



Urbandale
United
Church of
Christ

God is still speaking 9

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are invited and welcome here."

A Just Peace and Open and Affirming congregation

January 26, 2020

10:00 a.m.

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

The liturgical color for the remaining Sundays after Epiphany is green, representing the growing understanding of the identity of Jesus and the life that comes from his presence.



SERVING AT URBANDALE UCC THIS SUNDAY

Liturgist: Elaine Lundstrom

Ushers & Greeters: Sharon Johnson, Margaret Christian, Deb Beery, Carol Leadingham

Acolytes: Grace & Noelle Beasley

Nursery: Anjy Allen & Susan Joynt

Opening the Church: Today, Jerry Woods **Next Sunday**, Chris Jordan

Sound Booth: Scott Gardner

Flowers were given by Renfrow Family in celebration of Hayden's 3rd birthday on January 27.

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

"There's no doubt in my mind that Dr. King would be doing everything in his power to build a movement to end mass incarceration in the United States; a movement for education, not incarceration."

Michelle Alexander, author of *The New Jim Crow*

TIME OF FRIENDSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"The Snow Lay on the Ground"

Alice Jordan

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: A new day has dawned, God's gift to us; the fruits of the land are ours to enjoy.

ALL: We are a new creation in Jesus Christ; the old has passed away, the new has come.

ONE: This is a day for forgiveness and reconciliation; celebrate God's love for the lost who are found.

ALL: The glad cries of deliverance surround us; shouts of joy arise from our hearts.

ONE: Let all who are faithful offer up prayers; may all who are in Christ give thanks.

ALL: We will be glad and join the dance of life; with the upright of heart, we rejoice and sing.

❖ OPENING HYMN

"Abide with Me"

Hymnal 99

❖ INVOCATION

COMMISSIONING OF LISTENERS

PROCLAMATION

ANTHEM

"Tune Our Hearts to Sing"
Adult Choir

Mary McDonald

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Luke: 15:11-32 (The Inclusive Bible)

¹¹ He (Jesus) added, "A man had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to their father, 'Give me the share of the estate that is coming to me.' So the father divided up the property between them.

¹³ Some days later, the younger son gathered up his belongings and went off to a distant land. Here he squandered all his money on loose living.

¹⁴ "After everything was spent, a great famine broke out in the land, and the son was in great need. ¹⁵ So he went to a landowner, who sent him to a farm to take care of the pigs. ¹⁶ The son was so hungry that he could have eaten the husks that were fodder for the pigs, but no one made a move to give him anything. ¹⁷ Coming to his senses at last, he said, 'How many hired hands at my father's house have more than enough to eat, while here I am starving! ¹⁸ I'll quit and go back home and say, 'I've sinned against God and against you; ¹⁹ I no longer deserve to be called one of your children. Treat me like one of your hired hands.'" ²⁰ With that, the younger son set off for home.

"While still a long way off, the father caught sight of the returning child and was deeply moved. The father ran out to meet him, threw his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ The son said to him, 'I've sinned against God and against you; I no longer deserve to be called one of your children.' ²² But his father said to one of the workers, 'Quick! Bring out the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. ²³ Take the calf we've been fattening and butcher it. Let's eat and celebrate! ²⁴ This son of mine was dead and has come back to life. He was lost and now he's found!' And the celebration began.

²⁵ "Meanwhile the elder son had been out in the field. As he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the workers and asked what was happening. ²⁷ The worker answered, 'Your brother is home, and the fatted calf has been killed because your father has him back safe and sound.'

²⁸ "The son got angry at this and refused to go into the party, but his father came out and pleaded with him. ²⁹ The older son replied, 'Look! For years now I've done every single thing you asked me to do. I never disobeyed even one of your orders, yet you never gave me so much as a kid goat to celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But then this son of yours comes home after going through your money with prostitutes, and you kill the fatted calf for him!'

³¹ "'But my child!' the father said. 'You're with me always, and everything I have is yours. ³² But we have to celebrate and rejoice! This brother of yours was dead and has come back to life. He was lost and now he's found.'"

While our Hebrew and Greek sacred writings often repeat extensive quotes verbatim (I Kings 19:10, 14), There is an important change in the speech that the younger son rehearses in vss. 18-19 and what he actually says in vs. 21. Does the son wait to see what the father's reaction will be, or does the father cut him off, not interested in any groveling the son may want to do? How does that change our understanding of this part of the parable?

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

SERMON "Returning Home: The hard work of Reentry" Pastor Paul Witmer

PRAYER HYMN "Listening Now" SPP 160

RESPONSE

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Abba 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. 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

"Psalm Reflection"

Raymond Hann

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 the source of all our gifts!

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

❖ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

❖ CLOSING HYMN

"Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

Hymnal 292

The candles are extinguished.

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

❖ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Voluntary in D"

G.F. Handel

Please reshelve the hymnals and put this used Bulletin in the recycle basket.

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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:

Jamel Carter...Don Walters

And our dear ones: **Laurayne Robinette...Alma Sims...Margaret Messenger**

Our member in seminary: **David Sheridan**

Awaiting ordination: **Lisa Griffith-Tierney**

Deployed: **Greg Boal**

Mission Partnership: **Simply Smiles Inc. & Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe**

To notify the staff of a prayer concern, please use the slips of paper in the pew rack and drop them in the offering plate.

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 UUCC

Sunday, January 26

9:00 am Adult Spiritual Formation

9:00 am Sunday School

10:00 am Worship

Special Music: Adult Choir

11:00 am Congregational Budget Meeting

11:00 am K-2nd Grade OWL

12:30 pm Matu Bethel Church

12:30 pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church

Tuesday, January 28

11:00 am Staff Meeting

6:00 pm Parenting Way

Wednesday, January 29

5:00 pm Parenting Way

WNA:

6:15 pm Adult Handbells

6:45 pm 7-9th Grade OWL

7:00 pm Adult Choir

7:30 pm AA

Saturday, February 1

8:00 am Stampin Up

3:00 pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church

6:00 pm Matu Bethel Church

Upcoming Sundays

Sunday, February 2

9:00 am Adult Spiritual Formation

9:00 am Sunday School

10:00 am Worship: Communion

Special Music: Adult Choir

11:00 am K-2nd Grade OWL

11:00 am New Members' Class

12:30 pm Matu Bethel Church

12:30 pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church

Sunday, February 9

9:00 am Adult Spiritual Formation

9:00 am Sunday School

10:00 am Worship: 7-9th Grade OWL Recognition

Special Music: Adult Choir

11:00 am K-2nd Grade OWL

12:30 pm Matu Bethel Church

12:30 pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church

The Congregational Budget Meeting will begin after worship in the Fellowship Hall today.

Sunday School

Preschool-5th grade will begin in the Sanctuary from 9-9:10am for songs then will head up to Room 202.

6-12th graders will meet in the Lower Level 1 Classroom with Laura Fefchak and Jennifer Gardner.

Adult Spiritual Formation Calendar

Today: Rev. Paul Witmer, Women at the Well

Next Sunday: The Basics of Christianity w/ Pastor Dave

Think About Your Son Sexual Violence Prevention for Parents

February 2nd & 9th, 11am-12:30pm

Think About Your Son is a parent education approach to sexual assault prevention. Combining the best available research with parents' personal insights and cultural wisdom, it provides parents with the information, motivation and support to empower our sons to prevent sexual harm in all its forms.

The sign-up sheet is in the Narthex along with handouts for more information.

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“The Listening Room” is a ministry that is being offered as part of the Care Connectors. If you would like to talk to someone who will listen to you with their heart, a listener is available on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. You may schedule an hour with a trained/skilled listener who will honor your confidences and boundaries. The Listening Room is located in a room in Fellowship Hall. We believe creating a Sacred Space for listening will offer a safe environment where you are being heard as a beloved child of God for listening is soul-based, reflecting God's love. For an appointment email listening.room@urbucc.org.

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Cookie Donations Please!

Our Sunday school youth and volunteers look forward to treats during Sunday school. Please consider donating **3 dozen cookies** and be sure to sign up on the table in the narthex so we can plan accordingly. Please have them to the kitchen by 9am.

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Please Join Green Boat Team @ Climate Crisis Parade Saturday, February 1st at Noon

Green Boat Team is joining with more than 55 churches and organizations in a Climate Crisis Parade. We will meet at Cowles Commons to hear influential climate voices. The hope is that 1000+ marchers will participate and challenge media to cover this issue more frequently and fully. We will be marching through the skywalks to the Iowa Event Center. For additional Information, or to let us know you will be joining us, call Carol Leadingham 208-755-4324.

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Silent Auction to Benefit Simply Smiles and National Youth Event

Start planning your themed basket now! Baskets will be displayed in Fellowship Hall starting February 2nd will be available for your viewing pleasure before and after worship **February 2nd, 9th & 16th**. We will have a reception announcing winners immediately following worship on Sunday, February 16th. A donation request letter is available if you would like to solicit items/gift cards from local businesses to add to your basket. Please see Rev. Amy to get your copy of the letter. ***Baskets can be dropped off to Rev. Amy's office anytime. Baskets are needed by 9am on Sunday, February 2nd in Fellowship Hall. Please include the basket theme, who donated it and its monetary value.***

We encourage teams, individuals and small groups to consider contributing a basket. The possibilities are endless! Here are some ideas for your basket:

Sports Team	Cooking/baking	Games	Craft Supplies
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

URBANDALE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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www.urbucc.org

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."

Staff

The Rev. David P. Sickelka, Senior Pastor..... david.sickelka@urbucc.org
The Rev. Amy Murray, Ministry Program Coordinator amy.murray@urbucc.org
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Ministry Leaders

Caregiving Ministries:

Caregivers, Homebound Rachel Siegel..... caregivers.1@urbucc.org
Care Connectors, Listening Room listening.room@urbucc.org
Prayer Circle prayer.circle@urbucc.org
Prayer Shawl Ministry prayer.shawls@urbucc.org

Leadership Team:

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Small Groups Liaison Rachel Siegel..... small.groups@urbucc.org
Worship Team Patricia Goldberg..... worship.team@urbucc.org
At Large Members: Kathy Marean, Jennifer Gardner, Wesley Keeler

Other Contacts:

Building & Grounds..... B&G.team@urbucc.org
Social Media Team Sandy Gahn social.media@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.