



## 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 14, 2025

Third Sunday in Advent

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Peace in the King's Birth

Liturgical Color: Purple

### APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

**PRELUDE**

*Cradle Hymn* (c. G. Young)

John Muir, *organ*

**GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Shandra Summerville, *liturgist*

**+CALL TO WORSHIP**

If the events of this world make your head hang low:

**Lift up your heads, for the glorious King is coming!**

If the world has ever made you doubt:

**Hold fast to the truth that God is strong and powerful!**

Worship this day with hearts open to receive God's blessings and righteousness.

**We worship with gladness!**

(UMGNJ)

### 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**

1. Angels from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
ye who sang creation's story  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:

*Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king.*

2. Shepherds, in the field abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing;  
yonder shines the infant light: *Refrain*

3. Sages, leave your contemplations,  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great Desire of nations;  
ye have seen his natal star: *Refrain*

4. Saints, before the altar bending,  
watching long in hope and fear;  
suddenly the Lord, descending,  
in his temple shall appear: *Refrain*

**+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**

*One Small Child*  
(arr. L. Larson; CCLI 10783)

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.

## **HEARING GOD'S VOICE**

### **SCRIPTURE LESSONS**

Luke 2:1-20

Liturgist

### **CHORAL ANTHEM**

*Angels We Have Heard on High*  
(arr. S. Thurston)

Sanctuary Choir  
Davion Williams, *music director*

### **THE MESSAGE**

Peace in the King's Birth

Rev. Robert K. Freeman

### **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**

*Go, Tell it on the Mountain*

UMH no. 251

*Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.*

1. While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold throughout the heavens  
there shown a holy light. *Refrain*
2. The shepherds feared and trembled,  
when lo! above the earth,  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed the Savior's birth. *Refrain*
3. Down in a lowly manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

### **SENDING FORTH**

Rev. Robert K. Freeman

### **POSTLUDE**

*Come, All Ye Shepherds* (arr. P. Pindar Stearns)

John Muir, *organ*

**+ Please stand as you are able**

## Scripture Lesson: Luke 2:1-20, The Birth of Jesus Christ (ESV)

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup> And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup> And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

### The Shepherds and the Angels

<sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

<sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup> And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.



# 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:** Shirley Gordon (surgery recovery), Nancy Moser, Averie Spencer (Infant health issues) and Family, Nancy Lopeman, Pastor Freeman, Nancy Merz, Steve Moser (knee surgery)

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

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

**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.

## 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 20<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.—**Blue Christmas Service**

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

December 21<sup>st</sup>, 4:00 p.m.—**Community Christmas Lessons & Carols Service**

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 p.m.—**Christmas Eve Communion Service**

## 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.

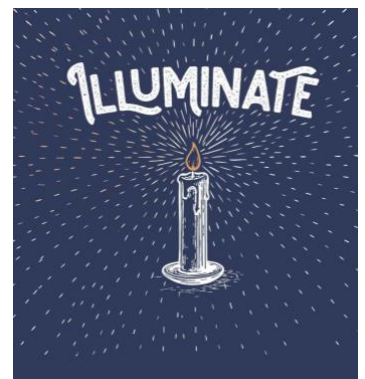
All church officers must be active members for at least one year prior to election, which occurs in November with all terms beginning in January. Terms of office are three years for Ad Council and Lay Leadership Roles. This year we invite our new members to submit names for consideration if you have 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.

## 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.







# DARKNESS INTO LIGHT

*A Community Service of Lessons & Carols*

Sunday, December 21, 2025 at 4:00 p.m.  
*304 S. Race Street, Urbana, Illinois*

# This Week at Urbana First

**Sunday, December 14, 2025**

***Third 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)*

11:45 a.m.—All Boards Meeting (*Library*)

2:30 p.m.—Community Rehearsal (*FH*)

**Monday, December 15**

6:00 p.m.—Dance Rehearsal (*FH*)

6:00 p.m.—Community Group (*Parlor*)

**Tuesday, December 16**

6:00 p.m.—People's Chorus (*FH*)

**Wednesday, December 17**

10:30 a.m.—Midweek Bible Study

6:30 p.m.—Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, December 18**

6:00 p.m.—GSA Troop Meeting (*FH*)

**Friday, December 19**

*Church Office Closed, Staff Sabbath Day*

**Saturday, December 20**

12:00 p.m.—Dance Workshop (*FH*)

6:00 p.m.—Blue Christmas Service

*(Sanctuary)*

**Sunday, December 21**

***Fourth 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

3:00 p.m.—Jazzy Christmas Fellowship

*(Parlor)*

4:00 p.m.—Lessons & Carols Service

*(Sanctuary)*

## 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

Organist: John Muir

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