URBANDALE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

A Just Peace and Open and Affirming congregation

Coming Up in May

Sunday, May 23: Annual Congregational Meeting
Ponderings from Your Pastor

After that, I will pour out my Spirit on all humankind, your daughters and sons will prophesy, your elders will have prophetic dreams, and your young people will see visions. In those days, I will pour out my Spirit even on those in servitude, women and men alike. (Joel 3:1-2, The Inclusive Bible)

Who gets to dream? Who is allowed the privilege of seeing visions? In many Bible stories, dreams are windows into the future and help those wise enough to interpret them avoid catastrophe. Visions, likewise, become the means by which those who receive them know what to do next. Without them, the stories would have a much different outcome. God is revealed and God’s plans are realized in the giving and understanding of dreams and visions.

But not everyone can access the visions or receive the dreams. It is only the exceptional people who get to utilize this gift. That is what makes the prophesy of Joel so radical. It would have been inconceivable in that time to image God being so indiscriminate with the pouring out of the Spirit. The notion that everyone (literally “all flesh”) could have access to God’s revelation must have seemed wild to the point of blasphemous in a culture where Priests and Prophets and kings were looked to for the mediation of God’s message and God’s plan. What would an ordinary person do with such abilities?

The coming of the Holy Spirit is always a lesson in humility. Even in churches where Pentecost is relived every time the community gathers, there is an unpredictability about what is going to happen. The Spirit moves, not at the instigation of human will, but at the direction of God. The Spirit is promised, but timing is left open. We do not get to dictate what the Spirit will do, nor when the Spirit will do it. All we can do is wait for it with open minds and hearts.

What the last 13 months have taught us is that we don’t control much of what happens in our lives. We thought we would celebrate our church’s anniversary. We thought we would celebrate with those who are entering into ministry as a vocation. We wanted to mourn in ways that feel right to us and we wanted to gather as God’s people in ways that are a comfortable routine for us. If there is any blessing in all of these losses, perhaps it is that we might be in a place now where we are open to what happens next.

I hope that we are in a place where our dreams are more in line with the movement of the Spirit. I hope we are open to new visions that include a bigger chunk of God’s people. I hope that we will have a new sense of urgency to taking care of needs that a year ago seemed of no importance. But ultimately, it is God’s Spirit that must drive us forward into a new reality and a new mission.

Let’s allow these moments to lift our hopes and spur our imagination. Let’s imagine new ministries and new relationships. Let’s keep our hearts and minds open to the ways God is acting in our midst and to the possibilities that present themselves. And let’s wait for the Spirit to be poured out among us. Amen.

Pastor Dave
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SAVE the DATE!

Please plan to attend the UUCC Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, May 23rd.

We will review the 2020-2021 program year, update you on the status of the church’s reopening plan, and introduce the Leadership Team for the new program year.

We’ll provide details on the time and place as the date approaches.

may team meetings

- Wednesday, May 5th at 7:00 pm ~ Worship Team
- Saturday, May 8th at 9:00 am ~ Bowtie Boyz
- Thursday, May 13th at 7:00 pm ~ Leadership Team
- Monday, May 17th at 6:00 pm ~ Book Club
- Saturday, May 22nd at 9:00 am ~ Bowtie Boyz
- Wednesday, May 26th at 9:00 am ~ Caregivers

book club will be meeting Monday, May 17th, 6:00 pm via Zoom. This month’s book is, “The Alice Network” by Kate Quinn.

“In an enthralling new historical novel from national bestselling author Kate Quinn, two women—a female spy recruited to the real-life Alice Network in France during World War I and an unconventional American socialite searching for her cousin in 1947—are brought together in a mesmerizing story of courage and redemption.”

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

Saturday, May 15th at 9:30 AM

Hello Friends! Once again, we will join together to Connect and Share our stories and our caring. We have shared about websites or books we found helpful during this time of restricted worlds; we have shared a meaningful experience or situation that had an impact and the new insights you took away from it. This month's question will be sent prior to the meeting for you to ponder. All are welcome and we hope to see some new faces at the May meeting! Please contact Jeannine Dunn at jeanninedunn@gmail or 515-306-4124 with any questions OR to be added to the monthly email prior to the meeting.

Invitation to the Zoom meeting. Please Register in advance for this meeting:
https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJUpfuCorzwtGdWE_9YVgQKRctJbYe6mzQn
School will be out shortly, and the kids will be home during the day 24/7! Toilet paper is an item used by all, young or old, and this month’s personal item is "toilet paper". Canned goods, diapers, and money donations are always needed. Checks can be made out to the church with UFP donation on the memo line.

“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
10:30 am ~ Fellowship Hour

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, Office Coordinator ............................................................... staff@urbucc.org
Sadmir & Umihana Omerhodzic, Custodians ..............................sadmir.omerhodzic@urbucc.org

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