



Urbandale
United
Church of
Christ

God is still speaking ☺

A Just Peace and Open and Affirming congregation

God is still speaking

“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are invited and welcome here.”

December 30, 2018

10:00 a.m.

**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
MORAVIAN LOVE FEAST**

The Liturgical color for Christmas is White, representing Purity and light.



SERVING AT URBANDALE UCC THIS SUNDAY

Liturgist: Auvielle McCord

Ushers & Greeters: David Spaulding, Mason Thies, Jim Nervig, Debbie Gannon

Acolytes: Luncsford Mays Family

Nursery: Anjy Allen, Deb Beery

Opening the Church: Today, Bob Shoemaker Next Sunday, Chris Jordan

Sound Booth: Scott Gardner

Flowers were donated by Sue Renfrow in honor of
Andy Renfrow-Daly’s 6th Christmas Birthday on December 25th.

GATHERING

We extend a special welcome to our visitors. Nametags and information packets are available at the welcome table at the main entrance to the sanctuary. Childcare is available in the nursery for children ages birth through seven. Please see an usher for location if you wish to use the nursery.

GREETING

“I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're doing something.

So that's my wish for you, and all of us, and my wish for myself. Make new mistakes. Make glorious, amazing mistakes. Make mistakes nobody's ever made before. Don't freeze, don't stop, don't worry that it isn't good enough, or it isn't perfect, whatever it is: art, or love, or work or family or life.

Whatever it is you're scared of doing, Do it. Make your mistakes, next year and forever.”

~Neil Gaiman

TIME OF FRIENDSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”

James Mansfield

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES *Their flames symbolizing God’s Spirit.*

❖ *This symbol invites the congregation to stand in body or spirit*
Bold type indicates a unison response

- ❖ CALL TO PRAYER AND PRAISE Psalm 148
 - ONE: Praise the Holy One from the heavens, from the highest of the surrounding hills proclaim God's praise!
 - ALL: Praise God all you angels and bearers of the Good News, from the places where God's heavenly hosts await their instructions!**
 - ONE: Sun and Moon, praise God! All of you bright stars, praise God!
 - ALL: All of the heavens, praise God! Deepest reaches of infinite space, Praise God!**
 - ONE: Do the same, fire and hail, snow and smoke, stormy wind that does what God says!
 - ALL: Do the same, you mountains, every single hill, fruit trees, and every single cedar! Praise the Holy One!**

- ❖ OPENING HYMN “We Hail You God's Anointed” Hymnal 104

In addition to this, James Montgomery wrote a hymn for the Moravian Settlement at Yorkshire, England.

- ❖ INVOCATION

MORAVIAN LOVE FEAST

BLESSING AND SHARING FOOD Kevin Gannon

CAROLS

SOLO “Loure” Bach
Maeve Griesing, Violin

SCRIPTURE LESSON **Luke 2:41-52**

⁴¹Each year his parents went to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. ⁴²When he was 12 years old, they went up to Jerusalem according to their custom. ⁴³After the festival was over, they were returning home, but the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents didn't know it. ⁴⁴Supposing that he was among their band of travelers, they journeyed on for a full day while looking for him among their family and friends. ⁴⁵When they didn't find Jesus, they returned to Jerusalem to look for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple. He was sitting among the teachers, listening to them and putting questions to them. ⁴⁷Everyone who heard him was amazed by his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him, they were shocked.

His mother said, “Child, why have you treated us like this? Listen! Your father and I have been worried. We've been looking for you!”

⁴⁹Jesus replied, “Why were you looking for me? Didn't you know that it was necessary for me to be in my Father's house?” ⁵⁰But they didn't understand what he said to them.

⁵¹Jesus went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. His mother cherished every word in her heart. ⁵²Jesus matured in wisdom and years, and in favor with God and with people.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

HYMN “It Came upon the Midnight Clear” Hymnal 131

SHARING AND PRAYERS OF JOY

CAROLS

SHARING AND PRAYERS OF HOPE

RESPONSE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Abba who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS

ONE: God is good!

ALL: **All the time!**

ONE: All the time!

ALL: **God is good!**

ONE: Let us share the goodness of our God!

When the offering plate comes to you, we invite you to hold it for a moment and consider the many gifts that you can share. You may pray for a person or a ministry; you may commit yourself to a specific act of compassion; or you may resolve to work on a relationship that is in need of repair. Allow the Spirit to guide your thoughts.

OFFERTORY

“Ding Dong Merrily on High”

Douglas E. Wagner

Please sign the Pew Pad and pass it to your neighbor.

❖ DOXOLOGY

tune: *Old Hundredth*

**All praise, eternal Christ, to thee,
Whose advent sets thy people free;**

**Once more upon thy people shine,
And fill the world with love divine. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

❖ CLOSING HYMN

“Who Would Think that What Was Needed”

Hymnal 153

The candles are extinguished.

God's Spirit remains as a living flame in the hearts of God's people.

❖ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“The Newborn King”

Gilbert M. Martin

Please reshelve the hymnals and put this used Bulletin in the recycle basket.

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PRAYER CONCERNS

To list someone in this section, **with their permission**, please email staff@urbucc.org by the weekly bulletin deadline.

Keep in your thoughts and prayers:

Jamel Carter...Don Walters...Diann Miller

And our dear ones: **Laurayne Robinette...Alma Sims...Lee & Margaret Messenger**

To notify the staff of a prayer concern, or to send a note of caring and support to someone, please use the cards in the pew rack and drop them in the offering plate. Please indicate whether prayer concerns should be forwarded to our Prayer Chain. Notes will be mailed on Tuesday, provided we have the recipient's full name and the sender's signature.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry provides prayer shawls to people experiencing difficult circumstances or life transitions. For more information, email prayer.shawls@urbucc.org.

This Week at UCC

Sunday, December 30

10:00 am Moravian Love Feast
12:30 pm Matu Bethel Church
12:30 pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church

Monday, December 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE
OFFICE CLOSED at NOON

Tuesday, January 1

NEW YEAR'S DAY~OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday, January 2

7:30 pm AA

Saturday, January 5

3:00 pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church
6:00 pm Matu Bethel Church

Upcoming Sundays

Sunday, January 6

10:00 am Worship: Communion
12:30 pm Matu Bethel Church
12:30 pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church

Sunday, January 13

10:00 am Worship
12:30 pm Matu Bethel Church
12:30 pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church

Holiday Office Hours

The church office will be closed at NOON New Year's Eve, December 31st and CLOSED New Year's Day, January 1st.

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Moravian Love Feast

The Moravian Love Feast recalls the earliest days of the Moravian sect as they built their community on the estate of Count Nicholas von Zinzendorf in Bavaria during the early 1700s. Modeling their actions on the agape love of the early Church, the Moravians have given us an excellent example of what true Christian fellowship and welcome looks like.

Moravian Star

The original stars displayed 26 points in two colors frequently associated with the Moravian Church: red and white. The star has been used to carry a significant message: the star itself symbolizes Jesus Christ who came into the world to be the light. The many points, arranged in almost global fashion, emphasize that Christ's concern is for all humankind. The color white, commonly seen as the color of joy, a reflection of the righteousness and purity of Christ, while the color red typifies the sacrifice of Christ.

The star, normally used in homes and churches for the first Sunday in Advent through the Epiphany festival, has become recognized as a sign of Christian witness and commitment.

Sunday School and Adult Spiritual Formation

Please note there is NO Sunday school or Adult Spiritual Formation TODAY so our volunteers can have time with their families.

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Pledge Payment of 2018

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 TODAY** in order to be recorded in 2018. Thank you for your support of Urbandale United Church of Christ in 2018.

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2019 Chancel Flowers

Please consider donating flowers for the Chancel in memory of a loved one or to celebrate an important occasion in your family’s life. The 2019 chart is on the Narthex door. You may keep the flowers after the service or donate them to a homebound member.

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Help get Urbandale UCC on the Air!

We are pooling public radio donations to purchase an on-air ad for the church. You can help with this new effort to get out the word on our ministry—just pool your regular IPR donations with other members of the congregation. Steve Looney is coordinating – contact him at

financial@urbucc.org.

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7-12th 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!

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7-12th Youth to Brenton Skating Plaza

(3-6th grade youth welcome if accompanied by a parent)

All are welcome to join us for intergenerational ice skating and fellowship! Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 6th from 11:15-2:00 pm. Lunch is provided immediately following worship in Fellowship Hall. We will head to Brenton Skating Plaza for ice skating about noon. Cost is \$7/person. Youth may wish to bring extra cash for the concession stand. As always, please see Amy if financial support is needed. Please RSVP to Rev. Amy so we can ensure enough drivers and be sure to sign the permission slip outside her office.

We also need a few adults to help drive us over and stay with the youth. Let Mariana or Adam Drees know if you are available to provide support. Please pick up your youth at 2pm from Brenton Skating Plaza. We look forward to some wintery fun together!

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Our Prayer Shawl ministry is ending its 15th year! Thanks to all who have supported this ministry.

UCC’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 UCC’s Facebook page,
www.facebook.com/UrbandaleUCC.

URBANDALE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Phone: 515-276-0625 ▪ Fax: 515-276-2451

www.urbucc.org

www.facebook.com/UrbandaleUCC

“We welcome into this community of faith, and affirm the participation in all aspects of church life, persons of every age, race, gender identity and expression, nationality, ability, and sexual orientation. We will continue our efforts toward inclusiveness, and stand against all forms of discrimination. We will empower ourselves, our children, and one another to be fully present in the world, living in Christ’s image and striving for justice and peace.”*

***The statement adopted 25 years ago did not include the words “identity and expression”.**

Staff

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 Handbell Director bobby.stinnett@urbucc.org
Sophiap Eng-Swanson, Office Coordinator staff@urbucc.org
Sadmira & Umihana Omerhodzic, Custodian sadmira.omerhodzic@urbucc.org
The Rev. John Chaplin
Adjunct Minister for LGBTQ Concerns & Community Outreach john.chaplin@urbucc.org

Ministry Leaders

Caregiving Ministries:

Caregivers, Homebound Rachel Siegel caregivers.1@urbucc.org
Caregivers 2 Bonita Wiley caregivers.2@urbucc.org
Prayer Circle prayer.circle@urbucc.org
Prayer Shawl Ministry prayer.shawls@urbucc.org

Leadership Team:

Moderator Gail George moderator@urbucc.org
Vice-Moderator Bob Harding vicemoderator@urbucc.org
Treasurer Jim Nervig treasurer@urbucc.org
Financial Secretary Steve Looney financial@urbucc.org
Recording Secretary Sandy Gahn uccrecorder@urbucc.org
Ad Ministry Liaison Adam Dirks ad.ministry@urbucc.org
Christian Growth Liaison Chris Jordan christian.growth@urbucc.org
Membership Team Jon Greising membership.team@urbucc.org
Small Groups Liaison Rachel Siegel small.groups@urbucc.org
Worship Team Patricia Goldberg worship.team@urbucc.org
At Large Members: Kathy Marean, Jennifer Gardner, James Schaeffer

Other Contacts:

Building & Grounds B&G.team@urbucc.org
Social Media Team Sandy Gahn social.media@urbucc.org

Church Office hours are Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

For pastoral care, please contact Pastor Dave at 276-0625 (church office), 720-6389 (cell) or david.sickelka@urbucc.org. Pastor Dave is off on Mondays but will still respond to emergencies if you call or text.