

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



URBANDALE UNITED  
CHURCH OF CHRIST  
a just world for all

A Just Peace and Open and Affirming Congregation

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**July 2023**

**The CALL**

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# PONDERINGS FROM YOUR PASTOR

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Dear Church,

I don't know about you, but during the summer I try hard to be at rest. That sounds strange. As a child, my family didn't really go on vacations except to see my grandparents occasionally. Or, to pick my father up from an educational event he was taking part in. I remember two of those and they were BIG trips. For one we borrowed a funky camper from some church friends and drove to California, my mom at the wheel. I navigated with a paper map from the passenger seat. My three siblings kept themselves busy in the back. We met cousins we didn't know, went to Disneyland, visited my folks' friends who lived near the ocean. After picking up my father, we headed back to Colorado on a southern route so we could see the Grand Canyon and stop at Four Corners.

The other big trip involved driving east. I remember getting a LOT of flat tires on that trip. We arrived in Boston and stayed with some other friends of my parents. This family was Jewish and kept kosher. This was great fun for us because we had "tonic" or "pop" with dinner because milk wasn't served with beef. We were dismayed on the night there was fish. We were served milk. We also travelled to Maine and stayed on a lake. We drove south to Washington, D.C. and across to Gettysburg, PA.

Mostly though, our family didn't take specific vacations. The summer break let us be away from school and filling our time with creative endeavors, playing with friends, and working in the garden. The change of activities was a break, a time of rest and renewal.

Not everyone takes vacation time away. There is the movement to "staycation" and planning activities close to home. There are many people that can't afford time off if it isn't paid and don't have much choice about staying home or not.

God calls us all, though, to rest and to recenter, refocus, and renew. This Sabbath time may come for us each week or in chunks of time across the year. The respite from our daily and weekly routines can give us time to acknowledge and appreciate the presence of the Divine. We can slow down and intentionally connect with the Spirit.

I am going on vacation! I will be gone from July 4-10. I am going to do something I have never done before. We will attend the National Women's Music Festival in the Madison, WI area. I love music! This should be a lot of fun, busy fun, creative fun.

I hope you are finding ways to relax and renew, connecting with important people, fun tasks, God, and yourself.

Blessings, Pastor Coqui

# A MOMENT WITH THE MODERATOR

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Isaiah 43: 18-19

*"Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."*

2023 General Synod theme

As I was thinking about what to write, I looked at the General Synod website. Their theme really says what the national UCC and our local church are doing...making all things new! It's an exciting time at UUCC.

**Big New Thing:** The Leadership Team has reviewed the names that you gave us as trusted Search Team members and will be developing the Search Team so they can get started on the search process! If you are asked, please prayerfully consider serving. We are asking seven to nine church members to lead the congregation in calling a settled pastor. The Search Team will create a profile of our church (think really in-depth job description), receive profiles from pastors in the search process (think really in-depth resumes with recommendations), interview pastors, and work through calling our next settled pastor. It will take 12-24 months for this to happen. Please let me know if you have questions about this process, and I will be sure to keep you updated on how things are going.

**More New Things:** The past year of transition work with small group meetings and retreats resulted in a new purpose statement along with core values and ideas on what we have energy to focus on. Watch for opportunities for LGBTQ+ youth support and distributing banned books.

**Summer New Thing:** Third Sunday fellowship with food! Join together in Fellowship Hall following service the 3rd Sunday of each month for food and friendship. It's a great time to catch up with one another. Thank you, Susie Griffith-Tierney and Lynn Busch Rae, for bringing us together and feeding us yummy things (new recipes?).

**A Personal New Thing:** I've never attended General Synod as a visitor or a delegate! I'm one of a number of UUCC members attending the national UCC General Synod in Indianapolis, IN as delegates/visitors the first week of July. We have many opportunities to learn, voting on a new General Minister & President and several resolutions, worshipping as the greater church as well as making new friends! Leah and I will give you an update during worship on July 9.

What is God making new in you?

Together in Christ's Service,  
Jennifer Gardner  
Moderator

# 2023 GENERAL SYNOD



*Making  
all things  
New*  
Isaiah 43:18-19



June 30 - July 4, 2023 | Indianapolis, IN

Please keep these people from Urbandale UCC who are delegates, visitors, and staff at the UCC General Synod being held June 30-July 4.

*John Chaplain, Leah Gardner, Jennifer Gardner, Lisa Griffith-Tierney, and Judith Youngman as delegates. Susie Tierney, Nick, and Naena as visitors. Kendy Miller as staff.*

May God guide them on their journey as they make important business decisions, worship, bear witness and gain knowledge to share with the church.

One piece of business of this General Synod is to elect the next President and General Minister of the denomination. Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson who has been serving as the Associate General Minister has been nominated for this position. If elected, she will be the first woman and first woman of African descent to lead the denomination.

2023 General Synod Home  
Page

<https://generalsynod.org/>



General Synod Agenda

<https://generalsynod.org/agenda-at-a-glance-new>

General Synod Live Stream  
Link

<https://www.ucc.org/gs-livestream/>

## #UUCSynod



# WHAT IS HAPPENING AT UCC THIS MONTH?

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Date	Scripture	Theme
July 2	Isaiah 58: 6-12	God Has Work for Us to Do: Faithful Disciples
July 9	Isaiah 43:16-21	Making All Things New: General Synod Recap
July 16		VBS Sunday
July 23	Psalms 139:1-12, 23-24	Contemplative Worship Service
July 30	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	Treasures

## CELEBRATE VBS

On July 16, VBS kids will help lead us in worship. This year's theme, "Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God" will carry into the service through music and words and even some surprises!

## CONTEMPLATIVE WORSHIP SERVICE

Take some time to slow down, sing prayerfully, sit in silence, and connect with the Holy One. Our regular service on July 23 will be modeled on the prayer service the contemplative community of Taizé, France.

# YOUTH UPDATE

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## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

### SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, July 11—Thursday, July 13

5:30 - 6:00 pm Supper

6:00 - 8:00 pm Programming Tuesday & Wednesday

6:00 - 8:30 pm Thursday with an extra 30 min. for the closing celebration in the Worship Space.

Youth-led VBS Worship Service Sunday, July 16



## VBS DECORATING

Saturday, July 8 from 10 to 12 pm, we will be decorating the worship Space, Fellowship Hall, and Classrooms for Vacation Bible School. All are welcome to come help us decorate and there will be PIZZA!

**Thank you to all of you who have donated items, supplies, and money for VBS this year! We really appreciate the support for this ministry!**



## **6 - 12 GRADE YOUTH GROUP SUMMER ICE CREAM TOUR - pt 2**

Sunday, July 30, 11-1 pm

We look forward to getting together for a fun afternoon sampling the area's finest ice cream celebrating the end of school and enjoying one another's company as we ease into summer! Transportation is provided to and from the church.

## **REFUGEE MINISTRY**

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### Refugee Ministry Special Request

Members of our church's Refugee Ministry were recently asked if we could help with a unique refugee situation. Staff at USCRI, the agency we partner with in our refugee work, told us about a woman and her family who need assistance. USCRI and other refugee resettlement agencies cannot help her because their US government funding sources do not allow USCRI to help refugees from this woman's country of origin.

Our refugee ministry members met with her, heard her story, and saw her paperwork. She had been assisting Ukrainian refugees in her home country, and authorities there threatened her. She had to leave her country to protect herself and her family. She came to the US and is seeking asylum here.

This woman has the required documents for asylum and a skilled profession. She has used up all the money she brought with her. She will need approximately six months of help until she is able to receive asylum and the required certification for her profession so she can support herself and her family.

We are reaching out to other churches to ask them to join us in helping this family. We will be applying for a grant from the national UCC office and asking whether the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services can help. We are also asking you for financial help for this family for rent, childcare, legal assistance, and car insurance. (Another church is providing food for the family.)

If you are willing and able to help, please give a donation to our church and mark "Refugee Ministry" on the memo of your check. Thank you very much for any help you are able to give.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**BEWARE** of any text messages or emails that ask you for information or favors from Pastor Coqui. A number of suspicious texts have been sent listing her name. If you suspect a problem, contact Coqui directly before taking any action.

## SEARCH TEAM



The members of the Leadership Team have been inviting people to serve on the Search Team using the names recommended by the congregation as a guide. The Leadership Team has also considered how to have the Search Team best represent the demographics of the congregation. Part of the Retreat time on July 22 will be a meeting to appoint the Search Team. The Search Team will then meet with Conference staff from some training and start to dig into the first task, updating the Church Profile. Please keep this process in your prayers.

## HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW?

Do you have flowers in your garden? The Worship Team invites you to share some of your flowers to add beauty to our worship space. You may share flowers you grow or flowers you purchase. You may bring flowers to honor or remember a person or an occasion -- or just because you'd like to add beauty to our worship space.

Sharing flowers is simple:

- Bring them to the church by 9:15 a.m. on any Sunday morning. It helps greatly if you also bring a vase!
- If you would like a note in the bulletin to acknowledge your sharing, please contact the church office by the Wednesday before you bring them.
- You may take the flowers home after worship.

Know that those who worship in person as well as those who worship online, will enjoy the added beauty of your blossoms. If you have any questions, please phone the church office. We look forward to your sharing in this way.



## SUMMER COFFEE HOUR

What happens when you are sitting around a table in the fellowship hall eating cake and drinking coffee after church? Ideas begin to pop!! Susie Griffith-Tierney and Lynne Busch Rae will be hosting a coffee hour on the 3rd Sunday in June, July, and August! Plan on staying for good food, fun, and fellowship!! Each one will have fresh baked sweet goodies from Lynne's kitchen with sides of fruit or quiche!! We hope to see all y'all!!



## UCC - Creation Justice Webinar

Jul 12, 2023 12:00 PM CT



# SEEING THROUGH THE SMOKE

WILDFIRES, CLIMATE, AND A PATH FORWARD

A FREE WEBINAR  
JULY 12th at 1 PM ET

How can we find a path forward in addressing the wildfires that have created a landscape of crisis in our climate changed world? This webinar will feature leading thinkers and practitioners in answering this question. Panelist John Vaillant has recently released an acclaimed book entitled "Fire Weather: A True Story from a Hotter World," while panelist Kimiko Barrett from Headwaters Economics is a wildfire research and policy analyst who has been interviewed by national news outlets for her insights. Even if you cannot make the webinar at its scheduled time on July 12 at 1 pm ET (12:00 pm CT), still sign-up, and we will send you a link to a recording of it.

Click here to register:

[https://ucc.zoom.us/webinar/register/3416782913406/WN\\_IY3kFj4kTMK6eJmaxGBqOg#/registration](https://ucc.zoom.us/webinar/register/3416782913406/WN_IY3kFj4kTMK6eJmaxGBqOg#/registration)





# LEADERSHIP TEAM RETREAT

Saturday, July 22  
8:45 - Noon

Covenant Christian Church, 2700 73rd ST

## NEW ANNOUNCEMENT & EVENT SUBMISSION FORM

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As we prepare for the upcoming programming year, Abby has created a new system for submitting announcements for the Sunday Bulletin, Friday Email, or Monthly CALL newsletter. It is a very simple Google form that allows you to include all pertinent information about the announcement\*. Filling out this form will allow Abby to have a constant and uniform way of keeping track of all announcements, and will help to ensure that all announcements are included in the proper church communications timely matter.

To access this Google form, please click the button provided below - OR - a link is attached to Abby's email signature - OR - and starting in July, there will be a button attached at the end of every Friday Email.

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\* Note: On the Google form, there are a couple of spots that allow for documents (ie. doc, docx, pdf, png, jpg, sug, etc) to be uploaded. In order to upload the documents, you MUST be signed in and be using a Google account while filling out the form. If you do not have a Google account and still wish to include a document in your announcement, please email Abby at [Staff@urbucc.org](mailto:Staff@urbucc.org), and she will include the document in the announcement.

Announcement & Event Submission Form → <https://forms.gle/iDeh4pytd4gxfMXC9>

Now Accepting  
Announcements & Information for  
**August CALL**

**DEADLINE**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 26  
@ 3 PM**

Please email the info to Abby at [staff@urbucc.org](mailto:staff@urbucc.org)

If we do not get your CALL submission by JULY 26  
then it may not be included in the CALL

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## **SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE - SUMMER**

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### **10:00 am ~ Worship**

The Rev. Coqui Conkey, Senior Pastor ..... [coqui.conkey@urbucc.org](mailto:coqui.conkey@urbucc.org)  
The Rev. Amy Galarowicz, Ministry Program Coordinator ..... [amy.galarowicz@urbucc.org](mailto:amy.galarowicz@urbucc.org)  
Steven Linn, Music Program Director ..... [steven.linn@urbucc.org](mailto:steven.linn@urbucc.org)  
Bobby Stinnett, M.M., Organist,  
Children/Youth Choirs and Handbells Director ..... [bobby.stinnett@urbucc.org](mailto:bobby.stinnett@urbucc.org)  
Abigail Sinclair, Communications and Office Coordinator ..... [staff@urbucc.org](mailto:staff@urbucc.org)  
Sadmira & Umihana Omerhodzic, Custodians ..... [sadmira.omerhodzic@urbucc.org](mailto:sadmira.omerhodzic@urbucc.org)

**Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm  
515 – 270 – 0625**