



May CALL



Sunday, May 13: **High School Graduate, Sunday School Teacher
& Volunteer Recognition** (page 5)

Sunday, May 20: **Congregation Annual Meeting, Brunch & Ice Cream Social** (page 4)

In Addition: **Children & Youth News** (page 5)
Strengthen the Church Offering (page 10)
Small Groups (page 11)

Ponderings from Your Pastor

A voice told him, "Get up, Peter! Kill and eat!" Peter exclaimed, "Absolutely not, Lord! I have never eaten anything impure or unclean." The voice spoke a second time, "Never consider unclean what God has made pure." (Acts 10:13-15, The Common English Bible)

The vision of Peter on his way to see Cornelius is one of the most compelling arguments for the inclusion of believers who do not fit the mold of what good upstanding church people ought to be. So on the 25th anniversary of our decision to be Open and Affirming, I thought it would be appropriate to include it in my monthly article. While our congregation was ahead of the curve on fully including LGBTQ folk, we still have work to do and still have attitudes that get in the way of fully including those whom God loves.

The rest of my space in this month's edition of *The Call* is devoted to an excerpt from *Bits of History at Urbandale United Church of Christ*. (pp 62-63) "Urbandale UCC's Open and Affirming (ONA) process unofficially began sometime in 1989, when a man with AIDS asked Rev. de Jong if she would help him die. Many in the congregation got to know this man through praying and caring for him. He put a human face on the AIDS issue.

"The Long-Range Planning Committee described as one of its recommended goals in its Report issued in Early 1990: 'We recommend that this church engage in a process of education and dialogue to become an Open and Affirming Congregation.' In the several months following the congregational vote accepting the Committee's Report, adult education sessions were held on issues including the spectrum of human sexuality, gay/lesbian experience in the church, and AIDS. The Community Concerns Board supported and helped co-sponsor various programs and conferences in the community relating to gay and lesbian issues.

"In the Spring of 1991, ONA activities slowed as several people in the church already thought the church was an open and affirming church. By this time, a few gay and lesbian people had joined or were worshipping at our church regularly.

"In January 1993, several adult educational sessions were planned by the task force and sponsored by the Church Council, including speakers such as Rev. Chuck Briem, Associate Conference Minister; Rev. Don Gall, Conference Minister; Sylvia Thorsen-Smith, a member of the Presbyterian's committee on human sexuality; and Rev. Rosemary Iha and two lay persons from Faith UCC in Iowa City, the first UCC church in Iowa to formally become ONA.

"Following the adult education sessions, the Community Concerns Board recommended to the Council, and the Council voted, to present an ONA resolution to the congregation. The resolution modified the language in the church's existing Mission Statement. The pertinent paragraph as modified read:

'We covenant to be a community that remains open to the challenges of the Christian faith. We welcome into this community of faith and affirm the participation in all aspects of church life, persons of every age, race, gender, 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.

“On May 16, 1993, the congregation voted to become an ONA church by a vote of 101 yes, 2 no, and 2 abstentions. After the vote, the congregation gathered in a circle around the altar and sang ‘Amazing Grace.’ Urbandale UCC was the 103rd church to become ONA in our denomination.”

I hope you will plan to join us in celebrating this important milestone in our history. The following special events are in the works:

May 6, Pulpit Exchange with Ames UCC. The Rev. Eileen Gebbie preaching

May 13, Anniversary Service. Andy Lang, Executive Director of the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ preaching.

May 20, Wrap-up with greetings from area LGBTQ agencies.

May we all continue the work of overcoming the things that divide us! Amen!

Pastor Dave

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.

Annual Meeting of the UUCC Congregation

May 20th immediately following worship

We will elect officers, hear reports and make plans for the next program year!

The Leadership team will be arranging for the entrée and sides. Please bring a desert to share. We are combining the annual meeting meal with the year-end ice cream social.

Annual Reports will be available beginning May 6th.

***Childcare will be available. ***

Volunteer Appreciation Ice Cream Social

Please join us Sunday, May 20th in Fellowship Hall for our Annual Meeting and Ice Cream Social to celebrate another year in ministry together. Have you served on a team, provided childcare, taught Sunday school, cleaned our church, prayed for our church family, made a joyful noise, knitted a prayer shawl, served in worship, prepared a potluck dish, supported a fundraiser or participated in the life of our church family? This is a time to reflect upon our ministries and celebrate one another. We look forward to seeing you there!

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Memorial Day Worship

For those of us who have endured losses, Memorial Day can be a time of healing and remembering. Please join us in worship on Sunday, May 27th for a special service honoring the memories of those who have died.

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Office is closed Monday, May 28th in observance of Memorial Day

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UUCC Membership in Iowa Interfaith Power & Light

Thanks to the folks at the Movie & Snacks event after church on April 15, Urbandale UCC has contributed \$270 to Iowa Interfaith Power and Light (IPL), and has become a Supporting Member. Iowa IPL's mission is to engage & equip people of faith to become leaders in addressing the environmental and social justice consequences of climate change. We also had a short, engaging discussion about the great movie, *The Wisdom to Survive: Climate Change, Capitalism & Community*.

CLASS of 2018

UUCC High School Graduates

Please join us in celebrating Ian Fefchak Robinson's graduation from Hoover High School!

Date: Saturday, May 19

Time: 10 am - 1 pm

Location: Des Moines Social Club - 900 Mulberry

Please join in celebrating Jonah Schaeffer's graduation from high school. Followed by a welcome celebration for the parents of our foreign exchange student, Bryan Ismael Del Rosario Mateo, from the Dominican Republic.

Date & Time: Saturday, May 19th from 6:00-8:00 pm

Location: Our home, 1108 NW Gabus Cir., Grimes

Join us to celebrate Seth Gardner's graduation from Roosevelt High School.

Date: Monday, May 28

Time: 3 PM - 6 PM

Location: Our home, 7305 Twana Dr., Urbandale



Children & Youth News

YOUTH GROUPS TO SET-UP FOR FAMILY PROMISE

Sunday, May 6th ~ 11am-1pm

Our final youth group event for the program year will be Sunday, May 6th following church. The 3-6th and 7-12th youth groups will work together with Family Promise volunteers to transform our space and get rooms ready for families we will host May 6th-13th. We will eat lunch following church and get to work! Families are encouraged to join us. **Please RSVP to Rev. Amy so we can plan for lunch.**

RECOGNITION OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES, SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS, YOUTH GROUP LEADERS AND VOLUNTEERS!

Please join us in worship on **Sunday, May 13th** when we honor our graduates as they embark on a new journey. We will also recognize our Sunday school teachers, childcare volunteers and youth leaders for another year supporting the faith formation of our children!

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.**



SAVE THE DATE!

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
ROLLING RIVER RAMPAGE
URBANDEALE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SUNDAY, JULY 8-THURSDAY, JULY 12TH
5:30PM-8PM**

VBS DONATIONS NEEDED

Please check out the donations needed for VBS located on the wall in the narthex available May 20th. **Please return items by June 10th so we have supplies for decorating days on June 16th and June 23rd from 9am-noon in Fellowship Hall.**

*****LARGE APPLIANCE BOXES NEEDED*****

Please consider donating 3-4 large refrigerator sized boxes and 3-4 washer/dryer sized boxes by June 10th.

VBS DECORATING DAYS

We need your help! Please mark your calendars for **June 16th and June 23rd from 9-noon in Fellowship Hall** to make decorations for VBS. We will have a list of items needed for each day and the supplies and instructions ready to go. Breakfast goodies will be provided.

URBANDALE 4TH OF JULY PARADE PLANNERS NEEDED!

"Honoring Our First Responders"

Wednesday, July 4th @ 10am

We need a few parade types interested in riding, walking, handing out candy, VBS fliers and two vehicles to carry it all! We need candy donations to pass out and will advertise our upcoming Vacation Bible School: Rolling River Rampage. The parade takes place at 10am from Old City Hall on 70th Street north to Aurora Ave. finishing at 82nd and Aurora. **Please see Rev. Amy with your interest by May 20th so we can sign-up and share UUCC with our community.**

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

Conversations about Race and Privilege

"Not everything that is faced can be changed but nothing can be changed until it is faced." -- James Baldwin

It can be uncomfortable to talk about race and difficult to see ourselves as privileged. Yet it is important and timely for us to begin. **Please mark your calendar for 9:00 AM on Sundays May 6th and 13th** as we start our own conversations about race and privilege during Adult Spiritual Formation. Using short videos, talking circles, books and articles, facilitators Paul Johnson and Diane Dornburg invite you to engage in safe, meaningful, personal and substantive conversations about race and privilege.

Wednesday Night Alive Schedule

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

UUC Congregation:

The Middle School youth are putting their faith into action for the remainder of the Sunday School program. We have chosen Days for Girls as our focus for this time. Watch for our display board in the Narthex showing what is in a menstrual care bag and what is needed to create the bags.

Days for Girls mission and vision: We're turning periods into pathways. Days for Girls increases access to menstrual care and education by developing global partnerships, cultivating social enterprises, mobilizing volunteers, and innovating sustainable solutions that shatter stigmas and limitations for women and girls. Together, we're creating a world with dignity, health, and opportunity for all. Our movement has reached more than one million girls — and counting (in 116+ countries)! With your help, we can reach Every Girl. Everywhere. Period.

We especially love that we can choose the recipient of the Days for Girls menstrual care bags. We are sending them to **ASAH (African Soul, American Heart)** girls currently attending school in Uganda. We have learned that menstrual cycles can disrupt girls' learning by keeping them from attending school. The care kits will allow girls to attend school and live life with dignity and respect.

*ASAH's mission is to **Protect, Educate, and Empower** orphaned girls from the Republic of South Sudan through primary school, secondary school, and beyond. ASAH **Protects** our students from forced and early marriage, from disease through vaccinations and medical care, and now, from the civil war. ASAH **Educates** our students in school subjects and practical life skills to prepare them to support themselves and their families in the future. ASAH **Empowers** our students to be leaders and to give back to their communities that they may help their troubled nation establish and maintain peace for all.*

We welcome your participation in Days for Girls. How can you help?

Join us on our work day(s) to be scheduled early this summer to trace patterns, cut fabric, sew, iron, assemble bags, provide snacks for volunteers, etc.

Donate needed items. The items are specific, so we created a wish list to help you. We also need travel size bars of soap and gallon size ziplock (no sliders) baggies.

Pray for our group and the volunteers that make Days for Girls and ASAH an important part of our global future!

Amazon shopping list link: <http://a.co/iCUIKfF>. Remember to use **smile.amazon.com** to shop so a donation goes to your favorite charity, too!

Thank you so much for your generosity in supporting UUC's Middle School youth in making the world a better place for all!

Together in Christ's Service,
Jennifer Gardner and Laura Fefchak
Middle School Youth

May 2018 Who... What... Where... When...

	May 6 Communion	May 13	May 20 Food Pantry	May 27
Scripture	Philippians 1:1-18	Genesis 18:1-8 Romans 15:5-7	John 15:26-27; 16:4-15	Romans 8:12-17
Preaching	The Rev. Eileen Gebbie	Andy Lang	Pastor Dave	Pastor Dave
Liturgist	TBD	John Chaplin	SMI	TBD
Music Leadership	Adult Choir	Adult Choir	Raggedy Band	Adult Choir
Ushers & Greeters	Jeff Couch Kara Renfrow Jeff Sontage Wendy Sontag	Adam Dirks Jim Nervig Diane Gladson	Diane Shoemaker Bob Shoemaker Wayne Waage Mark Siegel	Sharon Johnson Margaret Christian Dawn Halstead Diane Gladson
Acolytes	McCord Family	Murray Family	Deb Beery	TBD
Nursery	Anjy Allen Susan Joynt	Anjy Allen Susan Joynt	Ann & Elizabeth Mensing	Anjy Allen Deb Beery
Opening the Church	Chris Jordan	Jeff Couch	Mark Siegel	Jerry Woods
Offering Recorders	Chris Jordan Ruth Rasmussen	Taena Fowler Carla Briggs	Steve Chandler Mark Siegel	Kathleen Trujillo Roush Jeff Couch
Sound Booth	Jon Duvick	Scott Davis	Scott Gardner	Scott Gardner

**June 2018 CALL DEADLINE:
Wednesday, May 16**

Events & Activities

May 2018

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Apr 29	30	May 1	2	3	4	5
		11:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Scouts	6:00pm WNA 6:00pm Worship Team 7:30pm AA			8:00am Bowtie Boyz 3:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church 6:00pm Matu Bethel Church
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Family Promise Week						
9:00am Sunday School & ASF 10:00am Worship: Communion 12:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal 12:30pm Matu Bethel Church		11:00am Staff Meeting	9:30am Caregivers 5:30pm Spaghetti Dinner 6:00pm WNA 7:30pm AA	7:00pm Leadership Team		8:00am Bowtie Boys 1:00pm Private Group 3:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church 6:00pm Matu Bethel Church
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:00am Sunday School & ASF 10:00am Worship: Recognizing High School Grads, Sunday School Teachers & Volunteers 12:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal 12:30pm Matu Bethel Church		11:00am Staff Meeting	6:00pm WNA 6:00pm Urbandale Food Pantry Night 7:30pm AA	7:00pm Newcomers' Gathering	9:00am Private Training 6:30pm Dinner w/ Friends	9:00am Private Lessons 10:00am Ian Fefchak Robinson's Grad Party 3:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church 6:00pm Matu Bethel Church
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
10:00am Worship 11:00am Annual Meeting & Ice Cream Social 12:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal 12:30pm Matu Bethel Church	6:00pm Book Club	11:00am Staff Meeting	7:30pm AA		9:30am Private Meeting	3:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church 6:00pm Matu Bethel Church
27	28	29	30	31	Jun 1	2
10:00am Worship 12:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal 12:30pm Matu Bethel Church	OFFICE CLOSED--MEMORIAL DAY 3:00pm Seth Gardner's Grad Party	11:00am Staff Meeting	7:30pm AA			

The gifts God gave were...for building up the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11-12)

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

The Bible tells us that the church is the *body* of Christ. And yet we say that the body of Christ is also the body that was killed on a cross and that rose, as a body, from the grave. The Gospels seem to go out of their way to emphasize that the risen Jesus is not a ghost but a real body with the wounds of the earlier day. As we heard last month, Jesus even ate fish because he was hungry as a real person feels

stomach pangs (Luke 24:41-42). And then whenever we have Communion, we are told as we watch a real, molecular piece of bread, "This is my body." So what is this body that is talked about in so many different ways?

What the Bible is telling us is that matter matters. The body matters. The bread matters. The church matters. What is holy and precious and valuable and loved by God is our very flesh and bones. Matter matters. Whatever we think we are doing as a church with our worship services and potlucks and Vacation Bible School and providing a week's hospitality to people experiencing homelessness, it can never be separated from the physical reality of our bodies being somewhere, engaging in some action, reaching out and touching someone. God is telling us, what is physical is important.

So when we talk about the Strengthen the Church, and give money to "strengthen the church" we are providing real support to real people doing real things. The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. We will collect that offering on Pentecost (May 20th), as a birthday present on the birthday of the church. Your gifts last year helped start or sustain 24 new communities of faith. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

The Body of Christ, as the church, is then the real presence of Christ where that presence has not been discernable before. Therefore, the gifts you give are for building up the body of Christ. And that body is crucified today as it was long ago. And that body is raised up as it was long ago. And that body feels hunger as it did long ago. And that body needs your support, as Jesus relied on the support of His friends to give him a piece of fish and continue his ministry and presence is the days and years that followed. We still do that today. Support the Body of Christ with your gift to Strengthen the Church.



🍴 MAY FOOD PANTRY 🍴

School will be out shortly, and the kids will be home during the day 24/7! Toilet paper is an item used by all, young or old, and this month's personal

item is "toilet paper". Canned goods, diapers, and money donations are always needed. Checks can be made out to the church with UFP donation on the memo line. Hope you summer is grand!



MAY TEAM MEETINGS

- Wednesday, May 2 at 6:00 pm~ Worship Team
- Saturday, May 5 at 9:00 am~ Bowtie Boyz
- Wednesday, May 9 at 9:30 am~ Caregivers
- Thursday, May 10 at 7:00 pm~ Leadership Team
- Saturday, May 12 at 8:00 am~ Boytie Boyz
- Monday, May 21 at 6:00 pm~ Book Club

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BOOK CLUB will be meeting Monday, May 21st, 6:00 pm at Beaverdale Books, 2629 Beaver Ave. This month's book is, "LaRose: A Novel" by Louise Erdrich.

"North Dakota, late summer, 1999. Landreaux Iron stalks a deer along the edge of the property bordering his own. He shoots with easy confidence—but when the buck springs away, Landreaux realizes he's hit something else, a blur he saw as he squeezed the trigger. When he staggers closer, he realizes he has killed his neighbor's five-year-old son, Dusty Ravich.

Inspiring and affecting, LaRose is a powerful exploration of loss, justice, and the reparation of the human heart, and an unforgettable, dazzling tour de force from one of America's most distinguished literary masters."

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

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ADULT CHOIR

Last rehearsal is **May 16th**. We will be having a dessert potluck to end another great year!

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NEWCOMERS' GATHERING

Thursday, May 17th at 7:00 pm

We'd like to invite you as recent members to come for an informal social time at the home of Pastors Dave and Susan Sickelka for conversation and light refreshments. This is an opportunity for you to become better acquainted and meet some other people in our church community. Children are welcomed.

Sickelka's

3846 3rd St, Des Moines, 50313

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"DINNER W/ FRIENDS"

Friday, May 18th at 6:30 pm

This month we will be dining at La Cuscatleca, 1832 Hubbell Ave, Des Moines. An unassuming exterior hides a hidden gem. Authentic Salvadoran food and pupusas in a comfortable, homey environment. Beans, salad, and rice accompany each of the entrees.

We look forward to seeing you there! Please RSVP to Jeff Sontag at jvisualize@aol.com or jeff.sontag@urbucc.org no later than Wednesday, May 16th so he can make reservations, thank you.

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—Spring

9:00 am - Sunday School

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 Directorbobby.stinnett@urbucc.org
Sophiap Eng-Swanson, Office Coordinator.....staff@urbucc.org
Sadmire & Umihana Omerhodzic, Custodians.....sadmire.omerhodzic@urbucc.org
John Chaplin
Adjunct Minister for LGBTQ Concerns & Community Outreachjohn.chaplin@urbucc.org
Tony Dillon-Hansen
Student Pastor..... tony.dillonhansen@urbucc.org

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