January 7, 2018

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY ~ BAPTISM OF CHRIST
The Liturgical color for Epiphany is white, representing holiness, purity, light and revelation.

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 will love the light for it shows me the way, yet I will endure the darkness because it shows me the stars.” ~ Og Mandino

TIME OF FRIENDSHIP
ANNOUNCEMENTS
PRELUDE
\textit{“Noel” for The Flute Stops} 
Claude d’Aguin

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES \textit{The Magi are brought forward to complete our nativity display.}

\begin{itemize}
  \item This symbol invites the congregation to stand in body or spirit
\end{itemize}

\textbf{CALL TO PRAISE AND PRAYER}

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textbf{ONE:} People of God, your path has brought you into the presence of the Holy One, so that you may know Truth.
  \item \textbf{ALL:} We long for understanding, for clarity about who we are and where we belong, for assurance of what the future holds.
  \item \textbf{ONE:} People of God, your past has made you who you are, and in spite of painful experiences and losses, you are better for it.
  \item \textbf{ALL:} We long for wisdom and forgiveness, so that we may be at peace with ourselves and with our God.
  \item \textbf{ONE:} People of God, your longings are a gift! Without out them, you would not continue the journey, or search for the unknown, or be in relationships!
  \item \textbf{ALL:} We will keep scanning the heavens, keep listening for the Good News, keep moving toward God’s Realm! Praise God for our discontent!
\end{itemize}
PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, we confess to you that we are content to live in isolation and ignorance. We think of compassion as something that is optional or someone else’s responsibility. We like the warmth of holiday gatherings and festivities, but don’t want to think about the ramifications of living the reality of “God with Us.” Help us to face the reality of human callousness and the extent of human suffering that is all around us. Remind us that we have your light and your spirit to enable us to find our way. Show us how to be compassionate and wise and generous as we go about our daily lives. We ask in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

PROCLAMATION

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.

While traditions have specified the number and names of the “Wise Ones” (magikos, in the Greek), we don’t know how many there were, or their land of origin, although Media (Persia) would fit the few indicators we have. The study of the stars was thought to have practical application as comets and planets and stars were considered to be indicators of earthly changes, such as the rise and fall of rulers and empires. The Magi would have been a little bit each of scientist, philosopher, alchemist, trader, political analyst, and astrologer. They would have definitely been members of the upper class in their homeland.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

SERMON “Seeing Stars” Pastor Dave
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 “O Little Town of Bethlehem” Paul Manz

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

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DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God the source of all our gifts!
Praise God, all creatures here below; Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
               Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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PRAYER OF DEDICATION

ANTHEM “Remember Me” R. Kevin Boesiger
          Adult Choir

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.

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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.

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Masters in This Hall” Edward Broughton

Please reshelve the hymnals and put this used Bulletin in the recycle basket.
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...Louise Haney...Diann Miller
And our dear ones: Alma Sims...Verna LeVar...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 Monday, 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 UUCC

Sunday, January 7
10:00 am Worship: Communion
Special Music: Adult Choir
11:15 am 4th-6th Grade OWL
11:15 am Youth Group Ice Skating
12:30 pm Matu Bethel Church
12:30 pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church

Wednesday, January 10
5:30 pm Spaghetti Dinner
WNA:
6:30 pm Adult Bells
6:45 pm 7th-9th Grade OWL
7:00 pm Adult Choir
7:00 pm AA

Monday, January 8
6:00 pm Green Boat Crew

Tuesday, January 9
11:00 am Staff Meeting

Thursday, January 11
7:00 pm Leadership Team

Saturday, January 13
9:00 am Bowtie Boyz
1:00 pm Private Group
3:00 pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church
6:00 pm Matu Bethel Church

Upcoming Sundays

Sunday, January 14
10:00 am Worship
Special Music: Adult Choir
11:15 am 4th-6th Grade OWL
12:30 pm Matu Bethel Church
12:30 pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church

Sunday, January 21
10:00 am Worship
Special Music: Adult Choir
11:15 am 4th-6th Grade OWL
12:30 pm Matu Bethel Church
12:30 pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church

NEW MEMBER CLASSES
New member classes begin this week. We will gather in Fellowship Hall at 9 am, and move to a Sunday School room. We will also meet on January 14th, 21st, and 28th. See Jon Greising or Pastor Dave for details.

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3-6th & 7-12th YOUTH GROUPS TO BRENTON SKATING PLAZA
Youth group will be going ice skating today! 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. As always please see Amy if financial support is needed.

We also need a few parents to help drive us over and stay with the youth. Let Rev. Amy know if you are able to provide support. Please pick up your youth at 2pm from Brenton Skating Plaza.

**Rev. Amy will be teaching 4-6th grade OWL that afternoon. Parents are needed to drive kids downtown. Any 3-6th grade youth may still attend after OWL class at 12:30.
Our Whole Lives 4-6th Grade Class
January 7th to March 4th from 11:15-12:30pm

Today we start our 4th-6th grade OWL class. This first class is for BOTH parents and youth. We will stay in Fellowship Hall to accommodate us. The rest of our classes are for youth and will meet in the NW classroom off the kitchen. Lunch will be provided every week.

We will learn about our wonderful bodies, safe and healthy touch, families, birth of a baby, and our feelings. Our parents will even learn how to be an “Askable Parent” and have the opportunity to participate in a small group with other 4-6th grade parents.

Please let Rev. Amy, Bonita Wiley or Mary Minard know if you are interested and sign a permission form for your child to participate. We are excited to share in this amazing opportunity with you!

Sunday School, Emerging Adults & ASF 9:00-9:45 am

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

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

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

Today: 2018 Budget Presentation, Presenter: Leadership Team
Next Week: Travels Abroad, Presenter: Suzanne Sontag

This January 15, 2018 (MLK Day of Service), 9am - 2pm, we will be collecting items for the Urbandale Food Pantry at the Urbandale Public Library, 3520 86th St. Please bring new personal care items; new winter scarves, hats, and baby blankets (especially handmade); monetary gifts; and new food items.

This is the 10th year for our MLK Day of Service event collecting items and funds for the Urbandale Food Pantry. This may be the last year for this event, so we would like to set records of donations this time!

For more information, please visit: http://www.ImagineEnough.com or email Jane at knittingcare@gmail.com

Newcomers’ Gathering
Thursday, January 18th from 7-8 p.m. at the home of Sandy Dixon.
Address: 6804 Del Matro, Windsor Heights, 50324
RSVP to Maryellen Knowles, 515-661-3302 or maryellenknowles@hotmail.com.

Dinner with Friends
Friday, January 19th at 6:30 pm
This month’s we will be meeting at Bubba, 200 10th St, Des Moines. If you’d like to join others for dinner at Bubba, or if you have questions, please contact Jeff Sontag at jvisualize@aol.com or (515) 554-2533 by Wednesday, January 17, so that reservations can be made.

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.
URBANDALE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

3530 70th Street, Urbandale, IA  50322        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.”

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,
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Tony Dillon-Hansen........................................................................
  Student Pastor

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 Officers:
Moderator......................................................Tom Rendon ..............moderator@urbucc.org
Vice-Moderator........................................Mary Edwards ...............vicemoderator@urbucc.org
Treasurer .............................................Charlene Hjort ...............charlene.hjort@urbucc.org
Financial Secretary ..............................Karen Capps-Davis ..........karen.capps-davis@urbucc.org
Recording Secretary ....................................Bridget Edwards ..........uuccrecorder@urbucc.org

Teams:
Building & Grounds .............................................................. B&G.team@urbucc.org
Christian Growth ..........................................................amy.murray@urbucc.org
Membership Team ..........................................................membership.team@urbucc.org
Social Media Team .......................................................social.media@urbucc.org
Worship & Music ......................................................Paul Johnson ..............paul.johnson@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),
515-720-6389 (cell phone) or david.sickelka@urbucc.org.