



urBANDale
UNITED
CHURCH OF
CHRIST

a JUST peace and OPEN and AFFIRMING CONGREGATION



August 2017

The CALL

- PASTOR PONDERINGS 2
- CALENDAR OF EVENTS 3
- CHILDREN & YOUTH NEWS 4
- WAYS TO SERVE & SMALL GROUPS 7

Ponderings from Your Pastor

“If one of you wanted to build a tower, wouldn’t you first sit down and calculate the cost, to determine whether you have enough money to complete it? Otherwise, when you have laid the foundation but couldn’t finish the tower, all who see it will begin to belittle you. They will say, ‘Here’s a person who began construction and couldn’t complete it.’” (Luke 14:28-30, The Common English Bible.)

So by the time you read this, we will be making serious plans to gear up a year of programming at Urbandale United Church of Christ. This means Christian Education, OWL (Our Whole Lives), Confirmation, Choir and a host of other activities and programs will be in the works to make sure that we provide opportunities for all our folks to grow in the faith and to take hold of the “Life that is really Life” Jesus so clearly modeled in our scriptures. Those of us on the planning and implementation side of this effort have lofty ideas of near-100% participation and even loftier ideas of Gods Realm coming into being because of the programs we offer! (not likely, but we can dream!)

Those of us on the participation side of the equation probably have lofty ideas as well. We typically start out with high expectations, whether it be a Bible Study, worship service, class or mission project, we expect to make a difference in the world, bring salvation (whatever that means!) to the lost, or transform the injustices of the world into the peace of God, just by being present and participating. Of course, we are often disappointed when our ideals are squelched by reality that forces us to work hard, be patient, or even worse, change our expectations to accommodate new circumstances.

The parable of the person building a tower is a good governor on our idealism run rampant. While Jesus often encourages his followers to shoot for the moon and expect great things of God, he also makes sure those who follow him know what they are getting themselves into. If we are under any illusion that the way ahead is all sweetness and light, Jesus is there to remind us of some unpleasant realities that force us to count the cost. Do we have the time, inclination, and courage to follow where the Gospel leads us? Are we brave enough to find and sing a new song? Can we sing in the choir AND teach Sunday school?

Part of discipleship is recognizing where our gifts lie and how we might use our gifts to the best advantage of the ministry of the church. It consists of managing our energy and our resources and of attending to our spiritual well-being. If we burn too hot too soon, we may find ourselves peaking early and burning out before we are done. I would love to see everyone up to their eyeballs in volunteering for the work of our church, but that is not a realistic expectation. It is a recipe for burnout!

So I am going to suggest that you watch for activities and programs that really excite you. Sign up for one or two and give your full attention to what you have chosen. Make room in your day for an ongoing commitment to whatever it is. Do some homework and some meditation around this effort each day. Share what you are learning with those around you. Integrate it into your understanding of your vocation or calling.

We will be undertaking a number of things at the summer’s end. Make sure that you find the time and energy to make one or two of them a part of your journey. Then when you are done and the project is completed, you will find satisfaction in work well done and be a more useful disciple in the work that God still has for you to do. Amen.

Pastor Dave

A Moment from the Moderator

A sample of “Meaningful Moments” described by Leadership Team members at our Saturday retreat:

- The energy and excitement when helping with Vacation Bible School (or “fun-cation”)
- The niche our church has in the community for people who are disenfranchised
- Connecting with individuals, like Gloria Ward
- The transcendent music of harp and oboe in recent services
- Relationships—like when I run into people around town, there’s a genuine excitement when church members greet me that I don’t get from others
- Reconnecting with people, like at camp
- The family feeling of church choir
- The May celebration of Opening and Affirming anniversary
- The sense of family and support, such as being able to have relatives-family, friends-family and church-family for pall bearers
- Working with the Burmese & Congolese congregations during spring cleanup
- Getting to know people while working on the kits for Days for Girls.

When people work together, that’s when moments happen.

Connect and catch the spirit.

Connect and come alive.

Gail George

UUCC’s Calendar of Events

Highlights on the Urbandale UCC Calendar, as we look ahead to late August and early September:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| <i>Sunday, August 5:</i> | New Member Classes ~ continues through August |
| <i>Sunday, August 19:</i> | Back to School <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Recognize public/private school educators, employees and▪ Blessing the Backpacks |
| <i>Wednesday, August 29:</i> | Adult Choir first rehearsal, potluck at 6:00 pm with rehearsal following at 7:00 pm |
| <i>Sunday, September 9:</i> | Homecoming Sunday <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Sunday School at 9:00 am for all ages,▪ Adult Spiritual Formation at 9:00 am,▪ Sunday School Teachers commissioned,▪ Receiving New Members▪ Picnic at Lions Park by Bowtie Boyz following worship. |
| <i>Sunday, September 16:</i> | 3 rd Graders receiving Bibles |

New Member Classes

A new round of New Member Classes will be held in August, beginning on Sunday, August 6th at 11:15 pm following worship, and continuing Sunday, August 12th, 19th and 26th. Those interested in joining the church will have the opportunity to do so on Sunday, September 9th. Please contact Pastor Dave Sickelka at david.sickelka@urbucc.org or phone the church office, 276-0625 or Jon Greising at jon.greising@urbucc.org to indicate your interest in attending. Childcare will be provided, if needed.

Honoring Those Who Educate and Our Students Who Learn

On Sunday, August 19th, we will be recognizing, honoring and commissioning all of those who are involved in formal education. Whether you work in the classroom, drive a bus, monitor the lunchroom or empty the wastebaskets, we want to make sure that we support you and launch you into the school year with our love and our blessing. Please plan to be in worship on that day so that we can make it a time to build our community of faith.

We will also be recognizing students about to begin the new school year. We will be Blessing the Backpacks. We invite all students to bring their backpacks and place them around the communion table that morning.

Children & Youth News



CALLING ALL POTENTIAL CONFIRMANDS, YOUTH/ADULTS INTERESTED IN ATTENDING GENERAL SYNOD IN WISCONSIN AND SIMPLY SMILES MISSION TRIP TO SOUTH DAKOTA SUMMER 2018!

Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, Aug. 19th** immediately following worship in Fellowship Hall. We will enjoy a quick lunch together and get down to business. Pastor Dave will go over the confirmation schedule, expectations and curriculum. **The 2018-19 confirmation class is for those who just completed this past year's 7-9th grade OWL class or those entering 8th grade and up.**

I will share preliminary information about **Youth @ General Synod in Milwaukee, WI. scheduled for June 21-25, 2019. Youth @ Synod is for ages 13-17.** We will discuss cost, travel, lodging and dates. The Synod website <http://synod2019.org/> will have more information as time goes on and you can keep visiting it to check for updates

We will also discuss the mission trip to **Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe in South Dakota with Simply Smiles. The minimum age for youth participants is 15 and young adults/adults are strongly encouraged to come!** Please visit the website to review information ahead of time and come with questions.

<http://www.simplysmiles.org/volunteer>. There is a lot of helpful information on this site and a great FAQ page that should cover your initial questions. We will review costs, expectations and see if we have the commitment to make this work. **We need at least 15 participants** and may need to partner with other churches if we cannot reach this number.

PLEASE RSVP TO REV. AMY BY SUNDAY, AUGUST 12TH.

7-12th Youth Group Planning Dinner Meeting
Monday, August 13 @ 5:30~Cool Basil in Clive

We need your input as we make plans for the 2018-19 program year. We are off to a great start planning for our summer 2019 trips and need your help to decide on monthly youth group outings and mission opportunities. Your fearless leaders (Adam Drees, Mariana Villa, Avis Allen and Rev. Amy) need your help leading, implementing activities and communicating our meetings and events with the group. Mark your calendars for **Monday, August 13th at Cool Basil Thai Restaurant located at 250 NW 86th Street in Clive from 5:30-7pm.** Please RSVP to Rev. Amy by Sunday, August 12th so we can make reservations.

Sunday School Registrations Available for 2018-2019

Registrations are available on the table in the narthex and on the church's website at www.urbucc.org. Please fill out your Sunday school registration and turn it in to Rev. Amy.

They are **due by Sunday, August 26th.**

UCC SAFETY REMINDER

An important mission of the Urbandale United Church of Christ congregation is to provide a safe haven for all. Trust, mutual respect, hope, and kindness guide our practices in building support and care for everyone in our church and community. Our safety policies seek to foster accountability, responsibility, and healing within our ministries. ~Child Safety Team Recommendations, p. 2

We often think of our church as a safe haven where we are protected from the harsh realities of the outside world. We must not forget that the church is still a public place where we need to be aware of our surroundings. It is important for us to know where our children are at all times and not to let them roam the church unattended. When children need to use the restroom please send them with a trusted adult or wait right outside for them. We should not take for granted the safety of our children even at church.

Please review the Safety Team's recommendations which are available on our Website <http://www.urbandaleucc.org>. *All of our childcare volunteers need to complete this training if they want to work with children.* We are always in need of volunteers for our various children and youth ministries.

All volunteers who work with kids at Urbandale UCC must fill the following requirements:

- Have attended Urbandale UCC for at least 6 months prior to volunteering with children.
- Not appear as a registered sex offender on the official website.
- Not be alone with a child in the ministries of Urbandale UCC (unless the child is a member of their family or has been placed in their care by family members). There should always be two adults in a classroom, but at moments when this is not possible, you should still avoid situations where you are alone with one child.
- Attend the training required of all child care and education volunteers and staff.
- Sign a covenant following this training that indicates that they understand and agree to follow abuse prevention and reporting rules.

Modeling good boundaries, being a good listener, and creating a safe sanctuary for all people to be free is the work of Christ in our midst. Thank you for being aware of this policy and for your support in honoring this covenant with our church family. Please contact Rev. Amy if you have any questions or want to volunteer with our youth.

August 2018 Who...What...Where...When...

	August 5 Communion	August 12	August 19	August 26
Scripture	Ephesians 3:14-21	John 6:35, 41-51	John 6:51-58	John 6:56-69
Preaching	Pastor Dave	Pastor Dave	Pastor Dave	Pastor Dave
Liturgist	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Music Leadership	Gail George	Scott Miller	Raggedy Band	Kendric Santos Briggs Leah Gardner
Ushers & Greeters	Deb Rebelsky Margaret Christian Dave Dhainin Jim Benda	Jim Nervig Adam Dirks Diane Gladson	Bob Shoemaker Diane Shoemaker Deb Beery Wayne Waage	Sharon Johnson Jeff Couch
Acolytes	Sowder Family	Sue Renfrow Sasha Krizer	Kara Renfrow-Daly Dave Dhainin	
Nursery	TBD Susan Joynt	Anjy Allen Susan Joynt	Anjy Allen TBD	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

**September 2018 CALL DEADLINE:
Friday, August 17th**

Events & Activities

August 2018

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jul 29	30	31	Aug 1 6:00pm Worship Team 7:30pm AA	2	3	4 3:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church 6:00pm Matu Bethel Church
5 10:00am Worship: Communion 11:15am New Members' Class 12:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal 12:30pm Matu Bethel Church	6	7 11:00am Staff Meeting	8 5:30pm Spaghetti Dinner 7:30pm AA	9 7:00pm Leadership Team	10	11 9:00am Bowtie Boyz 1:00pm Private Group 3:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church 6:00pm Matu Bethel Church
12 10:00am Worship: Baptism 11:15am New Members' Class 12:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal 12:30pm Matu Bethel Church	13	14 11:00am Staff Meeting	15 7:30pm AA	16	17 6:30pm Dinner w/ Friends	18 3:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church 6:00pm Matu Bethel Church
19 10:00am Worship: Honoring School Staff & Blessing of Backpacks 11:00am Youth Group Info 11:15am New Members' Class 12:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal 12:30pm Matu Bethel Church	20	21 11:00am Staff Meeting	22 7:30pm AA	23	24	25 9:00am Bowtie Boyz 3:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church 6:00pm Matu Bethel Church
26 10:00am Worship 11:15am New Members' Class 12:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal 12:30pm Matu Bethel Church	27	28 11:00am Staff Meeting	29 6:00pm Adult Choir Potluck 7:30pm AA	30	31	Sep 1



Adult Choir

The Adult Choir will have their first rehearsal of the season on **Wednesday, August 29th**. We will have a potluck at 6:00 p.m. with rehearsal following at 7:00 p.m. We would love to have you join us!

Dinner w/ Friends

On **Friday, August 17th**, 6:30 pm we will be meeting at Woody's Smoke Shack, 2511 Cottage Grove Ave., Des Moines. It's a newer restaurant specializing in BBQ, Woody's cooks all of its meats and side dishes on site daily. Check out their website <http://woodyssmokeshackdm.com>

Please RSVP to Jeff Sontag at jvisualize@aol.com or jeff.sontag@urbucc.org by Wednesday, August 15th. Thank you!

Needing Hosts for Newcomers Gatherings

These gatherings for new members in our congregation meet once a month from September through May for an hour long social in a home of one of our homes.

Are you willing to host a group one month this year? Your responsibility would be to provide soft drinks and light snacks in your home for a casual social time on the second Thursday of the month of your choice. The purpose is twofold: to provide a place for new members to continue to connect with other new members as well as meet more long-time members in our congregation.

If you are interested in hosting this or have questions, please contact Maryellen Knowles. Thank you!

August Team Meeting Dates

- Worship Team will meet on Wednesday, August 1st at 6:00 pm
- Leadership Team will be meeting Thursday, August 9th at 7:00 pm
- Boytie Boyz will meet on Saturday, August 11th and 25th at 9:00 am



FOOD PANTRY FOR AUGUST

Wow, August is here already and before long it will be time for school. Children will soon be heading back with hopefully a good night's sleep and a stomach full of good food. With your help that is possible. This month our challenge item is large (5-6) size Pull-Ups. Any food items that are nonperishable are always needed as well as monetary donations. Make checks to Urbandale U.C.C. with a notation to be given to the Urbandale Food Pantry.

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—Summer

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 Director bobby.stinnett@urbucc.org
Sophiap Eng-Swanson, Office Coordinator..... staff@urbucc.org
Sadmira & Umihana Omerhodzic, Custodians sadmira.omerhodzic@urbucc.org
John Chaplin
Adjunct Minister for LGBTQ Concerns & Community Outreach ..john.chaplin@urbucc.org

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