



Ubandale
United
Church of
Christ

God is still speaking

“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 5, 2020

10:00 a.m.

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

The liturgical color for the Sundays of Christmas is white, representing purity and holiness. We are using red today to represent the joy and celebration of the coming of God’s Chosen One.



SERVING AT URBANDALE UCC THIS SUNDAY

Liturgist: TBD

Ushers & Greeters: Jeff Couch, Kathy Marean, Dave Spaulding, Mason Thies

Acolytes: Glen Lewis

Nursery: Anjy Allen

Opening the Church: Today, Chris Jordan Next Sunday, Jeff Couch

Sound Booth: Jon Duvick

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

“Think not that humility is weakness; it shall supply the marrow of strength to thy bones. Stoop and conquer; bow thyself and become invincible.”

Charles Spurgeon

TIME OF FRIENDSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“In Dulci Jubilo”

Dale Wood

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES *Their flames symbolizing God’s Spirit.*

The Magi are brought forward to complete our nativity display.

❖ *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, take a few moments from your hectic lives and seek direction for what lies ahead.

ALL: If we would be wise, we should pay attention to the signs around us that God is at work, doing wondrous things to make love known.

ONE: People of God, consider the gifts that you bring to your journey and use them to enrich the lives of those around you.

ALL: If we would be generous, we should think about the witness we make with how we use what we have, so that community is strengthened.

ONE: People of God, think about your place in what God is bringing about and make an honest assessment of who you are.

ALL: If we would be faithful, we should be truthful about our limitations, while also allowing that we can do miraculous things as God’s Children. Let us praise our God, who invites us into full humanity!

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One, we confess to you that we have been false in our humility. We have claimed to be more than we are, forgetting that our humanity is what makes us dear to you. We have taken it upon ourselves to judge others, when that is not our role. We have thought ourselves more deserving of forgiveness, love and comfort than others. At the same time, we have not trusted in the gifts you have given us. We have stood by while injustices were perpetrated, passed by when our neighbors needed us, and remained silent when our voices could have been raised. Forgive us. Make us bold enough to admit our weaknesses, and strong enough to be who you call us to be. For when we rely upon you, we find ourselves. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

PROCLAMATION

SPECIAL MUSIC

“Mer’s Waltz”

Steven Schuch

Maeve Greising, Violin

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12 (The Inclusive Bible)

¹After Jesus’ Birth – which happened in Bethlehem of Judea, during the reign of Herod – astrologers from the East arrived in Jerusalem ²and asked, “Where is the newborn ruler of the Jews? We observed his star at its rising and have come to pay homage.” ³At this news Herod became greatly disturbed, as did all of Jerusalem. ⁴Summoning all the chief priests and religious scholars of the people, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

⁵“In Bethlehem of Judea,” they informed him. “Here is what the prophet has written:

⁶“And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, since from you will come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.””

⁷Herod called the astrologers aside and found out from them the exact time of the star’s appearance. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, after having instructed them, “Go and get detailed information about the child. When you have found him, report back to me – so that I may go and offer homage, too.”

⁹After their audience with the ruler, they set out. The star which they had observed at its rising went ahead of them until it came to a standstill over the place where the child lay. ¹⁰They were overjoyed at seeing the star and, ¹¹upon entering the house, found the child with Mary, his mother. They prostrated themselves and paid homage. Then they opened their coffers and presented the child with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

¹²They were warned in a dream not to return to Herod, so they went back to their own country by another route.

In this passage, Matthew makes clear that Herod, who is not a descendant of David, is not a legitimate ruler, while Jesus’ legitimacy is attested by the visitors who have recognized his star. There are also clear echoes of the story of Moses in the killing of baby boys (Vss. 16-18), opposition of a powerful ruler (Vs. 13), and a journey out of Egypt (Vs. 15).

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

SERMON

“Take a Knee”

Pastor Dave

RESPONSE

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

“Go Tell It on The Mountain”

John Benke

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

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

INVITATION

COMMUNION PRAYER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

*This morning we will share the bread and cup by intinction. Starting from the front pews, please move to the center aisle (forming two lines) and come to the front. Take a piece of bread and dip it into the cup. Please return to your seat via the side aisles. If you wish to be served in your pew, please raise your hand as communion is being served. *A **gluten free option is available.***

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. Amen.

❖ CLOSING HYMN

“Arise, Your Light Is Come”

Hymnal 164

The candles are extinguished. God’s Spirit remains as a living flame in the hearts of God’s people.

❖ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“He is Born”

Douglas E. Wagner

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:

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 UCC

Sunday, January 5

9:00 am Adult Spiritual Formation

9:00 am Sunday School

10:00 am Worship: Communion

Special Music: Maeve Greising

11:00 am Undecorating

11:00 am K-2nd Grade OWL

11:00 am New Members' Class

11:00 am Youth Ice Skating

12:30 pm Matu Bethel Church

12:30 pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church

Monday, January 6

7:00 pm Budget Team

Tuesday, January 7

11:00 am Staff Meeting

6:00 pm Parenting Way

Wednesday, January 8

5:00 pm Parenting Way

5:30 pm Spaghetti Dinner

6:00 pm Worship Team

WNA:

6:15 pm Adult Handbells

6:45 pm 7-9th Grade OWL

7:00 pm Adult Choir

7:30 pm AA

Thursday, January 9

9:30 am CCPE

7:00 pm Leadership Team

Saturday, January 11

9:00 am Bowtie Boyz Breakfast

1:00 pm Private Group

3:00 pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church

6:00 pm Matu Bethel Church

Upcoming Sundays

Sunday, January 12

9:00 am Adult Spiritual Formation

9:00 am Sunday School

10:00 am Worship: Moravian Love Feast

Special Music: Adult Choir

11:00 am Budget Presentation

11:00 am K-2nd Grade OWL

11:00 am New Members' Class

11:00 am National Youth Event &

Simply Smiles Info Meeting

11:00 am Askable Parent Training

12:30 pm Matu Bethel Church

12:30 pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church

Sunday, January 19

9:00 am Adult Spiritual Formation

9:00 am Sunday School

10:00 am Worship

Special Music: Adult Choir & Raggedy Band

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 School

Preschool-5th grade are rehearsing this year's Christmas Program.

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

Adult Spiritual Formation Calendar

Today: “Three Great Loves: What Is Your Faith Story?” Presenters: Teresa & John Clark

Next Sunday: “Three Great Loves: What Is Your Faith Story?” Presenter: David Sheridan

2020 Our Whole Lives (OWL) K-2nd Grades

The program will run on Sundays from 11am-12:30pm immediately following church beginning **TODAY** and conclude with a celebration and recognition in worship on **Sunday, March 8th, 2020**.

The K-2nd grade *Our Whole Lives* (OWL) curriculum affirms all kinds of families and helps children identify and avoid sexual abuse. It supports parents in educating children about birth, babies, bodies, families and learning how to be an “Askable Parent.”

Thank you to Bonita Wiley, Hattie Bagbey and Mary Minard for being our leaders. This program is available to the community as part of our Strategic Plan goals. Please share this date with others who may be interested.

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New Members Classes!

Our next round of new members classes starts **TODAY** after worship! We will meet for an hour after service on these dates:

January 5 - Sharing our faith journeys

January 12 - History of the UCC

January 19 - History of our church community

February 2 - Spiritual gifts inventory/Membership

Lunch will be served! If you’d like to join us, contact Jon Greising at Jon.Greising@urbucc.org or 515-343-0998.

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3-6th & 7-12th Youth Groups to Brenton Skating Plaza

Youth group will be going ice skating **TODAY**. Lunch is provided immediately following worship in Fellowship Hall. We will head to Brenton Skating Plaza for ice skating about noon. Tickets cost \$5/person and covers skate rental. As always please see Amy if financial support is needed. **Please pick up your youth at 1:30 pm from Brenton Skating Plaza.**

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Are You an Askable Parent?

Please join us for the **Askable Parent Training on Sunday January 12, 2020 at 11-12:30pm.**

Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP and sign up on the table in the narthex by Sunday, January 5th. Childcare will be provided.

To be *askable* means that young people see you as approachable and open to questions. Being *askable* about sexuality is something that most parents and caregivers want but that many find very difficult. Being *askable* is a lifelong component of relationships. It opens doors to closer relationships and to family connections. It’s never too late to begin! Please see Rev. Amy with any questions.

ANNUAL BUDGET PROCESS, 2020

Sunday, January 12th

- Informational session about the 2020 Budget after worship in the Sanctuary.

Sunday, January 26th

- The Annual Congregational Budget Meeting to vote on the 2020 Budget.
- Meeting and Luncheon in Fellowship Hall following worship.

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
Steven Linn, Music Program Director steven.linn@urbucc.org
Bobby Stinnett, M.M., Organist,
Children/Youth Choirs and Handbell Director bobby.stinnett@urbucc.org
Sophiap Eng-Swanson, Office Coordinator..... staff@urbucc.org
Sadmira & Umihana Omerhodzic, Custodian sadmira.omerhodzic@urbucc.org
The Rev. John Chaplin
Adjunct Minister for LGBTQ Concerns & Community Outreach john.chaplin@urbucc.org

Ministry Leaders

Caregiving Ministries:

Caregivers, Homebound Rachel Siegel..... caregivers.1@urbucc.org
Prayer Circle prayer.circle@urbucc.org
Prayer Shawl Ministry prayer.shawls@urbucc.org

Leadership Team:

Moderator..... Bob Harding moderator@urbucc.org
Vice-Moderator..... Jon Greising..... vicemoderator@urbucc.org
Treasurer Jim Nervig treasurer@urbucc.org
Financial Secretary..... Steve Looney..... financial@urbucc.org
Recording Secretary..... Sandy Gahn uccrecorder@urbucc.org
Ad Ministry Liaison Adam Dirks ad.ministry@urbucc.org
Christian Growth Liaison Chris Jordan christian.growth@urbucc.org
Membership Team Jon Greising..... membership.team@urbucc.org
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 or