

Urbandale
United
Church of
Christ

A Just Peace and Open and Affirming Congregation



photo credit: Maryellen Knowles

***The CALL* 2018**

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Ponderings from Your Pastor

For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts, so that we in turn might make known the glory of God shining on the face of Christ. (II Corinthians 4:6, The Inclusive Bible.)

Light is one of the most powerful metaphors for all that is good and uplifting about faith. Whether we think of it in terms of truth, or understanding, or hope, or holiness, “light” seems to figure strongly in the experience of the Transcendent Presence we sometimes call “God.”

But it is also very clear that our faith expects that we, ourselves, will shine! We sing with gusto and fervor, “This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine!” refusing to hide it under a bushel, allow Satan to blow it out, or neglect to keep it burning even in the dead of night.

In Second Corinthians, Paul uses the light of God’s Glory that Christians experience in the “face of Christ” as the unifying principle of a community that had started to unravel. He reminded them that we are all “clay jars” (Earthen vessels in the King James Bible) so that they would cut each other a little slack, and keep in mind that the Light of God shines in us all!

Maybe that’s why the planners for next summer’s 32nd General Synod of the United Church of Christ have chosen “Shine!” to be the central theme of the meeting, with the sub-title, “Let your light shine before others” (Matthew 5:16) as a scriptural lynchpin. We understand that our faith and our witness to what is true and just in the world should never be hidden or concealed from those who so desperately need to see it. It is an imperative of our tradition that we become bearers of the light as soon as we receive it!

The Synod will take place June 21st through 25th next summer in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It is close enough that a lot of us could attend and I am encouraging you to make time for it right now, before you start planning vacations and camps and other activities. People routinely come back from Synod excited and eager to try new ideas and share new insights. If we get enough people to go, we may be able to share transportation expenses and divvy up some of the reading about resolutions and proposals (which can be a little daunting!).

At this point, there are not a lot of details available, other than dates and location. If you are interested in following the event, go to ucc.org and click on General Synod. You can opt for automatic updates and keep abreast of scheduled speakers, musicians, business and preachers. And perhaps most important of all, you will have the opportunity at Synod to participate in some of the most moving experiences of worship that you have ever known – powerful preaching, exciting music, engaging stories, and transformational testimonies! Many people have been launched into new journeys of faith by attending a meeting of the General Synod!

So I hope you will make room for the Light! Let it shine on you and transform you. I also hope you will embrace your calling to let your light shine, whether or not you attend General Synod. Be on the lookout for people who are searching for the Light you can reflect to them. Be aware that the vessel that holds the light doesn’t have to be perfect, or unbreakable or holy. It just has to be open to letting the Light shine before others.

Where can your light shine today? Amen.

Pastor Dave

A Moment from the Moderator

Do we pay attention to meaningful moments?

When I sat down recently to evaluate where I found meaning in my experiences at church, I looked at three levels.

- *Sparks*: a thrilling organ passage or a hearty chuckle with someone or an inspirational line
- *Heartfelt connections* with people &/or God/Spirit/Christ
- *Major insights/inspirations*: something that changed me—my spirit, thoughts or actions; whether from a sermon, music, discussion, or another person's example.

And what I discovered was—the more I looked for these meaningful moments at church, the more I found.

Instead of expecting the church (or yourself) to do *more* things, how can we do things with *more meaning*? I still remember the first time I helped at a funeral luncheon, and Betty Christensen explained to me what a privilege it was to be present at such an important time for the family. Can we reframe other tasks in a way that illuminates their meaning for our church family?

The Nominating Team and Liaisons on Leadership Team have worked hard to fill church teams, and the latest updates are on our website at www.urbucc.org under Who We Are, then Ministry Teams. But we can always use more help! If you're interested in serving on a team, just contact the team chair or Liaison, listed on the Sunday bulletin.

May we all serve the church with as much joy as Doug Nussbaum when he served communion last summer—his smile beaming so intently, so brightly, his white helmet seemed to dissolve into the light.

Connect and catch the spirit.

Connect and come alive.

Gail George



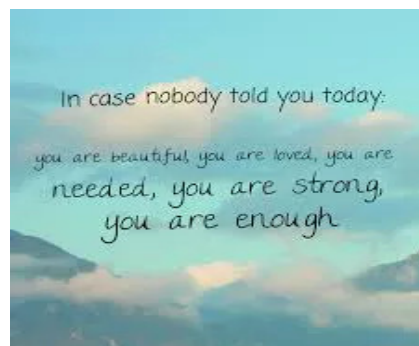
Please Pass the Love Paint the State Green Youth Mental Health Awareness Letter Writing Campaign

Urbandale United Church of Christ is an official drop-off site for cards for Please Pass the Love's Paint the State Green: Youth Mental Health Awareness Campaign. Check out the website for more information.

<https://www.pleasepasstheLove.org/paint-the-state-green> A tote is

available in the Narthex to collect your cards and letters.

The campaign runs October 1-31st. Blank cards will be available in the pews during October and encourage our congregation to write a note or two. Please feel free to bring your own and share. The goal is for every child in the behavioral health units at Lutheran and Mercy hospitals to receive a card over the span of one year. Let us put our faith into action, passing the love and letting our youth living with mental illness in the state of Iowa know they are not alone and loved. Please let me Rev. Amy know if you have any questions.



Every year on **National Coming Out Day**, we celebrate coming out as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ) or as an ally. On October 11th we mark the 30th anniversary of National Coming Out Day. Nearly 30 years ago, on the anniversary of the National March on Washington for lesbian and gay rights, the first National Coming Out Day was a reminder of the power of coming out. Coming out, whether it is as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or allied—STILL MATTERS. Every person who speaks up changes more hearts and minds and creates new advocates for justice and equality.

ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION ~ 9:00-9:45 AM

October 7th: *Hunger Hike ~ Presenters: Kathy Marean and Sandy Gahn*

October 14th: *Voting Rights ~ Presenter: Kevin Gannon*

October 21st: *Church/State Relations ~ Presenter: Diane Dornburg*

October 28th: *Religious Freedom & Religious Freedom Restoration Act ~ Presenters: Connie Ryan, Executive Director of Interfaith Alliance*

GENERAL SYNOD 32

June 21-25, 2019 Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Youth ages 13-18 are invited to experience Youth @ Synod! We have 10 youth and adults already interested. The Synod website <http://synod2019.org/> will have more information as time goes on and you can keep visiting it to check for updates. Adults are also welcomed to travel with us and attend the sessions. Please see Rev. Amy if you are interested.





Children & Youth News

YOUTH GROUP UPDATES

3-6th Grade youth will be led by Margaret Petosa and Cindy Gibbens!

Our first event of the year will be the **Hunger Hike, Sunday, Oct. 14th**

immediately following church. Please join us for a light lunch (thanks to

Karen Capps-Davis for cooking!) and then we will carpool downtown. Please RSVP to Margaret, Cindy or Rev. Amy. Please see Kathy Marean and Sandy Gahn for your registration and donation packet.

7-12th grade youth is being led by Adam Drees, Mariana Villa and Tony Dillon-Hansen!

We are enjoying our time with the rare and exotic flamingoes as they migrate around town! We will meet **Sunday, Oct. 14th briefly in Fellowship Hall** to continue planning for Trunk or Treat on Wednesday, Oct. 24th. We are planning and serving the meal and responsible for decorations. We will also discuss November and December mission opportunities and activities.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SNACK DONATIONS PLEASE!

Our Sunday school youth and volunteers look forward to treats during Sunday school.

Please consider donating **3 dozen treats** by Sunday morning at **9am** to the kitchen and be sure to sign up on the table in the narthex so we can plan accordingly.

CANDY AND URBANDALE FOOD PANTRY DONATIONS NEEDED!

Please consider donating a bag of candy for our Trunk or Treat Event on October 24th or a much need food item or cash donation to our Urbandale Food Pantry. Please drop candy in Rev. Amy's office no later than Tuesday, Oct. 23rd and food donations in the grocery cart and tubs in the narthex. Thanks for your support!



Families are invited to join neighborhood Halloween fun! Wednesday, October. 24th

Wear your costume and collect treats at one or all of these churches:

5:30 pm Urbandale United Church of Christ, **3530 70th St, Urbandale**

6:15 pm St. Stephen Lutheran, **3510 72nd St, Urbandale**

6:45 pm Covenant Christian, **2700 72nd St, Urbandale**

We welcome non-perishable food or cash donations for the Urbandale Food Pantry!

For additional information, email: amy.murray@urbucc.org, Urbandale UCC

tracy@ststephenlutheran.org, St. Stephen, veann.cartwright@gmail.com, Covenant Christian

SUNDAY SCHOOL~9:00-9:45 am

Preschool-5th grade will begin in the Sanctuary from 9-9:10am for songs led by our very own choir member Alex Kimzey and accompanied by Bobby Stinnett. Youth will then head up to the Upper Education Wing with Missy McCord and Nicole Berger 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.

SIMPLY SMILES MISSION TRIP TO SOUTH DAKOTA CHEYENNE RIVER SIOUX TRIBE RESERVATION July 27-August 3, 2019

Are you ready to put your faith in to action? Youth and adults ages 15 and older are invited to join us as we head to the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Reservation next summer with the UCC endorsed agency, Simply Smiles. If you are interested in attending please join us for an informational meeting the evening of **Thursday, November 1st, 6:30-8:00 pm** in the sanctuary at UUC. A Simply Smiles representative will share further details about the trip and answer our questions. We have 15 youth and adults already interested and can take up to 30 participants. We hope you will consider joining us for a meaningful experience. Please see Rev. Amy with any questions. Check out <http://www.simplysmiles.org/volunteer-crst/> for more information. Here's a little bit more from the website and what you can expect.

As a volunteer, you will spend one week working with us at the Sam D. Horse Community Center in La Plant and at nearby homes and project sites. The Community Center serves as the hub of activity for the week. The days are split into three parts:

Mornings: Revolves around work projects. Under the guidance of Simply Smiles staff, you will be working on projects ranging from cement-mixing to new home construction.

Afternoons: After a hearty lunch, the second part of the day is devoted to running summer camp, filled with arts & crafts, basketball, a game of tag and other fun ways to connect with the kids.

Evenings: In the evenings you will help us to host town-wide meals, BINGO night, movie night and more!

Working Hard

You will work side by side with the people you have traveled so far to help. You will learn new things (like cement mixing) and push yourself to do things you may never have thought you could do (like build a new home).

You don't need any special skills to have a meaningful and successful week. Simply Smiles staffers will be right there with you to teach you the skills you'll need. Be prepared to be surprised at how well you learn to put on a roof or use a power-tool! Volunteers just like you have built entire homes, basketball courts, community centers and more!

Cultural Immersion

On the Cheyenne River Reservation, you will have the unique opportunity to learn about and experience the beautiful Lakota culture firsthand.

During your week on the Reservation, you might have the chance to listen to a Lakota drumming ceremony, meet artisans who craft stunning jewelry and dreamcatchers, hear stories that have been passed down for generations, or witness a powwow with traditional dancing.

The stories of the Lakota people's past and present struggles will challenge your preconceptions and force you to rethink our nation's history. You'll feel honored to be invited into this special culture that for too long was forced into oblivion. And you'll be thankful to know the people who are fighting to keep it alive.

October 2018 Who...What...Where...When...

	October 7 World Communion	October 14	October 21	October 28 Reformation Sunday
Scripture	Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12	Hebrews 4:12-16	Hebrews 5:1-10	Hebrews 7:23-28
Preaching	Pastor Dave	Pastor Dave	Pastor Dave	Pastor Dave
Liturgist	Sandy Gahn & Kathy Marean	SMI	SMI	SMI
Music Leadership	Adult Choir	Adult Choir	Raggedy Band Adult Choir	Adult Choir
Ushers & Greeters	Wilona Keeler Wes Keeler Tony Dillon-Hansen Mason Thies	Jim Nervig Adam Dirks Diane Gladson David Spaulding	Bob Shoemaker Diane Shoemaker Laura Fefchak Nancy Robinson	Sharon Johnson Margaret Christian Dawn Halstead Jeff Couch
Acolytes	Margaret & Sophia Petosa	Berger Family	Luncsford-Mays Family	Gannon Family
Nursery	Anjy Allen Susan Joynt	Anjy Allen Susan Joynt	Anjy Allen TBD	Anjy Allen TBD
Opening the Church	Chris Jordan	Scott Gardner	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

**November 2018 CALL DEADLINE:
Monday, October 15th**

Events & Activities

October 2018							October 2018							November 2018						
							Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
								1	2	3	4	5	6		5	6	7	8	9	10
							7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	11	12	13	14	15	16
							14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	18	19	20	21	22	23
							21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	25	26	27	28	29	30
							28	29	30	31				25						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY														
Sep 30	Oct 1	2 11:00am Staff Meeting	3 5:30pm SOS Choir 5:30pm Worship Team 6:15pm Adult Handbells 6:45pm Confirmation 7:00pm Adult Choir 7:30pm AA	4	5	6 9:00am Bowtie Boyz 3:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church 6:00pm Matu Bethel Church														
7 9:00am Sunday School & Adult Spiritual Formation 10:00am Worship: World Communion 12:30pm Matu Bethel Church 12:30pm Light Mission Pentecostal	8 5:30pm Private Lessons 6:00pm Green Boat	9 11:00am Staff Meeting	10 9:30am Caregivers 5:30pm Spaghetti Dinner 5:30pm SOS Choir 6:15pm Adult Handbells 6:45pm Confirmation 7:00pm Adult Choir 7:30pm AA	11 10:00am Ministerial Alliance 7:00pm Leadership Team	12	13 Habitat for Humanity: Work Day 1:00pm Private Group 3:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church 6:00pm Matu Bethel Church														
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	Family Promise Week													
9:00am Sunday School & Adult Spiritual Formation 10:00am Worship 11:00am 7-12th Grade Youth Group 12:30pm Matu Bethel Church 12:30pm Light Mission Pentecostal	6:00pm Book Club 6:30pm Hunger Hike Board	11:00am Staff Meeting	5:30pm SOS Choir 6:15pm Adult Handbells 6:45pm Confirmation 7:00pm Adult Choir 7:30pm AA		6:30pm "Dinner w/ Friends"	8:00am Bowtie Boyz 3:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church 6:00pm Matu Bethel Church														
21 9:00am Sunday School & Adult Spiritual Formation 10:00am Worship 12:30pm Matu Bethel Church 12:30pm Light Mission Pentecostal	22	23 11:00am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Scouts	24 5:30pm SOS Choir 5:30pm Trunk or Treat 6:15pm Adult Handbells 6:45pm Confirmation 7:00pm Adult Choir 7:30pm AA	25	26 Men's Retreat 5:00pm Private Wedding Rehearsal	27 9:00am Private Lessons 3:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church 3:30pm Private Wedding 6:00pm Matu Bethel Church														
28 9:00am Sunday School & Adult Spiritual Formation 10:00am Worship 11:00am Pledge Luncheon 12:30pm Matu Bethel Church 12:30pm Light Mission Pentecostal	29	30 11:00am Staff Meeting	31 5:30pm SOS Choir 6:15pm Adult Handbells 6:45pm Confirmation 7:00pm Adult Choir 7:30pm AA	Nov 1	2	3														



FOOD PANTRY FOR OCTOBER

Halloween is around the corner and candy will be plentiful, but food is not always plentiful. When you buy that bag of candy add a can of vegetables, fruit, or soup and bring to church. Remember a check/cash is always welcome. Make a check out to UFP or DMARC.

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FAMILY PROMISE WEEK IS COMING ON OCTOBER 14 - 21, 2018!

Call for volunteers! Homelessness has no season, and our next opportunity to provide shelter for three families at UUCU is coming up on **October 14 - 21** How can you help?

Lots of ways! Everything from:

- helping convert three classrooms to bedrooms on October 14 after church;
- preparing and/or serving an evening meal;
- helping entertain our guests' kids after the dinner hour;
- staying overnight at the church;
- driving the van to and from the Day Center at Westminster;
- returning rooms to classroom setup on Sunday August 6;
- taking a load or two of laundry at the end of the week

Look for the big signup board in the narthex, or sign up online at <https://signup.zone/uucc-fp>

Your helping out will make a BIG difference in our week... even if it's only for an hour!

(For safety reasons we ask that volunteers who interact with our guests complete a brief Child Safety Training session with Pastor Amy.) You can talk to one of the coordinators: Jon Duvick, Bob Harding, Jon Greising, Ruth Miller, Kathy Marean, or Bridget Edwards to get more information on how to volunteer for the Family Promise program at UUCU.

You can also learn more about the wider Family Promise program in Des Moines at <http://www.familypromisedm.org>

Thanks,

Jon Duvick, Family Promise UUCU coordinator.



October Team Meeting Dates:

Worship will meet on Wednesday, October 3 at 5:30 pm
Bowtie Boyz will meet on Saturday, October 6 at 9:00 am
Green Boat Crew will be on Monday, October 8 at 6:00 pm
Caregivers will meet on Wednesday, October 10 at 9:30 am
Leadership Team will meet on Thursday, October 11 at 7:00 pm
Book Club will meet Monday, October 15 at 6:00 pm
Bowtie Boyz will meet on Saturday, October 20 at 9:00 am
Men's Fall Retreat will be Friday, October 26 to Saturday, October 27

The **Book Club** will be meeting Monday, October 16th from 6-8 pm at Beaverdale Books, 2629 Beaver Ave. This month's book is, "The Cellist of Sarajevo" by Steven Galloway.

"In a city under siege, four people whose lives have been upended are ultimately reminded of what it is to be human. From his window, a musician sees twenty-two of his friends and neighbors waiting in a breadline. Then, in a flash, they are killed by a mortar attack. In an act of defiance, the man picks up his cello and decides to play at the site of the shelling for twenty-two days, honoring their memory. Elsewhere, a young man leaves home to collect drinking water for his family and, in the face of danger, must weigh the value of generosity against selfish survivalism. A third man, older, sets off in search of bread and distraction and instead runs into a long-ago friend who reminds him of the city he thought he had lost, and the man he once was. As both men are drawn into the orbit of cello music, a fourth character—a young woman, a sniper—holds the fate of the cellist in her hands. As she protects him with her life, her own army prepares to challenge the kind of person she has become.

A novel of great intensity and power, and inspired by a true story, The Cellist of Sarajevo poignantly explores how war can change one's definition of humanity, the effect of music on our emotional endurance, and how a romance with the rituals of daily life can itself be a form of resistance."

Please join us if you enjoy reading and chatting about books

An Invitation to Newcomers Gathering

A monthly informal social gathering is hosted at the home of one of our church members. It is open to anyone interested, especially those who have joined the church over the past few years, visitors who would like to get acquainted with others, and anyone in the congregation wanting to make connections with newer members and visitors. If this interests you, you are invited to the home of Bob Harding on Tuesday, October 23rd, 7-8 p.m. at 7301 Benton Dr., Urbandale, IA 5-322. Children are welcome.

Please RSVP to Bob at 717-940-9177 or harding.bob@gmail.com.

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—Fall

9:00 am – Sunday School & Adult Spiritual Formation

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
The Rev. 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