



URBANDALE  
UNITED  
CHURCH OF  
CHRIST

*A Just Peace and Open and Affirming congregation*

Hello May



The CALL  
2022

Coming Up in May

Sunday, May 22:.....Annual Congregational Meeting

## *Ponderings from Your Pastor*

Dear Church,

April was wonderful and full of church life. We concluded our Adult Spiritual Formation series that matched the Lent then of Gifts of the Dark Woods. About 50 people gathered in our “upper room” for the Maundy Thursday service which included a choir anthem and readings from twelve people. On Easter Sunday, some of us gathered around tables for a great breakfast. Well over 125 people gathered for our festive service in a sanctuary transformed into a Garden. Many helped on the spring clean up day. I am energized by all these signs of renewed life at Urbandale UCC.

Important plans are being made for the return of Vacation Bible School under the able direction of Amy Murray, Claire Sowder and others. By the time this reaches you, we will be nearly through our first hosting of Family Promise families in two years! On May 15, we will focus on our Refugee Ministry with a guest speaker in worship. Mission and ministry are alive and well!

Endings and beginnings are sprinkled through the month ahead. On May 7 we will celebrate the life of Lois Strickler who passed away late in the fall of 2021. The next day we honor our high school graduates and bless them into the next part of their journeys. May 22, we welcome Owen Lown, through baptism, into the Jesus family – and ours. Owen was born in 2020, a “COVID” baby. At our Annual meeting on May 22, we will recognize and give thanks to those who are completing their time on the Leadership Team. We will also vote for those who are adding terms or will be new to Leadership Team this year. Look at all these signs of life!

The Leadership Team is gathering a Transition Steering Team that will help me move into the deeper and sometimes harder questions of this interim time. This transition is like no other even though the congregation has been between pastors before. This would be true even if we didn't have the ongoing feeling of emerging from the strange cocoon of a pandemic.

I expect to ask these questions sometime soon in venues where we can hear each other's answers and write them down as tools for the journey. I offer them to you now so you can think ahead:

- What has been meaningful about your engagement at Urbandale UCC in the last three years?
- Describe a time when you were proud of the congregation or proud to be part of this congregation or proud of the faithful actions of a member of the congregation. (Pick only one!)
- What is in the congregation's toolbox? (And I don't just mean things like a hammer, saw, or screwdriver!)

Blessings all around as we celebrate the fullness of this season.

*Pastor Coqui*

## *A Moment with the Moderator*

The program year is rushing to a close and with it, my term as Moderator.

When Jon Greising asked me, two years ago, to be vice moderator, I knew that during my term, Pastor Dave would leave and we would enter our interim period. I thought by then the pandemic would be over and everything would be back to normal. I had no idea that our office coordinator would be gone for three months of the year.

The first four months were spent mostly planning for Pastor Dave's retirement – farewells, searching for an Intentional Interim Pastor, planning for leadership.

Next followed 3½ pastorless months. You really didn't need my constant refrain, "We are the Church," as so many stepped up to do what needed to be done. Members, both clergy and lay, shared your faith journeys during worship. We celebrated our Centennial with bits of history, pictures, and greetings from past pastors. We organized a ministry for Afghan refugees. And we met weekly to search for the Intentional Interim Pastor we need for the step into our second century.

We've had the past 3+ months getting acquainted with Pastor Coqui as our interim pastor, journeying through Lent, and entering the next phase of reopening the church as we ease out of the pandemic.

Now, together, we will begin the work that defines "Intentional" in Intentional Interim Ministry. In this time, we will be looking at key issues in our church's life, perhaps addressing issues that are difficult to talk about.

The first step is the creation of a Transition Team of 3-5 members of the congregation who will work with Pastor Coqui to craft the unique process for Urbandale United Church of Christ. The tasks of the Transition Team include identifying issues that need to be looked at before our next pastor arrives, preparing the health of the congregation for the next pastor, and identifying the type of leader who needs to be called next.

After that, we will form a Search Committee who will write a new Local Church Profile and begin the process of searching for and calling our next pastor. When will this happen? "In God's time." We will proceed deliberately but not be rushed.

It has been a busy year with some challenges and many delights. When I first set foot here nearly 16 years ago, I immediately appreciated the warm welcoming, the music, the concern for the world and all its people – the obvious. In leadership, my appreciation has deepened as I have experienced how this church lives out "We are the church" in so many ways and at so many levels.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in this way. Thanks be to God!



## SAVE the DATE!

Please plan to attend the UUCC Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday,  
**May 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

We will review the 2021-2022 program year, update you on the status of the church's future plans, and introduce the Leadership Team for the new program year.

We'll meet in the Fellowship Hall after the service on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.

## May Team Meetings



- Worship Team – Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm
- Bowtie Boyz – Saturdays, May 14 & 28, 9:00 am
- Leadership Team – Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:00pm
- Book Club -Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, noon
- Refugee Ministry- Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 pm
- Caregivers – Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am

**book club** will be meeting Monday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at noon in the Fellowship Hall. The book this month is “Without You There Is No Us” by Suki Kim.

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

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The Tri Conference Ministry of the United Church of Christ of which Iowa UCC and we are a part is facing significant staffing changes in the very near future. Rev. Brigit Stevens, Executive Conference Minister, and Rev. Ellis Arnold, Associate Conference Minister, are each leaving their positions on May 6, 2022. Please pray for our Conference and its ministry we all enter this challenging transition.

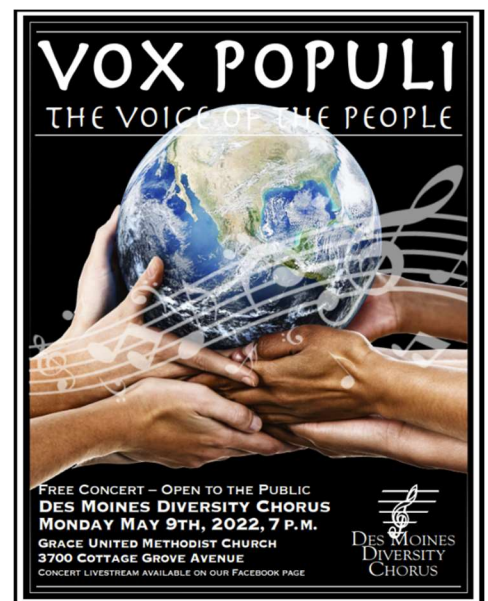
### Des Moines Diversity Chorus

vox populi: the voice of the people. Our spring concert centers around impactful words and stories through time. Featuring the Diversity Chorus, guest spoken word artists, and community soloists. Join us via Facebook Live or in person (masks recommended). The concert is May 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church, 3700 Cottage Grove, Des Moines, Iowa.

### ASF

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The final ASF for this program year will be on May 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. “A year in review” with outgoing moderator Diane Dornburg.



# UUCC Women

**Saturday, May at 9:30 AM**

Urbandale UCC Women will be meeting on Saturday, May , 2022 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.

Registration link for the meeting if you have not already registered for this program year:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZckce-oqTwsE9Aec7vrTt3bLHmUhklovZP6>

We look forward to seeing you! If you have any questions, please call Jeannine Dunn at 515-306-4124 or send email to [jeanninedunn@gmail.com](mailto:jeanninedunn@gmail.com).

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**SAVE THE DATE!  
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL  
DISCOVERY ON ADVENTURE ISLAND  
IS COMING TO UUCC!**

**JULY 10-14<sup>TH</sup>, 2022**

**JULY 17<sup>TH</sup> WORSHIP LED BY VBS YOUTH**

Discovery Island Vacation Bible School

Theme Verse: Arise! Shine! Your light has come; God's glory has shone upon you! (Isaiah 60:1)

Participants will:

- Learn about God's Creation and strive to care for it
- Be encouraged to trust God even when fearful
- Understand how to act on their faith
- Celebrate God's work in their lives
- Be reminded to share God's hope



## End of the program year Sunday May, 8th & Highschool Senior Recognition

*Please join us to honor our graduating high school seniors in worship and teachers/youth leaders in worship.*

*We celebrate the following graduates: Trinity Allen, Leah Gardner, Kendric Santos-Briggs, Jacob Walters, Anna Gossling, Mercer Carter-Shields*

### **Summer Camp @ Pilgrim Heights**

Please see brochures outside Rev. Amy’s office. UUCC pays a half of one registration fee per camper. There are opportunities for children and youth ages Kindergarten-12<sup>th</sup> grades as well as intergenerational camp. Please see Rev. Amy with your interest in attending a camp.

*“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. Coqui Conkey, Senior Pastor.....coqui.conkey@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

Sandy Gahn, Office Coordinator ..... staff@urbucc.org

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

[www.urbucc.org](http://www.urbucc.org)

[www.facebook.com/UrbandaleUCC](http://www.facebook.com/UrbandaleUCC)

# May 2022

May 2022							June 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	26	27	28	29	30		
29	30	31											

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 1	2 D.J. Horrigan's Birthday Megan & Laura Brady's Anniversary Stacy Coy's Birthday	3 Esther McCord's Birthday	4	5 Leslie McCarthy's Birthday	6 Amy Christensen & Ron Lindhart's Anniversary Jon Greising's Birthday Steve Chandler's Birthday	7 Gayle Strickler's Birthday Jessica Lown's Birthday
8 Amelia Sheridan's Birthday Kelsie Miller's Birthday	9 Andy Smith-Jones' Birthday Ashley McCord's Birthday Jerry Woods' Birthday	10	11 Alex Leister's Birthday Maykala Carter-Shields' Birthday Nathan Weeter's Birthday	12	13 Gordon Dunn's Birthday	14 Ian Exley's Birthday Merv Kramer's Birthday
15 Daniel Hoffman-Zinnel's Birthday Karen Evans' Birthday Kathy Marean's Birthday	16	17 Claudia & Richard Mash's Anniversary Mariah Dickerson's Birthday Mary Minard's Birthday	18	19 Becky Eldredge's Birthday Chuck Emblen's Birthday	20 Grant Boes' Birthday	21 Kelly Gifford's Birthday
22 Elizabeth Mensing's Birthday	23 Alexandra Dirks-Bday Barbara Zorn's Birthday Ed Sowder's Birthday	24	25 Bonita Wiley's Birthday Dawn & John Halstead's Anniversary	26 Drew Stiles' Birthday Elena Boelits' Birthday Sara Drake & Shawna Trudeau's Anniversary	27 Gary Thompson's Birthday	28 Ed DeCarlo's Birthday Patricia Kramer's Birthday
29 Ayla Schultz's Birthday Carla & Ken Briggs' Anniversary Scott Davis' Birthday	30	31 Lizzie DeCarlo's Birthday	Jun 1	2	3	4

# May 2022

June 2022

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Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>May 1</b> 9:00am Matu Sunday 9:00am ASF 10:00am Worship 11:00am Sunday School 12:30pm Light Mission	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 11:00am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Parenting Way	<b>4</b> 6:00pm Worship Team 7:00pm AA 7:00pm Adult Choir	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Strickler Memorial Reception
<b>8</b> 9:00am Matu Sunday 9:00am ASF 10:00am Worship 11:00am Sunday School 12:30pm Light Mission	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9:30am Caregivers 5:30pm Parenting Way	<b>11</b> 7:00pm AA 7:00pm Adult Choir	<b>12</b> 7:00pm Leadership Team	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 9:00am Bowtie Boyz
<b>15</b> 9:00am Matu Sunday 9:00am ASF 10:00am Worship 12:30pm Light Mission 1:00pm Matu Bethel	<b>16</b> 12:00pm Book Group	<b>17</b> 11:00am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Parenting Way	<b>18</b> 7:00pm AA 7:00pm Adult Choir	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 5:00pm Stamp Group (Fellowship Hall) 5:00pm Walters graduation reception (south parking lot)	<b>21</b> 9:30am UUCC Women 1:00pm Scouts
<b>22</b> 9:00am Matu Sunday 10:00am baptism of 10:00am Worship 10:45am UUCC Annual 12:30pm Light Mission	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 11:00am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Parenting Way	<b>25</b> 5:00pm Refugee Ministry 7:00pm AA 7:00pm Adult Choir	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 9:00am Bowtie Boyz 1:00pm Kendrick graduation party (the Des Moines Playhouse, 831 42nd
<b>29</b> 9:00am Matu Sunday 9:00am ASF 10:00am Worship 12:30pm Light Mission 1:00pm Matu Bethel	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 11:00am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Parenting Way	Jun 1	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>