



# 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!*

**January 25, 2025**

**10:30 a.m. Worship Service**

**Third Sunday after the Epiphany**

**Liturgical Color: Green**

## APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

**PRELUDE**

Hannah Freeman-Choi, *piano*

**GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

David Gordon, *liturgist*

**+CALL TO WORSHIP**

God calls us to rest, not only for ourselves but for all people and all creation.

**We come to embrace this gift of rest, knowing it is meant for every person, every creature, and the earth itself.**

In this time of worship, we pause to reflect on the ways we may have denied others their rest.

**We come seeking balance, equity, and justice in how we live and rest together.**

Let us receive the gift of God's love, freely given to all, without exception.

**We come to be restored, and to offer restoration to all.**

*(GNJUMC)*

## 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.

**+HYMN OF CELEBRATION** *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*    UMH no. 57, v 1-5

1. O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of his grace!
2. My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.
3. Jesus! the name that charms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner's ears, 'tis life, and health, and peace.
4. He breaks the power of canceled sin, he sets the prisoner free;  
his blood can make the foulest clean; his blood availed for me.
5. He speaks, and listening to his voice, new life the dead receive;  
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.

**+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**

*Let There Be Peace on Earth*  
(c. S. Miller, J. Jackson; CCLI 93690)

Suzanne Runyon, *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.

**HEARING GOD'S VOICE**

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

Leviticus 25:1-19

Liturgist

**CHORAL ANTHEM***Trust in the Lord*

(c. R. Dilworth)

Sanctuary Choir

Davion Williams, *music director***THE MESSAGE**The Gift of Rest

Shandra Summerville,

*lay leader***TIME OF REFLECTION AND PRAYER**

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***God of Grace and God of Glory*

UMH no. 577

1. God of grace and God of glory, on the people pour thy power;  
crown thine ancient church's story, bring her bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,  
for the facing of this hour.
2. Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail his ways!  
Fears and doubts too long have bound us; free our hearts to work and  
praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days, for the  
living of these days.
3. Cure thy children's warring madness, bend our pride to thy control;  
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom's goal, lest  
we miss thy kingdom's goal.
4. Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;  
let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore,  
serving thee whom we adore.

**SENDING FORTH**

Shandra Summerville

**POSTLUDE**Hannah Freeman-Choi, *piano**<sup>+</sup>Please stand as you are able*

## Scripture Lesson: Leviticus 25:1-19, The Sabbath (ESV)

<sup>1</sup>The Lord spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Speak to the people of Israel and say to them, When you come into the land that I give you, the land shall keep a Sabbath to the Lord. <sup>3</sup>For six years you shall sow your field, and for six years you shall prune your vineyard and gather in its fruits, <sup>4</sup>but in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a Sabbath to the Lord. You shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard. <sup>5</sup>You shall not reap what grows of itself in your harvest, or gather the grapes of your undressed vine. It shall be a year of solemn rest for the land. <sup>6</sup>The Sabbath of the land shall provide food for you, for yourself and for your male and female slaves and for your hired worker and the sojourner who lives with you, <sup>7</sup>and for your cattle and for the wild animals that are in your land: all its yield shall be for food.

### The Year of Jubilee

<sup>8</sup>“You shall count seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, so that the time of the seven weeks of years shall give you forty-nine years. <sup>9</sup>Then you shall sound the loud trumpet on the tenth day of the seventh month. On the Day of Atonement you shall sound the trumpet throughout all your land. <sup>10</sup>And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you, when each of you shall return to his property and each of you shall return to his clan. <sup>11</sup>That fiftieth year shall be a jubilee for you; in it you shall neither sow nor reap what grows of itself nor gather the grapes from the undressed vines. <sup>12</sup>For it is a jubilee. It shall be holy to you. You may eat the produce of the field.

<sup>13</sup>“In this year of jubilee each of you shall return to his property. <sup>14</sup>And if you make a sale to your neighbor or buy from your neighbor, you shall not wrong one another. <sup>15</sup>You shall pay your neighbor according to the number of years after the jubilee, and he shall sell to you according to the number of years for crops. <sup>16</sup>If the years are many, you shall increase the price, and if the years are few, you shall reduce the price, for it is the number of the crops that he is selling to you. <sup>17</sup>You shall not wrong one another, but you shall fear your God, for I am the Lord your God.

<sup>18</sup>“Therefore you shall do my statutes and keep my rules and perform them, and then you will dwell in the land securely. <sup>19</sup>The land will yield its fruit, and you will eat your fill and dwell in it securely.

## 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:

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

**Prayer Concern:** Shirley Gordon (surgery recovery), Nancy Moser, Averie Spencer (Infant health issues) and Family, Nancy Lopeman, Pastor Freeman, Nancy Merz, Steve Moser (knee surgery, Darla Kviedra (Broken Hip), Family of Jean Gates (passing), Family of Catherine Thuney (passing), the Tingling Family (Passing of family members), and the Family of Dean Rosenbeck (passing).

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:** Shirley Gordon (January 1), Sue Engelgau (January 2), Amy Felty (January 7), Steve Moser (January 9), Pat Smith (January 14) Judith Hinners (January 15), Pastor Bob Freeman (January 29), and Peggy Pennell (January 30)

## SANDWICHES, SOUP, AND SHARING (Bible Study)

**When:** Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. - February

**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!

## JR. & SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP

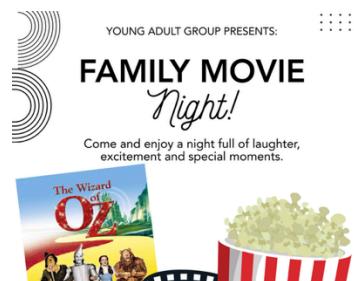
**When:** Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

**Where:** Urbana First UMC 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Youth Room

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



## YOUNG ADULT GROUP JANUARY EVENT: MOVIE NIGHT!



**When:** Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 p.m.

**Where:** Urbana First UMC Sanctuary

Join the Urbana First Young Adult group for a movie night in the Sanctuary! We will be watching the 1939 classic, The Wizard of Oz starring Judy Garland.

Everyone is welcome to attend this event



## UNITED METHODIST MEN IN FAITH BREAKFAST GATHERING

**When:** Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

**Where:** Urbana First UMC Parlor

Join Men from around the community and Urbana First for a time of fellowship with a core group of men, partnering with their pastor, to invite and initiate spiritual growth opportunities for all men of the church. Everyone has different gifts, graces, and areas of interest. The focus is not inward, concentrating only on those who attend a set meeting, but outward to all men, assisting them to engage in the process of spiritual growth.

## NOISY OFFERING FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY

Hurricane Melissa, one of the strongest storms to ever hit the Atlantic, hammered Jamaica packing winds of 185 mph. Many are suffering from loss of family members, their homes, places of employment, electricity and more. Samaritan's Purse is working to provide critical relief to storm survivors: shelter materials, hygiene kits, solar lights, medical supplies, household water filters and more. The town of Black River, "ground zero", is located in the southwest of Jamaica. The already impoverished area was gutted by extreme winds and 13 ft. of storm surge. The local hospital was destroyed and virtually every building in town sustained some level of damage.

*These Brothers and Sisters desperately need our help.*



## WOMEN IN FAITH FEBRUARY COLLECTION FOR HATS, MITTENS, AND SOCKS

During the month of February, the United Women in Faith will be collecting hats, gloves, and socks for the Urbana community. If you would like to donate, please bring in your donations on Sundays in February and leave them on the table in the Narthex.

# This Week at Urbana First

## Sunday, January 25, 2026

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  
2:00 p.m.—Community Group (*FH*)

## Monday, January 26

## Tuesday, January 27

5:30 p.m.—People’s Chorus (*FH*)

## Wednesday, January 28

6:00 p.m.—GSA Brownie Troop (*FH*)  
6:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir

## Thursday, January 29

6:00 p.m.—Girl Scouts (*FH*)  
6:30 p.m.—Jr. & Sr. High Group (*3<sup>rd</sup> Floor*)

## Friday, January 30

*Church Office Closed, Staff Sabbath Day*

## Saturday, January 31

10:00 a.m.—United Methodist Men  
Breakfast (*Parlor*)  
4:00 p.m.—Family Movie Night (*Sanctuary*)

## Sunday, February 1

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  
2:00 p.m.—Community Group (*FH*)

## 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](http://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: David Gordon  
Speaker: Shandra Summerville, *lay leader*  
Ushers: Rich Govert, Joseph Tingling  
Children’s Church: Linda Bailey  
Tech & Stage Team: Johnie Wilson,  
Jack Marshall, Joseph Tingling  
PowerPoint & Bulletin: Paige Banovz