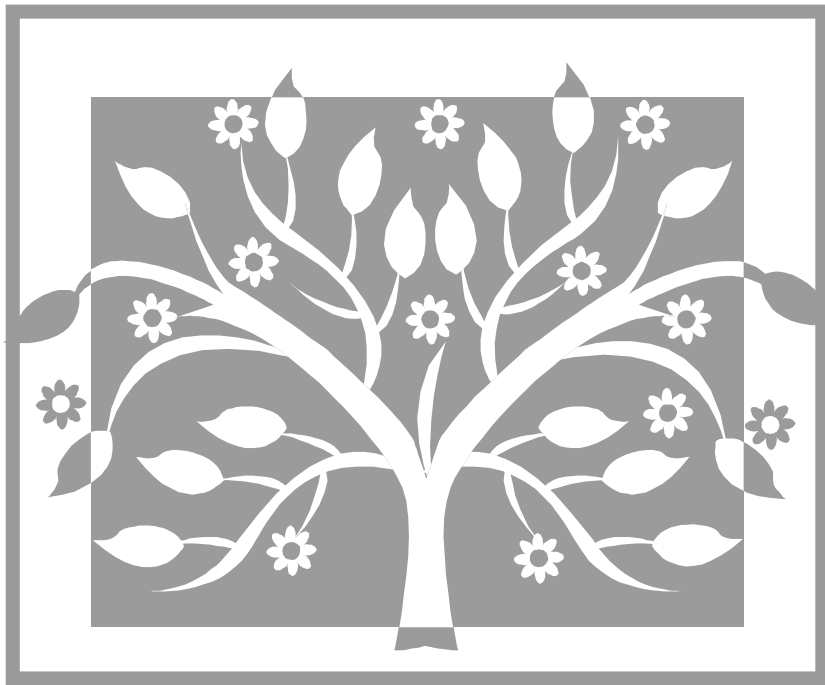

URBANDALE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

A Just Peace and Open and Affirming congregation



MAY 2010

THE CALL



Coming in May:

Important Congregational Dates:

Sunday, May 16 ~ Goodbye events for Pastor Bob & Keiko (page 2).

Sunday, May 23 ~ UUCC Congregational Annual Meeting & Potluck (page 3).

Rev. Amy's Youth & Camp News (pages 3-4)

Greetings from the Moderator ~ Welcoming Pastor Dave (page 5)

Small Groups ~ Choir Notes ~ Coming Events (pages 10-12)

Friends in Christ,

In this my penultimate letter in the CALL, I want to plead guilty to the charge that I take the simple and beautiful gospel of Jesus and complicate it with all sorts of theological subtleties. Of course, if you think the gospel of Jesus is simple, you should go back and read it again. The only thing simple about it is the language Jesus uses: “Love your neighbor,” “Be perfect,” “Don’t resist evil,” “I and the Father are one,” “Follow me,” etc. His language is remarkably simple, isn’t it? But that simple language conveys ideas so difficult to grasp intellectually or in the gut that a first-year physics student with no knowledge of mathematics would have a better chance of understanding String Theory than most of us have of understanding the gospel.

Why is what Jesus says so hard for us, me included, to grasp? Paul provides the basic explanation when he says that we may look like human beings, walk and talk like human beings, but that we are not fully human. We’re not mature, he says, and since the world began, there has been only one really mature human, Christ, who came into the world so that we too might reach maturity and be like him: Christs to each other and—think about this (!)—Christs to God.

A second, only slightly less important reason that what Jesus says is difficult for us is that our participation in the life of society does not help us understand, and in fact, severely impedes our understanding. Under the influence of the world, we seek to reduce the gospel to catch(y) phrases like the Golden Rule or “Love your neighbor” or “Jesus loves me,” or to think of Jesus as the world’s greatest teacher (He wasn’t), or to imagine that the resurrection is all about Jesus’ spirit living on to inspire us. But all those ideas are the world’s distorted ways of understanding Christ. The good news is not merely that God loves us even though we’re sinners and wants us to love God and others the same way, but that God will transform our hearts and make all this happen if only we allow it to happen! By contrast, the world teaches us that if we want something to happen, we have to make it happen ourselves. The good news is not that Jesus lives on as a memory, inspiring us to transform ourselves but that he lives on as the invisible power of God transforming us and making us mature—something we simply can’t do by ourselves.

A third reason—and let this be the last one offered here—for the difficulty of the gospel is that change is painful. Just ask any pastor or other church leader who tried to change something in the church. And if changing something relatively trivial is painful, how much more painful is it for us to allow ourselves to be transformed from slobs (which is what Paul means by calling us immature) into mature human beings. The reality is that all of us, including me, more or less enjoy our immaturity and cling to it. But the best part of the good news, brothers and sisters, is that God won’t stop trying until we have finally let go of our immaturity and have been brought “to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11-13). Thanks be to God!

Pastor Bob

Goodbye Events for Pastor Bob & Keiko

We will be saying goodbye to Pastor Bob and his wife, Keiko, during worship on **Sunday, May 16**. There will be a coffee and cookie reception in Fellowship Hall immediately after the church service, to give the congregation an opportunity to say goodbye and wish Pastor Bob and Keiko well as they move to Portugal in August. Bob will serve as a missionary there to several small churches.

As you may know, Pastor Bob’s last day is May 16 and Pastor David will be joining us on June 1. For pastoral care from May 16–May 23, please call Karl Andersen at 440-1781 (home) or 559-4360 (cell). For pastoral care from May 23–June 1, please call Amy Murray at 276-0625 (church office), 339-7520 (home), or 314-307-9992 (cell).

May 2010

“Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.” Romans 12:13

It is hard to believe yet another program year has come to an end. I never knew what adults meant about time passing so quickly. I have come to understand that since having my son, Sam. Our children are constant reminders of change and growth!

There is so much to look forward to as we enter into a new journey. I am truly ecstatic that we called Pastor Dave and look forward to working together with him. There is still plenty going on within our church family before he arrives. I want to call your attention to **Graduation Sunday, May 9**, where we will honor our graduating seniors in worship. We will also recognize and **thank our Sunday school teachers** and their commitment over this past year. We will also have our youth lead us in **Camper Sunday, May 16**. This will also be our last Sunday with Pastor Bob. Take time to thank Pastor Bob and Keiko for supporting our church family during this past interim period.

It is a very exciting time of year as we wind down our yearly activities and look forward to warm weather and hopefully a slower pace. While it may be more relaxed for us, Pastor Dave will be hard at work moving and settling in. We also need to be readying ourselves for our new pastor and ministry together. How can you do that? I'm so glad you asked! I invite each one of us to ponder how we can be truly welcoming and show hospitality. We are each called to participate fully in the body of Christ. As you may already know, there are three work groups advertised in this CALL that address this very issue. Please read them carefully and see which one calls to you. We do a great job in many of our ministries extending hospitality to strangers. Many of us know what it is like being the new kid. Let's work together so we can ready ourselves and our church family for a new ministry together with Pastor Dave. Thank you for contributing to the needs of the saints and extending hospitality to strangers. How exciting it is to be partners in ministry during this pivotal time on our collective journeys!

Blessings on your journey,
Rev. Amy Murray

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

Strengthen the Church is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ. The offering furthers our commitment to be a multiracial, multicultural church, open and affirming, and accessible to all. Funds are used to strengthen and renew existing congregations, fund leadership for new congregations, and provide programs for youth, young adults and leadership development. On **Sunday, May 16th**, there will be a special *Strengthen the Church* offering to help insure the future ministry of the UCC!

CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING & POTLUCK Sunday, May 23, Fellowship Hall

Urbandale UCC's Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 23rd will be preceded by an all-church potluck, held following worship in Fellowship Hall. The Bow Tie Boyz will grill hotdogs and hamburgers; beverages will be provided. Church members are encouraged to bring a covered dish, salad, or dessert. Also, please bring table service for your family. *Childcare is available.*

Mark Your Calendars for CAMPER SUNDAY, May 16

Come and support our experienced campers who will lead us in an exciting worship experience, along with Ann Graham, Executive Director of Pilgrim Heights. Come, ready to hear favorite camp memories, share in camp songs and learn what you can expect at church camp. Our youth and families appreciate your generosity throughout the year as we have raised funds to pay 50% of one camp for each youth. Please come to support our youth and let us thank you for all your support!

Pilgrim Heights Summer Camp... "Be A Hero: Living Like Jesus"

The 2010 Summer Camp brochures are here! Please pick up a copy from the narthex table or in 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.

UUCC Children and Youth Need You in 2010-2011!

It's that time of year again when we are planning for the 2010-2011 Sunday School year. **We need a minimum of 10 teachers.** We also need substitutes. You can teach for a month, all the way up to a full year. Please talk with current Sunday School teachers if you want to know more about what this ministry entails. Prayerfully consider this ministry and how you might help. Contact Amy Murray at amy.murray@urbucc.org with your interest.

Christian Growth Needs You!

Do you enjoy children's and youth ministries? Do you want to have input on our Sunday School program and Everyone Is Welcome ministry? If you enjoy supporting our children and youth, planning events and fundraisers, getting to know some incredibly gifted individuals, and sharing your gifts, then we're looking for you! We are currently planning for summer activities and looking ahead to next year's Sunday School program needs. Please see Rev. Amy Murray with your interest.

REMINDER: Wednesday Night Alive ends May 12. Thanks to our many cooks, volunteers and childcare staff including Judy Waters, Angie Kenna, and Grace Clark.

◆ Food Pantry for May ◆

In May let's bring **tooth brushes** and **toothpaste** for the Urbandale Food Pantry personal items. For food, let's bring **canned spaghetti sauce**.

For future reference, DMARC has changed their requested items so that the food provided is more healthy. Juices should be 100% juice in cans or plastic bottles. Fruits should be in their own juice or water. Canned vegetables should have no salt added. Canned beans and canned meat should be in water. Pasta or egg-noodles should be whole grain, and bring brown rice. Vegetable soup should be low-salt. Hot cereal should be plain, and cold cereal whole grain.

Greetings from the Moderator

Dear members and friends of Urbandale United Church of Christ,

This is my last Call article to you, because at our church's annual meeting on May 23, my term as moderator will end and Randy Jedele will become our new moderator. I have been honored to serve as your moderator during the past year. It has been a generally rewarding and very busy experience for me. I have often been impressed with your warmth and generosity whenever it is needed. I have often been impressed (and saved) by our talented and committed staff. Having said this, I am happy to let go and step across a threshold into a new phase of my life.

We are also at an interesting and exciting threshold in the life of our congregation. In the lovely book "Open the Door," Joyce Rupp says the following about the metaphor of the threshold, which describes just where we are as a congregation. "The metaphor of the threshold aptly describes a vital component of our spiritual journey. This symbolic line marks the division between who we are now and who we will become, between present awareness of the Holy One and how this relationship develops in the future."

Friends, we are at the threshold again. We are passing from our interim time, pausing at the threshold, and stepping into the future with Pastor David. Please join me in thanking Pastor Bob and Keiko as they leave us and go on to their own adventure in Portugal. Please join me in pausing at the threshold of the two weeks between our pastors, to intentionally be aware of how God is here with us as we are with each other. Then, please join me in welcoming Pastor David, our new Senior Pastor.

Blessings upon you and our church,
Amy Christensen, Moderator

"Say Cheese!"

To help Pastor Dave get to know our congregation, a UUCC family scrapbook is being created. Your mission is to send a picture and a brief description of yourself and your family to Jennifer Gardner via email potf2@msn.com. A box will also be placed on the narthex table for any hard copy additions. A computer scrapbooking program is being used to compile the information. Please have all entries in by May 23rd, so we can give it to Pastor Dave upon his arrival in June. If you have any questions please call (967-7133) or email Bonita Wiley, bonita.wiley@mchsi.com. Thank you for your help in making this project a success!

"Coming to the Table"

A new journey is about to begin at UUCC! In order to prepare ourselves and our church family for the arrival of a new pastor there's some work to be done. Please join us each weekday in the month of May for a time of reflection and prayer. Our website will contain a meditation for the day based on the theme of "Coming to the Table." Several of our church members have agreed to share their written thoughts with us about what it means to meet at the communion table and become a healthy community of believers, supportive of each other and our new spiritual leader. Hard copies will also be available on the narthex table at church beginning the first Sunday in May.

Please wear your nametags in order to be most welcoming to new members and visitors. If you need a nametag, please drop a note in the offering plate or call the church office, 276-0625.

UUCC Teams with Habitat for Humanity

Urbandale UCC is again teaming up with other area churches to work on a Habitat for Humanity House this spring and summer. The house is located at 1929 Jefferson.

Our build last summer involved more than two dozen church members, ranging from youth to seniors, doing everything from helping with funding to making lunches to pounding nails. Habitat is a dynamic Christian organization dedicated to helping those in need, but who have a willingness to work hard to help themselves.

Sign up for work days in the Narthex:

Thursday, April 29: Weather permitting, we'll be capping the basement and/or pre-building walls.

Wednesday, May 19: Wall raising date—would like one or two representatives from your church to be on hand as we raise the first wall and work the full day. (Perry will attend, others welcome.)

Saturday, May 22: Need 5 volunteers, including 1 crew leader if possible.

Thurs, June 3: Need 6 volunteers, including 1 crew leader if possible.

Saturday, June 12: Need 6 volunteers, including 1 crew leader if possible

Friday, July 16: Need 5 volunteers, including 1 crew leader if possible

Men's Retreat and Workday at Pilgrim Heights

There is a UUCC men's retreat and workday at Pilgrim Heights on **Friday night, May 14th**, and all day **Saturday, May 15th**. We plan to carpool from the church Friday night at 5:00 pm and will return from Pilgrim Heights, leaving the camp between 4 and 5 pm Saturday, depending on how we're holding up. Let me know if you are planning to join us on the retreat, and if you would be interested in driving. The cost of the retreat is \$25 and a little sweat. In return, you'll get three meals, a bed in Autumn House and a chance to spend time with a good group of guys. *Mark Siegel*

Celebrate 25 Years of ONA with the UCC Coalition

The UCC Coalition for LGBT Concerns celebrates 25 years of the Open and Affirming process. Representatives will gather at the Coalition's National Gathering 2010, taking place **in San Diego, July 14-17, 2010**. And, San Diego's renowned Gay Pride Festival takes place on July 17-18. Advance registration is available (\$119 per person). Visit the conference website for additional details.

The ONA process began on a national level in 1985 when the Fifteenth General Synod adopted the resolution, Calling on United Church of Christ Congregations to Declare Themselves Open and Affirming. The Planning Committee for National Gathering hopes that each ONA congregation will send at least one delegate to San Diego to join in celebrating this milestone. Come and celebrate the United Church of Christ's commitment to the inclusion of all God's children at God's table.

Reminder: The church office will be closed on Monday, May 31 for Memorial Day.

May 2010**Who... What... Where... When...**

	May 2 Communion	May 9 Graduation Sunday	May 16 Food Pantry	May 23	May 30
Scripture	Revelation 21:1-6	Acts 16:9-15	Psalm 8	John 14: 8-17, 25-27	Romans 5: 1-5, John 16:12-15
Preaching	Pastor Bob	SOS Choir Musical	Youth Worship	Perry Washburn	John Chaplin
Liturgist	Tom Rendon	Steve Looney	Ann Graham, Pilgrim Heights	Randy Jedele	Bonita Wiley
Music Leadership	Adult Choir	SOS Choir	Youth	Adult Choir	Adult Choir
Ushers & Greeters	Laura Fefchak Jennifer Gardner Jo Lilley Jeff Couch	Jerry Woods Dianne Woods Jim Nervig Robby Nervig Dean Bisterfeldt	Linda Grathwohl Ray Bowler Chris Gonzalez Dean Bisterfeldt	Sharon Johnson Sandy Gahn Monica Sutter Diane Gladson	Ruth Brauer Randy Jedele Jeanne White David Sample
Acolytes	Jon Christensen	Jo Lilley Ruth Rasmussen	Chuck & Jake Emblen	Grant Gossling Matt Siegel	TBD
Nursery	Keeli Comito Deb Beery	Deb Beery	Deb Beery	Deb Beery	Deb Beery
EIW Room*	Carolyn Washburn Grace Clark	Grace Clark	Grace Clark	Susan Joynt Grace Clark	
Opening the Church	Chris Jordan	Jeff Couch	Mark Siegel	Jerry Woods	Todd Peterson
Offering Recorders	Chris Jordan Ruth Rasmussen	Ruth Miller Tom Rendon	Steve Chandler Mark Siegel	Karen Capps-Davis Geri Jacobs Jim Nervig	Todd Peterson Joyce Hjort
Sound Booth	Jon Duvick	Scott Davis	Evan Lundstrom- Yurdin	Ray Bowler	Jeff Couch

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

**June 2010 CALL DEADLINE:
Saturday, 15 May – 9:00 am**

Activities & Events

May 2010

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						May 1
						Rev. Amy away 8:00am Rebuilding Together
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship: Communion 3:00pm Choir Concert & Reception	1:30pm Staff Meeting 6:30pm Christian Growth Team 7:00pm All Team Night		5:30pm Wednesday Night Alive 6:00pm Lombard follow-up 7:30pm AA	6:00pm Private Group	12:00pm Church Women United	10:00am SOS Choir Dress Rehearsal
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
HS Senior Recognition Mother's Day SS Teacher Recognition 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship: SOS Musical 11:15am HS Grad Reception	1:30pm Staff Meeting 7:00pm Leadership Team	9:30am Caregivers	1:00pm Women's Fellowship 5:00pm WNA Pizza & Video 5:30pm Community Meal 7:00pm Adult Choir Reh. 7:30pm AA	6:00pm Private Group 7:00pm Book Club	5:00pm Men's Retreat, Pilgrim Heights	CALL Deadline 8:00am Men's Retreat, Pilgrim Heights 9:30am Prayer Shawl Group 2:00pm Tiara's & Tea
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Strengthen the Church Offering 9:00am Final Sunday School 10:00am Worship: Youth Sunday 4:00pm Family Pride Potluck	1:30pm Staff Meeting	6:00pm Caregivers 2	7:00pm Adult Choir 7:30pm AA	6:00pm Private Group	5:00pm Wedding Rehearsal	5:30pm Eckhart/Atwood Wedding
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Pentecost 10:00am Worship 11:00am Annual Meeting & Potluck 1:00pm Art Club	1:30pm Staff Meeting	6:00pm Cub Scouts 7:00pm Spirituality Book Group	7:30pm AA	6:00pm Private Group		
30	31					
Memorial Weekeend 9:00am NO Sunday School 10:00am Worship	Memorial Day - Office Closed					

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:00-9:45AM

Christian Education at Urbandale UCC is a spirit-filled adventure for all ages from 3 years to adult.

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:

May 2: *Death with Dignity—A Basic Human Right.* What are the current obstacles to greater control and choices around end-of-life decisions, especially for those with terminal illnesses? What can be done to address those obstacles? How does this relate to the social justice work of churches? The Human Rights Action Group of First Unitarian Church of Des Moines, in collaboration with Compassion and Choices of Iowa, will attempt to answer these questions and more.

May 9: *Evaluation of Adult Spiritual Formation (ASF)*, and planning for 2010-2012.

May 16: *AMOS—Workforce Issues in Central Iowa*, presented by Linda Grathwohl. AMOS is organizing to bring an innovative job training program to central Iowa. It is based on the Project QUEST (Quality Employment Skills Training) model pioneered in San Antonio, Texas. Come watch a short video about Project QUEST and hear about the opportunities to reflect, discuss, and participate in this process. See www.amosiowa.org for more information. For more questions on the May 16 gathering, please contact Linda.

May 16 is the final session of Sunday School & Adult Spiritual Formation for this program year. Following Worship will be a reception for Pastor Bob and Keiko.



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

5:30-6:00 SOS Choir 1st-8th grade
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 May 12th.

**Wednesday Night Alive choirs mark the end of the program year
on May 12th with a Video & Pizza Party from 5-6 pm.**

Youth Attendees & Adult Chaperone Wanted for Regional Youth Event (RYE)

Two UCC high schoolers are already signed up to attend the RYE from **July 14-18** in Missouri this summer, and are looking for others to join them. If you're finishing 8th-12th grades, you're eligible to join the fun! One male chaperone is also needed for this trip. For more information, contact Pastor Amy.



Coming May 9th ~ SOS Musical, "Up, Up and Away"

Our last Wednesday Night Live will be **May 5th**. A dress rehearsal for the SOS Choir musical will follow on Saturday morning **May 8th** from 10 am -12 noon, with the musical presentation on **Sunday, May 9th** during the service.

A big **THANK YOU** to all who helped with the Wednesday Night activities and food preparations this year. Have a wonderful summer break!

Thanks for a great season to all singers and participants in the youth and adult bell choirs. We are officially done with bells until September, when we will return with new members, a new Minister, and excitement to learn new music. Please consider adding your time and talent if you wish.

Church Women United Spring Meeting

On **Friday, May 7th**, Church Women United will meet at 12 noon at Valley United Methodist Church, 4201 Ashworth Road, West Des Moines. The theme is "Living the Vision."

Women's Fellowship will meet on Wednesday, May 12. All are welcome, and are also urged to attend the Church Women United event.



May Book Club Selection

Book Club will meet **Thursday, May 13** at 7pm in Chapters Café at the Urbandale Library. The book we're reading for May is *Blink* by Malcom Gladwell.

For June we're reading *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*, Mary Ann Shaffer & Annie Barrows. Please join us!

Help for Haiti

Urbandale UCC's Women's Fellowship plans to respond to an urgent need for "Baby Kits" and "Hygiene Kits" for the survivors in Haiti. The Church World Service Kit Program continuously has need of these kits. Detailed information will be forthcoming on how you can participate. Look for flyers in the narthex, which will describe each kit and list items needed.



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, May 15** at 9:30 am in the room off Fellowship Hall, FH-NW.

UCC Unique Card Creations

UCC 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, May 23** 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! Questions? Contact Ann Boes, ann.boes@urbucc.org.

An Afternoon of Fun and Tea: Tea and Tiaras **Saturday, May 15, 2-4 pm**

Join us for a fun afternoon of tea, music, treats and crafts. Come by yourself or invite your mother, daughter, sister, sweetie or friend to join you. In the midst of hectic lives, it is nice to take a time apart to relax and renew ourselves and our connections with others. Tickets are \$15 per person (suggested donation) and will be sold before and after church through May 2nd.

We will also have special tribute cards available that you may purchase separately (\$5) to send to those women whom you would love to invite, but who just aren't able to attend. Tribute cards will include tea for your honoree. Proceeds from the tea and tribute cards go to support the community ministries of Urbandale UCC.

Contact Barbra or Betti Jotzke-Torrier, barb.betti@urbucc.org, for more information.

LGBT Family Pride Potluck

One Iowa and committees from the Urbandale United Church of Christ and the First Unitarian Church of Des Moines invite you to the LGBT Family Pride Potluck on **Sunday, May 16th** from 4-6 pm. The event will be held at Urbandale UCC in Fellowship Hall. Those attending are asked to bring a dish to share for the potluck dinner. Drinks and table service will be provided.

The potluck will be a forum to have fun, share food, and enjoy the company of other families and allies. We're inviting Des Moines area legislators to build and strengthen the relationships between them and the families and allies in their districts. Our stories are a powerful and transformative way to counter the opposition's efforts to take equality away from LGBT families. Please mark your calendars, and make it a priority to have fun and build community with LGBT parents and their children, friends, and allies. Please RSVP David Yurdin ASAP, at david.yurdin@urbucc.org, or call 473-2580.

COMING EVENTS:

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

Friday, May 6: *Erin & Jill Maltby perform with the Waukee Jazz I Band*, on IPTV at 6:30 pm for Iowa Jazz Championships. Waukee and Johnston will play for 30 minutes.

May 6-8 & 14-15: *Working*, a musical by Stagemest Theater Company & Drake Drama Dept. to benefit AMOS, 8 pm at First Unitarian Church (1800 Bell Ave.); based on Studs Terkel's book of interviews with American workers so often taken for granted: the parking lot attendant, waitress, mill worker, mason, trucker, and fire fighter, to name a few. For more information or tickets, please contact Linda Grathwohl, linda.grathwohl@urbucc.org or the AMOS website, www.amosiowa.org. Come enjoy local theater and support a good cause!

Monday, May 31: *Graduation Open House for Evan Lundstrom-Yurdin*, from 4-7 pm, held at 4825-64th St., Urbandale. Everyone welcome!

Thursday, June 10: *Informal Reception for Rev. Patricia E. de Jong*, 3:00-5:00 pm 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.

The Caregiver's Corner:

Caregiving for Memorial Day

By Don Walters

Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday in May. This year Memorial Day falls on Monday, May 31st. This is the day in which we, the living, pay tribute and honor to those men and women of the military who have given the ultimate sacrifice of their lives in service to their country—the United States of America.

In the Iowa town in which I was a pastor years ago, Memorial Day began with a public mourning service in the high school gym. We sang patriotic songs. There was always a guest speaker who would give the Memorial Day address. One year I was asked by the VFW to give such an address. The ceremony was solemn and very meaningful to the people of the small town, as practically everyone in town was somehow related to one or more dead service personnel.

After the service, the Color Guard of the VFW led the town's people in a parade out to the town cemetery. At the cemetery were dozens of white flag poles with full-sized American flags at half-mast wildly blowing in the wind. The Color Guard presented the colors and a speech was made. A canon was fired three times and *Taps* was played. I still vividly remember the first time I participated in the ceremony. The blowing flags and all the rest gave a solemn and special meaning to the day.

Memorial Day is the special remembrance of our military dead; however, some people confuse it with Veterans Day. They are not the same celebration. Veterans Day in the US always falls on November 11th. This day is the anniversary of the signing of the armistice, which ended World War I in 1918 between the Allied nations and Germany. On this day all US veterans who served in all wars, plus current active duty personnel, are thanked for their service to their country.

Veterans Day is often marked with parades and church services and with the American flag hung at half-mast. A period of silence for two minutes may also be observed. Some schools are closed on Veterans Day while other schools do not close but may hold special assemblies to mark the day. If you have ever served in the US military then Veterans Day is your day!

All Saints Day is another day celebrating our dead, but this time in the church. It occurs on November 1st each year. We usually celebrate the day on the Sunday closest to November 1st. On this day we remember and give thanks to God for all our brothers and sisters who have died with their faith in Jesus and gone on to eternal life. It is a very special and joyful day of celebration!

On Memorial Day, we the living can be caregivers to the families and friends of those military personnel who paid for our freedom with the ultimate sacrifice of their blood. We can visit them, go to the cemetery with them, give them a phone call, or send them a note. Whatever we do is our way of saying to these people that their loved one's sacrifice was not in vain. We cherish and value our freedom as we remember your loved one, just as Jesus does!

Please check the 2010 Chancel Flower Donation Chart on the door of the narthex for additional opportunities to provide flowers in the next several months!



URBANDALE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

3530 70th Street ▪ Urbandale, Iowa 50322
Phone: (515) 276-0625 ▪ Fax: (515) 276-2451
www.urbucc.org

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage Paid
Des Moines, IA
Permit No. 3049

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*“No matter who you are or where you are on life’s
journey, you are invited and welcome here.”*

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

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,
Children/Youth Choirs and Handbells Director.....bobby.stinnett@urbucc.org
Tara Aukes, Office Coordinator tara.aukes@urbucc.org
Sadmira Omerhodzic, Custodian sadmira.omerhodzic@urbucc.org
The Rev. Gayle Strickler, Jr.,
Adjunct Minister for Community Concernsgayle.strickler@urbucc.org

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