



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 54 Number 7

April 14, 2010

Sunday School at 9:30 A.M.	700 Poyntz Avenue
Sunday Worship at 10:45 A.M.	Manhattan, Kansas 66502
Second Helping Dinner at 5:15 P.M.	telephone 785-537-7006
Thursday Evening Taizé at 7:00 P.M.	<a href="http://www.uccmanhattan.org">www.uccmanhattan.org</a>

## Your suggestions please...

If you have ever been sitting in the pew and thinking, **I'd like to hear a sermon on \_\_\_\_\_**, now is your chance. For the next few Sundays there will be a "suggestion box" in the office entryway. I invite you to drop in suggestions for sermons. It might be a topic or it might be a particular scripture or scriptures. Maybe it's a question. I have heard one suggestion already: "The Other Good Book" meaning the hymnal. I think that's a great idea—what we sing shapes our faith. I plan to preach on "The Other Good Book" this summer.

Since I don't know how many suggestions there may be or whether some may be similar (and some questions may be unanswerable—no I don't know what color of sandals Jesus wore), I can't guarantee we will cover everything this summer. But let's see what we can come up with as a congregation. In order to plan ahead, I am asking you to make your suggestions by May 9.

*column continues on page 2*

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But wait, there's more! (And it doesn't cost \$19.95 plus shipping and handling.)

**You can also drop in suggestions of hymns** that we might sing in worship. If you have a favorite in the hymnal, suggest it, and we will try to include it when appropriate. If you have a favorite from the old *Pilgrim Hymnal*, suggest it. Since I try to select hymns that relate to the scriptures and themes of the day, we may not sing "Silent Night" in July, but you get the idea—we'll use it when it's a fit.

If you have a favorite hymn that is not in the hymnal, you may suggest it, but please include a source where we can find it, or sign your name so I can contact you about where to find it. Also please be aware that we may not be able to reprint some hymns. The church has a license that allows us to reprint a lot of hymns that are under copyright, but it does not cover everything. We can only reprint copyrighted material if we have permission.

If suggestion boxes aren't your thing, you can also e-mail me at [pastor@uccmanhattan.org](mailto:pastor@uccmanhattan.org). If you are using the suggestion box, you don't have to sign your name, but you can if you want. As many of you know, I do not read anonymous notes because they provide no opportunity for dialogue—an essential ingredient to healthy community. Interestingly, once I made that clear some nine years ago, I've hardly ever seen an unsigned note. I appreciate that—it's indicative of healthy community and trust. But this is an exception and at my invitation. Your suggestions please...

Grace & Peace, *Kent*

## Sharing and Caring

### *Prayers and Concerns*

*Please call the church office at 537-7006 for further information.*

### *Helping*

- **Need a ride to church?** Contact one of our transportation volunteers: Jim & Carolyn Hodgson, Bill Pallett, Jeff Keller, or Mike & Martha Miller.
- **Home Communion Visits** are available by contacting the office or the pastor. The Deacons can arrange to bring communion to your home on the first Sunday of each month as we celebrate the sacrament in worship. Visits at other times can be arranged with the pastor.

### *Thank You*

- Many Thanks to the Deacons who helped to prepare, serve, and clean up our Maundy Thursday soup supper. Special thanks to Ann Smit and Dale Stearns for preparing soup, and to Judy Davis for baking the bread.
- Thank you to every one who contributed to the **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering**. This year we collected \$1,738.67. Of that, \$265.67 was from our loose change. I hope that the sound of the offering in the tin pie plates and the experience of being able to let go of the weight of the world (symbolized through the change we carry), was a spiritual experience as well as a monetary one for you. So, well done; we are proof that we can change the world with our change!  
—Victor Force, presiding officer  
Mission and Outreach Committee
- Flint Hills Breadbasket says Thank You for your gifts of food and cash that make it possible to continue their mission of eliminating poverty and hunger in our community.
- Thank you to everyone who helped make the Easter Breakfast a success: those who helped set up, decorate, and take down tables, those who worked in the kitchen, and those who helped clean up. And thank you to everyone who brought food—it was delicious!

### *E~MAIL PRAYER CHAIN*

If you wish to be added to the First Congregational e-mail prayer chain, please contact [office@uccmanhattan.org](mailto:office@uccmanhattan.org).





## Graduate Recognition

The Graduation season will soon be here, and we would like to honor all our graduates. If you are graduating or have a family member who is soon to be a graduate—high school,

college, technical college, graduate school, or any other—please let the office know soon so that we can properly honor our 2010 graduates. The Board of Deacons would like to feature the accomplishments of our graduates in the church newsletter in May, so information in writing would be very helpful. Drop off information at the church office or e-mail it to [office@uccmanhattan.org](mailto:office@uccmanhattan.org).

## First Congregational Is Marching in Manhattan's First Pride Parade April 24

Manhattan's first ever Pride Parade is planned for **Saturday, April 24, at 2:00 P.M.** A group from First Congregational UCC plans to march in the parade behind a church banner. We plan to meet at 1:30 P.M. at Third and Poyntz. All are welcome to march! You are invited to wear "Still Speaking" or other brightly colored attire.



## StillSpeaking Magazine

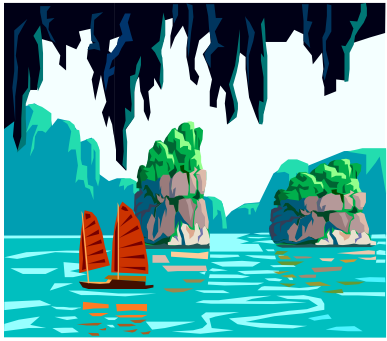
The United Church of Christ is launching a subscription campaign for its new high-end-design StillSpeaking Magazine, an oversized, full-color publication that will debut in late April. The 88-page StillSpeaking Magazine will be published twice annually in Spring and Fall. An inaugural, three-year subscription is \$29 if

purchased before July 1. After that date, subscriptions will be \$39 each. Order online at [ucc.org/magazine](http://ucc.org/magazine). "StillSpeaking Magazine promises to be a full-sensory experience for readers, with compelling writing and expert photography that will communicate stories of inclusion, involvement, transformation and the best aspirations of the UCC, its members and its churches," said the Rev. J. Bennett Guess, the UCC's director of communications. "We want a quality feature publication that tells moving accounts of our people and the ways their lives have been impacted by the UCC."



## North Central Association UCC Spring Meeting April 17

The Spring Association Meeting will be held at 10:00 A.M. April 17, 2010, at White Memorial Camp. Registration begins at 9:30 A.M. The morning will be an opportunity to connect with other area UCC churches and to do the business of the Association. You are also invited to enjoy the Open House planned for that afternoon at the camp.



# “I AM”

## 2010 Camping Season at White Memorial Camp

White Memorial Camp and Conference Center is the place to be this summer. As we begin our two-year camp sustainability

program, new items and improvements can be found all around the camp. Whether you are new to Camp White or a seasoned camper, there is something for everyone here. Join us and discover new adventures.

**Register now** for summer camp at White Memorial Camp. Remember that if camps do not have enough people registered, they may be cancelled, so don't delay. Camp registration forms are available on the table outside the church office.

**Camp scholarships** are available through the Fenton Lay Education Fund of First Congregational UCC, Manhattan. Complete your forms, include a check for your half, turn it in to the church office, and we will take it from there. But please--don't delay until the last minute!

- April 17 Open House and Early Bird Registration
- Apr. 30-May 1 Mother-Daughter Weekend
- June 3-5 Family Camp
- June 7-11 Junior Camp (Grades 3-5)
- June 14-18 Senior High Camp (Grades 9-12)
- June 21-25 Junior High Camp (Grades 6-8)
- June 28-30 Junior Adventure Camp (Grades 1-3)
- July 5-9 Wild Water Week (Grades 3-12)
- August 2-6 Last Blast Camp (Grades 3-12)
- August 9-13 Rainbow Camp (Adult)

Additional camps and information can be found in the 2010 Camp Brochure. Pick one up from the table outside the church office.

## News from the Church Cabinet

At a recent meeting, the Church Cabinet voted enthusiastically to endorse an appeal from the Women of the Church for assistance in an ongoing project. **As of this April, the Women of the Church are completing 15 years of serving meals for the program meetings of the local chapter of the AAUW (American Association of University Women).** It has been a highly successful fund-raiser; among the many donations to the church from the Church Women have been kitchen appliances, and contributions to the sanctuary renovation and stained glass window protection projects.

Since the whole church benefits from the activities and contributions of the Women of the Church, they are now asking for additional help with this project. Meals are served seven times a year on the second Monday evening of the month. If you can help with such tasks as shopping for and cooking one dish to serve approximately thirty people, setting up tables and chairs in the dining room, helping to serve the meal and clean up the kitchen afterwards, or even taking tablecloths home to wash, the Cabinet on behalf of the Women of the Church would be very grateful. Please talk to Joy Schell or Barbara Withee for more details.

## Financial Statements

The First Quarter Financial Statements are now being distributed. Please review this report for accuracy. If you have any questions or concerns, please leave a message at the church office (537-7006). The statements may not reflect pledges and contributions to the “Raise the Roof” funds” appeal. We are working to correct that omission and provide you with complete information.

*Have you included the church in your will?*

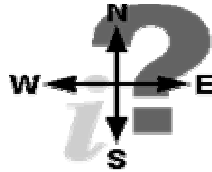
# Inquirer's Lunch

Sunday April 18<sup>th</sup>

from about 12:15 to 2:00 P.M.

Lunch will be provided—Child care is available

The lunch is for both those who would like to become members of First Congregational UCC and those who just want to learn more about the history and ministries of this congregation. You will have the opportunity to meet new and long-time members. We'll share our own stories and hopes, take a tour of this historic building's nooks and crannies, and share food and fellowship. Sponsored by the Board of Deacons and the Vitality Team.



## April 24 Workshop on Ending the Practice of Trafficking in Persons

Country Club Congregational United Church of Christ is hosting an area-wide discussion and workshop on Human Trafficking on **Saturday, April 24, from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.** The church is located at 205 West 65<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, Missouri. Area decision-makers, churches in western Missouri and eastern Kansas, community groups, and other key stakeholders are invited.

Human trafficking, also known as “trafficking in persons” or “modern day slavery,” is the use of force, coercion, fraud, or abduction to exploit the person for profit. Human trafficking is the third largest criminal industry in the world today. It is also the fastest growing. The workshop features a dynamic group of presenters who will help us strategize to stop human trafficking in our city and states. You can register at the church, 816-423-4813 or [mail@cccucc.com](mailto:mail@cccucc.com).

## Christian Education

### HELP WANTED

#### A Director of Christian Education

Our current Director of Christian Education, Grizelda MacDonald, will step down at the end of May to pursue graduate work in Education full-time. We wish Grizelda all the best in school, but her resignation means that we do need a new Director of Christian Education, preferably by the middle of the summer.

If you don't already know, our Director of Christian Education coordinates leadership of the educational ministries of our congregation: Sunday School for children, youth and adults, Extended Session, the Word for Children, and special events, such as the Christmas Pageant. The position is ¼ time, averaging 10 hour per week, some weeks more, some weeks less. The Director is accountable to the Pastor, the Board of Christian Education, and the congregation as a whole, and is supervised by the Pastor.

We would like our next director to have had experience working with youth and/or adult education programs in a United Church of Christ or other mainline Protestant setting and be familiar with our church and its theology and practice. Ideally, we would like the next director to commit to serving at least two years.

If you or anyone you know might be interested in this position, please contact me or Pastor Kent for a complete job description. And take it to heart yourself or tell the people who might be interested in this job that they should feel free to talk about the job with me, Pastor Kent, or a member of the Board of Christian Education: Tracey Weston, Chloe Weston, or Jean Hill.

David Smit, Presiding Officer  
Board of Christian Education

## Study & Discussion Opportunities for Adults

### That Strange Book—Bible Study on Revelation

Thursday Evening Bible Study is studying that mysterious book at the end of the Bible—Revelation. Join us Thursdays at 5:30 P.M. in Blachly Hall as we explore this often misunderstood yet influential book that is not like any other in the New Testament. Feel free to bring a brown bag supper or snacks. Child care is available in the Nursery. We conclude by 6:45 P.M. so that you can attend the Taizé worship service if you wish.

### Gifts of New Life

**An Adult Forum series during Easter.**

New life is all around us! During the Easter season we will explore a wide range of “new life” things happening around us.



#### **April 18: Organ and Tissue Donation—A Gift of Life**

Jim and Mary Harwell are our guest presenters. Hear their personal stories of life and death, and learn how you can make a gift of life in death.

#### **April 25: Chair Yoga—For Health and Wholeness**

Donna Keyser leads us in an exploration in yoga for all ages. Don't picture a contortionist on the floor—you remain seated in a chair. It's something you can do!

## Youth Ministry Happenings



### K-O Youth Are Going to Germany

A delegation of youth and adult sponsors is traveling to our partner church in Baden, Germany this spring. **Tyler Cochran** and **Chloe Weston** will leave with other K-O Conference youth on

May 24 and return June 5. When they arrive in Germany, they will join youth from across Baden to travel by bus to the Taizé community in France for three days. After that they will have the opportunity to travel in Germany and learn more about our partners in the protestant church in Baden.

### Regional Youth Event July 14-18

Check your calendars and plan to attend the once-every-four-years **UCC West Central Regional Youth Event**. RYE 2010 is at Park University in Parkville, Missouri (very close!). The event runs from Wednesday afternoon July 14 through Sunday breakfast on July 18. The event is for youth entering 9<sup>th</sup> grade through youth exiting 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The registration cost is \$200.

RYE is a time for youth from Missouri Mid-South, Kansas-Oklahoma, Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota, Northern Plains, and Minnesota Conferences to gather and get to know others who share your faith tradition. Grow in God and have a lot of fun!

### Youth Camping Opportunities

Be sure to check out the opportunities at Camp White listed in the events section of this newsletter!

## Worship & Church Volunteers

### *April 18, 2010*

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**Greeters**..... Marsha Tannehill & Carolyn Hodgson  
**Scripture Reader**..... Jim Lewis  
**Word for Children** ... Angela Hubler  
**Sanctuary Flowers** ... *volunteer needed*  
**Fellowship Hour**..... Marsha Tannehill & Carolyn Hodgson  
**Lawn Care** ..... Donna Keyser (*April 18-24*)

### *April 25, 2010*

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**Greeters**..... Chantel Vogel  
**Scripture Reader**..... *volunteer needed*  
**Word for Children** ... Jean Hill  
**Sanctuary Flowers** ... *volunteer needed*  
**Fellowship Hour**..... *volunteer needed*  
**Lawn Care** ..... Al Cochran (*April 25-May 1*)

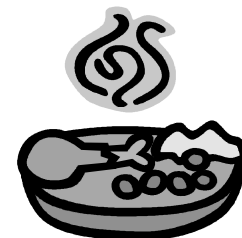
### *May 2, 2010*

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**Greeters**..... Angela Hubler  
**Scripture Reader**..... Ann Smit  
**Word for Children** ... Sue Gerth  
**Sanctuary Flowers** ... *volunteer needed*  
**Fellowship Hour**..... *volunteer needed*  
**Lawn Care** ..... Jim Hodgson (*May 2-8*)

## The Second Helping

*The Second Helping is a local mission of First Congregational UCC. It serves a hot meal every Sunday evening and provides sack breakfast and lunch items to each guest. To volunteer, contact the church at 537-7006-456-6743 or [mandy.strawn@gmail.com](mailto:mandy.strawn@gmail.com).*



### *April 18, 2010*

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**Chief Cook**.....Andy Barkley  
**Volunteers**.....Mary Ellen Barkley, Ann Gleason,  
Caren Knicklebine  
**Dessert**.....*To be announced*

### *April 25, 2010*

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**Chief Cook**.....*To be announced*  
**Volunteers**.....*To be announced*  
**Dessert**.....*To be announced*

### *May 2, 2010*

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**Chief Cook**.....*To be announced*  
**Volunteers**.....Ann Gleason, *To be announced*  
**Dessert**.....Wade Honey

## Community News

### Morning Star Inc. Pancake Feed

Morning Star, Inc., a Consumer Run Organization (CRO) in Manhattan, is hosting a Pancake Feed in Cico Park at Pottorf Hall on Sunday, May 2, from 8:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. Enjoy breakfast with your family before or after worship services and help support your local community. Tickets are \$5 per adult, \$3 per child (3-11). Children under 3 are free. For more information, call 587-4644. The mission of Morning Star, Inc., is to provide consumers of mental health services with the resources needed to break through the barriers of stigma and isolation.

### Flint Hills Human Rights Project Picnic

Time to celebrate a great year! Join us for the first ever FHHRP Spring Hay Rack Ride and Picnic (and a really short annual meeting). Hike the Flint Hills, explore a rock quarry, hunt for fossils, stare at cows, and eat. Food and drink will be provided. A \$3 donation (FHHRP members) or \$5 donation (non-members) is requested to cover costs.

### Spirited—a visitation from Jonathan and Janet

On Friday April 16, College Avenue United Methodist Church at 1609 College Avenue will host daily columnist and humorist Jonathan Richard Cring and master musician Janet Clazzy. The performance is at 7:00 P.M.—and evening of music and monologue. A free will offering will be received.

### FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

700 Poyntz Avenue  
Manhattan, KS 66502

(785) 537-7006

[uccmanhattan.org](http://uccmanhattan.org)

