



Urbandale
United
Church of
Christ

God is still speaking

A Just Peace and Open and Affirming congregation

“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are invited and welcome here.”

July 25, 2021

10:00 a.m.

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PRELUDE

“Just as I Am”

W. Bradburry
arr. Gordon Young

GREETING

“I’m not afraid of storms, for I’m learning how to sail my ship.”

Louisa May Alcott

❖ *This symbol invites the congregation to stand in body or spirit*
Bold type indicates a unison response

❖ CALL TO PRAYER AND PRAISE

ONE: Come! Join in this time of worship and blessing so that you might rise above the turmoil of the world’s conflict and striving.

ALL: We draw strength from the stories of faith and the witness of those who have triumphed over fear.

ONE: Come! Share your own experiences of hope and renewal, so that all might be inspired by what God is doing in our own time and place.

ALL: We are transformed by the community in which we practice our faith, learning new and creative ways of following the Way of Christ.

ONE: Come! Prepare yourselves for the time when your gifts and spirit and courage will be called upon to infuse the world with truth and hope, so that God’s children may live again.

ALL: We are the ones for whom we have been waiting! We are the ones to engage the Powers and release the captives! Let us encourage one another as we praise God!

SPECIAL MUSIC

“You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore”
Jon Duvick, Vocalist

Cesaria Gabarain

TAKING STOCK OF OUR BLESSINGS AND RESOURCES

What gifts and blessings do you bring to the work God calls you to? What resources have come into your life that you can share with others? And how does that reflect the provision of a loving and forgiving God?

What keeps us from being generous? What are we afraid will happen if we don’t have “enough?” How much time do we expend managing and taking care of stuff we don’t need and can’t use?

One aspect of wisdom is being good stewards of what we have and being smart about putting our assets to work. Let’s take a moment to consider how God is leading us to use what we have and what we can do in ways that maximize the well-being of our community. Make a note to yourself to use something you’ve been hanging on to in order to make someone else’s life richer.

Disaster relief: www.ucc.org.

Local church support: www.urbucc.org

Jot down what you have that you can share with others –

Think about how you can solidify the beloved community by sharing the time and treasures at your disposal.

PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

God of hope and promise, we thank you for the wonder of nature and the power of your creation. When the waves of uncertainty break over the fragile boats of our expectations, give us the courage to scan the horizon for your presence. When even that causes us to shrink in fear, remind us of your constant love and care. Keep us from indulging the fears that make us withdraw from others, that justify our prejudices and bigotry, that immobilize us when we are called to action and drive us into frenzy when

we ought to be calm and listen to those around us. Give us the courage we need to be in the world without succumbing to its brokenness. Remind us that we have nothing to fear if we are who you intend us to be. Restore us to the life that is really life, so that we might live in joy and trust. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

John 6:1-21 (The Inclusive Bible)

¹Some time later, Jesus crossed over to the other side of the Sea of Galilee – that is, Lake Tiberius – ²and a huge crowd followed him, impressed by the signs he gave by healing sick people. ³Jesus climbed the hillside and sat down there with the disciples. ⁴It was shortly before the Jewish feast of Passover.

⁵Looking up, Jesus saw the crowd approaching and said to Philip, “Where can we buy some bread for these people to eat?” ⁶Jesus knew very well what he was going to do, but asked this to test Philip’s response.

⁷Philip answered, “Not even with two hundred days’ wages could we buy loaves enough to give each of them a mouthful!”

⁸One of the disciples, Simon Peter’s brother Andrew, said, ⁹“There’s a small boy here with five barley loaves and two dried fish. But what good is that for so many people?”

¹⁰Jesus said to them, “Make the people sit down.” There was plenty of grass there, and as many as five thousand families sat down. ¹¹Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and gave them out to all who were sitting there; he did the same with the fish, giving out as much as they could eat.

¹²When the people had eaten their fill, Jesus said to the disciples, “Gather up the leftover pieces so that nothing gets wasted.” ¹³So they picked them up and filled twelve baskets with the scraps left over from the five barley loaves.

¹⁴The people, seeing this sign that Jesus had performed, said, “Surely this is the Prophet who was to come into the world.” ¹⁵Seeing that they were about to come and carry him off to crown him as ruler, Jesus escaped into the hills alone.

¹⁶As evening approached, the disciples went down to the lake. ¹⁷They got into their boat, intending to cross to Capernaum, which was on the other side of the lake. By this time, it was dark, and Jesus had still not joined them; ¹⁸moreover, a stiff wind was blowing and the sea was becoming rough.

¹⁹When they had rowed three or four miles, they caught sight of Jesus approaching the boat, walking on the water. They were frightened, ²⁰but he told them, “It’s me. Don’t be afraid.” ²¹They were about to take him into the boat, but suddenly, the boat was ashore at their destination.

The words for “It’s me.” in verse 20 (ego eimi in Greek) can also be translated “I am.” In John’s Gospel, there are a number of places where these words occur, and it leaves us wondering if John is implanting the notion in his readers/hearers that Jesus is the same manifestation of God that Moses encountered at the burning bush. In that story, Moses asks God what name he should use to bring God’s people out of bondage. God replies, “tell them ‘I am’ (YHWH) has sent you.”

MEDITATION

“Fighting Fear”

Pastor David Sickelka

PASTORAL PRAYER

Take a moment now to check your own prayer list. Add the names that need to go on it, review the names of those for whom you have been praying. Has an answer or resolution come? If so, make gratitude known to others.

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.

❖ CLOSING HYMN

“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”

Hymnal 403

❖ BLESSING

Go now into the world and be of good courage. Be of *good* courage. Your courage is not to be confused with foolhardiness, or false bravado. Good courage is the courage that stands in the face of injustice, that acts on behalf of the dispossessed, that proclaims peace to the distressed and judgment to the unjust. May you carry your faith with courage into the world so that all may see that what the world offers is nothing in comparison to the surpassing love of God. Amen.

POSTLUDE

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

Mark Hayes
arr. Douglas E. Wagner

“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less”

Hymnal 403

My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' love and righteousness;
I dare not trust this earthly frame,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain:

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.

When shadows veil my Savior's face,
I rest upon unchanging grace;
In every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil. (Refrain)

Christ's oath and covenant and blood
support me in the rising flood;
When all around my soul gives way,
Christ then is all my hope and stay. (Refrain)

When Christ shall come with trumpet sound,
oh, may I then in Love be found,
Dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne. (Refrain)

This Week at UUCC

Sunday, July 25

10:00 am Worship
12:30 pm Matu Bethel Church
12:30 pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church

Tuesday, July 27

5:30 pm Parenting Way

Wednesday, July 28

7:30 pm AA

Friday, July 30

5:00 pm Jon Christensen's Open House

Saturday, July 31

10:30 am Nancy Boyer's Memorial
3:00 pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church

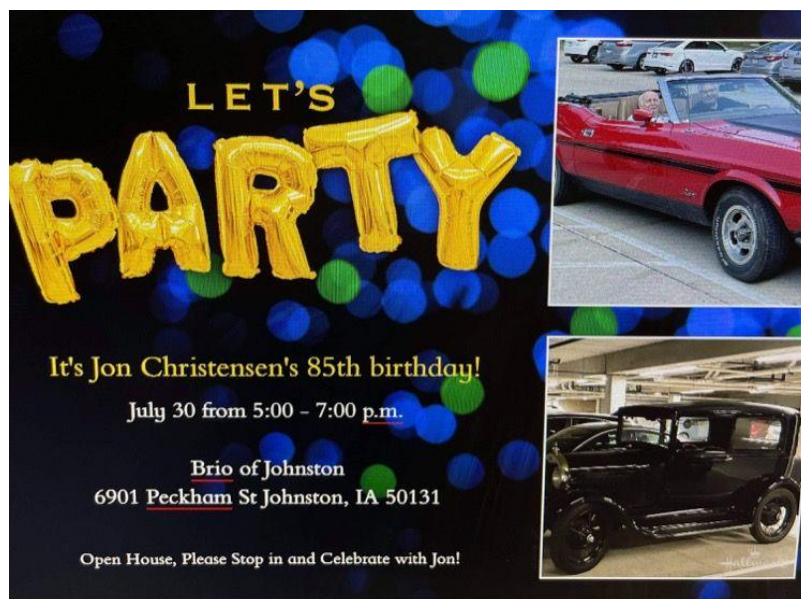
Upcoming Sundays

Sunday, August 1

10:00 am Worship: Communion
12:30 pm Matu Bethel Church
12:30 pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church

Sunday, August 1

10:00 am Worship: Communion
12:30 pm Matu Bethel Church
12:30 pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church



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Little Free Pantry

We need your help to restock the pantry. You are also invited to use it, and let people know about it. Please DO NOT leave donations of food or clothing outside the building when no one is present. Call or email the church office to arrange a drop off time.

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UCAN Clothing Closet

Donation Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am-1pm
Drop off location: 75th St & Douglas Ave (old Palmers Deli)

The Clothing Closet is in need of children's clothing, new packages of medium size men's briefs and Size 5 diapers.

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

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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 text.