



FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF URBANA

REVEREND ROBERT K. FREEMAN
DIRECTING PASTOR

Welcome to First United Methodist Church of Urbana!

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 2nd, 2021
10:30 am Worship Service

Second Sunday after Christmas
Liturgical Color: Gold & White

PRELUDE

Dona nobis Pacem

Hannah Freeman-Choi

CALL TO WORSHIP

Arise, shine, for your life has come!

The glory of the Lord has risen upon us!

Like sages from afar, come and behold your Christ!

Let us fall on our knees in his honor! Let us lift our voices in praise of his name!

(Ministry Matters)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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*O Word of God Incarnate*Congregation
(Red UM Hymnal #598)**THE APOSTLES CREED**

Ecumenical Version

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe 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, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy universal church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

SONG OF PREPARATION*Christmas Medley*

John and Deb Muir

SCRIPTURE LESSON*John 1:9-18***MESSAGE***“Walking with God”*

Rev. Robert K. Freeman

COMMUNION

Please prepare your hearts for communion. For our virtual community, please use whatever elements you have available; water, juice, crackers, and cookies are all acceptable.

OFFERING

Hannah Freeman-Choi

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS & OFFERING

Red UM Hymnal #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.

CLOSING HYMN*Jesus, Joy of Our Desiring*Congregation
(Red UM Hymnal #644)**BENEDICTION**

Rev. Robert K. Freeman

POSTLUDE*Angels We Have Heard on High*

Hannah Freeman- Choi

SING HIS PRAISES

O Word of God Incarnate, UMH #598

O Word of God incarnate,
O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging,
O Light of our dark sky,
we praise thee for the radiance
that from the hallowed page,
a lantern to our footsteps,
shines on from age to age.

The Church from you, dear Master,
received the gift divine,
and still that light is lifted
o'er all the earth to shine.
It is the chart and compass
that, all life's voyage through,
mid mists and rocks and quicksands
still guides, O Christ, to you.

O Make your Church, dear Savior,
a lamp of purest gold
to bear before the nations,
your true light, as of old.
O teach your wand'ring pilgrims
by this their path to trace
till, clouds and darkness ended,
they see you face to face.

Jesus, Joy of Our Desiring, UMH #644

Jesus, joy of our desiring,
holy wisdom, love most bright;
drawn by thee, our souls aspiring
soar to uncreated light.

Word of God, our flesh that fashioned,
with the fire of life impassioned,
striving still to truth unknown,
soaring dying round thy throne.

Through the way where hope is guiding,
hark, what peaceful music rings;
where the flock, in thee confiding,
drink of joy from deathless springs.

Theirs is beauty's fairest pleasure;
theirs is wisdom's holiest treasure.
Thou dost ever lead thine own
in the love of joys unknown.

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:

- Peace from violence in our community / Pandemic
- Our sick & shut-in members
- Hospital & clinic staff
- Jim Kaiser
- Fred Smith
- Jerry Nichols
- Bob Harvey
- Libby Himelick
- Ruth Galyon
- Theresa Freeman(Health)

- Jack Roughton Family
- Communities impacted by the tornadoes

Fill out a contact card available in the pews or contact the church office via phone (217-367-8384) or email

(office@urbanafirstmethodist.org) if you need prayer or would like a prayer request shared.



UN-DECK THE HALLS

We are looking for volunteers to help put away our Christmas decorations on **January 8th, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.** Please contact the office or Scott Lopeman if you have any questions.

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN FELLOWSHIP

The United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole people through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.



For 2022, the UMW will be meeting on the fourth Saturday of the month. For more information, contact the UMW President, Felecia Freeman, at (217)-823-6854

Upcoming Fellowship: January 22nd at 10 a.m. at Perkins in Urbana

URBANA FIRST & CHM BIBLE THEATRE AUDITIONS & REHEARSALS

CHM will be holding 2022 auditions on Saturdays from 2-5 pm, and rehearsals on Saturdays and weekdays. Visit CHM's website, (www.chmbibletheatre.org) for more information, or you can call or email Crystal Hogue, at (217)-407-3022 and chmbibletheatre@outlook.com

THE HISTORY OF THE WATCH NIGHT SERVICES

The Watch Night, or Covenant Renewal Service, has been a part of Methodism since John Wesley first used it in 1755. Wesley found it meaningful and "a time of remarkable blessing." He made frequent use of it when visiting the early Methodist Societies. The Watch Night service is today most often held on New Year's Eve, sometimes concluding at midnight, or on New Year's Day. The remembrance of the old year, its accomplishments, and its failures, plus the anticipation of a new year with its promise and hope, can lend a serious quality to the service. The people should be prepared for this service through some study and prayer and brought to an appreciation of what it means to enter into a covenant. The service includes prayers, Scripture, hymns, the Covenant Prayer (*UM Hymnal*, no. 607), and may also include Holy Communion.

Watch Night services have long been an important part of African American worship. When President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, freeing all the slaves in the Confederate States, it was to become law on January 1, 1863. On December 31, 1862, the night before it was to become law, African Americans gathered together in their churches and homes all over the USA, waiting for their freedom to arrive at midnight.

What a night that must have been! They and their ancestors had been captured in Africa, kidnapped, tied, bound, and locked in chains. Whole families, even villages, disappeared. Families were separated, never to see each other or their homes again. They were taken to different parts of the world, but most to the Americas, shackled and packed into the holds of slave ships. Upon arrival they were sold into slavery that meant a lifetime of hardship, suffering, forced labor, and deprivation of all human rights. Enduring such conditions, what must that New Year's Eve Watch Night of 1862 been like? What did they do? Did some of them gather in small groups and whisper their prayers and songs in hushed voices, fearing their masters might descend at any moment? After all, President Lincoln's declaring their freedom didn't make it so in the eyes of their owners. And the Civil War would drag on for another three years. What songs did they sing? How did they pray? Did they dance, sing, shout, and clap, or was it a time of quiet, uncertain wondering what their future held?

That Watch Night of 1862 came to be known as "Freedom's Eve." When midnight and the New Year arrived, they celebrated with prayers, shouts, singing, and great thanksgiving to God.

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POINTS OF HOPE

Anonymous	In Loving Memory of Maynard Brichford and Dorothy Nugent, Harley Harmon, Vivian Harmon, and Collin Harmon
Rick Borup & Cindy Duffy	In honor of their parents
Robert & Felecia Freeman	In Loving Memory of James & Clara Mae Pailin and Howard & Nellie Freeman
Christina Fritz	In honor of Mary & Gary Fritz, <i>United Methodist Missionaries 1950-1973</i>
Elaine Galyon & Jerry Nichols	Healing
Tom & Shirley Gordon	In Loving Memory of Frank & Selma Seiler and Herbert & Dorothy Gordon
Rich & Marie Govert	In Loving Memory of Amy Govert Thomas
Margaret & Larry Jobe	Celebration of the Christmas Season
Jim Kaiser	In Loving Memory of Mona Kaiser
Scott Lopeman	In Loving Memory of Harold & Mabel Lopeman
Barb Lyon	Betty & Bud Lyon, Gary Michael Lyon
Nancy Merz	John, David, and TJ
Debbie Aurelius Muir	Lewis & Charlotte Aurelius, John E. & Janis Muir, and Lura Aurelius
Brenda Runyon	Loved ones no longer with us
Janet Seiler	Frank & Thelma Seiler
Andreea Sieving	Grandpa Zaharescu and Grandpa Andrei
Judy Smith	Leigh Ann Smith and David H. Smith
Kathy Wright	In Loving Memory of Sue Kelley
Gwain & Cindy Zarbuck	In honor of our family members

Upcoming Weekly Events at Urbana First

Wednesday, January 5

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

Saturday, January 8

7:30 a.m.— United Methodist Men's
Meeting (*Parlor & Zoom*)

Sunday, January 9

10:30 a.m.—Worship Service
(*Live Stream on Facebook & YouTube*)

Birthdays & Anniversaries This Week:

Shirley Gordon—January 1st

Allison Wade—January 2nd

Pat Paul—January 5th

Office Hours

Tuesday-Friday: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.



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Jesus Christ, to one another, and to the community!”*

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