



Welcome to Urbana First United Methodist Church!

Our mission is to journey with people to get them connected to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ; to one another; and to the community, through intentional discipleship!

February 2, 2025

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

The Beatitudes & Kingdom Values

Liturgical Color: Green

APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

PRELUDE

Softly and Tenderly (arr.D. Hustad)

John Muir, *organ*

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Steve Fink, *liturgist*

+CALL TO WORSHIP

We are called to bring a new understanding of God: that God so loves the world.

We are the salt of the earth.

We are called to bring a new hope in God: that God gives us new life.

We are the light of the world.

We are called to follow the commandments and the law.

The Law of God is to love God and to love one another.

Come, let us be the salt of the earth, the light of the world.

Come, let us love one another with the love of God. Let us join together in our love of God to worship and follow Jesus. *(Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchel)*

SEEKING GOD'S FACE

OPENING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Liturgist

All: 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN OF CELEBRATION

Lift Every Voice and Sing

UMH no. 519

1. Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty; let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us; sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us; facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.
2. Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died; yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our fathers sighed? We have come over a way that with tears has been watered; we have come, treading our path thru the blood of the slaughtered, out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
3. God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the way; thou who hast by thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee; lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee; shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.

+THE APOSTLES CREED

All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; The third day He rose again from the dead, He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERTORY

Hymn of Promise
(c..N. Sleeth)

Claudia Portocarrero, *soloist*

+PRESENTATION OF GIFTS & OFFERING

UMH no. 95

All: Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below; praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

HEARING GOD'S VOICE

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 5:1-12

Liturgist

CHORAL ANTHEM

Blest are They
(c. D. Hass)

Sanctuary Choir

THE MESSAGE

Kingdom Values

Rev. Robert K. Freeman, *directing pastor*

TIME OF REFLECTION

You are invited to come and pray at the altar, light a candle to illuminate your prayers before God, or remain where you are for a time of contemplation and reflection during the musical selection.

COMMUNION

page 4

HYMN OF RESPONSE

Go Forth for God

UMH no. 670

1. Go forth for God, go to the world in peace; be of good courage, armed with heavenly grace, in God's good Spirit daily to increase, till in the kingdom we see face to face.
2. Go forth for God, go to the world in love; strengthen the faint, give courage to the weak; help the afflicted; richly from above God's love supplies the grace and power we seek.
3. Go forth for God, go to the world in strength; hold fast the good, be urgent for the right; render to no one evil; Christ at length shall overcome all darkness with his light.
4. Go forth for God, go to the world in joy, to serve God's people every day and hour, and serving Christ, our every gift employ, rejoicing in the Holy Spirit's power.

SENDING FORTH

Rev. Robert K. Freeman

POSTLUDE

Gloria from Twelfth Mass (c..W.A. Mozart)

John Muir, *organ*

+ *Please stand as you are able*

COMMUNION LITURGY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to you, Lord**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to praise you, Lord.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

You have made from one every nation and people to live on all the face of the earth.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. He commissioned us to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth and to make disciples of all nations, and today his family in all the world is joining at his holy table.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. Renew our communion with your Church throughout the world, and strengthen it in every nation and among every people to witness faithfully in your name.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 5:1-12, The Sermon on the Mount (ESV)

¹ Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

The Beatitudes

² And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶ “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷ “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

⁸ “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹ “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons^[a] of God.

¹⁰ “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ “Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

Sermon Notes:



Urbana First UMC News and Announcements

WEEKLY PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayer is how we communicate with God. In prayer, we share our hearts. We also pause to listen for wisdom and guidance. As John Wesley wrote, "All that a Christian does, even in eating and sleeping, is prayer, when it is done in simplicity, according to the order of God."

Please be in prayer for these members & friends of the Urbana First Community:

- Special prayers for the following people: Pat Cox (retired clergy- healing), Shandra Summerville (surgery), Edward Thomas (healing), Betty Newton, Averie Spencer (Infant Health Issues) and Family, Nancy Moser, Nancy Lopeman, Pastor Freeman (neck injury), Marie Govert (treatments), Gladys Baxley, Cynthia Jordan, and the returning students.

BUILDING UPGRADES AND REPAIRS

We are still working towards raising funds to complete the repairs needed to our historic building and Bell Tower. Thank you all for your continued support and dedication to this massive project!

We need to raise a total of **\$160,000** to complete this project. To date, through donations and grants, we have raised **\$75,116.85** and for Building Repairs **\$682.00**

Total Raised by all sources is \$75,798.85, **Total Yet to be raised is: \$68,411**

Bell Tower Repairs: \$73,000.00	\$68,411 still needed for Summer 2025
Air Conditioner: \$44,000.00	Fully Funded - COMPLETED
Boiler Controls: \$27,000.00	Fully Funded - COMPLETED
Gas Meter Outdoor Relocation	COMPLETED/sidewalk work is yet to be completed.
Stained Glass Window Repair \$3,500.00	Fully Funded - COMPLETED

NOISY OFFERING FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY

Strides is a Champaign Township's low-barrier emergency shelter and resource center for adults experiencing homelessness. Its doors opened in December of 2022.

The program strives to reach a population of community members who are often seen but overlooked. It offers a safe place for people, no matter what they are currently experiencing in life, to be able to stay out of the elements and sleep in a safe environment.

The shelter has a team of case managers and a variety of resources to help guests with matters such as mental health, substance abuse, housing, finding work or training.

Per their request the monies collected will be used to purchase face cloths & bath towels along with female & male underwear. If you want to donate any of these items, in new condition, please place them on the sanctuary hall table and they will be collected each week. Thank you for showing your love to our struggling brothers & sisters ❤️

YOUR GIFTS & TALENTS ARE WELCOMED HERE AT URBANA FIRST UMC

When we think of talents and giftings, we tend to think of what we call 'The Super Gifts': pastor, prophet, evangelist, apostle, and teacher. While these are vital roles that are needed in the church, they are no more or less important to God than all the other ones.

God's economy is much different than ours. We can look at the people in those roles and think that they are special and must somehow be loved by God more that is why they got that role. That concept is totally wrong.

God's amount of love for each one of us is the same. God does not have favorites. God also judges our actions differently. We think the bigger the action or the more noticed it is, or the more results it creates, the more important it is to God, but it is not.

A glass of water given in secret in obedience to God is just as important as the person standing on stage winning thousands to Christ. God sees the big picture, throughout all time and He knows what one cup of water can accomplish over eternity.

There is only one you and God uniquely created you to carry out His purposes. Psalm 139:13 says, "For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb." He has a divine purpose for your life, and He has given you talents and gifts to use to bring His kingdom forth. Your job is to learn what they are, then listen to Him on a daily basis on how to use them. Let us know how you can get active by emailing us at office@urbanafirstmethodist.org or by contacting Pastor Bob.

AREAS OF MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH WHERE YOU CAN HELP

1. Hospitality: Most people don't realize how valuable a talent this is. To be able to either have someone in your home and make them feel loved and accepted by providing good food and an inviting setting, or provide food for church dinners or those in need, is a ministry to the body, soul, and spirit. It is very hard to focus on God when you are hungry. Can you imagine what it would feel like for someone who is down and out to be invited to your home and treated with dignity and as a valued guest? Ministering to people's physical needs with love opens the door to minister to their spiritual needs as well.

2. Working with Children: Kids are fertile ground in which to plant the seeds of God. They have this capacity to amaze you one moment and have you completely frustrated the next. That is why it takes a very special type of person to work successfully with children.

Many times, children's ministry is thought of as something less than, but in my opinion, it is one of the most important. If you can grab a child's heart for Jesus while they are young and secure it with good teaching and opportunities to work for Jesus, you will not lose them when they get older.

3. Working with Seniors: Seniors are another forgotten area of ministry. They have so much to give and share. Many of them are prayer warriors who are never noticed or recognized on this earth for the results of their prayers.

4. Intercessory Prayer: You can pray, intercede, and see lives changed for God. It is not glamorous, and most times the only one who will know you are doing it is God, but lives are changed when people pray.

5. Administration: Are you good at organizing people, places, or things? Do you have amazing computer skills? Are you fantastic at numbers and accounting? These are services much needed in the church. They are behind-the-scenes jobs that need to be done with excellence and serve the body of Christ by taking care of the logistical needs of the church. When someone gifted in administration does these tasks, it frees up those who are not good at it to do the work that they have been called to do.

6. Encouragement: Did you know that being able to encourage people is a gift from God? In Romans 12:6-8, Paul lists a number of spiritual gifts, including encouragement (verse 7). We all need each other if the Kingdom of God is going to grow. There are times when a person needs someone else to come along side of them and pick them up and get them back on track again, and that is what an encourager does.

7. Giving: If God has blessed you financially or with the ability to earn money, then some of that is meant to be used to finance His Kingdom. There is much work that can be done and people who are waiting for the money to do it, and you have to opportunity to meet that need.

Here's the thing. It doesn't matter what you gifting is, it must be done in love and obedience to Jesus. Your gifting will be tested, and as you pass the tests, God will entrust you with more and more. Never think that what you do is too small. God can and has used the smallest acts to produce big results.

Think of the little boy who offered his few small loaves of bread and a few fish to Jesus, or the person who lead Billy Graham to the Lord. As far as we know, that is the only person she ever led to the Lord, yet look at the results! No matter how big or small you think your talents are, they are important to God, and He will use them to see His purposes accomplished here on this earth. So, use them joyfully!

(Adapted from a list created by Kim Thompson-Pinder)

This Week at Urbana First

Today, Sunday, February 2, 2025

9:15 a.m.—Sunday School (*Library*)
10:00 a.m.—Fellowship (*Parlor*)
10:30 a.m.—Worship Service
10:50 a.m.—Children’s Church
(Dismissed before sermon)
11:45 a.m.—All Boards Meeting (*Library*)

Monday, February 3

4:00 p.m.—Men’s Leadership Class (*Study*)
6:00 p.m.—Theatre Rehearsal (*3rd Conf.*)
6:00 p.m.—Lone Star Group (*Parlor*)

Tuesday, February 4

5:00 p.m.—People’s Chorus (*Parlor*)
6:00 p.m.—Theatre Rehearsal (*3rd Conf.*)

Wednesday, February 5

10:30 a.m.—Morning Bible Study (*Parlor*)
6:00 p.m.—Theatre Rehearsal (*3rd Conf.*)
6:30 p.m.—Men’s Bible Study (*Study*)
6:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal (*Sanctuary*)

Thursday, February 6

6:00 p.m.—Theatre Rehearsal (*3rd Conf.*)
6:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts Meeting (*FH*)

Friday, February 7, Staff Sabbath Day
Office & Church Building Closed

Happy Birthday to:

Cindy Zarbuck-February 2
Ruth Abbott- February 3
MaryE Yeomans-February 4

Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Daycare Hours: 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings *(Meetings are held on Sundays following service, unless noted)*

Trustee Board —February 9
Administrative Council—February 16
Pastor Parish—February 23
Worship Planning—Thurs. February 27



“Helping people to get connected to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to one another, and to the community!”

304 South Race Street, Urbana, Illinois
217.367.8384—office@urbanafirstmethodist.org
WWW.URBANAFIRSTMETHODIST.ORG

REV. ROBERT K. FREEMAN, DIRECTING PASTOR
Parsonage: 217-607-8113

CHILDREN’S CENTER DAYCARE: (217) 367-0842
KATIE BEAULIN, DAYCARE DIRECTOR
RACHEL HARP, ASSISTANT DAYCARE DIRECTOR