



Urbundle
United
Church of
Christ

God is still speaking

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

A Just Peace and Open and Affirming congregation

January 6, 2019

10:00 a.m.

EPIPHANY

The Liturgical color for Epiphany is white, representing purity and holiness.



SERVING AT URBANDALE UCC THIS SUNDAY
Liturgist: Rev. Amy Murray
Ushers & Greeters: Jeff Couch, Bob Harding, Bob & Diane Shoemaker
Acolytes: Kathy Marean
Nursery: Anjy Allen & Susan Joynt
Opening the Church: Today, Jerry Woods **Next Sunday,** Jeff Couch
Sound Booth: Jon Duvick

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

Now as at all times I can see in the mind's eye,
 In their stiff, painted clothes, the pale unsatisfied ones
 Appear and disappear in the blue depths of the sky
 With all their ancient faces like rain-beaten stones,
 And all their helms of silver hovering side by side,
 And all their eyes still fixed, hoping to find once more,
 Being by Calvary's turbulence unsatisfied,
 The uncontrollable mystery on the bestial floor.

From the poem, “The Magi” by William Butler Yeats

TIME OF FRIENDSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“We Three Kings”

Raymond Haan

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

The Magi are brought forward to complete our nativity display.

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

❖ **CALL TO PRAISE AND PRAYER**

ONE: Arise, shine; for your light has come. The glory of God has risen among us.

ALL: We are awake; we are alive! Praise God for deliverance and blessings.

ONE: Lift up your eyes to see all around you. Let your hearts rejoice, and be radiant with hope.

ALL: May justice water the earth like a shower; Let righteousness and peace abound.

ONE: Receive again the promises of the gospel. Participate in the mystery of Jesus Christ.

ALL: God’s ways are being revealed to us today. Our church proclaims the unsearchable riches of Christ.

- ❖ HYMN “Star Gazers” (Tune: We Three Kings)
- We stargazers come from the East, from this star God’s love will increase.
 Gifts and treasure, beyond measure saving the lost and least.
- (Refrain)**
O star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to your perfect light.
- Born to parents poor and alone, gold I bring to lay at his throne.
 Rule forever, chains to sever, come to save all God’s own. **(Refrain)**
- Frankincense is my gift to bring, Scent of worship, prayer offering.
 Praise and fasting, everlasting, people and angels sing! **(Refrain)**
- Myrrh I offer, portent of pain, Stark reminder of death’s domain.
 Cruelty, violence, wailing, silence, nothing to end sin’s reign. **(Refrain)**
- Glorious now, life rises anew! God’s new order springs into view!
 All creation with elation sing “Glory! Allelu!” **(Refrain)**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of light, we admit our retreat into the shadows of pretension and exclusion. How often we choose to associate with people who are like us and then look down on others who differ from us. It is easier to discover their sins than to admit our own. We judge the poor and join their oppressors, while you call us to identify with those in need, that all may prosper together. We imagine that we alone are faithful stewards of your grace, while you welcome, as fellow saints with us, many whom we ignore. Save us from our earthbound judgments, that we may look up and be guided by the star that draws all people to yourself. Awed by your forgiving presence, we fall down to worship you. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

PROCLAMATION

ANTHEM

“All Things New”
 Beverly Zimmer, Vocalist

Robert J. Hughes

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12 (The Inclusive Bible)

¹After Jesus’ Birth – which happened in Bethlehem of Judea, during the reign of Herod – astrologers from the East arrived in Jerusalem ²and asked, “Where is the newborn ruler of the Jews? We observed his star at its rising and have come to pay homage.” ³At this news Herod became greatly disturbed, as did all of Jerusalem. ⁴Summoning all the chief priests and religious scholars of the people, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

⁵“In Bethlehem of Judea,” they informed him. “Here is what the prophet has written:

⁶“And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, since from you will come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.””

⁷Herod called the astrologers aside and found out from them the exact time of the star’s appearance. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, after having instructed them, “Go and get detailed information about the child. When you have found him, report back to me – so that I may go and offer homage, too.”

⁹After their audience with the ruler, they set out. The star which they had observed at its rising went ahead of them until it came to a standstill over the place where the child lay. ¹⁰They were overjoyed at seeing the star and, ¹¹upon entering the house, found the child with Mary, his mother. They prostrated themselves and paid homage. Then they opened their coffers and presented the child with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

¹²They were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, so they went back to their own country by another route.

Older translations of this passage describe the Star of Bethlehem as being “in the East,” which created an inconsistency in that the Magi, coming from “the East” could not have followed a star “in the East” and ended up in Palestine. We now understand that in astrological terms, the East can also mean at the time when a heavenly body first appears on the horizon. So modern translations often use the phrase, “at its rising.”

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

SERMON

“Open the Gifts!”

Pastor Dave

RESPONSE

PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS

ONE: God is good!

ONE: All the time!

ALL: 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

“Noel for the Flutes”

Louis Claude D’ Aquin

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

❖ DOXOLOGY

tune: *Lasst uns erfreuen*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praise God the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

❖ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

*This morning we will share the bread and cup by intinction. Starting from the front pews, please move to the center aisle (forming two lines) and come to the front. Take a piece of bread and dip it into the cup. Please return to your seat via the side aisles. If you wish to be served in your pew, please raise your hand as communion is being served. *A **gluten free option is available.***

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father 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.

❖ CLOSING HYMN

“Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life”

Hymnal 331

The candles are extinguished. God’s Spirit remains as a living flame in the hearts of God’s people.

❖ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“He is Born”

Douglas E. Wagner

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, January 6

9:00 am Sunday School
9:00 am Adult Spiritual Formation
10:00 am Worship: Communion
Special Music: Beverly Zimmer
11:00 am 7-12th Grade Ice Skating
12:30 pm Matu Bethel Church
12:30 pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church

Tuesday, January 8

11:00 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, January 9

5:30 pm Worship Team
5:30 pm Spaghetti Dinner
5:30 pm SOS Choir
6:15 pm Adult Handbells
6:45 pm Confirmation Class
7:00 pm Adult Choir
7:30 pm AA

Thursday, January 10

10:00 am CCPE
7:00 pm Leadership Team

Saturday, January 12

1:00 pm Private Group
4:30 pm Private Lessons
3:00 pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church
6:00 pm Matu Bethel Church

Upcoming Sundays

Sunday, January 13

9:00 am Sunday School
9:00 am Adult Spiritual Formation
10:00 am Worship
Special Music: Adult Handbells & Adult Choir
11:00 am Budget Q&A
12:30 pm Matu Bethel Church
12:30 pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church
5:30 pm Simply Smiles: Movie Night

Sunday, January 20

9:00 am Sunday School
9:00 am Adult Spiritual Formation
10:00 am Worship
Special Music: Raggedy Band & Adult Choir
12:30 pm Matu Bethel Church
12:30 pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church

7-12th Youth to Brenton Skating Plaza

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

Today the youth will be heading out to Brenton Skating Plaza about noon. Lunch is provided after worship in Fellowship Hall. 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.

Sunday School & Adult Spiritual Formation 9:00-9:45 am

Preschool to 5th grade will meet in the Sanctuary for Singing w/ Bobby & Alex from 9-9:10 am then up to the Upper Ed Wing for Bible Study Time.

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6-12th graders will meet in the NW corner of Fellowship Hall

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Adult Spiritual Formation (ASF) ~ 9:00-9:45am in Fellowship Hall:

This Week: Simply Smiles Mission Trip Information to Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Reservation in South Dakota; Presenters: Rev. Amy Murray & Simply Smiles Participants

Next Week: 2019 Budget Presentation; Presenter: Leadership Team

ANNUAL BUDGET PROCESS, 2019

Sunday, January 13th

- Adult Spiritual Formation: Informational session about the 2019 Budget.
- Q&A Session after worship

Sunday, January 27th

- The Annual Congregational Budget Meeting to vote on the 2019 Budget.
- Meeting and Luncheon in Fellowship Hall following worship.

Lunch will be provided. *There will be vegetarian and gluten free options.

**Childcare will also be provided.

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!

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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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
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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
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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.