



Ubandale
United
Church of
Christ

God is still speaking ☺

A Just Peace and Open and Affirming congregation

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

May 13, 2018

10:00 a.m.

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

The liturgical color for Easter is White, representing Purity, Joy, Light, Glory, and Perfection.



SERVING AT URBANDALE UCC THIS SUNDAY
Liturgist: John Chaplin
Ushers & Greeters: Jim Nervig, Adam Dirks, Diane Gladson
Acolytes: Murray Family
Nursery: Anjy Allen & Susan Joynt
Opening the Church: Today, Jeff Couch Next Sunday, Mark Siegel
Sound Booth: Scott Davis

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 believe that the gracefulness of our dance, a gift of God as Sovereign of our dance, arises from an integrity of sexuality and spirituality. One cannot idolize or idle-ize the other; both dance together as soul. And why can’t we dance on earth as in heaven?”

~Chris Glaser

TIME OF FRIENDSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“I Need Thee Every Hour”

John Ness Beck

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 PRAISE AND PRAYER

ONE: People of God, consider the journey that you began twenty-five years ago.

ALL: Some of us remember the uncertainty and anxiety. We have come far.

ONE: People of God, consider the healing and transformation that resulted from your witness.

ALL: Some of us would not be here were it not for the courage of this community. We have found life!

ONE: People of God, consider that our kindred still suffer rejection and pain.

ALL: Some of us still live in fear, still keep our yearnings secret, still hide alone. We have much to do!

ONE: Take heart! The One who leads us into the future still strengthens our spirits.

ALL: We are God’s People! The journey continues! Praise the God whose rainbow promise gives us hope!

❖ OPENING HYMN

“In the Midst of New Dimensions”

Hymnal 391

❖ INVOCATION

PROCLAMATION

RECOGNITION OF GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS ** () shawls made and presented by

High School Graduates

Dominic De Carlo (Bonita Wiley)
Kristine Denning (Linda Hancock)
Ian Fefchak-Robinson (Jo Lilley)
Seth Gardner (Diana Griffith)

Darian McCord (Carol Looney)
Drew McCord (Karen Capps-Davis)
Riley Minard (Taena Fowler)
Jonah Schaeffer (Joan White)

**ALL: As you start your new journey, may you be blessed by this shawl.
It is a symbol of God’s love and our love
and we pray that it will comfort you as you make this transition.
May you be blessed with all good things--finding new friends along the way.
You will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers.**

RECOGNITION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS, YOUTH GROUP LEADERS
& VOLUNTEERS

ANTHEM

“Just A Closer Walk with Thee”

Jack Schrader

HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Genesis 18:1-8 (The Inclusive Bible)

¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

² But the earth became chaos and emptiness, and darkness came over the face of the Deep – yet the Spirit of God was brooding over the surface of the waters.

³ Then God said, “Light: Be!” and light was. ⁴ God saw that light was good, and God separated light from darkness. ⁵ God called the light “Day” and the darkness “Night.” Evening came, and morning followed – the first day.

⁶ Then God said, “Now make an expanse between the waters! Separate water from water!” So it was: ⁷ God made the expanse and separated the water above the expanse from the water below it. ⁸ God called the expanse “Sky.” Evening came, and morning followed – the second day.

“Chaos and emptiness” in verse 2 is a rendering of the Hebrew phrase tohu va-bohu. When it is used elsewhere in the Hebrew scriptures, it always describes a scene of ruination and desolation. Some scholars have noted the linguistic connection between tohu, or chaos; tehom, or the Deep; and the Babylonian goddess, Tiamat. Here we find a remnant of Goddess imagery in the mysterious, watery chaos from which all life is created, echoed by the feminine Spirit of God hovering over the waters the way a bird broods over the eggs in her nest.

EPISTLE READING

Romans 15:5-7 (The Inclusive Bible)

⁵ May God, the source of all strength and encouragement, enable you to live in perfect harmony with one another according to the Spirit of Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that with one heart and one voice, you may praise the God of our Savior Jesus Christ.

⁷ Accept one another as Christ accepted us, for the glory of God.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

SERMON

Andy Lang

RESPONSE

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 and ever. Amen, Amen. Forever and ever. Amen, Amen.

LITANY OF WITNESS

Written by Ann B. Day

ONE: We are an Open and Affirming Community of faith!

ALL: Varied in gender and sexual orientation, color and age, ethnicity and ability, we are a widening circle, open to all who seek Christ, a rainbow company, affirming the splendor of humanity.

ONE: Melding strengths and weaknesses, we serve one another and the world as Christ serves us.

ALL: Encouraged by scripture and fashioned by Spirit, we endeavor to live in harmony and to do justice, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

ONE: As an Open and Affirming body of Christ, we intend:

ALL: to welcome one another, just as Christ has welcomed us, equally and jubilantly, for the glory of God!

ONE: As an Open and Affirming body of Christ, we pray:

ALL: God of hope, by the power of your Holy Spirit, fill us with joy and peace in believing, that we may abound in hope and live the vision that began 25 years ago! Amen!

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

“Sweet Hour of Prayer”

Franklin Ritter

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

❖ CLOSING HYMN

“Amazing Grace”

Hymnal 547

(Sung around the Communion Table)

The candles are extinguished.

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

❖ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Caprice”

L.N. Clerambault

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:

Barb Nervig...Jamel Carter...Don Walters... Diann Miller

And our dear ones: **Alma Sims...Verna LeVear...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, May 13

8:00 am Sunday School & ASF

**10:00 am Worship: Anniversary Service;
Recognition of High School Graduates,
Sunday School Teachers & Volunteers**
Special Music: Adult Choir

12:30 pm Matu Bethel Church

12:30 pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church

Wednesday, May 16

7:00 pm Adult Choir: Dessert Potluck

7:00 pm AA

Thursday, May 17

7:00 pm Newcomers' Gathering

Friday, May 18

9:00 am ALICE Training

6:30 pm "Dinner w/ Friends"

Saturday, May 19

9:00 am Private Lessons

10:00 am Ian Fefchak-Robinson's Grad Party

3:00 pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church

6:00 pm Matu Bethel Church

6:00 pm Jonah Schaeffer's Grad Party

Upcoming Sundays

Sunday, May 20

10:00 am Worship

Special Music: Ragedy Band

**11:00 am Annual Meeting & Volunteer
Appreciation Ice Cream Social**

12:30 pm Matu Bethel Church

12:30 pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church

Sunday, May 27

10:00 am Worship

Special Music: Adult Choir

12:30 pm Matu Bethel Church

12:30 pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church

*Preaching today is Andy Lang, Executive Director of the
Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ.

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

Please join us in worship **TODAY** as 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!

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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, 6-8 pm

We are meeting at the home of Pastors Dave and Susan Sickelka's, 3846 3rd St, Des Moines for an informal social time for newer members to become better acquainted and meet others in our church community.

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.

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6th-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

Today: Conversations About Race & Privilege, Presenter: Paul Johnson & Diane Dornburg

"DINNER W/ FRIENDS"

Friday, May 18th at 6:30 pm

This month we will be dining at La Cuscatleca, 1832 Hubbell Ave, Des Moines. For some authentic Salvadoran food and pupusas.

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.

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UCC'S ANNUAL REBUILDING TOGETHER

Saturday, May 19th, starting at 8 AM.

We will install siding on a home in the church's neighborhood. Bring a hammer and nail apron, if you have one.

Call Jon (515-343-0998) or email jon.greising@urbucc.org, if you can help. Volunteers get lunch, a spiffy Rebuilding Together t-shirt, and the heartfelt thanks of the homeowner.

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Annual Meeting & Volunteer Appreciation Ice Social

May 20th immediately following worship

We will elect officers, hear reports and make plans for the next program year! This is also a time to reflect upon our ministries and celebrate one another.

Entrée and sides will be provided. Please bring a dessert to share.

Annual Reports are on the table in the Narthex.

Childcare will be available.

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CLASS of 2018

UCC High School Graduates

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

Date & Time: Saturday, May 19th from 10:00 am-1:00 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 & Time: Monday, May 28th from 3:00-6:00 pm

Location: Our home, 7305 Twana Dr., Urbandale

URBANDALE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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www.urbucc.org

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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
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Children/Youth Choirs and Handbell Director bobby.stinnett@urbucc.org
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Tony Dillon-Hansen..... tony.dillonhansen@urbucc.org
Student Pastor

Ministry Leaders

Caregiving Ministries:

Caregivers, HomeboundRachel Siegel caregivers. 1 @urbucc.org
Caregivers 2Bonita Wiley caregivers.2@urbucc.org
Prayer Circleprayer.circle@urbucc.org
Prayer Shawl Ministryprayer.shawls@urbucc.org

Leadership Team Officers:

Moderator.....Mary Edwards..... moderator@urbucc.org
Vice-Moderator.....Gail George..... vicemoderator@urbucc.org
TreasurerJim Nervig.....treasurer@urbucc.org
Financial Secretary.....Karen Capps-Davis karen.capps-davis@urbucc.org
Recording Secretary.....Bridget Edwards..... uccrecorder@urbucc.org

Teams:

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Christian Growth..... amy.murray@urbucc.org
Membership TeamJon Greising membership.team@urbucc.org
Social Media TeamSandy Gahn.....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), 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.