

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!

December 10th, 2023
10:30 am Worship Service

Second Sunday of Advent
Liturgical Color: **Purple**

APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

PRELUDE *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus* Hannah Freeman-Choi, *piano*
GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS Shandra Summerville, *liturgist*
+CALL TO WORSHIP

“In the beginning,” “Stay awake,” “The time is coming soon,”

These words are proclaimed by the prophets through the generations.

As time moves on, we have forgotten to heed their words,

But God still offers us another chance to hear and understand.

Repent, reconnect, prepare -

Let us return our hearts, minds, and spirits to the purposes of God. (GNJUMC)

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 *Jesus, Name Above All Names* TFWS no. 2071

+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.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

OFFERTORY

Mary, Did You Know?

Megan Ferrari &

(c. M. Lowery, B. Greene)

Hannah Freeman-Choi

+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

Mark 1:1-8

Liturgist

SONG OF PREPARATION

Do You Hear What I Hear?

Sanctuary Choir

(arr. Simeone)

MESSAGE

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, or remain where you are for a time of contemplation and reflection during the musical selection.

+CLOSING HYMN

Lord, I Want to be a Christian

UMH no. 402

+SENDING FORTH

POSTLUDE

God Be With You Till We Meet Again

Hannah Freeman-Choi

+Please stand as you are able

SING HIS PRAISES!

Jesus, Name Above All Names

TFWS no. 2071

Jesus, name above all names,
beautiful Savior,
glorious Lord.

Emmanuel,
God is with us,
blessed Redeemer,
living Word.

Lord, I Want to be a Christian

UMH no. 402

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in
my heart;

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart,
in my heart;

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in
my heart;

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in
my heart;

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

In my heart, in my heart,

Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Mark 1:1-8, 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.”

SERMON NOTES

CHILDREN'S CORNER: Get Ready



⁴John was baptizing people in the desert. He preached a baptism of changed hearts and lives for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵All the people from Judea and Jerusalem were going out to John. They told about the sins they had done. Then they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶John wore clothes made from camel's hair and had a leather belt around his waist. He ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷This is what John preached to the people: "There is one coming later who is greater than I. I

am not good enough even to kneel down and untie his sandals. ⁸I baptize you with water. But the one who is coming will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." *Mark 1:4-8*

What are some things you do to get ready for Christmas? Do you decorate a Christmas tree, or help bake holiday treats? Maybe you go out to see all the light decorations around town. In today's scripture lesson, John is talking about another type of getting ready... getting ready for the birth of Jesus at Christmas!

John brought an important announcement. He had good news for the people. A Messiah was coming! The people of Israel had waited a long time for God's promised savior. They were enduring oppression and bitter times, but knew God had promised a redeemer. Some people asked John if he was the Messiah, but he was quick to point the attention away from himself. John pointed to Jesus. His job was to let people know the awaited one was coming, and to remind them that God kept His promises. John was the announcer, the newscaster, the messenger sent by God. He pointed people to the One who was to come, and he let them know that good news was on the way!

We have a similar job to John the Baptist. We can rejoice and be glad that God has sent a savior. We can "prepare the way" by telling other people about Jesus! This time of the year is also a great time to help others get ready who might not have much. We can donate food and clothes to keep other families fed and warm, and share Jesus' love with them through our actions!

Let's Pray Dear God, while we get ready for Christmas, help us to remember that we are getting ready for Jesus. Make our hearts ready to get closer and closer to him all the time. 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 the people in Gaza
- Prayers for those who are sick, homebound and struggling.
- Our missionaries in the Baltics, Africa, Indonesia, Israel, and Asia.
- God to fill the open space at Urbana First
- God will fill our chairs with new and unchurched people.
- Give God thanks for our faithful and consistent givers.
- Jodie Frink
- Michael Reynolds

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. (Home baked goods are welcome!)

Greeters: Welcome everyone to worship beginning at 10:15 a.m.

HOLIDAY SHOPPING WITH KIDS!

The Crisis Nursery's 30th Children's Holiday Shop is coming up on **December 14-16** and they are in need of volunteers to shop with the kiddos! If you are interested in volunteering, please let us know by December 6th.

Volunteer shifts are:

- Thursday, December 14, 2:30pm-6pm
- Friday, December 15, 2:30pm-6pm
- Saturday, December 16, 8:30am-12pm, 11:30am-3pm, and 2:30pm-6pm

UWF DECEMBER MEETING

Ladies! Ladies! Ladies!

"For unto us a child is born and unto us a son is given...And they shall call him Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6)

Let's come together to celebrate the Birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ & to fellowship with one another!

When: Saturday, December 16th @ 10:00am

Where: Contact the Church Office

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS Get Ready

Monday – Isaiah 40:1-11
Tuesday – Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
Wednesday – 2 Peter 3:8-15a
Thursday – Romans 15:4-13
Friday – Psalm 43:3-6
Saturday – Psalm 27:1-4



JOIN US FOR OUR
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Lessons & Carols

at URBANA FIRST UNITED
METHODIST

DECEMBER 24, 2023 *at* 4:00 P.M

With special guests from
1st Choice Music, Liberty University, Local
Community Groups, and the
Urbana First UMC Music Department



217-367-8384
304 S. RACE STREET, URBANA, IL
WWW.URBANAFIRSTMETHODIST.ORG

This Week at Urbana First

Today, Sunday, December 10

9:15 a.m.—Sunday School (*Library*)

9:30 a.m.—Choir Rehearsal

10:00 a.m.—Fellowship (*Parlor*)

10:30 a.m.—Worship Service

10:50 a.m.—Children's Church

(Dismissed before sermon)

Monday, December 11

1:30 p.m.—Office open for scheduled
appointments only

Tuesday, December 12

6:30 p.m.—Worship Planning Meeting
(*Zoom*)

7:30 p.m.—Men's Discipleship (*Pastor's Office*)

Wednesday, December 13

10:30 a.m.—Midweek Bible Study (*Parlor*)

6:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir (*Sanctuary*)

7:00 p.m.—Zoo Improv (*Parlor*)

Thursday, December 14

10:00 a.m.—Exchange Club (*Parlor*)

6:00 p.m.—GSA Troop Meeting (*FH*)

Friday, December 15

Staff Sabbath Day

Saturday, December 16

10:00 a.m.—UWF Christmas Party
(*Linda Bailey's Home*)



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

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NATALIA RASPOPOVA, MUSIC DIRECTOR

SHANDRA SUMMERVILLE, OFFICE MANAGER

CALEB WAYMAN, ASSISTANT MUSIC DIRECTOR

Sunday Morning Staff & Volunteers

LINDA BAILEY, CHILDREN'S CHURCH

JACK MITCHELL, STREAMING & MEDIA

JOHNIE WILSON, AUDIO

Church Office Hours

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

CHILDREN'S CENTER DAYCARE: (217) 367-0842

KATIE BEAULIN, DIRECTOR

RACHEL HARP, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR