

"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

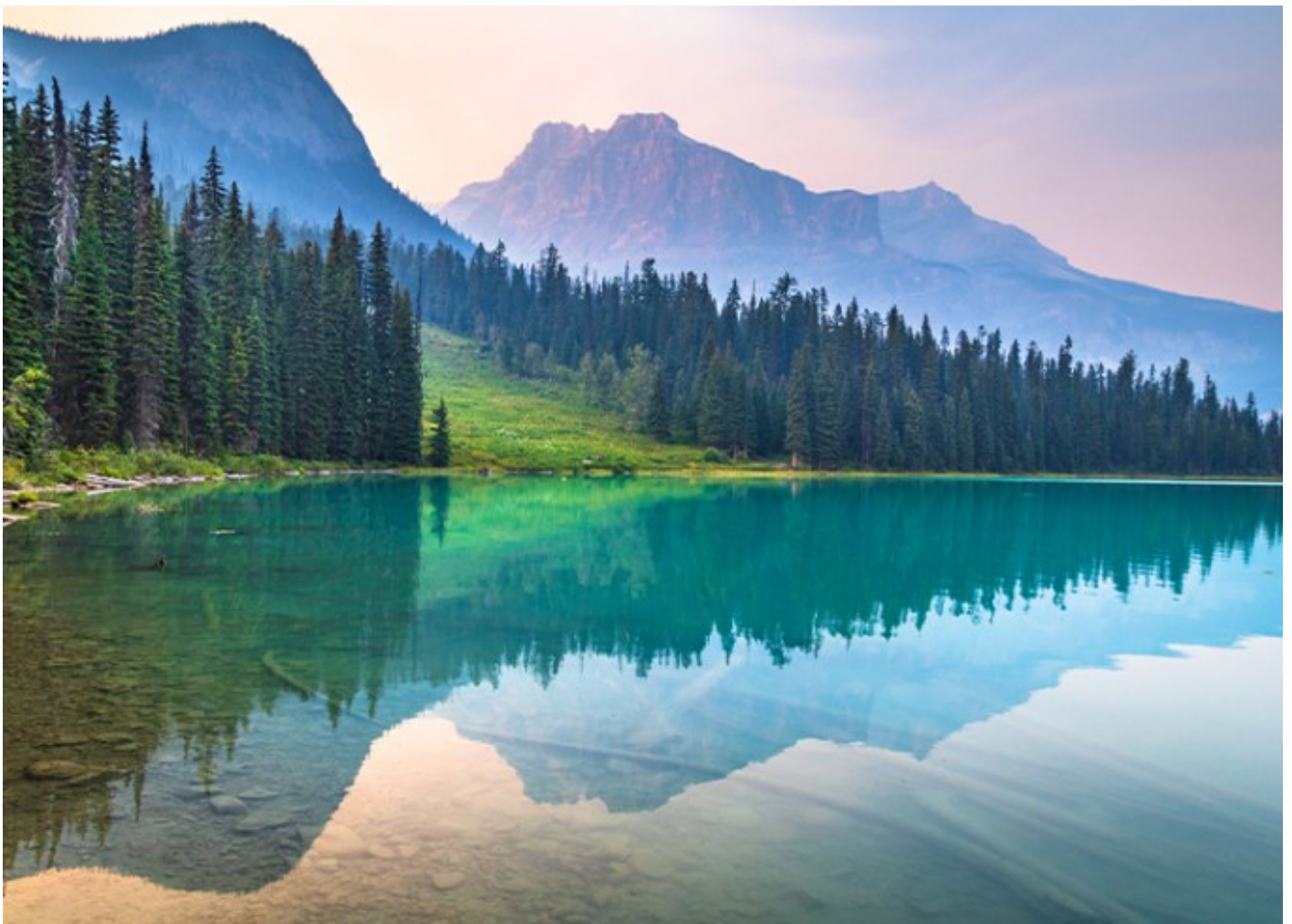
A Just Peace and Open and Affirming Congregation

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**January 7, 2024**

**10:00 a.m.**

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## Second Sunday after Christmas

*The liturgical color for the Christmas season is white, symbolizing purity, light, and celebration.*

*Child care is available in the upper education wing for children ages birth through 7 years. Please escort your child(ren) to the Child Care Room and sign them in and out with child care staff.*

PRELUDE

“Noel for the Flutes”

Louis Claude D’Aquin

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### THRESHOLD

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#### GREETING

“Enter each day with the expectation that the happenings of the day may contain a clandestine message addressed to you personally. Expect omens, epiphanies, casual blessings and teachers who unknowingly speak to your condition.”

- Sam Keen

- ❖ *This symbol invites the congregation to stand in body or spirit. **Bold** type indicates a unison response. NCH refers to the New Century Hymnal; SPP refers to Sing! Prayer and Praise songbook.*

#### ❖ CALL TO PRAYER AND PRAISE

John 1:1-5, 10-14 *Inclusive Bible*

One: In the beginning there was the Word; the Word was in God’s presence, and the Word was God.

**All: The Word was present to God from the beginning. Through the Word all things came into being, and apart from the Word nothing came into being that has come into being.**

One: In the Word was life, and that life was humanity’s light—

**All: a Light that shines in the darkness, a Light that the darkness has never overtaken.**

One: The Word was coming into the world -- was in the world was made through the Word, the world didn't recognize it

**All: Though the Word came to its own realm, the Word’s own people didn’t accept it.**

One: Yet any who did accept the Word, who believed in that Name, were empowered to become children of God— children born not of natural descent, nor urge of flesh nor human will -- but born of God.

**All: And the Word became flesh and stayed for a little while among us; we saw the Word’s glory— the favor and position a parent gives an only child— filled with grace, filled with truth.**

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## ENTER

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❖ OPENING SONG

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

NCH 154

### TAKING STOCK OF OUR BLESSINGS AND RESOURCES

In their great joy, the Magi brought gifts to welcome and honor the Christ child. The one for whom the whole of creation yearned has arrived! What blessing has surprised you this week? In what ways has God provided for you in abundance?

As Jesus was God's gift to all of us, so too are we gifts for the world. We can give back our time, talent, treasure, and trust to make things better in our community, our nation, and the world.

### PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

As the Magi of old, guided by a star in the night sky, brought gifts of homage and gratitude, so we bring our gifts today. May these gifts scatter the shadows of those in need. We come to you seeking to be as wise as the Magi, who gave of their most precious treasures —symbols of the giving of themselves to the Christ Child. May these gifts be a source of light in places where your light and love are needed most. Amen

RESPONSE

“Halleluja”

NCH 236

### CHILDREN’S CHAT

*While we are singing, the young in spirit are invited to come forward for conversation with Ms. Bonita.*

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## ENGAGE

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ANTHEM

“The Winter Rose”  
Adult Choir

Joseph M. Martin

In the silence of the winter while stars shown high above,  
God sent from Heaven’s garden a rose to show God’s love.  
It opened in the dark of the night while the world was fast asleep.  
So perfect was its beauty it made the heavens weep.  
The angels paused to wonder upon that winsome sight.  
And Kings and shepherds gathered to worship in its light.  
They all breathed in its beauty, a precious, sweet perfume.  
And in the bleak midwinter the rose began to bloom.  
O let us now remember when God put on the thorn.  
And love restored the garden and the winter rose was born.

## SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-13

*The Inclusive Bible*

<sup>1</sup> After Jesus' birth—which happened in Bethlehem of Judea, during the reign of Herod—astrologers from the East arrived in Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, "Where is the newborn ruler of the Jews? We observed his star at its rising and have come to pay homage." <sup>3</sup> At this news Herod became greatly disturbed, as did all of Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup> Summoning all the chief priests and religious scholars of the people, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

<sup>5</sup> "In Bethlehem of Judea," they informed him. "Here is what the prophet has written:

<sup>6</sup> '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.'"

<sup>7</sup> Herod called the astrologers aside and found out from them the exact time of the star's appearance. <sup>8</sup> Then 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."

<sup>9</sup> After 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. <sup>10</sup> They were overjoyed at seeing the star and, <sup>11</sup> upon 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.

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

<sup>13</sup> After the astrologers had left, the angel of God suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph with the command, "Get up, take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you otherwise. Herod is searching for the child to destroy him."

## MEDITATION

"Are We Magi?"

Jeff Couch

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## RESPOND

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## COMMUNION

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Words of Institution

*No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, God's table of extravagant welcome is made for you. The bread is gluten-free and the cups contain grape juice.*

*You are invited to come forward by the center aisle. Receive a piece of bread, then take a cup of juice from the tray on the table. After drinking the juice, place the empty cup in the basket, and return to your seat via a side aisle.*

## PASTORAL PRAYER

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

“As with Gladness Those of Old”

NCH 159

❖ BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

John A. Behnke

*You are invited to conclude your time of worship by remaining in your seat and listening to the Postlude.*

## **THIS WEEK AT UCC**

### Sunday, January 7

- 9:00 am Matu Sunday School
- 9:00 am Sunday School
- 9:00 am Adult Spiritual Formation
- 10:00 am Worship
- 12:30 pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church
- 1:00 pm Matu Bethel Church
- 4:00 pm Search Team

### Monday, January 8

- 6:00 pm Grief Group

### Tuesday, January 9

- 11:00 am Staff Meeting
- 5:30 pm Parenting Way
- 6:30 pm Cub Scouts

### Wednesday, January 10

- 5:30 pm Q&A Youth Group
- 6:00 pm Handbells
- 6:30 pm Adult Choir
- 7:30 pm AA

### Thursday, January 11

- 7:00 pm Leadership Team

### Friday, January 12

- 5:00 pm Cub Scouts

### Saturday, January 13

- 9:00 am Cub Scouts
- 2:00 pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church
- 6:00 pm Matu Bethel Church

## **UPCOMING EVENTS AT UCC**

### Sunday, January 14

- 11:00 am Informational Budget Meeting

### Monday, January 15

- MLK Day – Office Closed

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **COVID**

Iowa COVID transmission is currently at a high rate. Masks are available in the Narthex if you would like to use one. Feel free to bring/wear your own mask.

## **CHURCH SCHOOL**

- 9:00 - 9:10 am Singing in the music room
- 9:10 - 9:45 am Bible story and activities in the upstairs classroom

## **REFUGEE MINISTRY**

USCRI, our refugee resettlement partner, has informed us that they have received **65 new clients**. Our congregation continues to be very generous with in-kind donations and monetary donations. Thank you so much. With so many new clients arriving, USCRI is still in need of **kids and adult winter coats, blankets/comforters, towels, and skillets/pans**. If you are able to clean out your linen closets and cupboards again or to make a monetary donation to the church's Refugee Ministry, it would be very much appreciated.

## **GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP**

8 Sessions, one per week beginning Monday, Jan. 8, 2024.

This support groups offer a safe, evidence-based environment for griever to take effective and lasting action, no matter the type of loss experienced. These groups are led by Grief Recovery Method Specialists, trained and certified by the Grief Recovery Institute.



The Grief Recovery Method®

## **FIRST SUNDAY NOISY OFFERING**

Don't forget to bring your coins and paper money for our children to collect during worship on January 7. This is a chance to bring back the movement and joy of giving a little extra. This offering will support Heifer Project. Our children will collect the first Sunday of the month through the program year.

## **BUDGET MEETINGS**

Come learn about our 2024 budget on Jan. 14, 2024. Then attend the Congregational Budget Meeting to vote on the 2024 budget on Jan. 28, 2024.

## **ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION**

Would you like to be known better and get to know other people better in our congregation? Starting January 7 (and meeting each second Sunday of the month), ASF is hosting “Questions and Conversations.”

Jan 14 -- 2nd Sunday Questions and Conversations

Believing that better questions generate better conversations, interesting questions will be suggested as an invitation to dialog. Always Coffee and Tea; sometimes goodies. Maryellen Knowles, leader.

Jan. 21 - Lisa Griffith Tierney, Immanuel Pathways

Rev. Lisa J. Griffith Tierney is one of our covenanted clergy and a long-time member of Urbandale United Church of Christ. Join us on Sunday, January 21, for ASF at 9 am in Fellowship Hall to hear about what she's been up to lately. Lisa will discuss her ministry with Immanuel Communities, who they are and what they do!!

Jan. 28 - Read a “Banned Book” with Us for ASF

Join us during the ASF hour on Sunday, January 28 at 9:00 am to discuss *Gender Queer* by Maia Kobabe, a graphic novel that is among the top books listed to ban across the country. Elaine Lundstrom will facilitate the discussion. Please read the book before attending. 10 copies are on order and a few are on hold from the DM Library. It is also available on Kindle Unlimited and can be ordered from Amazon or Barnes and Noble. If you are able to purchase, please consider donating your copy to our group for distribution to interested young people through youth groups and Little Free Libraries locally.

### **UUCC's Inclement Weather Policy**

The church office will be closed on any day that either Urbandale or Des Moines Public Schools are closed as a result of inclement weather. On those days, all church programming will be canceled. If classes are dismissed early, all events at the church will also be canceled.

On Sunday mornings with inclement weather, a decision will be made by 7:30 am. The recorded message on the church phone system will be changed. (Press 3 for cancellations.) Local television stations will be notified to publicize the announcement and the information will also be posted on UUCC's Facebook page

## **SERVING AT URBANDALE UCC THIS SUNDAY**

**Opening/Closing the Church:** Wesley Keeler

**Worship Team Coordinator:** Debbie Rebelsky

**Child Care Volunteer:** Mary Edwards

**Communion Bread:** Deb Beery **Communion Prep:** Wilona Keeler & Debbie Rebelsky

**A/V Booth:** Ryan Nussbaum (Video) and Scott Davis (Audio)

## **URBANDALE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

3530 70<sup>th</sup> Street, Urbandale, IA 50322

Phone: 515-276-0625 ▪ Fax: 515-276-2451

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

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

[bobby.stinnett@urbucc.org](mailto:bobby.stinnett@urbucc.org)

Children/Youth Choirs and Handbell Director

[staff@urbucc.org](mailto:staff@urbucc.org)

Abigail Sinclair, Communications & Office Coordinator

Jamie Jones, Child Care staff

Sadmir & Umihana Omerhodzic, Custodians

[sadmir.omerhodzic@urbucc.org](mailto:sadmir.omerhodzic@urbucc.org)

### **Covenant Ministers**

Rev. Kendy Miller

Tri-Conference Ministries UCC

Rev. Lisa Griffith Tierney

Immanuel

### **Ministry Leaders**

#### **Caregiving Ministries:**

Caregivers, Homebound.....Rachel Siegel

[caregivers.1@urbucc.org](mailto:caregivers.1@urbucc.org)

Listening Room .....Maryellen Knowles

[listening.room@urbucc.org](mailto:listening.room@urbucc.org)

Prayer Circle

[prayer.circle@urbucc.org](mailto:prayer.circle@urbucc.org)

Prayer Shawl Ministry

[prayer.shawls@urbucc.org](mailto:prayer.shawls@urbucc.org)

#### **Leadership Team:**

Moderator .....Jennifer Gardner

[moderator@urbucc.org](mailto:moderator@urbucc.org)

Vice-Moderator .....Wesley Keeler

[vicemoderator@urbucc.org](mailto:vicemoderator@urbucc.org)

Treasurer .....Jim Nervig

[treasurer@urbucc.org](mailto:treasurer@urbucc.org)

Financial Secretary.....Steve Looney

[financial@urbucc.org](mailto:financial@urbucc.org)

Recording Secretary.....Taena Fowler

[uuccrecorder@urbucc.org](mailto:uuccrecorder@urbucc.org)

At Large Members: Bob Brandhorst, Sandy Hecht, Becky Swift, Kris Thompson

#### **Other Contacts:**

Building & Grounds

[b&g.team@urbucc.org](mailto:b&g.team@urbucc.org)

Social Media Team

[social.media@urbucc.org](mailto:social.media@urbucc.org)

Membership .....Jon Greising

[membership.team@urbucc.org](mailto:membership.team@urbucc.org)

*For pastoral care, please contact the Rev. Amy Galarowicz or the church office.*