
URBANDALE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

A Just Peace and Open and Affirming congregation



APRIL 2010

THE CALL

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In January we held three teach-ins at Urbandale UCC on immigration reform, and I was heartened to see how many of you attended and how soulfully you reflected on the immigration situation and on the hurt and pain of those caught up in it. I invite you now to reflect a bit more with me on this issue from a Christian perspective.

In a few weeks we will celebrate Easter with expressions of great joy, the joy of God's victory over evil and the powers of Death. In our exhilaration and euphoria, however, let us not neglect these pertinent facts about Jesus crucified and risen: A) Once he went to Jerusalem, nowhere was safe for him; he had no secure place to lay his head; he slept fitfully, if at all, waiting for some acquaintance, neighbor or friend to betray him and for armed men to come arrest him; B) He had no passport, no visa, no safe-conduct pass; he was undocumented. How much Jesus resembles our own undocumented workers and their families! And so the question is: Can we Americans, so safe, so secure, so documented (!) recognize Christ in undocumented immigrants?

If we do recognize Christ in them, perhaps we can convince others, particularly our leaders, to stop persecuting these immigrants, to reform a set of laws which are obviously out-dated and unworkable, to ignore the fact these immigrants look different from us and speak languages we don't understand, to not be frightened because there are so many of them, to reject the unfounded claim that they are living off our tax money, and in general to stop feeling threatened by them. Above all, let us remember that Christ is drawing us all into his presence, documented and undocumented alike.

I said that immigrants are different from us, and in some ways they are. But who among us is not (descended from) an immigrant? Even American Indians are immigrants. Therefore, let us not exaggerate the differences between us and other immigrants, whether documented or not. At a very basic level we are all alike, all immigrants—and from a biblical perspective, all wayfarers, strangers, and tenant farmers on land that belongs to God alone. We also believe—and the Bible makes unmistakably clear—that God welcomes strangers, loves aliens, and shelters and protects sojourners. We should, therefore, not be afraid to point out to others, our leaders in particular, the cruel and ugly disconnect between the deep truth of our faith and our society's treatment of undocumented immigrants.

In the Lord's Prayer we ask God to forgive us to the same extent and degree that we forgive others. Let us therefore also ask God to grant us and our fellow Americans the courage, honesty, faithfulness, and generosity to forgive and honor the undocumented to the same extent and degree that we, the documented, wish to be forgiven and honored. Amen.

Pastor Bob

Central Association Spring Meeting

The Central Association Spring Meeting of the Iowa UCC Conference will be held on **Sunday, April 11** in Grinnell, Iowa, at the Mayflower Homes. The meeting will be from 3-5pm.

Because the church will be closed on the day after Easter, April 5th, **there will be no April All Team Night.** Instead, each team is encouraged to set a time to meet in early April that will work for its own team members.

April 2010

*“Lean close to the land and touch the soil. Can you hear the pulse of my life in the earth’s heart? Can you sense the enthusiasm I have for each new movement of life? In my world, birthing is a daily adventure. Each moment is an invitation to celebrate the experience of new life.” **

Spring has finally arrived. I thought I would never again see grass! The seasons continue to remind us that we are an ever-changing creation. Watching the snow finally melt and tiny seeds sprout reminds us of the promise of new life and resurrection. We can more fully appreciate the beauty of spring having survived a grueling winter.

“Turn your face toward the streaming rays of life and light. Stand with new amazement at the beginning of every day. Believe in resurrection. Receive life in all its fullness. Leap out of winter’s tomb joyfully. Remember that all of your tombs are actually wombs. The seeds of my growth develop gradually in the womb of winter. So do yours. A rich abiding life always lingers near, desiring you to embrace it and claim it as your own.”

Listen to the sounds that have long been hidden by winter’s white blanket. Feel creation all around you and breathe in new life. Take a deep breath and see how God is at work all around you in creation. How is God at work in you?

“You, too, have the potential to burst forth with new green leaves. Resurrection is your inheritance. Receive it with a song of joy.”

We are an Easter people with the promise that even within our wildernesses the promise of God’s love and resurrection is always with us. As we get closer to calling a Sr. Pastor I pray that each of us are open to God’s infinite possibilities ahead.

Shalom,
Rev. Amy Murray

* Quotes taken from *The Circle of Life* by Joyce Rupp.

Pilgrim Heights Summer Camp: “Be A Hero: Living Like Jesus”

The 2010 summer camp brochures are here! Please pick up a copy on the table in the narthex or the church office. They are also looking for counselors, deans and various staff positions. If you are interested in attending as a camper please fill out a registration form and turn it in to the office with half of the fee at least **4 weeks before camp**. Please make checks out to Pilgrim Heights. It requires a signature before being turned in. Rev. Amy will sign it and we will turn it in along with 50% of the total. UUCC pays half of each camper’s total and will pay for one camp per individual. Please contact Rev. Amy Murray if you have further questions amy.murray@urbucc.org.

Summer Campers: Your serving skills are needed!

Do you plan on attending one of the many exciting camps this year? Did you know that our congregation supports you by paying half of your fee? UUCC strongly supports Pilgrim Heights and encourages our youth and adults to participate. It is a great way to meet new friends, build your relationship with God and have lots of fun! **Please come and help serve Easter Breakfast Sunday, April 4 from 8-9:30am.**

Greetings from the Moderator

Happy spring to all of you! This month, I am writing about **Team Time 2010**. Much of the work of the church is done by the members working in teams. During the last year, I have written my moderator CALL articles about the various teams in our church, the work they do, and how you can assist the teams even if you are not a member. You can find the past CALLs on the church website at www.urbucc.org. Team Time 2010 is a time for each of you to prayerfully consider how God is calling you to be involved in the life of our church during the 2010-2011 program year.

Are you a newer member and not quite sure how to join a team or have questions about team membership? Are you currently a member of one of the teams? Would you like to stay on the same team, or would you like to try something else and join another team? Have you taken a break for awhile, but are now ready to join a team again? Team Time 2010 is for you. Team signup sheets will be posted in the narthex from April 15 through May 2. The signup sheets will have the names of people who are currently on the teams and who we think want to stay on the same team. The number of new team members that are needed will be listed on the sheet. There will also be a place for you to sign up to join the team.

Our church's program year runs from about June 1 through the end of May each year. Many teams, but not all, meet during All Team Night, which is the first Monday of each month. The first All Team Night for the 2010-2011 program year will be on Monday, June 7. Childcare is provided during All Team Night. Some teams set their own separate times to meet that are not on All Team night. Youth are welcome to join teams as well. If you have general questions about teams, feel free to contact me at Amy.Christensen@urbucc.com or 252-0663. If you have questions about a particular team, you can contact one of the team members listed on the sign-up sheet for that team. I encourage you to join a team. In addition to participating in the important work of the church, you will get to know your fellow team members better and have some fun doing it. You might think about joining a team with a friend or inviting a newer member to join with you.

If you have any questions or comments, please let me or Randy Jedele know.

Blessings upon you and our church,
Amy Christensen, Moderator

Pastor Search Engine Announces Recommendation for New Pastor

Our pastor search engine has carefully reviewed many UCC Ministerial Profiles, we have conducted interviews, we have checked references and through prayer and mutual consent we unanimously selected——The Rev. David Sickelka (*Sick'.el.ka*) as our candidate for the ministry of our church. We would like to invite you to join us the weekend of April 10-11, 2010 at the following events:

Saturday, April 10, 10:00am – 12:00pm Open House Coffee

We hope you will make every effort to attend the Saturday morning open house coffee, where you will meet Pastor David and his wife, Susan, in a more informal setting. This will be held in Fellowship Hall. Attend at your convenience.

Sunday morning, April 11, 10:00am Worship Service and Congregational Meeting

Pastor David will conduct the worship service. Following the service, a congregational meeting will be held to hear a report from the Search Committee, discuss the terms of the Call Agreement, and vote on the recommendation to call David Sickelka as our new pastor.

New Members Joined on Palm Sunday, March 28th

Jason Dickerson & Michelle Bobo: Jason Dickerson and Michelle Bobo live in Des Moines with their daughter, Mariah (2 yrs. old). They are engaged and plan to marry in early September. Michelle works as a Graphic Design and Marketing Manager for Toy Network LLC in Indianola, and part-time at Easter Seals. Jason works at Easter Seals as well, and is looking forward to attending college this Fall! “Coming to Urbandale UCC from Plymouth Church, we are happy to be staying in the UCC family and excited to be a part of a smaller congregation.”

Rachel McCann: My family and I live in Johnston. We consist of me, my husband Tim, our 7 year old son Keenan (however, I just found out the other day he is actually 7½ —I forgot how important that ½ is!) our two adopted Greyhounds Annie and Mimi, a cat named Pugsley and a variety of fish.

I have been employed with Middendorf Insurance since 2000. I became part of the industry in 1987 and earned my insurance license in 1989, to give you an idea of my age. I’m also Vice President and general bookkeeper of Deck the Walls at Merle Hay mall, which my husband and I happen to own.

I am a den leader for Keenan’s cub scouts and general chauffeur for everything from birthday parties, to soccer to piano lessons and of course scouts. I’m involved with the Johnston Chamber and act as a Chamber Ambassador, making people feel welcome at events like breakfast before business, luncheons and ribbon cuttings.

I realized toward the end of last year that I wasn’t really doing anything for me, other than getting up at 5am to go exercise. So, along with a neighbor and two friends, we scrapbook at Archivers once a month from 1pm-11pm; the time really flies and we have a lot of fun. Two months ago I joined a book club with some really great women, and I have even attended one of the Art Club afternoons which was lots of fun.

My journey to Urbandale UCC was part of something for myself. About two years ago some friends of mine and I were talking and somehow we ended up talking about churches. I expressed that I had been looking for one that spoke to me, not at me. They suggested I visit their church. I really enjoyed visiting, but life, as it does, got in the way and I stopped visiting. I had just started attending Urbandale UCC again, and shortly after received a call from my mom that she had cancer. Funny how life works sometimes, but I think things happen for a reason and my decision to come back couldn’t have been at a better time.

Becoming an official member of Urbandale UCC means a lot to me and I’m looking forward to many new friendships.

Chip & Nicole Seay have been married since 2001. They have 2 children: Madelynne, 6, and Colin, 3. They also have 2 dogs. Bella is a 14ish year old hairless Chinese Crested rescue dog and Arwen is their 3 year old rescue Rottweiler.

Nicole has been a stay at home mom since the birth of their oldest and is back in school to complete her bachelors in Early European History, and hopes to graduate college before her oldest does. Nicole enjoys knitting, baking, sewing and volunteering at Living History Farms in the millinery. Nicole also homeschools her children.

Chip works at Sysco Foods in Ankeny as a Network Administrator and is also in the Air National Guard. He enjoys spending time with his family and riding his motorcycle every chance he can get!

Madelynne enjoys dance and cheerleading. She also loves hanging out with friends and singing in choir at church. Madelynne had ambitions to play the harp one day!

Colin enjoys trucks, trains, balls and anything that can be made into a sword or weapon. Colin is also an avid football fan, and seems to favor the Cowboys these days.

Holy Week

Maundy Thursday ~ April 1st

7:00 pm: Communion, Prayers, and symbolic Foot-Washing by a congregational representative and the pastor.

In this service we recall the example of Jesus' humility as Good Friday drew near and Jesus performed the menial task of washing the disciples' feet despite their protests. In the ancient world this task was customarily done by servants or other people of low rank. The Gospel of John, where the story is told, does not explain why this act of hospitality was omitted when Jesus and his disciples arrived for the meal. All we know is that during the meal Jesus rose from the table and began to wash his disciples' feet in silence. We observe foot-washing because in a powerful way it demonstrates the place of humility and service in the Christian life. The disciple Peter did not want to have his feet washed but changed his mind when Jesus told him how important it was.

Good Friday ~ April 2nd

7:00 pm: Service of Tenebrae

"Tenebrae" means darkness in the deepest cosmic sense. Through a series of scripture readings the congregation descends with the crucified Jesus into the darkness as the candles are extinguished and the sanctuary stripped of ornamentation.

Holy Saturday ~ April 3rd

7:00 pm: Easter Vigil

This is a service of remembrance of the mighty acts of God. God's pillar of fire will be relit outside and brought back to the sanctuary. We will close with celebration.

Easter ~ April 4th

10:00 am: Worship with Communion

8:00-9:30 am: Easter breakfast

Church School classes will not meet on Easter morning but childcare will be provided for children up to age 7.

Delegates to Annual Meeting of the Iowa Conference

June 11-12, at Grinnell College

Our congregation is entitled to three voting delegates at the Annual Meeting of the Iowa Conference, and it is important for Urbandale UCC to be well represented. In fact, it's our covenantal responsibility to be well represented. One of these three delegates would presumably be the Senior Pastor, with the remaining two voting delegates coming from among the following: 1) members of the Leadership Team, 2) other active members who are not on the Leadership Team and not heads of other teams, 3) members old enough to be familiar with our congregation's history, or 4) active youth who can voice their generation's hopes, needs, and opinions. If you fit any of these categories and desire to represent Urbandale UCC as a voting delegate, please contact Amy Christensen or Randy Jedele as soon as possible.

Easter Lilies and Spring Flowers decorating our Chancel today were given by the following people:



Juanita Baker	In memory of her husband, John Baker
The Clark-Cain Family	In memory of Theresa Cain Harkin & Frank Cain, In memory of Brian & Charles Clark
John Chaplin	In memory of Lee Willems
Amy Christensen & Ron Lindhart	In honor of their children
Jeff Couch, Kathy Marean & Sandy Gahn	In memory of Mickey Couch, Jim Couch & their grandparents In honor of their children, Matt (Juliet), Katie (Greg), Andy & Alex
Lee Couch	In memory of Mickey Couch
Audrey DeCarlo	In memory of Margaret & Gilbert Collins In memory of Ann & Albert DeCarlo
Howard Eldrenkamp	In memory of Florence
Debbie Gannon	In honor of Reba Collier
Christina Gonzalez	In memory of Marie Kent In honor of Sophie Gonzalez
Linda Hancock	In memory of her parents, Harriet & John Reynolds In memory of her brother, Bill Reynolds
Joyce Hjort	In memory of Douglas Hjort In honor of her grandchildren
Chris Jordan	In memory of her father, Donald Jordan
Steve & Carol Looney	In memory of Cecil Looney and Alona Pease
Mary Looney	In memory of Cecil Looney
The Lundstrom-Yurdin Family	In memory of Margaret Lundstrom In honor of Natalie Yurdin and Gertrude Shure
Berneda Milligan	In memory of her husband, Dale, and son, Russ
Elsie Naylor	In memory of Hoyt & Maxine Naylor and Elsie Keith
Ron & Sandy Nussbaum	In honor of their 40 th Wedding Anniversary
Roger & Carol Sharp	In memory of their parents
Jerry & Bonita Wiley	In honor of Nathan & Krista's Baptisms
Jerry & Dianne, Tony & Brandon Woods	In memory of Harry & Dorothy Freymuller and Paul Woods In honor of Charlotte Woods

◆ Food Pantry for April ◆

During Lent we have been making a special appeal to bring food items for the Food Pantry. Thanks to all who have been so generous in bringing food and in contributing money. We do not have a final count of what has been contributed during Lent, but there has been a good response. We should have a final result soon, and we look forward to continuing our help.

For food items, there is always a need for **peanut butter**, and for personal items, the Urbandale Food Pantry asks UUC to contribute **shampoo**. *Ray Bowler*

Celebrate the Resurrection! Volunteer for IHN

Every small act of charity and kindness is a testimony to the reality of the Resurrection, another stone shouting, "God is good!" This month Urbandale UCC hosts families through Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) on **April 11-18**. Falling as it does during Eastertide, IHN becomes an ideal opportunity for you to declare in concrete action that death and despair do not have the final word, but goodness and kindness persist in the midst of harsh reality. There are many ways to participate: provide food, serve food, spend the night, drive, help set-up or tear-down, do laundry or support the effort financially. Please sign up on the white board in the narthex. A dry-erase board was set up in the narthex in March. We especially want to encourage you to sign-up with a friend. For more information and a complete job description for each volunteer opportunity, contact Tom Rendon at tom.rendon@urbucc.org.

AMOS & Juvenile Justice

Come to the AMOS meeting on **Monday, April 19th** at 7 pm held at First Christian Church, 25th & University. Citizens from across Des Moines will gather to support solutions for issues identified by AMOS that relate to juvenile justice.

Celebrate Spring With Rebuilding Together

A sure sign of spring, along with a crocus showing up in the lawn and the first sighting of a robin, is the Rebuilding Together event. Rebuilding Together is community-wide effort (with more than 200 affiliates across the nation) that helps rehabilitate the homes of low-income homeowners, particularly the elderly, disabled, and families with dependent children. It all happens on Rebuilding Day, **Saturday, May 1**, when members and friends of Urbandale UCC will join a team to tackle some rehabilitation tasks. Look for more information in the bulletin and a sign-up sheet in the narthex.

Congratulations to the Mokhtars!

Sadagat and Qayum Mokhtar passed their citizenship tests in February, and on March 12th became citizens in a ceremony at the Historical Building. The two oldest children (Khalik and Sabira) automatically became citizens with their parents. The youngest child (Hamida) was born here. This was quite a milestone for them. They are very happy and relieved!

Nametag Alert!

Please wear your nametags, especially at the Open House to meet Pastor David Sickelka on Saturday, April 10th, and at his candidating sermon on Sunday, April 11th—in order for him to learn your names, and to be most welcoming—to him, to new members, and to other visitors. If you need a nametag, please drop a note in the offering plate or call the church office, 276-0625.

April 2010 Who... What... Where... When...

	April 4 Easter, Communion	April 11	April 18 Food Pantry	April 25
Scripture	John 20:1-18	Acts 5:27-42	Acts 9:1-20	John 17:20-26
Preaching	Pastor Bob	Pastor Dave Sickelka	Pastor Bob	Pastor Bob
10:00 Liturgist	Elsie Naylor	Pastor Search Team	Hattie Bagbey	Jim Sutter
10:00 Music Leadership	Adult Choir	Adult Choir Raggedy Band	Adult Choir Youth Handbells	Adult Choir SOS Choir
10:00 Ushers & Greeters	Laura Fefchak Jennifer Gardner Chris Jordan Jeff Couch Dianne Woods Julia Wierson Mark Wierson	Pastor Search Team	Linda Grathwohl Nancy Boyer Ray Bowler Chris Gonzalez	Sharon Johnson Diane Gladson Jim Nervig Robby Nervig
10:00 Acolytes	Ashley Dhainin Leah Gardner	Pastor Search Team	Grant Gossling Ian Fefchak-Robinson	Josh Dhainin Seth Gardner
10:00 Nursery	Danielle Hilby Deb Beery	Deb Beery Morgan Pech	Danielle Hilby Deb Beery	Danielle Hilby Deb Beery
10:00 EIW Room*	Carolyn Washburn Grace Clark	Grace Clark Pat Boes	Grace Clark TBD	Susan Joynt Grace Clark
Opening the Church	Chris Jordan	Jeff Couch	Mark Siegel	Jerry Woods
Offering Recorders	Chris Jordan Ruth Rasmussen	Ruth Miller Tom Rendon	Steve Chandler Mark Siegel	Karen Capps-Davis Geri Jacobs Jim Nervig
Sound Booth	Jon Duvick	Scott Davis	Evan Lundstrom-Yurdin	Ray Bowler

*EIW Room stands for "Everyone Is Welcome" Room.

May 2010 CALL DEADLINE: Thursday, 15 April – 9:00 am

Activities & Events

April 2010

April 2010							May 2010								
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S		
14					1	2	3	18					1		
15	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	19	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
16	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	20	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	21	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
18	25	26	27	28	29	30		22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
								23	30	31					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				April 1	2	3
				Holy Week		
				7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship	Rev. Amy away 7:00pm Good Friday Worship 7:00pm Easter Vigil	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Rev. Amy away Easter 8:00am Easter Breakfast 9:00am NO Sunday School 10:00am Worship: Communion	Easter Holiday - Office Closed 7:00pm NO All Team Night	1:30pm Staff Meeting	5:30pm Wednesday Night Alive 7:30pm AA	6:00pm Private Group 7:00pm Book Club		9:00am Staff Meeting 10:00am Reception for Pr Sickelka 1:30pm Wedding Rehearsal 4:30pm Zinnel/Hoffman Wedding
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship: Pr Sickelka	IHN Host Week					
	1:30pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Leadership Team	9:30am Caregivers 7:00pm Memorial Garden Meeting	1:00pm Women's Fellowship 5:30pm Wednesday Night Alive 5:30pm Community Meal 7:30pm AA	CALL Deadline		8:00am Bowtie Boyz IHN breakfast 9:00am Spring Cleaning Day 9:30am Prayer Shawl Group
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship: Knox & Murray Baptisms	1:30pm Staff Meeting	6:00pm Caregivers 2	5:30pm Wednesday Night Alive 7:30pm AA	6:00pm Private Group	5:30pm Orff Group	
25	26	27	28	29	30	
9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship 1:00pm Art Club	1:30pm Staff Meeting	6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Spirituality Book Group	5:30pm Wednesday Night Alive 7:30pm AA	6:00pm Private Group		

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00-9:45AM

Christian Education at Urbandale UCC is a spirit-filled adventure for all ages from 3 years to adult. Grades 5 and under follow the Gather 'Round curriculum, with lessons focusing on key stories of the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament. 6-8th graders and 9th-12th graders are guided by their teachers through units based on the big themes of Christian church life. Lessons use Bible study, film, drama, art, discussion, and other resources to explore ideas like worship, community, mission and stewardship.

Preschool Ed Wing 202 Grades 3, 4 & 5 Ed Wing 203
Grades K, 1 & 2 Lower Level 1 Grades 6, 7 & 8 Fellowship Hall SE
Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12 Fellowship Hall NW

Adult Spiritual Formation, held in Fellowship Hall, 9:00-9:45:

April 4: **NO Sunday School, Adult Spiritual Formation, or Bible Study on Easter.**

April 11: *Yom HaShoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day)*, presented by Chaplain Peter Pintus, Holocaust Survivor.

April 18: *Sexual Assault Awareness*, presented by Diane Dornburg.

April 25: *Hospice 101: Understanding Hospice Care and Dispelling the Myths*, presented by Pat Hanson, RN & Hospice Care Consultant.

Bible Study: Discussion of Sunday's lectionary text led by Pastor Bob, Pastor's office, 9:00-9:45am.



A Meal will be served from 5:45-6:30

5:30-6:00	SOS Choir	1st-8th grade
6:00-6:30	Youth Handbells	4th-Sr. High
6:30-7:00	Adult Handbells	Sr. High and up
7:00-8:30	Adult Choir	Sr. High-Adults

From 5:30-7:00 pm, childcare is available. Ages birth through 3 years may play in the nursery with Judy Waters and Angie Kenna. If your child is not in one of the scheduled activities, please honor the safety policy and supervise him/her so that children are not unattended in the building.

Mark your calendars now for the next Wednesday Night Spaghetti Dinner on April 14th.

Memorial Garden “Gardeners” Seek Others to “Play in the Dirt”

We invite those who love gardening—or wanting or willing to learn—to assist us with maintaining the Memorial Garden off the west parking lot, by the small blue shed. We maintain it so that it continues as a peaceful, sacred space for all to visit, to contemplate and pray, as well as for the burial of cremains of loved ones. Gardening together has nurtured several friendships, so think of this as a means to grow new church relationships. To learn more and plan maintenance for the year, please join us on **Tuesday, April 13** from 7-8pm. We'll spend no more than an hour, including a walk through the garden to identify planting & plant care needs. See Elaine Lundstrom or Geri Jacobs for questions. Phone Elaine at 251-8277 or email e_lundstrom@msn.com.



Memorial Gift Results in Musical Gift for Many

Monetary gifts which are given to our church in memory of loved ones and friends are used in a variety of ways to enhance the life of our congregation. The family of Doug Hjort requested that his memorial money be used in the music department. After the Adult Choir and Elsie Naylor explored options, it was decided to commission an anthem in Doug's memory.

What's more important for a choir anthem, music or words? Directors wrestle with that question when choosing appropriate music for a choir. Ideally, the two elements are of equal weight. That certainly is the case with this anthem. The text was written by **Jane Robinette**, a poet/artist from our own congregation. She has eloquently captured not only the Montana mountains so dear to the Hjort family, but then lifts that theme to the mystical realm of the Spirit. The music has been written by one of the current bright lights in the field of serious church music, Dr. Craig Phillips, Director of Music at All Saints Episcopal Parish, Beverly Hills, CA.

The Adult Choir is being joined by additional singers from UUCG, the community and Diversity Chorus, as well as the SOS Choir and soloists and instrumentalists from our congregation. The program will feature some of "Elsie's favorites" and conclude with the premiere performance of *The Mountain*, our commissioned work. Come, and applaud to your heart's content as you are inspired by the gift of music!

Choral Concert
Sunday, May 2, 2010
3:00 p.m.
Reception to follow in Fellowship Hall

Save the Date for Ladies Tea and Tiaras at UUCG **Saturday, May 15, 2pm-4pm**

Ladies, invite a special woman or girl in your life—your mother, daughter, sister, sweetie or friend. The afternoon will include tea, savories, sweets and crafts. Tickets are \$15 per person and will be sold beginning April 18. Tickets will include a special invitation to give to your invitees.

We will also have special tribute cards available that you may purchase separately to send to those women who you would love to invite but who just aren't able to attend. Tribute cards will include tea for your honoree.

Volunteers will be needed on May 15, as well as in advance, to bake some of our sweets. See the table in the Narthex to sign up. Watch the bulletin or contact Barbra or Betti Jotzke-Torrier at 244-1044, or e-mail barbnbetti@mchsi.com, for more information.

Our condolences to the Ken Briggs Family, on the death of their son, Jeff McMurray, who passed away on March 4, 2010 in Oklahoma. A funeral service was held there on Monday, March 8th.



Opportunities to donate Chancel Flowers are still available in April, and throughout the remaining months of the year. Please check the sign-up chart on the door of the narthex.

Join a group—Start a new group! Check out the Small Group Ministry Bulletin Board (in the west hallway). This month the spotlight is on the UUCC Art Club.

Women's Fellowship

Women's Fellowship will meet at 1:00 pm on **Wednesday, April 14** in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome!



April Book Club Selection

Book Club will meet **Thursday, April 8** at 7pm in Chapters Café at the Urbandale Library. The book for April is *Still Alice*, by Lisa Genova, and for May we're reading *Blink* by Malcom Gladwell. If you love to read, please join us!



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The Urbandale UCC Prayer Shawl Ministry is available to all the church family. Do you know someone who has had a significant loss, major surgery or is coping with a serious illness, going through a transition, and/or experiencing a difficult time? Please submit a request card found on the prayer shawl display in the narthex or email prayer.shawls@urbucc.org.

The Prayer Shawl meets on Saturday morning on the third week of each month. The next meeting will be **Saturday, April 20** at 9:30 am in the room off Fellowship Hall, FH-NW.

UUCC Unique Card Creations

UUCC Unique Card Creations has hand-made note cards available for purchase after worship on the first Sunday of each month. Proceeds from sales are given to the general church budget.

The Art Club will meet on **Sunday, April 25** from 1-4 pm at Jennifer Gardner's home, 7305 Twana Dr. Come for all or part of the time—bring a project to work on, or bring yourself and we will find a project for you! There will be no meeting in December. Questions? Contact Ann Boes, ann.boes@urbucc.org.

COMING EVENTS:

Look for details of these and other coming events on the Community Events Bulletin Board!

Thursday, June 10: Informal Reception for Rev. Patricia E. de Jong, 3:00-5:00pm in Fellowship Hall. Rev. de Jong is Senior Minister at First Congregational Church of Berkeley, CA and former Urbandale UCC pastor. All are welcome to stop by and visit with Pat! For more information, please contact Berneda Milligan or Leslie and Dave Sheridan.

Donate Gently Used Prom Dresses and shoes for Urbandale High School students who may not be able to afford Prom attire. Contact Lee Anne Cutler if you have something to donate: 457-6882, cutlerl@urbandale.k12.ia.us

The Caregiver's Corner:

Grief

By Don Walters

Grief is the *process* initiated by a *loss* in our life. The loss could be the death of a spouse, relative or close friend. It can be the loss of a job or a vocation that leads to disability. The loss can be a loss of financial security, a home, our health, or our standard of living. A grief loss can be the loss of a meaningful relationship, such as the departure of a good friend. Whatever causes a grief process to begin, it is always caused by a loss of something valuable and important to us. We ache for that person or thing which we have lost.

The grief process always begins a cycle of well-known *stages* that effect our emotions, thoughts, and spirit. The process usually begins with the stage of *denial* of the loss. We cannot believe that our relative or good friend is gone. We don't want to believe that we really did lose our job or vocation. In the denial stage we try and insulate ourselves from the major loss in our life. We think that surely it never happened. Denial is the body's way of giving us time to adjust to the loss.

The next stage of the grief process is usually *anger*. We become furious with the person who has left us or with the company that laid us off. Often, we become angry with God, thinking that God has somehow had a hand in our loss. It is no fun to go through this stage of grief; however, it cannot be avoided. We cannot pretend forever, that we are not angered by the loss we have suffered. Behind our anger is often genuine pain and hurt.

Feelings of *depression* usually follow after the anger stage of grief. We become very low in our spirit. Life loses its vitality and colors. We lose interest in the everyday activities of life. We may not want to eat or be around people. We may not want to be in worship, where everyone else is happy and singing joyfully while we are in pain. Yes, depression is like slipping into a pit of despair. We do not know how long we will be in the pit. We only know that we are there and that we cannot will ourselves out of it!

Bargaining is often, but not always, the next stage of the grief process. Here we attempt to make a deal with God to make right our situation. We may promise something to God, such as being a better Christian if we get our job back. We may try to make a deal that we will serve the needy and poor, if only we regain the losses in our 401-K retirement fund. Whatever we say we will do, it is our attempt to bribe God to do something positive for us.

Acceptance is the final stage of the grief process. It is in this stage that life returns to normal for us. We have accepted our loss, even though we do not like it. Here we have made peace with God and ourselves. The vitality and colors of life return to us.

The stages of the grief process usually reoccur many times. We cannot control the stages of the process. We can only embrace each stage and go with the thoughts and feelings that each stage brings. The grief process can be postponed and delayed, as when the husband of a mother with young children dies. The mother can delay the grief process to attend to her growing children.

As Christians, we need to remember that God is present to us in each stage of the grief process. God is as close to us as a prayer. Scripture tells us that the Holy Spirit prays for us when we cannot pray for ourselves. Thus, the grief process is a gift from God to mend and heal life's wounds that come our way!



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9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Worship

The Rev. Dr. Bob Butterfield, Interim Senior Pastor.....bob.butterfield@urbucc.org
The Rev. Amy Murray, Ministry Program Coordinator amy.murray@urbucc.org
Elsie P. Naylor, M.M., Music Program Directorelsie.naylor@urbucc.org
Bobby Stinnett, M.M., Organist,
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The Rev. Gayle Strickler, Jr.,
Adjunct Minister for Community Concernsgayle.strickler@urbucc.org

Church office hours are 9:00am – 3:00pm