



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!*

November 30, 2025

First Sunday in Advent

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Hope in the King's Arrival

Liturgical Color: Purple

APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

PRELUDE

Hannah Freeman-Choi, *piano*

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shondra Summerville, *liturgist*

+CALL TO WORSHIP

Light the lamps, prepare the room, God is coming to us!

**Make our hearts and spirits ready to receive God's most gracious gift,
God's Son, Jesus Christ.**

Push the darkness away. The light is truly coming!

**May God's light shine on us, in us and through us that God's glory may be
seen. Amen.**

(Ministry Matters)

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 for ever and ever. Amen.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Rev. Robert K. Freeman, *directing pastor*

+HYMN OF CELEBRATION

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

UMH no. 196

1. Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
2. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

+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

+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 LESSONS

Luke 1:26-38

Liturgist

CHORAL ANTHEM

Come, Emmanuel
(c. D. Besig; CCLI 269699)

Sanctuary Choir
Davion Williams, *music director*

THE MESSAGE

Hope in the King's Arrival

Rev. Robert K. Freeman

TIME OF REFLECTION

You are invited to come and pray at the altar, light a candle to illuminate your prayers before God, come forward for 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

Emmanuel, Emmanuel

UMH no. 204

1. Emmanuel, Emmanuel, his name is called Emmanuel.

God with us, revealed in us, his name is called Emmanuel. *Repeat*

SENDING FORTH

Shandra Summerville

POSTLUDE

Hannah Freeman-Choi, *piano*

+Please stand as you are able

Scripture Lesson: Luke 1:26-38, The Birth of Jesus Foretold (ESV)

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"^[L]

³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born^[L] will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.



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:

Homebound: Gladys Baxley, Gary and Anna Engelgau, Darla Kvidera, Jean Gates, Marjorie Mead, Joyce Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Ross

Prayer Concern: The Family of Dollie DuMontelle (passing), Shirley Gordon (surgery recovery), Nancy Moser, Averie Spencer (Infant health issues) and Family, Nancy Lopeman, Pastor Freeman, Nancy Merz, Steve Moser (knee surgery)

PACK THE BUILDING: WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 3

We are so excited that we are almost to the finish line of having the First United Methodist Church of Urbana recognized as a historic landmark. On Wednesday, December 3rd at 7:00 p.m., there will be a hearing for the building nomination at the Urbana City Council Chambers (400 S. Vine Street).

We would love it if we could fill the building with our members and friends for this momentous occasion! Bring your family, friends, neighbors, etc. to show support of this incredible place in our hearts and in the community!

SANDWICHES, SOUP, AND SHARING

When: Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m., *Resumes This Wednesday, December 3rd*

Where: Urbana First UMC Parlor

Join us on Wednesdays for a time of fellowship, faith building, and food. This group is open for all to attend!

LESSONS & CAROLS SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Are you interested in sharing your talents and gifts for our annual Lessons & Carols service? We are looking for readers, musicians, ushers, and more! Please contact Paige in the church office for more information.



**HEALTHY
MOMS.
STRONG
BABIES.**

NOVEMBER NOISY OFFERING SPECIAL COLLECTION

In response to the significant rise in premature births in the past three decades, the March of Dimes, a national voluntary health agency whose mission is to improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects and infant mortality, and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, an international organization with chapters in over 850 communities in the United States and abroad, have joined forces in a national campaign to support research into the causes of premature birth, and to educate the public and health care professionals about this escalating health problem.

WEEK OF HOPE—2026 Summer Youth Mission (Cincinnati, Ohio)

When: June 14, 2026-June 19, 2026

Week of Hope are community service mission trips for youth. Students come alongside seasoned local ministries and nonprofits to make a lasting difference through meaningful community service. They'll learn Christ-like empathy and compassion for others as they meet the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of disadvantaged children, youth, and adults. As students serve in the name of Jesus, they'll develop friendships with the people they serve, with other teams, with their own youth group, and, most importantly, with Jesus.



During a community service mission trip, participants generally stay at a local church that is full of fun and energy throughout the week as they engage in indoor and outdoor games, share meals together, and participate in worship and teaching in morning and evening programs.



JR. & SR. HIGH GROUP

When: December 11th from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Where: Urbana First UMC Parlor

Calling all Jr. and Sr. High students—mark your calendars for our December event! Join us as we connect with other youth in the area for food, fellowship, and fun. All are welcome!

CHURCH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2026

Nominations for church offices are welcome at any time.

According to the Book of Discipline, Individuals who undertake particular ministries including Ad Council and Lay Leadership Roles, should be persons of strong faith, dedicated to discipleship, and lover of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel in the church and in the world. They should be persons who actively demonstrate or model the making of Disciples for the Transformation of the World.

All church officers must be active members for at least one year prior to election, which occurs in November with all terms beginning in January. Terms of office are three years for Ad Council and Lay Leadership Roles. This year we invite our new members to submit names for consideration if you have just joined our Urbana First. Consecutive terms are generally not permitted, but officers are eligible for re-election one year after completion of a term, Trustees can repeat another three-year term without a year off. Officer training is provided between December and January via Webinars, My Job Training, or upcoming seminars.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: UIUC CLINE CENTER

Improving societies together. **Worldwide.**



Understanding complex social problems is easier when data scientists, social scientists, humanists, and difference makers from outside the academy can be assembled around the same table. It also means drawing from diverse methods, theories, and perspectives. At the Cline Center for Advanced Social Research, we're building an innovative community of researchers who not only pursue collaborative text analytics projects using our data, software, and expertise, but are deeply invested in promoting societal well-being. For More information, visit clinecenter.illinois.edu/spotlite



CHRISTMAS AT URBANA FIRST

All are welcome to join us for our Christmas offerings this year! We are very excited and hope to see you there.

December 20th, TBA—**Blue Christmas Servic**

(A service designed for persons who have difficulty celebrating the holiday)

December 21st, 3:00 p.m.—**Jazzy Christmas Fellowship Hour**

(Light Refreshments served before the service)

December 21st, 4:00 p.m.—**Community Christmas Eve - Lessons & Carols Service**

(Various groups, including our choir will be participating)

December 24th, 4:30 p.m. **Christmas Eve Communion Service**

This Week at Urbana First

Sunday, November 30, 2025

First Sunday in Advent

9:15 a.m.—Adult Sunday School (*Library*)

9:30 a.m.—Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

10:00 a.m.—Fellowship (*Parlor*)

10:30 a.m.—Worship Service

10:50 a.m.—Children's Church

(Dismissed during service)

Monday, December 1

6:00 p.m.—Dance Rehearsal (*FH*)

6:00 p.m.—Community Group (*Parlor*)

Tuesday, December 2

6:00 p.m.—People's Chorus (*FH*)

6:30 p.m.—Community Group (*Parlor*)

Wednesday, December 3

Church Office Closed for Training Seminar

8:00 a.m.—Church Training (*Offsite*)

10:30 a.m.—Midweek Bible Study

6:00 p.m.—GSA Brownie Troop (*FH*)

6:30 p.m.—Fellowship & Prayer for
Historic Landmark (*Parlor*)

7:00 p.m.—Historic Landmark Hearing
(Urbana City Council)

Thursday, December 4

6:00 p.m.—GSA Troop Meeting (*FH*)

Friday, December 5

Church Office Closed, Staff Sabbath Day

4:00 p.m.—Wedding Rehearsal (*Sanctuary*)

Saturday, December 6

4:00 p.m.—Wedding (*Sanctuary*)

Sunday, December 7

Second Sunday in Advent

9:15 a.m.—Sunday School (*Library*)

9:30 a.m.—Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

10:00 a.m.—Fellowship (*Parlor*)

10:30 a.m.—Worship Service

10:50 a.m.—Children's Church

Church Office Hours

Monday-Wednesday: 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!”***

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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

Today's Worship Team

Pianist: Hannah Freeman-Choi

Liturgist: Shandra Summerville

Ushers: Rich Govert, Joseph Tingling

Children's Church: Linda Bailey

Tech & Stage Team: Johnie Wilson,

Jack Marshall, Joseph Tingling

PowerPoint & Bulletin: Paige Banovz