

"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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**May 12, 2024**

**10:00 a.m.**

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Voice 2: Forgive us for the times when our friendship has faltered.  
Voice 1: Forgive us for the times we have forgotten how to be a friend to ourselves.  
Voice 2: Forgive us for the times we have forgotten how to be a friend to others.

– a pause –

Voice 1: We know what it means to be loved.  
Voice 2: Forgive us for the times we forget how to love ourselves.  
Voice 1: Forgive us for the times we forget how to love our neighbors.  
Voice 2: Forgive us for the times we forget how to love one another.

– a pause –

Voice 1: We know what it means to delight in creation.  
Voice 2: Forgive us when we forget how to care for your world.  
Voice 1: Forgive us when we walk past the litter dropped carelessly.  
Voice 2: Forgive us when we run seemingly endless streams of water.  
Voice 1: Forgive us when we accumulate more stuff without thinking of the consequences.

– a pause –

Voice 2: We know what it means to show your love.  
Voice 1: Forgive us when we forget to help those in need.  
Voice 2: Forgive us when we turn away from the needs we see around us.  
Voice 1: Forgive us for the times we leave acts of love for another day.  
Voice 2: Forgive us when we harbor resentment and hurt instead of letting them go.

– a pause –

Voice 1: We know what it means to be forgiven.  
Voice 2: Forgive us when we forget how to show forgiveness.  
Voice 1: Forgive us when we forget to pursue justice in love.  
Voice 2: Forgive us when we estrange ourselves from others because we feel too guilty or too proud.

– a pause –

One: We know what it means to be gathered.  
**Many: Forgive us when we forget to extend hospitality and welcome.  
Forgive us for closing our doors and shutting down opportunities to be  
your love in the world. Forgive us for the times we abandon our call to  
our neighbors. O God, forgive us. Amen.**

– A TIME FOR SILENCE FOR PRAYER AND CONTEMPLATION –

#### WORDS OF AFFIRMATION AND ASSURANCE

One: God, who is pure love, offers us love and forgiveness when we confess our sins.

Be free, my friends. Our sins are forgiven. Amen.

**Many: Glory be to God!**

#### PASSING OF THE PEACE

*As a response to the assurance and affirmation of God's love and forgiveness, please remain seated as you sincerely speak to your neighbors "Peace be with you!" with the response being "And also with you."*

#### ANTHEM

"Come to the Music"

Joseph M. Martin

Adult Choir

Carol Looney, Flute

Celebrate! Come to the music, come to the dance!

Sing alleluia, clap your hands!

Come to the music and let alleluias surround you.  
 Come to the music and let each hosanna astound you!  
 Come hear the jubilant song of creation.  
 Come hear the music which rings as a hope to the nations!  
 Music is the sound of creation: crashing sea and mourning dove.  
 Music is the voice of worship. Music lifts our hearts above!  
 Music is our common language. Music is the song of love!  
 Gloria, sing alleluia! Gloria, sing to the Lord!  
 Gloria, sing evermore! Gloria Deo, alleluia!

A TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

*The young in spirit are invited to come forward for a conversation with Ms. Bonita.*

SCRIPTURE

John 15:9-17

*The Inclusive Bible*

<p>9 As my Abba has loved me, so have I loved you. Live on in my love.</p> <p>10 And you will live on in my love if you keep my commandments, just as I live on in Abba God's love and have kept God's commandments.</p> <p>11 I tell you all this that my joy may be yours, and your joy may be complete.</p> <p>12 This is my commandment: love one another as I have loved you.</p> <p>13 There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends.</p> <p>14 And you are my friends, if you do what I command you.</p>	<p>15 I no longer speak of you as subordinates, because a subordinate doesn't know a superior's business. Instead I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learned from Abba God.</p> <p>16 It was not you who chose me; it was I who chose you to go forth and bear fruit. Your fruit must endure, so that whatever you ask of Abba God in my name God will give you.</p> <p>17 This command I give you: that you love one another.</p>
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WITNESS TO THE WORD

"This Is Important to Know—What Will You Do About It?"

Rev. Fred Lewis

HYMN

"Help Us Accept Each Other"

NCH 388

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

One: Healing God, our hope is found in you.  
**Many: Fill our cups with hope. Fill our cups with love.  
 Fill our cups with a sacred pause.**

One: With our whole bodies we offer ourselves to your service. With our whole hearts, we offer our prayers in service.  
 We remember and we name in our hearts today all those, anywhere in this world, who seek your loving kindness and healing care.  
*– a pause for personal prayers –*  
 We also name our blessings in gratitude and celebration of your never-ending loving kindness and generosity.  
*– a pause for personal prayers –*

**Many: Compassionate and loving God, we give thanks for your constant presence. You are present in moments of silence and noisy chaos. In all**

**the moments of life, you show up! You offer care and love to all. Help us see the needs of one another so that we may help fill each other's cups, creating ripples of love. We give thanks for the ability to love one another more fully because of that love you which you show and share with all. Amen.**

#### A PRAYER FOR ALL WOMEN

- One: As God's beloved people, let us pray for the church, the whole human family, and God's good creation.  
We pray for women who are pregnant; those who are waiting with joyful expectation, and those who are filled with uncertainty and fear; we pray for women whose pregnancies are high-risk, and whose lives are in danger in the birthing process. Hear us. Mothering God.
- Many: Your mercy is great.**
- One: We pray for women and men who long to be parents, but who struggle with infertility. Join their cries with those of Sarah and Abraham, Hannah and Elkanah, Elizabeth and Zacharias, that your will may be done in their lives, Hear us, God of Life.
- Many: Your mercy is great.**
- One: We pray for women who are mothers, either by birth, by adoption, or through foster care. We pray that they may be supported in their mothering task by the men and other women in their lives; that their children may be provided with sufficient food, shelter, and healthcare. Hear us, Mothering Jesus.
- Many: Your mercy is great,**
- One: We pray for women who have lost children, either in utero, through sickness, through fear and violence, or through tragic accident. Comfort them, Holy Spirit, with your everlasting presence and assure them of new life. Hear us, Mothering Christ.
- Many: Your mercy is great.**
- One: We pray for women who are incarcerated; women who have been abusive; women who have been hurtful and neglectful. Hear us, Mothering Spirit.
- Many: Your mercy is great.**
- One: We pray for women who give of themselves not just through childbearing, but with their intellect, their skills, their gifts, and their physical abilities. Bless all women, that they may receive equal compensation for their work, may be protected from abuse and harassment, and may be valued as unique individuals. Hear us, Holy God.
- Many: Your mercy is great.**
- One: We pray for those who are transitioning, those who are seeking to understand who God has created them to be in their bodies, minds and spirits. May they be protected from danger during their time of vulnerability, and guided by those who love and support them. Hear us, Holy God.
- Many: Your mercy is great.**
- One: We pray for women who strive to protect and advocate for those most vulnerable---children, the poor, God's creation, the disenfranchised, other women, and those men and women whose voices go unheard. Hear us, Holy Jesus.
- Many: Your mercy is great.**
- One: We give thanks for women who have been our mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters, daughters, life-partners, and friends. We give thanks for men who have mothered us with their own caring, affection, nurturing, and

friendship. We lift to you now the names of those who have mirrored your mothering spirit, Holy God....

– a pause name in our hearts or out loud –

...Give them your grace and bless them in their lives. For all those we name, and for all those who have no one to name, hear us, Mothering God.

**Many: Your mercy is great.**

One: Holy God, we lift our prayers to you through the Holy Spirit in hope, entrusting all for whom we pray to your great goodness and mercy, made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Many: Amen.**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**O God, our heavenly Father and Mother, may your name be sacred to us. May your realm become a reality for us. May your desires be fulfilled among us as they are in your courts. Give us today what we need for life. And forgive us for our wrongs as we forgive those who wrong us. Guide us in tempting situations, and protect us from the power of evil. For the realm that is coming, the power that is growing, and the glory that is building, all belong to you forever. Amen.**

#### A TRIBUTE TO OUR CHURCH SCHOOL STAFF FOR THE 2023-2024 YEAR

#### HONORING OUR GRADUATES

Introduction of the Graduates

Presentation of a Gift from the Church

Prayer

One: God of truth and knowledge, by your wisdom we are taught the way and the truth, Bless these high school graduates as they now finish this course of study. We thank you for those who taught and worked beside them, and all who supported them along the way. Walk with these graduates as they leave and move forward in life. Take away their anxiety and confusion of purpose. Strengthen their many talents and skills, instill in them a confidence in the future you plan, where energies may be gathered up and used for the good of all people, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

❖ HYMN

“Blessed Be The Tie That Binds”

NCH 393

❖ BENEDICTION

One: My friends, look around at the faces surrounding you. God has gathered us here. God has knit us together into one body, one family of faith, in love. Turn to each other and say: “God loves you and calls you to love others.”

POSTLUDE

“Allegro Moderato”

G. F. Handel

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

## **THIS WEEK AT UCC**

### Sunday, May 12

Mothers Day

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

### Wednesday, May 15

5:45 pm Bell Choir

6:30 pm Adult Choir

7:30 pm AA

### Saturday, May 18

12:30 pm Cub Scouts

2:00 pm Light Mission  
Pentecostal Church

6:00 pm Matu Bethel Church

## **UPCOMING AT UCC**

### Wednesday, May 22

5:30 pm Q&A youth group

### Friday, May 24

Cadence & Wilona Grad Party

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **HOW IS THIS CHURCH A GIFT TO YOU?**

We receive many gifts in and through this church, -- the gifts of caring, the presence of the church in times of joy and/or stress, a lovely building, a wonderful staff, inspiring worship, opportunities to learn about the means and meaning of faithful living, the ability of this congregation to engage in mission beyond this building. How is this church a gift to you? How do you support this congregation with your gifts of time, talent, and treasure? Your "treasure gifts" may be placed in the offering plate at the rear of the center aisle, mailed to the church [Attn: Financial Secretary], or through our website [urbucc.org]

## **BANNED BOOK GROUP MEETING**

The Free To Read (Banned Books) group will meet on May 26 after church to discuss next steps. Hope to see you in the Fellowship Hall.

## **YOU ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE OUR GRADUATES!**

Please join Wilona Keeler and Cadence Davis and their families to celebrate their accomplishments on May 24 at Urbandale United Church of Christ in Fellowship Hall from 4-8 pm. Please join Alaysia McCord and her family to celebrate her accomplishments on May 25 at 2109 Sunflower St. Perry, IA. From 4-6 pm

## **PRIDE 2024 PLANNING NEEDS YOU!**

Bob will lead our PRIDE efforts on June 9. There will be a community-wide worship downtown, followed by the PRIDE parade. More details to come.

**"YES, YOU CAN!" SUNDAYS** --- each time you come to worship is an opportunity to bring a canned item or boxed product for the two food pantries we support: our own little pantry as well as the Urbandale area food pantry. Thank you for doing your part!

## **REFUGEE MINISTRY**

USCRI shelves are empty again. With a Cultural Orientation Meeting for new arrivals at the office next week, refugees will be anxious to replenish their own bare cabinets. The following items are totally depleted. Please help provide the following: pillows (new only), comforters, full-size sheets, bath mats, can openers, potato peelers, big spoons/wooden spoons, tea kettles, deodorant, razors, shave cream, toothpaste, bar soap, liquid hand soap, shampoo, conditioner, dish soap, laundry detergent.

**SERVING AT URBANDALE UCC THIS SUNDAY**

**Opening/Closing the Church:** Jeff Couch

**Acolytes:** Boelts Family    **Worship Team Coordinator:** Michelle Thies

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

**URBANDALE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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[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

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**Covenant Ministers**

Rev. Kendy Miller

Rev. Lisa Griffith Tierney

Tri-Conference Ministries UCC

Immanuel

**Ministry Leaders**

**Caregiving Ministries:**

Caregivers, Homebound..... Rachel Siegel

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Listening Room..... Maryellen Knowles

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**Leadership Team:**

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

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