



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 29th, 2024

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 am Worship Service

Connection Across Barriers

Liturgical Color: Green

APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

PRELUDE *Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face* Hannah Freeman-Choi, *piano*

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS Marjorie Jobe, *liturgist*

+CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to worship, knowing the world is divided.

Prince of Peace, tear down the walls of separation.

Society makes us strangers and aliens.

Reconciling God, make us saints and members of your household.

We worship the Risen Christ knowing he is the firm foundation.

We worship Christ the Cornerstone! *(GNJUMC Breakthrough Ministries)*

SEEKING GOD'S FACE

OPENING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Liturgist

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

How Firm a Foundation

UMH no. 529, v. 1,3,5

1. How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?
3. “When through the deep waters I call thee to go,
the rivers of woe shall not thee overflow;
for I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless,
and sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.”
5. “The soul that on Jesus still leans for repose,
I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,
I’ll never, no, never, no, never forsake.”

+THE APOSTLES CREED

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.

MISSIONAL MOMENT

Rev. Robert K. Freeman

OFFERTORY

I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked
(c. G. O’Hara)

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 LESSON

Ephesians 2:11-22

Liturgist

CHORAL ANTHEM *It is Well With My Soul* (arr. J. Ness Beck)

Sanctuary Choir

THE MESSAGE

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.

HYMN OF RESPONSE *Just A Closer Walk With Thee*

TFWS no. 2158

1. I am weak, but thou art strong; Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.

*Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
daily walking close to thee: Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.*

2. Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares? None but Thee, dear Lord, none but thee. *Refrain*

3. When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;
guide me gently, safely o'er to thy shore, dear Lord, to thy shore. *Refrain*

SENDING FORTH

Rev. Robert K. Freeman

POSTLUDE

Just a Closer Walk With Thee

Hannah Freeman-Choi, *piano*

+Please stand as you are able

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Ephesians 2:11-22, One in Christ (ESV)

¹¹Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹²remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.



SERMON NOTES

Week 4: Connection Among Barriers | Ephesians 2:11-22

Division and barriers isolate us from one another. Christ, through faith, breaks down hostilities and moves us into new communities and connections with one another?

ME: What are the walls that I have built between myself, God and other communities? _____

WE: As a congregation, what might it look like to see the beauty on the other side of your walls?

GOD: What is God saying to me through today's sermon? _____



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:

- Special prayers for the following people: Averie Spencer (Infant Health Issues) and Family, Nancy Moser, Betty Newton, Nancy Lopeman, Judy Krumwiede, and Pastor Freeman.
- Prayers for the upcoming youth program at Urbana First.
- Prayers for peace around the world.
- Prayers for those who are sick, homebound, and struggling.
- Give God thanks for our faithful and consistent givers.
- Prayers for our Missional Partners (The Baby Fold, Chaddock, CRU, Cunningham Children's Home, Children's Neighborhood Center and The Well)

FUNDRAISING

We are planning some upcoming fall fundraisers and would love to have you join our fundraiser team. Please contact Pastor Bob via email (robertkfreeman58@gmail.com)

DO YOU LIKE TO BAKE?

We are currently looking for people to donate or bake cookies or small treats for our Hospitality Hour for Sunday Morning! If you would like to be a part of this group of volunteers, please email Shandra Summerville at manager@urbanafirstmethodist.org.

JR. AND SR. HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS

Carol Brooks and her team are beginning to make plans for Jr and Sr High Sunday School. If you would like to help, please contact Carol or the Church Office.

When: Sundays from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. **Where:** Third Floor Youth Classrooms



WOMEN OF URBANA FIRST AND COMMUNITY

What: United Women in Faith Gathering

When: Saturday, October 26th, 2024

Where: Atherton Parlor (second floor)

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

BELL TOWER & BUILDING UPGRADES

We are still working towards raising funds to complete the needed repairs to our historic bell tower and building. Thank you all for your continued support and dedication to this massive project!

We need to raise a total of **\$160,000** to complete this project. To date, through donations and grants, we have raised **\$35,646.00**.

Member Donations: \$6,466.00; Fellheimer Trust: \$25,000.00; Smith Memorial: \$ 4,200.00

NOISY OFFERING FOR SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER: Chad Johnson Community Food Pantry

Saunemin is a village in Livingston County with a population of 396. The Food Pantry was established in 2003 and at that time open one Saturday a month. The following years saw food deserts and nutrition needs steadily grow.

In the past 18 months, the need has multiplied exponentially, to where we serve **15- 26 families /week**, and 15 is now considered a slow week. There are many Saturdays our stock is frightfully low on cereal, canned foods, hamburger and other essential products.

MISSION SPOTLIGHT

Urbana First UMC The Children's Center Day Care

Our center is a non-denominational, not for profit, childcare center in our building. Established in 1974, the center provides full day care for children ages 15 months through five years old, open Monday through Friday from 7:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m..



Our Mission is to provide children with a healthy, safe, varied, and stimulating environment to meet their individual needs so that they can grow socially, physically, and intellectually. **Members of Urbana First are given a 10% discount for their children.**

Upcoming Fall Growth Opportunities



Wesleyan Theology on Spiritual Growth
Open to All

Wednesdays from 10:30-11:45 a.m. at Urbana First



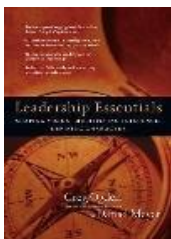
Growing In Christ (NavPress)
Men's Group

Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at Urbana First

13 week course on the fundamentals of learning how to grow your faith in Christ.

NEW OFFERINGS

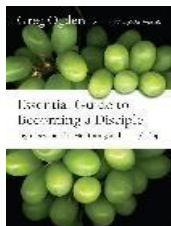
Following Discipleship Texts by Greg Ogden



Leadership Development: How to be a Spiritual Leader
Men's Group

Mondays from 4:00-5:30 p.m. at Urbana First, Library

Following Leadership Essentials



How to Become a Disciple
Open to All

Wednesdays from 8:00-9:30 p.m. at Perkin's Restaurant in Urbana.
8 week series on learning how to grow your faith in Christ.



Discipleship Essentials (TBD)
Men's Group

Looking at Sunday nights at 7:00 p.m.

A minimum of three men must to sign up for this 32 week virtual class.

Community Growth Groups

 **Bible Study Fellowship**

Women and Men's Groups

Mondays at 6:30 p.m. at First Baptist Savoy

BSF Men's groups offer straight talk and biblical truth built on the foundation of Jesus Christ. As a group member, you will personally study Scripture and answer questions each day. Once a week, you will meet for a small-group discussion of the lesson, hear from a teaching leader how the truths of Scripture can be applied to daily life and receive comprehensive notes on the Scripture passages you studied.

School Children (5-18)

Taught by loving, well-trained and committed leaders in a secure environment, the BSF Student Program is a structured, engaging learning experience that challenges students to discover what Scripture means and how they can apply it to their everyday lives. Students investigate the same Scripture as adults, giving them the context and framework to have spiritual conversations both at home and with their friends.

This Week at Urbana First

Today, Sunday, September 29

- 9:15 a.m.—Sunday School (*Library*)
10:00 a.m.—Fellowship (*Parlor*)
10:30 a.m.—Worship Service
10:50 a.m.—Children's Church
(Dismissed before sermon)
11:45 a.m.—Jr. & Sr. High Group
(*3rd Floor Classrooms*)
5:00 p.m.—Big Youth Group
(*Hardy's Reindeer Ranch, Savoy IL*)

Monday, September 30

- 4:00 p.m.—Men's Discipleship Group

Tuesday, October 1

- 5:00 p.m.—People's Chorus (*Parlor*)
8:00 p.m.—1st Choice Music Rehearsal
(*Sanctuary*)

Wednesday, October 2

- 10:30 a.m.—Midweek Bible Study (*Parlor*)
6:30 p.m.—Men's Bible Study (*Pastor Office*)
6:30 p.m.—Choir Rehearsal (*Sanctuary*)
7:00 p.m.—Zoo Improv (*Parlor*)

Thursday, October 3

- 6:00 p.m.—GSA Troop Meeting (*FH*)

Friday, October 4

Staff Sabbath Day

Saturday, October 5

- 3:00 p.m.—1st Choice Music Performance
(*Sanctuary*)

Happy Birthday To:

- Layken Zech—September 29
Ryker Huffstutler—October 1
Darla Kvidera—October 2

Upcoming Meetings *on Sundays at 11:45 a.m.*

- Finance Committee—**October 9, 7:00 p.m.**
Trustee Board—October 13
Administrative Council—October 20

Church Office Hours

Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Daycare Hours

Monday-Friday, 7:45 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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Parsonage: 217-607-8113

CHILDREN'S CENTER DAYCARE: (217) 367-0842
KATIE BEAULIN, DAYCARE DIRECTOR
RACHEL HARP, ASSISTANT DAYCARE DIRECTOR