop following lunch on Sunday, December 16th. Please see Jennifer Gardner or Laura Fefchak with questions. Thank you for supporting our neighbors!

Preschool-5th Grade Sunday School Mission Opportunity
Empty Tin Cans Needed by Sunday, December 2nd

Please bring your empty, clean tin cans (fruit, vegetable, soup, coffee cans) to Rev. Amy's office by Sunday, December 2nd. Our children are making cans to collect a noisy offering to benefit the Urbandale Food Pantry. Clean out under the couch cushions, car seats, gather those loose pennies, nickels, quarters and dimes and get ready to make some noise! **Our Preschool-5th grade youth are happy to collect your change before and after worship on December 2nd & 9th. We will collect our noisy offering on Sunday, December 16th during worship.** Thank you for supporting our children and the Urbandale Food Pantry. Please see Nicole Berger, Missy McCord or Rev. Amy with any questions.



Pajama Party & Potluck
Sunday, December 9th at 5:30-7pm

Please wear your best pajamas and bring a sweet treat to share for our Annual PJ Party & Potluck in Fellowship Hall. Soups, grilled cheese sandwiches and crafts will be offered in Fellowship Hall. We will close with our ever-popular singing of the "Twelve Days of Christmas." **We need soup donations, sandwich makers, a kitchen crew who will help set-up, clean-up and run the dishwasher. We also need a piano/guitar player to assist us as we sing carols.** Please check out the sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex and speak with Rev. Amy if you have any questions.



7th-12th Grade Youth Group Fundraiser for Simply Smiles & General Synod
Recycling Cans & Bottles

Do you not like the hassle of returning your cans and bottles? We have a solution for you! We have a recycling can ready to accept your refundable recyclables near the shed by the Memorial Garden. All the money received from redeeming cans and bottles will help the youth with our trips to South Dakota and Wisconsin next summer. If you are unable to bring your cans/bottles to church, please contact Anjy Allen to arrange a pick up. Thank you for supporting our youth!

**Silent Auction to Benefit Camperships,
Simply Smiles & General Synod Is Coming in February 2019
SAVE THE DATES!!!**

Start planning your themed basket now! Baskets will be displayed in Fellowship Hall starting February 3rd will be available for your viewing pleasure before and after worship February 3rd, 10th and 17th. We will have a reception announcing winners immediately following worship on Sunday, February 17th. **A donation request letter is available on the table in the narthex if you would like to solicit items/gift cards from local businesses to add to your basket!**

We encourage teams, individuals and small groups to consider contributing a basket. The possibilities are endless! Here are some ideas for your basket:

- | | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------------------|
| *Sports team | *Cooking/baking | *Games | *Craft Supplies |
| *Sports | *Gift cards | *Gardening | * Music |
| *Movie Night | *Self-care | *Barbecue | *Night Out |
| *Winter Survival Kit | *Pet | *Books | *Night In |
| *Exercise | *Toys | *Coffee/Tea | *Metro Area Attractions |



**Simply Smiles Mission trip to South Dakota
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Reservation
July 27-August 3, 2019**

Are you ready to put your faith in to action? Youth and adults ages 15 and older are invited to join us as we head to the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Reservation next summer with the United Church of Christ endorsed agency, Simply Smiles. We hope you will consider joining us for a meaningful experience. Please see Rev. Amy with any questions. **Opportunities for learning more about Simply Smiles coming December 16th in worship and January 6th in Adult Spiritual Formation.** Check out <http://www.simplysmiles.org/volunteer-crst/> for more information.

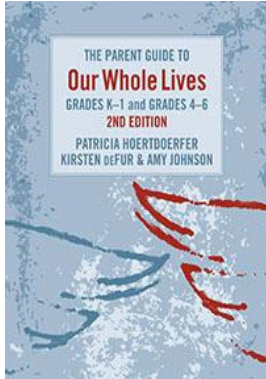


**Youth at General Synod 32
June 21-25, 2019, Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

Youth ages 13-18 are invited to experience Youth @ Synod! We have 10 youth and adults already interested. The Synod website

<http://synod2019.org/> is updated and ready to accept reservations!

Youth/Parents/Youth Leaders will register together this month to secure our hotel reservations and registrations. Please see Rev. Amy if you are interested.



2019 Our Whole Lives K-2nd Grades Parent Informational Meeting

Please mark your calendar for a Parent Informational Meeting for **Sunday, December 2nd at 11am in Fellowship Hall.** We will get to know one another, share the curriculum, schedule, expectations and discuss any questions. The program will run on Sundays from 11am-12:30pm immediately following church beginning **Sunday, January 6th, 2019** and conclude with a celebration and recognition in worship on **Sunday, March 3rd, 2019.**

Our Whole Lives (OWL) K-2: This program affirms all kinds of families and helps children identify and avoid sexual abuse. It supports parents in educating children about birth, babies, bodies, families and learning how to be an "Askable Parent." Following a Parent Meeting and Parent/Child Orientation, the 8 sessions engage children with stories, songs and activities and include a weekly HomeLink - a homework project for parents and children to do together and promotes dialogue between parent and child.

OWL helps participants to build interpersonal skills and understand the spiritual, emotional and social aspects of sexuality. The curriculum is based on the Guidelines for Comprehensive Sexuality Education produced by the National Guidelines Task Force, a group of leading health, education and sexuality professionals assembled by the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States.

This truly is a gift to our congregation and I want to thank Bonita Wiley, Stacy Anderson and Mary Minard for being our leaders. This program is available to the community as part of our Strategic Plan goals. Please share this date with others who may be interested.



❶ DECEMBER FOOD PANTRY ❶

Has it snowed yet? Are you keeping warm? What will you have for your Christmas dinner? 1 can of soup will keep someone warm and full Christmas Day. Four cans will help a family of 4. Give a gift of food.

Cash/check donations are also very welcome. Please make checks to Urbandale UCC with "Food Pantry" in the memo line.



NOVEMBER TEAM MEETINGS

- Bowtie Boyz will meet **Saturday, December 1st**, 9:00 am
- Green Boat Crew will meet **Monday, December 3rd**, 6:00 pm
- Caregivers will meet **Wednesday, December 12th**, 9:30 am
- Leadership Team will meet **Thursday, December 13th**, 7:00 pm
- Book Club will meet **Monday, December 17th**, 6:00 pm

Newcomers Gathering

A monthly informal social gathering is hosted at the home of one of our church members. It is open to anyone interested, especially those who have joined the church over the past few years, visitors who would like to get acquainted with others, and anyone in the congregation wanting to make connections with newer members and visitors.

This month we are meeting at the home of Maryellen Knowles, 8321 Colby Parkway, Unit 106, Urbandale, IA 50322 on Tuesday, December 18th from 7-8 p.m. Please RSVP at maryellenknowles@hotmail.com or 515-661-3302.

Send messages of love and support to:

Mr. Jamel William Carter #17567-030
USP Leavenworth
U.S. Penitentiary
P.O Box 1000
Leavenworth, KS 66048

If you would like to be added to Jamel's e-mail list, send your e-mail address or message it to Tina Carter Shields and she can add you. Once you are added to the list you can communicate with him by e-mail.

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are invited and welcome here."

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE—Winter

9:00 am – Sunday School & Adult Spiritual Formation
10:00 am - Worship

The Rev. David P. Sickelka, Senior Pastor david.sickelka@urbucc.org
The Rev. Amy Murray, Ministry Program Coordinator..... amy.murray@urbucc.org
Steven Linn, Music Program Director steven.linn@urbucc.org
Bobby Stinnett, M.M., Organist,
Children/Youth Choirs and Handbells Director bobby.stinnett@urbucc.org
Sophiap Eng-Swanson, Office Coordinator..... staff@urbucc.org
Sadmira & Umihana Omerhodzic, Custodians..... sadmira.omerhodzic@urbucc.org
The Rev. John Chaplin
Adjunct Minister for LGBTQ Concerns & Community Outreach ..john.chaplin@urbucc.org

Church office hours are Monday-Friday 9:00AM – 3:00PM,
www.urbucc.org www.facebook.com/UrbandaleUCC

UUCC's Inclement Weather Policy

The church office will be closed on any day that either Urbandale or Des Moines Public Schools are closed as a result of inclement weather. On those days, all church programming will be canceled. If classes are dismissed early, all events at the church will also be canceled.

On Sunday mornings with inclement weather, decision will be made by 7:30AM. The recorded message on the church phone system will be changed. (Press 3 for cancellations.) Local television stations will be notified to publicize the announcement and the information will also be posted on UUCC's Facebook page, www.facebook.com/UrbandaleUCC.