



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!

March 23, 2025

Third Sunday in Lent

10:30 a.m. Worship Service The Beginning of the Good News

Liturgical Color: Purple

APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

PRELUDE *Take the Name of Jesus With You* Hannah Freeman-Choi, *piano*

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS David Gordon, *liturgist*

+CALL TO WORSHIP

When our days hurt like a wilderness, empty of nourishment, deserted of hope;

You call to us with your Spirit, comforting and sustaining us.

If all around us, shadows loom, and our resolve is tested, our faith challenged;

You bless us with your presence, strengthening our hearts each day.

Whenever our troubles appear unyielding, the pain unrelenting in our world;

You abide unyielding by our side, your love is unrelenting in our lives.

(Gill Le Fevre)

LENTEN CANDLE LIGHTING

Liturgist

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 *O How I Love Jesus* Songs of Zion no. 36

1. There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth;
it sounds like music in mine 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 me what my Maker hath in store for ev'ry day; and tho' I tread a
darksome path, yields sunshine all the way. *Refrain*
4. 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*

+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

In Christ Alone
(arr. L. Larson)

Steven Crook, *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

Mark 1:1-13

Liturgist

CHORAL ANTHEM

He is Exalted

Sanctuary Choir

(c. T.Paris, arr. L. Larson)

THE MESSAGE

The Arrival of the Servant King

Shandra Summerville

lay speaker

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.

+HYMN OF RESPONSE *Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands*

UMH no. 273

1. Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all, healing pain and sickness, blessing children small, washing tired feet, and saving those who fall; Jesus' hands were kind hands, doing good to all.
2. Take my hands, Lord Jesus, let them work for you; make them strong and gentle, kind in all I do. Let me watch you, Jesus, till I'm gentle too, till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.

SENDING FORTH

Rev. Robert K. Freeman

POSTLUDE

Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus Hannah Freeman-Choi, *piano*

+Please stand as you are able

Scripture Lesson: Mark 1:1-13, John the Baptist Prepares the Way (ESV)

¹The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

²As it is written in Isaiah the prophet,

“Behold, I send my messenger before your face,
who will prepare your way,

³the voice of one crying in the wilderness:

‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

⁴John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷And he preached, saying, “After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

The Baptism of Jesus

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”

The Temptation of Jesus

¹²The Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³And he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. And he was with the wild animals, and the angels were ministering to him.

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:

Homebound: Betty Newton, Nancy Moser, Gladys Baxley, Tom and Anna Engelgau, Darla Kvidera, Jean Gates, Leila Swenson-Gaines, Marjorie Mead, Virginia Rose, Joyce Smith

Prayer Concern: Averie Spencer (Infant Health Issues) and Family, Nancy Lopeman, Pastor Freeman (neck injury), Marie Govert (treatments), Cynthia Jordan, The family of Rosevelt Gippleah, Shirley Gordon, Nancy Merz.

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY NOISY OFFERING UPDATE

Through your generosity, we have been able to provide *Stride Shelter* with: 21 pairs of women's underwear, 20 pairs of women's socks, 41 pairs of men's underwear, 26 pair of men's socks, 18 washcloths, and 24 bath towels. Thank you for your generosity!

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS FOR THE CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

On the third Sunday of the month through April, we will be taking a special collection during our regular offering for those affected by the devastating wildfires in California. The final collection will take place on April 27th.

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 **\$75,216.85** and for Building Repairs **\$682.00**
Total Raised by all sources is \$75,898.85, **Total Yet to be raised is: \$68,311**



- FIRST UNITED METHODIST URBANA -

Rice Meal Packing Event

3PM SUNDAY
30 MARCH 2025

304 S Race St Urbana, IL 61801

Food is a human right and is an immediate and tangible way to help someone.

Please join the First United Methodist Church in Urbana as we pack Rice Meals. If you have questions about the event or want to know what you can help, please contact Steven Crook using the email provided below. Together we can make the world a little less hungry.

stevenfcrook@gmail.com



The Administrative Council Leadership Opportunity for all Ages



The Administrative Council has the general oversight of the administration and program of our local church. Its primary work is one of leadership rather than management. Leadership being the visionary, “big picture” work within the church, whereas management is the “detail work” that occurs on a daily basis by the staff and other volunteers.

The Administrative Council works with the other committees of the church, providing guidance and direction.

The Administrative Council evaluates objectives, adopts goals, authorizes action, determines policy, evaluates and approves staffing positions, and establishes budget based on recommendations of the other committees, such as the Finance Committee, Nurture Committee, etc.

The Administrative Council is the most powerful, ongoing committee of the church. If you are asked to serve on the Administrative Council, you will have the opportunity to influence the direction taken by the Urbana First UMC Congregation.

Membership

Some members of the Administrative Council are chosen by the Lay Leadership Committee. These are considered to be the “Members at Large” of the Administrative Council. The Members at Large serve three year terms. Each year from 10 to 20 Members at Large are chosen from the Urbana First UMC congregation. Other persons are members of the Administrative Council due to the fact that they chair a committee or hold an elected position of authority within the church.

Meetings

The Administrative Council meets on the 2nd Sunday, of the month (except July). Meeting times are printed in the bulletin. Reminders via email are sent to committee members prior to each meeting.

Volunteer Hours Required:

Generally, this involves 1-2 hours per month.

How can you join this team? You can contact Shandra Summerville at manager@urbanafirstmethodist.org or by calling the office at 217-367-8384.

This Week at Urbana First

Sunday, March 23

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)

Monday, March 24

4:00 p.m.—Men's Discipleship (*Study*)

Tuesday, March 25

5:00 p.m.—People's Chorus (*FH*)

Wednesday, March 26

10:30 a.m.—Morning Bible Study (*Parlor*)
5:30 p.m.—Christ Community Church (*FH*)
6:30 p.m.—Men's Bible Study (*Perkins*)
6:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal (*Sanctuary*)

Thursday, March 27

6:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts Meeting (*FH*)

Friday, March 28 *Staff Sabbath Day*
Office & Church Building Closed

Saturday, March 29

1:00 p.m.—Gladys Taylor's 100th Birthday
Celebration (*Villas of Hollybrook, Savoy IL*)

Sunday, March 30

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)
3:00 p.m.—Rice Meal Packing (*FH*)
All are welcome to join!

Happy Birthday to:

Joyce Dilley-March 24
Gladys Taylor- March 26

Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 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!”*

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