



**U**rbandale  
**U**nited  
**C**hurch of  
**C**hrist

*A Just Peace and Open and Affirming congregation*



### *January 2019~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...*

*The Word became flesh and made his home among us. We have seen his glory, glory like that of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14, The Common English Bible)*

I know, I know! The passage above has male pronouns and refers to a father and a son with no mention of mother or daughter. If that grates on your ears, then I am glad! It means that we are finding it more and more objectionable to hear such words, when clearly the intent is that it be understood more broadly. But I wanted, in this case, to preserve the gender-biased language, because it is important to understand the text in a gender-biased context! In changing pronouns and parent-child relationships, we miss something crucial about this passage. So I want to revisit that culture for a moment and then see if we can find some modern expressions of the same truths.

With some profound exceptions, most of the Christian scriptures come from a time when wealth and assets were held by males, controlled by males and passed on to males. In the ancient middle east, one of the worst things that could happen was to die without a male child to carry on the family name, inherit the family wealth (if there was any) and receive the promises of God (land, blessing, and yes, more male children!) For many centuries, it was understood that the only way people lived after death was if there was someone to remember them (descendants). So there was a lot riding on a father's only son! If there was more than one male offspring, there was, as the British say, "an heir and a spare." If, God forbid, the first heir died, all was not lost. There was a plan "B." Not so with an only son. Everything depended on his survival and effectiveness as the heir.

The Prologue to the Gospel of John (1:1-18) is one of the most beautiful and poetic expressions of the mystery of God's Chosen coming into human experience. The richness of what is in verse 14 includes at least this much: 1) There is something awesome about the Word becoming flesh. The Glory of God is perceptible in the birth of the Messiah, not so much as fire and smoke and lightning, but in peace and serenity. 2) There is no need to fear what the future might bring. The plan that God has for our well-being, our protection, our blessing and our redemption is in place and is working! Like an heir provides security for the next generation, God has provided for our needs. 3) There is grace in what God does, and there is truth in how God works. Sometimes that comes as mercy, sometimes that comes as gift, sometimes that comes as trust, but it does come.

So to our 21<sup>st</sup> Century ears, maybe we need to update the words, but we should never lose sight of what the original words were meant to convey: there is no need to worry! The promises of God are being kept, even when there is ample evidence to the contrary. The wonder and mystery of God's realm is perceptible to us in the life and teaching of Jesus. The grace and truth of God are carried in the complexity of human compassion and the miracles of healing and reconciliation that take place all around us, and even within us.

What kind of relationships do we have in the modern world that convey all of that? We could simply say, "glory as of a parent's only child," but I am not sure it means quite the same thing today. What secures our future? A 401-k? A long-term care insurance policy? A trust fund?

Maybe today, we need to just be blunt and speak with clarity. I would suggest, "We can see in the words and actions of Jesus all the grace and truth and glory God has to give." How would you say it?

Amen.



Pastor Dave and Susan would like to thank the folks of Urbandale UCC for the many expressions of love and appreciation that came to them during the course of the holidays. It is a wonderful gift to have the support of a caring community in the doing of ministry and the living of our faith. Thanks to each and every one of you!

## **Support Pilgrim Heights Camp and Retreat Center**



(The following is made up of excerpts from a letter from The Rev. Ken Briggs, a member of UUCC.)

I am someone who has been very interested and involved in the workings of Pilgrim Heights Camp and Retreat Center for many years. I know what this Sacred Space\* has meant to so many people in the life of the United Church of Christ in Iowa. Many of us have grown in our faith journeys as we have participated in the varied programs offered there.

In recent years, use of the camp by our churches and financial support from the Iowa Conference has decreased substantially.

We encourage all folks across the Conference to understand how important the programs at Pilgrim Heights can be in growing the faith for people of all ages. We are confident that there are people in our churches who want Pilgrim Heights to continue as a Sacred Space where folks can relax and grow in their faith with God and Jesus Christ. We want to make it possible for every person to be touched by God in this Sacred Space.

You may help us in this mission through a financial gift as well as sharing ideas for future faith programming at Pilgrim Heights Camp and Retreat Center.

\*Our Sacred Space is also the name of the corporation formed in 2007 to receive ownership of Pilgrim Heights from the Iowa Conference of the UCC. – ed.



## **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 United Church of Christ endorsed agency, Simply Smiles. We hope you will consider joining us for a meaningful experience. Please see Rev. Amy with any questions. **Join us in Adult Spiritual Formation on Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> at 9am to learn more about Simply Smiles.** Check out <http://www.simplysmiles.org/volunteer-crst/> for more information.

## ANNUAL BUDGET PROCESS, 2019

### Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup>

- Adult Spiritual Formation: Informational session about the 2019 Budget.
- Q&A Session after worship

### Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup>

- The Annual Congregational Budget Meeting to vote on the 2019 Budget.
  - Meeting and Luncheon in Fellowship Hall following worship.
- Lunch will be provided. \*There will be vegetarian and gluten free options. \*\*Childcare will also be provided.

## ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION (ASF) 9:00-9:45AM IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

**January 6<sup>th</sup>:** Simply Smiles Mission Trip Information to Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Reservation in South Dakota; Presenters: Rev. Amy Murray & Simply Smiles Participants  
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 United Church of Christ endorsed agency, Simply Smiles. Check out <http://www.simplysmiles.org/volunteer-crst/> for more information.

**January 13<sup>th</sup>:** 2019 Budget Presentation; Presenter: Leadership Team

**January 20<sup>th</sup>:** Why UUCB Needs Solar Panels; Presenter: Gail George  
Gail will present efforts of Green Boat to research & prepare for solar panels & why they fit in as a high priority for our church's mission. Questions? Email to [moderator@urbucc.org](mailto:moderator@urbucc.org) or bring them with you for discussion.

**January 27<sup>th</sup>:** Climate Change & People of Faith; Presenters: Carol Leadingham & Amy Christensen  
Carol and Amy will lead a discussion related to Jim Antal's book, *Climate Church, Climate World: How People of Faith Must Work for Change*. You do not have to read the book. This is a warm-up to the Climate Revival Conference at Plymouth UCC Feb. 9, led by the author. Inspiring, thoughtful & faith-filled.



### 2019 Chancel Flowers

Please consider donating flowers for the Chancel in memory of a loved one or to celebrate an important occasion in your family's life. The 2019 chart is on the Narthex door. You may keep the flowers after the service or donate them to a homebound member.



## **Children & Youth News**

### **Nursery Volunteers Needed**

Our beloved children and parents need nursery volunteers from 9:00-11:00 am on Sunday mornings to work with staff member, Anjy Allen. Do you enjoy playing with children, reading stories, playing make believe and sharing God's love? Please see Rev. Amy Murray with your interest. Children/Youth volunteers are expected to complete the Safety Training which includes a background check. Thank you for prayerfully considering your support in this vital ministry!

### **UUCC Safety Reminders**

*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.

Also, please be respectful of the space. Several of the common areas and classrooms are used regularly for different ministries. We also have outside groups pay to use our building space. Please clean-up after yourself make sure the space is ready for the next group to use. Please review the Safety Team's recommendations which are available on our Website <http://www.urbandaleucc.org>. Thank you for your support and taking pride in keeping our church a safe and welcoming place.

### **7-12th Youth to Brenton Skating Plaza (3-6th grade youth welcome if accompanied by a parent)**

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, January 6th from 11:15-2pm.** Lunch is provided immediately following worship in Fellowship Hall. We will head to Brenton Skating Plaza for ice skating about noon. Cost is \$7/person. Youth may wish to bring extra cash for the concession stand. As always, please see Amy if financial support is needed. **Please RSVP to Rev. Amy so we can ensure enough drivers and be sure to sign the permission slip outside her office.**

We also need a few adults to help drive us over and stay with the youth. Let Mariana or Adam Drees know if you are available to provide support. Please pick up your youth at 2pm from Brenton Skating Plaza.

We look forward to some wintery fun together!





## Simply Smiles Movie Night: *La Plant Oral History Project* Sunday, January 13th

Are you considering participating in the Mission Trip next Summer July 27-August 3, 2019? Are you curious about the mission and want to know what our youth and adults will be doing next summer? **Mark your calendars for Sunday evening, Jan. 13th from 5:30-7:30 in Fellowship Hall.** Popcorn and drinks will be provided. Come with an open mind and heart. Check out <http://www.simplysmiles.org/volunteer-crst/> for more information.

Here is a brief synopsis of the La Plant Oral History project:

### **Episode one: We are Lakota**

As Lakota, the people of La Plant believe that their identities in daily life are at all times intertwined with the sacred. But in the late 19th century, by U.S. law, they were forbidden from engaging in Lakota spiritual practices. Only in 1978 was this law lifted. As the stories show, daily spiritual practices and participation in sacred rituals continue to heal and strengthen personal, communal and cultural identity.

### **Episode two: Politics**

Grounded "in traditional spirituality, culture, language and history," the activist organization AIM (the American Indian Movement) was founded in 1968 and was part of the Red Power movement of the Civil Rights Era. AIM's goal then and now is to fight on behalf of Native Nations for tribal sovereignty.

### **Episode three: Early Memories**

Individuals featured in this episode either grew up in La Plant, other towns of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Reservation, the Standing Rock Reservation, or a town just outside of the Reservation.

### **Episode four: American Indian Boarding Schools**

Indian boarding schools were introduced in the late 19th century. They were replicated throughout Indian country by the U.S. Government and private mission schools. Their educational goals only began to end in the late 1970s.

### **Episode five: Wakanyeja: "Sacred Little Ones"**

The people of La Plant have dreams of a beautiful future for their culture, a future grounded in Lakota traditions and values. The community is working to provide cultural activities for the children to affirm and take pride in who they are: Lakota.



## 7-12th Fundraiser for Simply Smiles & General Synod Recycling Cans & Bottles

Do you not like the hassle of returning your cans and bottles? We have a solution for you! We have a recycling can ready to accept your refundable recyclables near the shed by the Memorial Garden. All the money received from redeeming cans and bottles will help the youth with our trips to South Dakota and Wisconsin next summer. If you are unable to bring your cans/bottles to church, please contact Anjy Allen to arrange a pick up. Thank you for supporting our youth!

**January 2019****Who... What... Where... When...**

	<b>January 6 Communion</b>	<b>January 13</b>	<b>January 20 Food Pantry</b>	<b>January 27</b>
<b>Scripture</b>	<b>Matthew 2:1-12</b>	<b>Acts 8:14-17</b>	<b>Isaiah 62:1-5</b>	<b>Luke 4:14-21</b>
<b>Preaching</b>	Pastor Dave	Pastor Dave	Pastor Dave	Pastor Dave
<b>Liturgist</b>	Green Boat Crew	Adult Spiritual Formation	TBD	TBD
<b>Music Leadership</b>	Beverly Zimmer	Adult Handbells Adult Choir	Raggedy Band Adult Choir	Adult Choir
<b>Ushers &amp; Greeters</b>	Jeff Couch Bob Harding Bob Shoemaker Diane Shoemaker	Jim Nervig Adam Dirks Diane Gladson Lee Hood	Mary Minard Susan Joynt Barb Rehberg Walt Rehberg	Sharon Johnson Margaret Christian Bob Brandhorst Scott Regenwether
<b>Acolytes</b>	Kathy Marean	Aeja, Anne & Ayla Schultz	Exley Family	Schachtner-Haemer Family
<b>Nursery</b>	Anjy Allen Susan Joynt	Anjy Allen Susan Joynt	Anjy Allen TBD	Anjy Allen Elizabeth Mensing
<b>Opening the Church</b>	Jerry Woods	Jeff Couch	Mark Siegel	Chris Jordan
<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

**February 2019 CALL DEADLINE:**  
**Friday, January 18<sup>th</sup>**

# Events & Activities

January 2019

January 2019							February 2019						
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		

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Dec 30	31	Jan 1, 19 New Year's Day~OFFICE CLOSED	2 7:30pm AA	3	4	5 9:00am Bowtie Boyz 3:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church 6:00pm Matu Bethel Church
6 9:00am SS & ASF 10:00am Worship: Communion 11:00am Youth Group Ice 12:30pm Matu Bethel 12:30pm Light Mission	7	8 11:00am Staff Meeting	9 5:30pm Spaghetti Dinner 5:30pm Worship Team 5:30pm SOS Choir 6:15pm Adult Handbells 6:45pm Confirmation 7:00pm Adult Choir	10 10:00am CCPE 7:00pm Leadership Team	11	12 1:00pm Private Group 3:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church 4:30pm Private Lessons 6:00pm Matu Bethel Church
13 9:00am SS & ASF 10:00am Worship 11:00am Budget Q&A 12:30pm Matu Bethel 12:30pm Light Mission 5:30pm Simply Smiles	14 6:00pm Green Boat	15 11:00am Staff Meeting	16 5:30pm SOS Choir 6:15pm Adult Handbells 6:45pm Confirmation Class 7:00pm Adult Choir 7:30pm AA	17	18 6:00pm Scouts: Pinewood Derby	19 8:00am Scouts: Pinewood Derby 9:00am Bowtie Boyz 3:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church 6:00pm Matu Bethel
20 9:00am SS & ASF 10:00am Worship 12:30pm Matu Bethel Church 12:30pm Light Mission Pentecostal	21 MLK, Jr. Day~OFFICE CLOSED 6:00pm Book Club 6:00pm Hunger Hike Board	22 11:00am Staff Meeting	23 5:30pm SOS Choir 6:15pm Adult Handbells 6:45pm Confirmation Class 7:00pm Adult Choir 7:30pm AA	24 6:00pm JustFaith	25	26 9:00am Private Lessons 3:00pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church 6:00pm Matu Bethel Church
27 9:00am SS & ASF 10:00am Worship 11:00am Congregational Budget Meeting 12:30pm Matu Bethel 12:30pm Light Mission	28	29 11:00am Staff Meeting	30 5:30pm SOS Choir 6:15pm Adult Handbells 6:45pm Confirmation Class 7:00pm Adult Choir 7:30pm AA	31 6:00pm JustFaith	Feb 1	2



## Silent Auction Is Coming February 3<sup>rd</sup> to Benefit Camperships & General Synod

We need your creativity and support! Start planning your themed basket now. Baskets will be displayed in Fellowship Hall starting February. 3<sup>rd</sup>. Each basket will have a clip board to record your bid and the value of the item. Basket will be available for your viewing pleasure before and after worship February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. **Bidding closes at 10am on the 17<sup>th</sup>.** We will have a reception announcing winners immediately following worship on Sunday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. Proceeds go to our Campership, Simply Smiles & General Synod Fund to continue our mission of paying 50% tuition for each camper.

We encourage teams and small groups to consider contributing a basket. Here are some ideas for your basket:

Sports team	Cooking/baking	Games	Stuffed Animal
Sports	Gift cards	Gardening	Music
Movie Night	Self-care	Barbecue	Night Out
Winter Survival Kit	Pet	Books	Night In
Exercise	Toys	Coffee/Tea	Metro Area Attractions



### Team Meetings in January

- Saturday, January 5 at 9:00 am ~ Bowtie Boyz
- Wednesday, January 9 at 5:30 pm ~ Worship Team
- Thursday, January 10 at 7:00 pm ~ Leadership Team
- Monday, January 14 at 6:00 pm ~ Green Boat
- Saturday, January 19 at 9:00 am ~ Bowtie Boyz
- Thursday, January 21 at 6:00 pm ~ Book Club

**Book Club** will be meeting Monday, January 21<sup>st</sup> from 6-8 pm at Beaverdale Books, 2629 Beaver Ave. This month's book is, "The Girl with Seven Names: North Korean Defector Story" by David John and Lee Hyeon-seo.

*"As a child growing up in North Korea, Hyeonseo Lee was one of millions trapped by a secretive and brutal communist regime. Her home on the border with China gave her some exposure to the world beyond the confines of the Hermit Kingdom and, as the famine of the 1990s struck, she began to wonder, question and to realise that she had been brainwashed her entire life. Given the repression, poverty and starvation she witnessed surely her country could not be, as she had been told "the best on the planet"?*

*Aged seventeen, she decided to escape North Korea. She could not have imagined that it would be twelve years before she was reunited with her family."*

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

## Dinner with Friends

Friday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm at Fong's Pizza

Are you looking for a unique experience? Think of a 'frozen in time' dive bar offering Asian-inspired pizzas & appetizers, sandwiches, salads and desserts. We also offer gluten-free & vegan selections. We are located at 223 4<sup>th</sup> St, Des Moines, 50309. You can check out their menu at [fongspizza.com](http://fongspizza.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, January 16<sup>th</sup> so that reservations can be made.



## January Food Pantry

Happy New Year to all. May your 2019 be blessed and bountiful. January is here, its cold outside, holidays are over, and there are people still in need.

January is **diaper** month. All sizes are needed and **wipes**, too. Thanks for all your support!

## Family Promise Week is coming!

**Call for volunteers!** Homelessness has no season, and our next opportunity to provide shelter for three families at UUCC is coming up on **February 10 - 17**. How can you help? Lots of ways! Everything from:

- helping convert three classrooms to bedrooms on February 10<sup>th</sup> 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, February 17<sup>th</sup>;
- 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, Ruth Miller, Kathy Marean, or Bridget Edwards** to get more information on how to volunteer for the Family Promise program at UUCC. You can also learn more about the wider Family Promise program in Des Moines at <http://www.familypromisedm.org>

## SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 am -1:30 pm

Urbandale UCC will host a free women's retreat celebrating the women of UUCC! Joy Zimmerman, a Kansas-city based musician, songwriter and social worker will lead the workshop.

All are invited to hear Joy's music (<https://joyzimmermanmusic.com/>) in the sanctuary on Friday evening, April 12.

More details to come this spring!

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)

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)