



*Urbandale  
United  
Church of  
Christ*

*A Just Peace and Open and Affirming congregation*



*(photo by Maryellen Knowles)*

## *March 2018~The CALL*

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*For pastoral care, please contact Pastor Dave at 276-0625 (church office),  
720-6389 (cell phone) or [david.sickelka@urbucc.org](mailto:david.sickelka@urbucc.org).*

## *Ponderings from Your Pastor*

*For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (I Corinthians 1:18, The New Revised Standard Bible)*

I have talked to a number of pastors, some of whom have been at this a lot longer than I, and no one can remember Easter falling on April Fools' Day before. I am sure it must have, but it must have been a long time ago. This is partly because the date of Easter is a combination of lunar and solar calendars, (It is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring equinox) and partly because the days of the month rotate through the days of the week, so while Easter frequently falls on the first Sunday of April, the first Sunday of April is not often April first. So for the two to coincide, the stars have to align (Well, a star and a moon anyway).

Given that this may be a once in a lifetime opportunity, I can tell you that the temptation to make hay out of this co-incidence of the sacred and secular significance of the day is enormous! I imagine opening my sermon with a reference to Jesus being in the tomb and then a hearty, "April Fools!" I picture myself coming in to the sanctuary wearing one of my Jester hats (I have two...long story) and gamboling about the place making wise cracks. Or maybe we can sing the song, *Barney Google*, a classic from the roaring twenties about a hapless character and his horse, Sparkplug, who could never get anything right. But I worry that any of these options will keep people from appropriating the really important message about the day (Easter, not April Fools).

The message about the cross, as I see it, is that what the world sees as defeat and death, God undoes with grace and new life. By conventional wisdom, we should do everything we can to avoid death and destruction, but the consequences of buying in to that logic is that we are often undone by our own fears, either frozen in the face of threats, or fooled into taking a course of action that is not going to lead us to what we know is the right path.

The foolishness, from the world's perspective, is that those who follow Jesus would embrace what seems to be the worst possible course of action – that we would take the side of those who have no power, no voice, no resources, and no chance of success. How can we hope to make a difference in the world unless we adopt the world's ways of dealing with problems? But our witness is that power comes in many forms and from many quarters. There is power in the testimony of a parent who loves their child. There is power in the example of someone who makes a great sacrifice for someone they barely know. There is power in a lot of people pooling their resource to accomplish an enormous task. In John's Gospel, after Jesus raises Lazarus and then rides in procession into Jerusalem, to the adulation of great crowds, the Pharisees realize that their power has evaporated. "You see, you can do nothing," they say to each other. "The world has gone after him." (John 12:19)

Maybe it's a good thing to have Easter on April Fools' Day once in a while. It will keep us from thinking that the power of resurrection conforms to the world's idea of what power is. It can be a reminder for us, that sometimes, the way to new life is a path that is utterly ridiculous and completely foolhardy. May we all be so foolish!

Amen!

## **Urbandale UCC Vision Statement**

Part of the Strategic Plan that we adopted in 2015 calls for us to change the way that we do budgeting in our congregation. We are challenged to move toward a process that will generate a Narrative Budget. This would be a budget that is based on our mission priorities and while we would still have line items to guide our stewardship of resources, the starting point would be the mission priorities of our congregation in any given year. In order to start with those priorities, we need to have a vision to move toward and some concrete foundations that can support it. So the Leadership Team has recommended the following Vision Statement, which you might recognize as coming from our Mission Covenant. It is supported by “pillars” that are lifted out of our Strategic Plan. We hope that you will pray over this and discuss this with others and let us know what you think. We will give it our consideration at our congregational meeting in May.

### **VISION STATEMENT:**

**We empower ourselves, our children, and one another to be fully present in the world, as we live in Christ’s image and strive for justice and peace.**

**The pillars of our vision include:**

**Community** – people are engaged, relationships are nurtured, and diversity is embraced.

**Education** – everyone has opportunity for learning and practice integrated throughout all aspects of our life together.

**Leadership** – Spiritual gifts are identified and utilized, and a culture of volunteering is fostered.

**Social Justice** – Spiritual depth propels us into the world to live out justice and create God’s Realm on earth.

**Worship** – the worship experience is engaging, meaningful, creative, innovative and active.

## **oneiowa 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala Celebration**

Our church will once again sponsor a table at the One Iowa Annual Gala Celebration. We are looking for 10 individuals for this 2018 event, which is also the 25th anniversary of our faith community’s vote to be Open and Affirming. The One Iowa event will include dinner, live music, silent and live auctions, and an awards ceremony honoring the work our state’s advocates for LGBTQ equality have accomplished this year. All proceeds from the Gala support

One Iowa’s mission to preserve and advance equality for LGBTQ Iowans. The event is on Friday evening April 13th at the Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center. Contact John Chaplin at [john.chaplin@urbucc.org](mailto:john.chaplin@urbucc.org) for additional details and cost.



## Children & Youth News

### **Silent Auction Success!**

Thank you to all of you who created such fun baskets and placed bids! We had a wonderful reception and raised **\$1120!** Proceeds go to our Campership & Youth Event Fund to continue our mission of paying 50% of the fee for each participant.

### **4-6<sup>th</sup> Our Whole Lives Recognition Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>**

Please join us in worship on March 4<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate our very first 4-6<sup>th</sup> OWL Class. Our youth will lead us in worship and share their experiences. We look forward to celebrating and hope you will join us for a light reception after church in Fellowship Hall.

### **March 4<sup>th</sup> Iowa Wolves Faith & Family Night at Wells Fargo Arena**

This event will take the place of our monthly youth group meetings for both the 3-6<sup>th</sup> and 7-12<sup>th</sup> youth groups. Everyone is invited to join us for Faith & Family Night on Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 3pm. **Youth tickets are FREE** thanks to our youth fund. Parents/adults need to pay **\$12 which includes your ticket and a food voucher for a hot dog, popcorn and chips.** There is also a post-game, faith-based concert that we can stay for after the game.



**Tickets have already been ordered however there are a few extra tickets left.** Please pick up your tickets ASAP and pay Rev. Amy. This has been a fun event in the past and we hope you can join us!

### **Regional Youth Event Informational Meeting Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**

CALLING ALL YOUTH WHO HAVE COMPLETED 6<sup>TH</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup> GRADES! RYE is an event for UCC and Disciples of Christ (DOC) youth that will include dynamic worship, hands on mission experience, small group faith explorations, inspirational music by Convergence Music Project and an opportunity for all to explore how to put their faith into action! We will have a **BRIEF informational meeting Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>** following worship in Fellowship Hall for youth and families interested in attending RYE at Grinnell College June 19-22, 2018. We will discern our interest, discuss fundraising options and other logistics. Please let Rev. Amy know if your youth is interested. Registration is already open, so we need to commit and register by early May to secure our spots.



## Pilgrim Heights Summer Camp 2018 Goes Beyond Belief!

*"I praise you, for I am fearfully and  
wonderfully made.*

*Wonderful are your works; that I know very well." Psalm 139:14*



The 2018 Pilgrim Heights Summer Camp Registrations and Brochures ARE IN! Please grab your copy from the table in the narthex, our Facebook page or church website. Remember, in order to receive 50% off please turn in your registration in to Rev. Amy and **allow for 2 weeks for the check to be made and mailed in to Pilgrim Heights.** There is an **EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT** this year in addition to UUCC's ability to pay 50% of the camp fee.

### **SUPER EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT**

Save \$35 if registration is turned in to Rev. Amy by March 18<sup>th</sup>

### **EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT**

Save \$25 if registration is turned in to Rev. Amy by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **Cookie Donations for Sunday School**

Please consider donating 3-4 dozen cookies to our Sunday school program. The cookie sign-up is available in the narthex. Please have them to the kitchen by 9am for our beloved cookie volunteers, Janet Dirks and Diann Miller to pass out. Thanks for your support and tasty treats. Our youth and volunteers appreciate it!

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
URBANDALE UCC's  
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
ROLLING RIVER RAMPAGE  
SUNDAY, JULY 8-  
THURSDAY, JULY 12<sup>TH</sup>  
5:30PM-8PM



## Sunday School~9:00-9:45 am

**Preschool-5th grade** will be meeting in the Sanctuary from 9-9:10am for songs led by Bobby Stinnett. Youth will then go to the Upper Education Wing with Emily Gibbens, Nicole Berger and parent volunteers to further engage in the weekly Bible story through games and crafts.

**6-12th graders** will meet in the NW corner of Fellowship Hall with Laura Fefchak and Jennifer Gardner.

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

**March 4:** Pass the Love: Youth/School Mental Health Initiative  
Presenter: Jennifer Ulie-Wells, Executive Director

Please Pass the Love is committed to increasing school-based mental health supports to improve the quality of life and educational opportunities for children, families, and educators as well as offer culturally responsive comprehensive services and evidence-based supports to school systems. We strive to bridge positive relationships between the educational and mental health communities to more effectively prevent and address mental health issues for our children and adolescents throughout the state of Iowa. For more information please visit: [www.pleasepassthelove.org](http://www.pleasepassthelove.org)

**March 11:** SPRING BREAK NO ASF/SS

**March 18:** Coptic Christian Faith & Community  
Presenter: Dr. Emad Shenouda, an Urbandale Ophthalmologist  
Dr. Shenouda immigrated from Egypt decades ago, is a leading member of the St. Mary Coptic Orthodox Church. He will talk about the Coptic faith and community.

**March 25:** TBD

## Wednesday Night Alive Schedule

6:30-7:00 ... Adult Bells (Sr. High & up)  
7:00-8:30 ... Adult Choir (Sr. High-Adults)

If your child is not in one of the scheduled activities, please honor the safety policy and supervise him/her so that children are not left unattended in the building. **No childcare unless requested.**

# March 2018 Who... What... Where... When...

	<b>March 4 Communion</b>	<b>March 11</b>	<b>March 18</b>	<b>March 25</b>
<b>Scripture</b>	<b>John 2:13-22</b>	<b>John 3:14-21</b>	<b>John 12:20-33</b>	<b>TBD</b>
<b>Preaching</b>	Pastor Dave	Pastor Dave	Pastor Dave	Tony Dillon-Hansen
<b>Liturgist</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Grade OWL	SMI	TBD	TBD
<b>Music Leadership</b>	Adult Choir	Adult Bells Adult Choir	Raggedy Band Adult Choir	Adult Choir
<b>Ushers &amp; Greeters</b>	Paul Johnson Fred Breen Jeff Couch Bob Harding	Jim Nervig Adam Dirks Diane Gladson John Young	Bob Shoemaker Diane Shoemaker Walter Rehberg Barbara Rehberg	Sharon Johnson Kathy Marean Margaret Christian Wayne Waage
<b>Acolytes</b>	Berger Family	Ryan Nussbaum	Jerry & Dianne Woods	McCord Family
<b>Nursery</b>	Anjy Allen Susan Joynt	Anjy Allen Susan Joynt	Anjy Allen TBD	Anjy Allen Deb Beery
<b>Opening the Church</b>	Mark Siegel	Jeff Couch	Mark Siegel	Jerry Woods
<b>Offering Recorders</b>	Chris Jordan Ruth Rasmussen	Taena Fowler Carla Briggs	Steve Chandler Taena Fowler	Kathleen Trujillo Roush Jeff Couch
<b>Sound Booth</b>	Jon Duvick	Scott Gardner	Scott Gardner	Scott Gardner

**April 2018 CALL DEADLINE:  
Friday, March 16**



# Events & Activities

March 2018

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 25	26	27	28	Mar 1	2	3 <div> <div>9:00am Boytie Boyz</div> <div>3:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church</div> <div>5:00pm Private Lessons</div> <div>6:00pm Matu Bethel Church</div> </div>
4 <div> <div>9:00am Sunday School &amp; ASF</div> <div>10:00am Worship: Communion &amp; Recognition 4-6th Grade OWL</div> <div>11:00am Reception: 4th-6th Grade OWL</div> <div>12:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal</div> <div>12:30pm Matu Bethel Church</div> </div>	5	6 <div> <div>1:00am Polling Place</div> <div>11:00am Staff Meeting</div> </div>	7 <div> <div>6:00pm WNA</div> <div>6:00pm Lent Vespers Service</div> <div>6:00pm Worship Team</div> <div>7:30pm AA</div> </div>	8 <div> <div>7:00pm Leadership Team</div> </div>	9	10 <div> <div>1:00pm Private Group</div> <div>3:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church</div> <div>6:00pm Matu Bethel Church</div> </div>
11 <div> <div>10:00am Worship</div> <div>12:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal</div> <div>12:30pm Matu Bethel Church</div> </div>	12 <div> <div>6:00pm Green Boat</div> </div>	13 <div> <div>11:00am Staff Meeting</div> </div>	14 <div> <div>9:30am Caregivers</div> <div>5:30pm Spaghetti Dinner</div> <div>6:00pm Lent Vespers Service</div> <div>7:30pm AA</div> </div>	15 <div> <div>7:00pm Newcomers' Gathering</div> </div>	16 <div> <div>Men's Retreat</div> <div>6:30pm Dinner w/ Friends</div> </div>	17 <div> <div>Pilgrim Heights</div> <div>3:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church</div> <div>6:00pm Matu Bethel Church</div> </div>
18 <div> <div>9:00am Sunday School &amp; ASF</div> <div>10:00am Worship</div> <div>12:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal</div> <div>12:30pm Matu Bethel Church</div> </div>	19 <div> <div>6:00pm Book Club</div> </div>	20 <div> <div>11:00am Staff Meeting</div> </div>	21 <div> <div>6:00pm WNA</div> <div>6:00pm Lent Vespers Service</div> <div>6:00pm WNA: Food Pantry Night</div> <div>7:30pm AA</div> </div>	22	23	24 <div> <div>9:00am Private Lessons</div> <div>3:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church</div> <div>6:00pm Matu Bethel Church</div> </div>
25 <div> <div>9:00am Sunday School &amp; ASF</div> <div>10:00am Worship</div> <div>12:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal</div> <div>12:30pm Matu Bethel Church</div> </div>	26	27 <div> <div>6:30pm Scouts</div> </div>	28 <div> <div>6:00pm WNA</div> <div>6:00pm Lent Vespers Service</div> <div>7:30pm AA</div> </div>	29 <div> <div>Maundy Thursday</div> <div>6:00pm Maundy Thursday Service</div> </div>	30 <div> <div>Good Friday</div> </div>	31 <div> <div>Holy Saturday</div> <div>9:00am Bowtie Boyz</div> <div>3:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church</div> <div>6:00pm Matu Bethel Church</div> </div>





## More than we can imagine!

*Imagine all the people living life in peace (John Lennon)*

Catching breaking stories on a Twitter feed. Opening a newspaper. Listening to the news. So much information coming at us so fast...and most of it bad news. Hunger. Sickness. Injustice. It is easy to feel overwhelmed when we look at all the areas of need in God's world. Being overwhelmed leads us to feel trapped by homelessness and fear. What can we really do? How can we have an impact?

John Lennon tells us to imagine a better world: without borders, without dualistic theology, without conflict, without possessions. "It's easy," he tells us, "if you try." Nothing happens without imagining it first, so why not make that image more wonderful than we dare? But centuries earlier the Apostle Paul wrote, "By the power at work within us" God is able to "accomplish abundantly more than we can ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20). Paul takes imagination one step further. What actually happens after we imagine it is something more than what we thought it would be. Think about that: God is able to go beyond what we can even dream about. Imagine that!

Wishing and dreaming of a better world means nothing if we don't realize that God gives us community—this very church—to practice love and compassion. But then we are invited to carry that love and compassion out into a world that is waiting for us. Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) provide an easy way ("if you try") to do more than we imagine, like supporting refugees, lending aid to victims of natural disaster, helping poor communities grow food and dig wells, educating children and empowering leaders. OGHS is the original practitioner of the idea that you don't give someone a fish, you teach them to fish. OGHS is about giving hope and possibility and a future. It is about sowing faith in others to imagine a better world, and letting God provide more than they imagined.

On Sunday, March 11, Urbandale UCC will be collecting our One Great Hour of Sharing offering, our chance to throw a pebble in an ocean of sorrow and watch the ripples grow into waves crashing on distant shores. Please give generously and joyfully. We literally cannot imagine what difference it will make. OGHS is more than we can imagine!



### **March Food Pantry**

Hopefully spring is around the corner and everyone has a garden planting on their minds. The UFP or DMARC are still in need of your assistance. **This month's need is toothbrushes.** As always, canned goods and cash donations will be very welcome. Please make checks to Urbandale UCC with "Food Pantry" in the memo line. Thanks for all you give!



## TEAM MEETINGS IN MARCH

- Saturday, March 3<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am- Boytie Boyz
- Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm- Worship Team
- Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm- Leadership Team
- Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm- Green Boat Crew
- Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm- Newcomers' Gathering
- Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm- "Dinner w/ Friends"
- Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup> to Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>- Men's Retreat
- Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm- Book Club

\* \* \* \* \*

## MARCH BOOK CLUB

Book Club will be meeting Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 pm at Beaverdale Books, 2629 Beaver Ave. This month's book is, "You Don't Have to Say You Love Me" by Sherman Alexie.

*"Family relationships are never simple. But Sherman Alexie's bond with his mother Lillian was more complex than most...She wanted a better life for her son, but it was only by leaving her behind that he could hope to achieve it. Lillian Alexie a beautiful, mercurial, abusive, intelligent, complicated, and very human woman."*

*"When she passed away, the incongruities that defined his mother shook Sherman and his remembrance of her. YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY YOU LOVE ME is a powerful, deeply felt account of a complicated relationship."*

Please join us if you enjoy reading and chatting about books.

\* \* \* \* \*

## "DINNER W/ FRIENDS"

In March "Dinner with Friends" is meeting up at Mi Patria at 1410 22nd St. WDSM on Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm.

*"Mi Patria has a Latin atmosphere with Ecuadorian ornaments and music. Within a year of its opening, Mi Patria has been recognized for its quality of food and excellent service."*

Check them out at [mipatriaecuador.com](http://mipatriaecuador.com)

If you would like to join us for dinner, please rsvp Jeff Sontag at [jvisualize@aol.com](mailto:jvisualize@aol.com) or 515-554-2533 by Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> so that reservations can be made.

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## GREEN BOAT CREW UPDATE

How is our church doing in meeting its goal of reducing carbon pollution from the building 50% by 2030? We are at 13%--not quite as good as last year. Although our electrical use went down slightly, our gas use went up 20%! Although we can't change the temperature outside, we can take care to only use heat in the rooms used, and to **reset the thermostats** to "Run Program" when we're done.

Instead of hiring someone to develop a feasibility study/plan, we decided to first implement the many energy efficiency items from the MidAmerican audit—which we hope will show up in next year's numbers. We have also been very busy exploring options for solar panels.

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.”*

### ***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](http://www.facebook.com/UrbandaleUCC).*

### **SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE—Winter**

9:00 am - Sunday School

10:00 am - Worship

The Rev. David P. Sickelka, Senior Pastor.....[david.sickelka@urbucc.org](mailto:david.sickelka@urbucc.org)

The Rev. Amy Murray, Ministry Program Coordinator ..... [amy.murray@urbucc.org](mailto:amy.murray@urbucc.org)

Steven Linn, Music Program Director ..... [steven.linn@urbucc.org](mailto:steven.linn@urbucc.org)

Bobby Stinnett, M.M., Organist,

Children/Youth Choirs and Handbells Director ..... [bobby.stinnett@urbucc.org](mailto:bobby.stinnett@urbucc.org)

Sophiap Eng-Swanson, Office Coordinator.....[staff@urbucc.org](mailto:staff@urbucc.org)

Sadmir & Umihana Omerhodzic, Custodians.....[sadmir.omerhodzic@urbucc.org](mailto:sadmir.omerhodzic@urbucc.org)

John Chaplin

Adjunct Minister for LGBTQ Concerns & Community Outreach .....[john.chaplin@urbucc.org](mailto:john.chaplin@urbucc.org)

Tony Dillon-Hansen

Student Pastor ..... [tony.dillonhansen@urbucc.org](mailto:tony.dillonhansen@urbucc.org)

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