



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 17th, 2023

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 am Worship Service

Liturgical Color: Green

APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

PRELUDE *Nearer My God to Thee/Where Can I Turn for Peace* Hannah Freeman-Choi
(M. Greene)

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Steve Fink, *liturgist*

+CALL TO WORSHIP

All people are in need of the love and grace of God.

We all have moments in life where we need God to step in.

The creator of the universe steps into our lives with grace and hope.

May we share this grace and hope with all we meet.

The Lord meets people where they are.

Lord of all creation, meet us here and now. Amen. (GNJUMC 2023)

SEEKING GOD'S FACE

OPENING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER Liturgist 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.

+OPENING HYMN

Near to the Heart of God

UMH no. 472

+THE APOSTLES CREED

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; He descended into Hell. 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

He is Exalted

Steven Crook & Caleb Wayman
(arr. L.Larson)

+PRESENTATION OF GIFTS & OFFERING

UMH no. 95

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

Acts 17:16-28

Liturgist

SONG OF PREPARATION

O My Father

Hannah Freeman-Choi, *piano*
(M. Bailey)

MESSAGE

Meet People Where They Are

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.

+CLOSING HYMN

How Great Thou Art

UMH no. 77

+SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

Sent Forth By God's Blessing

Hannah Freeman-Choi, *piano*
(arr. J. Turner)

+Please stand as you are able

SING HIS PRAISES!

Near to the Heart of God.

UMH no. 472

There is a place of quiet rest, near to the heart
of God;

a place where sin cannot molest, near to the
heart of God.

*O Jesus, blest Redeemer,
sent from the heart of God,
hold us who wait before thee
near to the heart of God.*

There is a place of comfort sweet, near to the
heart of God;

a place where we our Savior meet, near to the
heart of God. *Refrain*

There is a place of full release, near to the
heart of God;

a place where all is joy and peace, near to the
heart of God. *Refrain*

How Great Thou Art

UMH no. 77

O Lord my God!

when I in awesome wonder

consider all the works

thy hand have made,

I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder, thy
power throughout the universe displayed.

*Then sings my soul, my Savior God to thee; how great
thou art, how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my
Savior God to thee; how great thou art, how great
thou art!*

When through the woods

and forest glades I wander,

and hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;

when I look down

from lofty mountain grandeur

and hear the brook, and feel the gentle

breeze; *Refrain*

And when I think that God,

his Son not sparing,

sent him to die, I scarce can take it in; that on
the cross,

my burden gladly bearing,

he bled and died to take away my sin;

When Christ shall come

with shout of acclamation

and take me home,

what joy shall fill my heart.

Then I shall bow in humble adoration, and

there proclaim, my God, how great thou art!

Refrain

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Acts 17:16-28

Paul in Athens

¹⁶Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. ¹⁷So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. ¹⁸Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. ¹⁹And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?” ²⁰For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” ²¹Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

Paul Addresses the Areopagus

²²So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. ²³For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. ²⁴The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man, ²⁵nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything. ²⁶And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place, ²⁷that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us, ²⁸for “‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, “‘For we are indeed his offspring.’



DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Sunday: Acts 17:16-28

Monday: Acts 18:1-17

Tuesday: Acts 18:18-23

Wednesday: Acts 18:24-28

Thursday: Acts 19:1-7

Friday: Acts 19:8-22

Saturday: Acts 19:23-41

CHILDREN'S CORNER: Acts of Kindness



²⁴ He is the God who made the whole world and everything in it. He is the Lord of the land and the sky. He does not live in temples that men build! ²⁵ This God is the One who gives life, breath, and everything else to people. He does not need any help from them. He has everything he needs. ²⁶ God began by making one man. From him came all the different people who live everywhere in the world. He decided exactly when and

where they must live. ²⁷ God wanted them to look for him and perhaps search all around for him and find him. But he is not far from any of us: ²⁸ 'By his power we live and move and exist.' Some of your own poets have said: 'For we are his children.' *Acts 17:24-28, ICB*

Have you ever planted something from a seed? Maybe it was some flowers or vegetables! How long did it take until you started to see the plant growing? A day? A week? A month? If you looked at where you planted the seed on the first day, it would be hard to tell that a plant would grow there! Sharing God's love with people can be like planting a seed. You don't always know what sharing love with someone will grow into and sometimes you don't get to see it right away, but with God's care, it could grow into something beautiful.

Remember it's not just what you say, but how you say it. When we share our love for God with other people, it's important to remember to be patient and kind. You may have been going to church for a while, but maybe your friends in class have never been, so it's important to be kind and share your love for God in a way that includes them and doesn't make them feel bad for not knowing what you know about Jesus. This week let's be like Paul and show kindness with not just words, but our actions as well.

Let's Pray! Dear God, sometimes we get so excited to talk about what we love and to talk about you! Help us to always remember to be patient, kind, and listen to others. Amen.

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 those who are homebound and struggling.

• Our missionaries in the Baltics, Africa, Indonesia, Israel, and Asia. •

God to fill the open space at Urbana First

- The White Family (Death of Eva White) She was our oldest member, 104 years of age.
- New and returning students at UIUC
- God will fill our chairs with new and unchurched people.
- Give God thanks for our faithful and consistent givers.
- Parents and Students of the Childcare Center.
- Members, Friends and Family who are sick.

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH NEWS

Thank you for the incredible donations for our kits! We are still collecting our fishing & gardening kits.

We are still preparing Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes for 2023! Donations of \$15.00 per box can be sent through the giving page of our website

www.urbanafirstmethodist.org/give

NOISY OFFERING: MAUI FOOD BANK

So many of our Maui brothers and sisters have lost their homes and all possessions and are adrift on a sea of uncertainty. The greatest help currently is supporting the Maui Food Bank.

The Maui Food Bank serves the entirety of Maui County, including the rural communities of Hana, Molokai and Lanai. The Food Bank distributes safe and nutritious food to individuals, families, kids, the working poor, seniors on fixed incomes, the homeless and anyone at risk of going hungry.

It is the *only* non-profit mass food distributor in Maui County. All donations received are used for the collection, warehousing and distribution of perishable and non-perishable food items to those in need.

Please let us open our hearts and wallets to show our brethren ALOHA love

CHURCH NEEDS

Youth Advisor/Worker: Seeking a mature young person to help us develop a stronger youth program.

Usher Team: Serving one Sunday a month.

Hospitality Team: Light hospitality one Sunday a month.

Choir Members: Contact Natalia or a Choir member for more information.

This Week at Urbana First

Today, Sunday, September 17

9:15 a.m.—Sunday School
(Library) 10:00 a.m.—Fellowship
10:30 a.m.—Worship Service
10:50 a.m.—Children’s Church
(Dismissed before sermon)

Monday, September 18

1:30 p.m.—Office open for scheduled
appointments only
7:00 p.m.—Twin City Theater Co.

Tuesday, September 19

10:00 a.m.—Church Office Meeting
5:00 p.m.—Worship Planning Meeting
(Zoom)
7:00 p.m.—Men’s Discipleship (Pastor’s
Office) 7:00 p.m.—Twin City Theater Co.

Wednesday, September 20

10:30 a.m.—Midweek Bible Study (Parlor)
6:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir (Sanctuary)
6:30 p.m.—Revelation Bible Study
(Library) 7:00 p.m.—Zoo Improv (Parlor)

Thursday, September 21

11:00 a.m.—Exchange Club (Parlor)
6:00 p.m.—GSA Troop Meeting
(FH) 7:00 p.m.—Twin City Theater
Co.

Friday, September 22

Staff Sabbath Day
6:30 p.m.—CFC Youth Group
(FH) 7:00 p.m.—Twin City Theater
Co.

Saturday, September 23

10:00 a.m.—United Women of
Faith

Church Office Hours

Tuesday-Thursday: 9:00 a.m.- 12:0 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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CALEB WAYMAN, ASSISTANT MUSIC DIRECTOR

Sunday Morning Staff & Volunteers

LINDA BAILEY, CHILDREN’S CHURCH

JACK MITCHELL, STREAMING & MEDIA

JOHNIE WILSON, AUDIO TECH

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