



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!*

September 13th, 2026
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Liturgical Color: Green

APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

PRELUDE

Hannah Freeman-Choi, *piano*

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shandra Summerville, *liturgist*

+CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to you, God of wisdom, looking for answers.

Show us to be obedient, show us the truth.

We praise our creator and teacher, the One who owns all!

Show us how to live a life that reflects your image.

We are ready to empty our busy and sometimes crafty minds.

Show us how to love you and our neighbors here and now.

We follow Jesus' teachings to embody a dynamic discipleship!

Thank you, Holy Spirit, for guiding us! Amen. *(Breakthrough Ministries)*

SEEKING GOD'S FACE

OPENING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 forever and ever. Amen.

1. There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing its worth;
it sounds like music in my ear,
the sweetest name on earth.

*O how I love Jesus, O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus, because he first loved me!*

2. It tells me of a Savior's love,
who died to set me free;
it tells me of his precious blood,
the sinner's perfect plea. *Refrain*
3. It tells of one whose loving heart
can feel my deepest woe;
who in each sorrow bears a part
that none can bear below. *Refrain*

+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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

Hannah Freeman-Choi, *piano*

+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.*

HEARING GOD'S VOICE

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Matthew 22:15-22, 34-40

Liturgist

SONG OF PREPARATION

I Really Love the Lord
(c. J. Dowell)

Jackson Diedrich, *soloist*

THE MESSAGE

Rev. Robert K. Freeman, *directing pastor*

TIME OF REFLECTION & PRAYER

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

⁺HYMN OF RESPONSE *O How He Loves You and Me*

TFWS no. 2108

1. O how he loves you and me!
O how he loves you and me!
He gave his life. What more could he give?
O how he loves you;
O how he loves me;
O how he loves you and me!
2. Jesus to Calv'ry did go;
his love for sinners did show.
What he did there brought hope from despair.
O how he loves you;
O how he loves me;
O how he loves you and me!

SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

Hannah Freeman-Choi, *piano*

⁺ *Please stand as you are able*

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Matthew 22: 15-22, 34-40 (ESV) Paying Taxes to Cesar, The Great Commandment

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. ¹⁶ And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” ²¹ They said, “Caesar's.” Then he said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.” ²² When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

³⁴ But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵ And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” ³⁷ And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”

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:

- Prayers for Urbana First to continue our mission of helping people to get connected to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to one another, and to the community
- For God's healing Spirit to move in our nation amid division and violence
- For God's peace in regions of the world affected by conflict and war
- For those who are ill or hospitalized, that they may receive healing and comfort
 - Lindsey Rivest, Averie Spencer and Family, Pastor Freeman, Darla Kvidera, Shirley and Tom Gordon, Nancy and Steve Moser, Nancy Merz, Nancy Lopeman, Cynde Jordan (knee surgery)
- For those who are unable to join us in person, that they may feel God's presence, and remain connected through the love and prayers of the church family
 - Ruth Abbott, Gladys Baxley, Anne Brown, Bob Burnett, Judith Cramer, Joyce Dilley, Gary and Anna Engelgau, Mary Lou Fisher, Jodie Frink, Tom & Shirley Gordon, Kenneth Johnson, Darla Kvidera, Marjorie Mead, Nancy Merz, Peggy Pennell, Mary Jane Ross, Fred Shep, Joyce Smith.
- For those celebrating new life through births, that families may be blessed with joy, health, and God's abiding presence
- For loved ones and friends in hospice care or nearing the end of life, that they may know God's presence and peace
- For those grieving a loss of a loved one, either through death or a broken relationship, that they may find comfort and hope
 - Janis Moment & Mary Lee Krumins after the loss of their brother, Chris Walker.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO: Dani Evans (September 1), David Gordon (September 6), Michael Reynolds (September 6), Joyce Smith (September 8), John Muir (September 12), Stanley Paul (September 12), Joan Christian (September 16), Carol Brooks (September 21), Larry Jobe (September 21), Felecia Freeman (September 26), Gerald Bedford (September 28), Layken Zech (September 29)

MIDWEEK BIBLE STUDY—ALL ARE INVITED!

When: Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Where: Atherton Parlor

Midweek Bible Study is back for the fall semester! All are invited to join us as we fellowship together and dive deeper into Christ's teachings.



YAG RETURNS FOR THE FALL

When: Saturday, September 26th

Where: Atherton Parlor

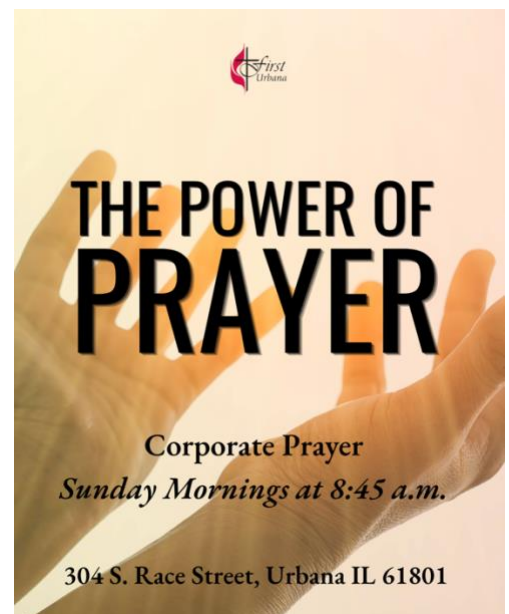
Join the Urbana First Young Adults Group for their September event, Trivia Night!

Brush up on your trivia, bring a friend, and get ready for a night full of fun and fellowship.

Questions? Contact Steven at YAG@urbanafirstmethodist.org

CORPORATE PRAYER SUNDAY MORNINGS

Corporate Prayer is available every Sunday in the Sanctuary from 8:45 to 9:00 a.m.. The prayer services will not be streamed live, they will meet in person each Sunday and online one Sunday per month. This will be an opportunity for anyone with a prayer request to pray with our church family; you can also email your requests. On the 2nd Sunday of the month, we will offer prayer for our online community from 8:45-9:00am. If you are interested in joining the prayer team please email the church office at office@urbanafirstmethodist.org





NOISY OFFERING: C-U Canteen Run

The CU Canteen Run, established in 2003, is a Christian ministry that partners with The Salvation Army. We feed and clothe the most vulnerable living on the streets of Champaign-Urbana without discrimination year round. The Canteen Run not only serves those on the streets, we also help bring awareness of homelessness through volunteering. Our goal is not only to serve the immediate needs but to make relationships and bring help to our guests.

THANK YOU TO TODAY'S WORSHIP TEAM

Hannah Freeman-Choi (Pianist), Shandra Summerville (Liturgist), David Gordon and Michael Reynolds (Ushers), Linda Bailey and Kathy York (Children's Church), Johnie Wilson, Jack Marshall, & Joseph Tingling (Tech & Stage Team), Paige Banovz (PowerPoint & Bulletin)

This Week at Urbana First

Sunday, September 13

8:45 a.m.—Corporate Prayer (*Sanctuary*)
9:15 a.m.—Adult Sunday School (*Library*)
9:30 a.m.—Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
10:00 a.m.—Fellowship (*Parlor*)
10:15 a.m.—Children's Church, Toddler-2nd
10:30 a.m.—Worship Service (*Sanctuary*)
10:50 a.m.—Children's Church, 3rd-5th

Monday, September 14

5:45 p.m.—Dance Rehearsal (*FH*)
6:00 p.m.—Community Group (*Parlor*)
6:00 p.m.—Theater Rehearsal (*Jr/Sr. Room*)

Tuesday, September 15

6:00 p.m.—People's Chorus (*FH*)
6:00 p.m.—Theater Rehearsal (*Jr/Sr. Room*)

Wednesday, September 16

10:30 a.m.—Midweek Bible Study (*Parlor*)
6:00 p.m.—Daycare Meeting (*Zoom*)
6:00 p.m.—Theater Rehearsal (*Jr/Sr. Room*)
6:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal (*Sanctuary*)

Thursday, September 17

6:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts (*Fellowship Hall*)
6:00 p.m.—Theater Rehearsal (*Jr/Sr. Room*)

Friday, September 18

Building Closed for GABLE Filming

Sunday, September 20

8:45 a.m.—Corporate Prayer (*Sanctuary*)
9:15 a.m.—Adult Sunday School (*Library*)
9:30 a.m.—Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
10:00 a.m.—Fellowship (*Parlor*)
10:15 a.m.—Children's Church, Toddler-2nd
10:30 a.m.—Worship Service (*Sanctuary*)
10:50 a.m.—Children's Church, 3rd-5th
11:30 a.m.—All Boards Meeting (*Library*)

Connect With Us!

If you're visiting with us today, please let us know! We'd love to connect with you and share more about our church.



Church Office Hours

Tuesday-Thursday: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Daycare Hours: 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.



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

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KATIE BEAULIN, DAYCARE DIRECTOR
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