

URBANDALE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
A Just Peace and Open and Affirming congregation

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

God is still speaking

August 20, 2017

10:00 a.m.

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The liturgical color for the Sundays after Pentecost is green representing the growth and vitality of the Church.



SERVING AT URBANDALE UCC THIS SUNDAY

Liturgist: Paul Johnson

Ushers & Greeters: Paul Johnson, Fred Breen, Kathy Marean, Sharon Johnson

Acolytes: Kendric Santos-Briggs

Nursery: Anjy Allen

Opening the Church: Today, Mark Siegel **Next Sunday,** Chris Jordan

Sound Booth: Scott Gardner

Flowers were given by Mary & Bridget Edwards for the anticipated arrival of Baby Edwards...details to be announced.

GATHERING

We extend a special welcome to our visitors. Nametags and information packets are available at the welcome table at the main entrance to the sanctuary. Childcare is available in the nursery for children ages birth through seven. Please see an usher for location if you wish to use the nursery.

GREETING

“Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.”

~Mahatma Gandhi

TIME OF FRIENDSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Beyond the Days”
Raggedy Band

Ricky Manolo

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES *Their flames symbolizing God’s Spirit.*

❖ *This symbol invites the congregation to stand in body or spirit*
Bold type indicates a unison response

❖ CALL TO PRAISE AND PRAYER

ONE: We gather to worship the God of Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar - author of all life,
whose children are beautiful no matter the color of their skin or their place of origin.

ALL: This God of love deserves our songs of praise!

ONE: We gather to worship the God of Jesus, who raised him from the dead so that all
might have abundant life.

ALL: This God of life is worthy of our faithful devotion!

ONE: We gather to worship the God of Sojourner and Martin, calling forth prophets in every age to speak truth in love to power.

ALL: This God of justice moves still among us. May we open ourselves today to hear God's voice and respond with our full measure of commitment to the causes of love and justice.

❖ OPENING HYMN "O God, Who Teaches Us to Live" Hymnal 359

❖ INVOCATION

HONORING EDUCATORS & BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

PROCLAMATION

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Romans 11:1-2a; 29-32 (The Inclusive Bible)

¹ I ask, then, has God rejected the chosen people? Of course not! I myself am an Israelite, descended from Sarah and Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. ² No, God has not rejected the chosen people, who were foreknown long ago.

²⁹ For God's gift and call are irrevocable.

³⁰ Just as you were once disobedient to God and now have received mercy through Israel's disobedience, ³¹ now they have become disobedient – since God wished to show you mercy – that they too may receive mercy. ³² God has imprisoned everyone in disobedience in order to have mercy on everyone.

³³ Oh, how deep are the riches and the wisdom and the knowledge, how inscrutable the judgments, how unsearchable the ways of God! ³⁴ For, "Who has known the mind of God or been God's counselor? ³⁵ Who has given God anything to deserve something in return?" ³⁶ For all things are from God and through God and for God. To God be the glory forever! Amen.

Verse 34 is a quote from Isaiah 40, an oracle proclaiming God's restoration of the People of Israel after long exile in Babylon. It bolsters Paul's argument that even when the God's people endure punishing hardship, God leads them into renewal. Verse 35 is a quote from Job 41, reminding Job (and any who read the story) that God owes no one for any debts incurred by living.

MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION

SERMON "No Take Backs" Pastor Dave

PRAYER HYMN "God Moves in a Mysterious Way" Hymnal 412

RESPONSE

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE 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 and ever. Amen, Amen. Forever and ever. Amen, Amen.

PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS

ONE: God is good!

ALL: All the time!

ONE: All the time!

ALL: God is good!

ONE: Let us share the goodness of our God!

When the offering plate comes to you, we invite you to hold it for a moment and consider the many gifts that you can share. You may pray for a person or a ministry; you may commit yourself to a specific act of compassion; or you may resolve to work on a relationship that is in need of repair. Allow the Spirit to guide your thoughts.

OFFERTORY

“City of God”
Raggedy Band

Dan Schutte

Please sign the Pew Pad and pass it to your neighbor.

❖ DOXOLOGY

tune: *Lasst uns erfreuen*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**Praise God the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

❖ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

❖ CLOSING HYMN

“Praise the Source of Faith and Learning”

Hymnal 411

*The candles are extinguished.
God's Spirit remains as a living flame in the hearts of God's people.*

❖ BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

“Lord of the Dance”
Raggedy Band

Sydney Carter

Please reshelve the hymnals and put this used Bulletin in the recycle basket.

PRAYER CONCERNS

To list someone in this section, **with their permission**, please email staff@urbucc.org by the weekly bulletin deadline.

Keep in your thoughts and prayers:

Jamel Carter...Elsie Naylor...Don Walters...Louise Haney...Randy Jedele...Diann Miller

And our dear ones: **Alma Sims...Verna LeVear**

To notify the staff of a prayer concern, or to send a note of caring and support to someone, please use the cards in the pew rack and drop them in the offering plate. Please indicate whether prayer concerns should be forwarded to our Prayer Chain. Notes will be mailed on Monday, provided we have the recipient's full name and the sender's signature.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry provides prayer shawls to people experiencing difficult circumstances or life transitions. For more information, email prayer.shawls@urbucc.org.

This Week at UCC

Sunday, August 20

9:00 am New Member Class
10:00 am Worship
Special Music: Raggedy Band
11: 15 am OWL Informational Meeting
12:30 pm Matu Bethel Church
12:30 pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church

Monday, August 21

6:30 pm Hunger Hike Board

Tuesday, August 22

11:00 am Staff Meeting

Wednesday, August 23

7:00 pm AA

Saturday, August 26

9:00 am Matu Bethel Church
2:00 pm Private Event

Upcoming Sundays

Sunday, August 27

9:00 am New Member Class
10:00 am Worship
Special Music: Ron Lindhart
12:30 pm Matu Bethel Church
12:30 pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church

Sunday, September 3

10:00 am Worship: Communion
Special Music: Trio
(Jon Duvick, Connor Hood & Jon Greising)
12:30 pm Matu Bethel Church
12:30 pm Light Mission Pentecostal Church

New Member Classes

The last New Member Class is Sunday, August 27. Those interested in joining the church will have the opportunity to do so on Homecoming Sunday, September 10th.

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Honoring Those Who Educate and Our Students Who Learn

Today, we recognize, honor and commission all of those who are involved in formal education. Whether you work in the classroom, drive a bus, monitor the lunchroom or empty the wastebaskets, we want to make sure that we support you and launch you into the school year with our love and our blessing.

We will also recognize students about to begin the new school year. We will be Blessing the Backpacks. We invite all students to bring their backpacks and place them around the communion table that morning.

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OUR WHOLE LIVES: 7TH-9TH GRADES

Parent/youth orientation (lunch included) is **today** immediately following worship in Fellowship Hall until 12:15. We will review the program values, curriculum and go over the schedule. OWL classes will meet **Wednesday evenings from 6:45-8pm September 13-February 7.**

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

One of the quiet ministries in this congregation is the group of folks who prepare and serve the receptions which follow funeral services. For one reason or another, several of those volunteers are no longer able to help and we need others to step into this important ministry. I will provide information about this work in the September issue of THE CALL. In the meantime, feel free to contact Marci Freer, Jo Lilley or me with your questions or comments.

~~Elsie Naylor, funeral coordinator (276-6607)

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Unheard Voices from the Heart of Palestine

Whether you are new to the issue of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict or you have studied the topic for years, this symposium is for you.

Join us **Saturday, September 30th** for Unheard Voices from the Heart of Palestine. Our keynote speakers are Rev. Naim Ateek, a Palestinian Anglican priest and the founder of Sabeel, an ecumenical theology center in Jerusalem and Phyllis Bennis, a fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies.

Breakout sessions include:

- History of the Occupation from 1948 – Present
- Gaza
- No Way to Treat a Child

The symposium will be held at First United Methodist Church, 1001 Pleasant St., Des Moines. The cost is \$40.00.

To learn more about the event or to download the brochure and registration form visit www.dmfirstchurch.org

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Interfaith Build w/ Habitat for Humanity

Please remember to sign up for the Wednesday or Saturday Habitat for Humanity work day. A sign-up sheet has been placed in the narthex. We need helpers to represent our church for this 8 AM - 4 PM Interfaith Build at 1562 24th Street, Des Moines. The site dedication will be 8:00 am on Wednesday, August 16th. Work dates will be Wednesdays and Saturdays starting August 19th through the first half of October. Call David Yurdin at [515-473-2580](tel:515-473-2580) or Jerry Woods at [515-250-5089](tel:515-250-5089) if you have questions.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATIONS AVAILABLE FOR 2017-2018

Registrations are available on the table in the narthex and on the church's website at www.urbucc.org. Please fill out your Sunday school registration and turn it in to Rev. Amy.

They are **due by Sunday, August 27th.**

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ART and PRAYER RETREAT

Crossroads UCC in Indianola is hosting an Art Journaling retreat with Rosemary Schmalz, S.P., on **September 8-9, 2017**. This retreat offers opportunities for participants to engage in multiple methods using art, journaling and their combination that may be useful in each one's spiritual journey. No art skills necessary. The retreat will take place at All Saints Episcopal Church, 501 North Jefferson Way, in Indianola. Suggested donation: \$55. Please register in advance by emailing juliatrendon@gmail.com.

URBANDALE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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www.urbucc.org

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. David P. Sickelka, Senior Pastor.....david.sickelka@urbucc.org
The Rev. Amy Murray, Ministry Program Coordinator amy.murray@urbucc.org
Steven Linn, Music Program Director steven.linn@urbucc.org
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The Rev. John Chaplin
Adjunct Minister for LGBTQ Concerns & Community Outreachjohn.chaplin@urbucc.org

Ministry Leaders

Caregiving Ministries:

Caregivers, HomeboundRachel Siegel caregivers. 1 @urbucc.org
Caregivers 2Bonita Wiley caregivers.2@urbucc.org
Prayer Circleprayer.circle@urbucc.org
Prayer Shawl Ministryprayer.shawls@urbucc.org

Leadership Team Officers:

Moderator.....Mary Edwards..... moderator@urbucc.org
Vice-Moderator.....
TreasurerJim Nervig..... treasurer@urbucc.org
Financial Secretary.....Karen Capps-Davis karen.capps-davis@urbucc.org
Recording Secretary.....Bridget Edwards..... uccrecorder@urbucc.org

Teams:

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Christian Growth..... amy.murray@urbucc.org
Membership TeamJon Greising membership.team@urbucc.org
Social Media TeamSandy Gahn social.media@urbucc.org
Worship & Music.....Paul Johnson paul.johnson@urbucc.org

Church Office hours are Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

For pastoral care, please contact Pastor Dave at 276-0625 (church office), 720-6389 (cell) or david.sickelka@urbucc.org. Pastor Dave is off on Mondays but will still respond to emergencies if you call or text.