



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 53 Number 2

January 28, 2009

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.	www.uccmanhattan.org

Untitled

One of my great struggles each week is the sermon title. Unlike most authors and editors, the nature of the weekly schedule around here is that I need to choose a sermon title by Tuesday if the administrative assistant is to have it in time to meet the deadline at the local newspaper. The trouble is, the sermon is never written by then. It comes 2 or 3 or 4 days later...hopefully.

There is considerable risk in titling something that has not been written yet—not the least of which is that I might try to write a sermon to match the title. That’s especially dangerous when it’s a lame title. So sometimes I wait. But what usually happens then is that the weather changes and I feel guilty when I turn it over to Chasity and she sorts out the little metal letters for the signboard and then goes out in the wind or drizzle to hang them inside the stone sign. Only on cold and snowy Tuesdays in January do I have a title. If it’s sunny and 59 degrees, I come up blank until the weather changes later in the week and the ice has to be chipped off the door of the sign. [continued page 2]

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Then there is the question of what sort of title it should be. Witty or profound. Direct or mysterious. Something outrageous enough that its 2-inch letters will catch the eye of someone driving down Poyntz at 30 miles per hour? Truth is, I doubt that most pedestrians care, let alone those waiting in line in the left turn lane. So perhaps it is an exercise in futility.

I’m with *Christian Century* editor John Buchanan (January 27, 2009, p. 3) on this one. Soon you may find us both revolting and just calling it sermon. As far as I can tell, Jesus never titled a single sermon and yet some turned out quite nicely. I know some of you are objecting already. You like sermon titles, especially when they have something to do with the sermon. Perhaps you would like to select titles for me. Please send them by noon on Tuesdays.

How many of you remember the title *Tote the Weary Load*? How about *Not in Our Stars*? You don’t remember them because the author subsequently chose *Bugles Sang True* as a working title. Then Margaret Mitchell settled on *Gone with the Wind*.

But, of course, by then she had already written the book.

I’ll leave you with an unrelated thought shared by Martin Marty: When he bade good-bye to the presidency of Lyndon B. Johnson, the late columnist Mike Royko wrote something like “Farewell, President Johnson. You weren't the best president a people ever had, but we were not the best people a president ever had.”

Which begs the question: What sort of people we will be this time around? That one’s not written yet either.

Grace & Peace,

Sharing and Caring

Prayers and Concerns

Please call the church office 537-7006 for further information

E~MAIL PRAYER CHAIN

If you wish to be added to the First Congregational e-mail prayer chain, please contact marianfuller@gmail.com.



Thank You

- Many thank yous to the Deacons who hosted, guests who attended and those who gave gifts for Hunter, Gabriel, Howie and me at the lovely baby shower on January 18th. It was great fun to see familiar faces and to meet some new ones. We are so lucky to be blessed with this congregation's warmth and generosity.

Thank you, Howie, Chasity, Hunter & Gabriel Seibert

Helping

- **Need a ride to church?** Contact one of our transportation volunteers: Jim & Carolyn Hodgson, Bill Pallett, or Jeff Keller.
- **Want to help Chasity and the boys?** Please contact volunteer coordinator Virginia Bigbee if you are willing to volunteer your time to helping out our administrative assistant Chasity Seibert with her and Howie's soon to be here twins. Please let Virginia know how you would like to help and when you are available.



Calling all Bell Ringers!

We hope to start an ongoing handbell choir that will have weekly rehearsals and play regularly in our Sunday worship, contributing to the liturgy, playing solo pieces, and accompanying hymns & anthems. Rehearsals are tentatively planned for either Mondays or Tuesdays at 7:00 P.M. If you are interested in making a commitment to this ministry, please contact the church office. This is the UCC; we welcome players of all abilities and ages!

Directory Updates

It's that time of year again! Please fill out the directory update sheet and return it to the church office no later than Monday February 8th. That will give me time to print them before the twins arrive.

Thank you, Chasity Seibert, Administrative Assistant

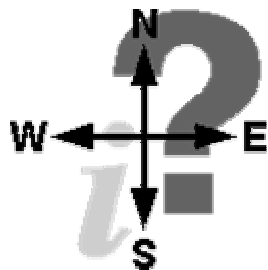
Inquirer's Lunches

February 8 & 15

Join us for lunch and learn more about First Congregational UCC. Child care can be provided if requested in advance (call 537-7006 by Friday)

We will conclude at about 2:00 P.M.

The Board of Deacons will sponsor **Inquirer's Lunch** events following worship on **February 8 and 15**. If you want to learn more about this congregation, explore membership in this church, or are just curious and want to meet others on a more personal basis, we hope you will attend. Lunch is on us, and child care will be available. Each event will begin at about 12:15 with lunch in Pioneer Hall and continue until about 2:00 P.M. We hope you can attend both Sundays, but it's also fine if you can only make one.



Cinema & Soul

Reel Theology & Contemporary Issues

Tuesday, February 10, at 6:30 P.M.

Les Parapluies de Cherbourg

Our Pre-Valentine's film is *The Umbrellas of Cherbourg*, a classic tale of love and heartbreak. Geneviève (Catherine Deneuve), age 17, lives with her widowed mother and falls in love with a 20-something auto mechanic who is soon drafted. Long before *Rent* or *Superstar*, French New Wave director Jacques Demy and composer Michele Le Grande created this classic in which every bit of dialogue is sung. *French with English subtitles.*

Not rated. 1964. 91minutes.

Join us for popcorn and a movie classic!

Women of the Church

Lunch Bunch February 4 Please join Women of the Church for Lunch Bunch at 11:30 A.M. on Wednesday, February 4, at Texas Star, 606 North 12th Street. All members and friends are invited!



Tower Chimes Update

Our Deagan Tower Chimes are becoming part of our worship and are making our presence known in downtown Manhattan.

At about 6:00 P.M. on Martin Luther King Day, Bill Pugh played "We Shall Overcome" and a peal on our tower chimes. Church bells rang out across the country just as the new President took the oath of office on January 20th, and we joined in with a ten-minute peal and a hymn to celebrate. (Trinity Church, Wall Street in New York City planned over 3 hours of change ringing to begin as the oath was taken, so we were quite brief by comparison!)

Sean Weston has played the chimes just before Sunday morning worship each week, and Bill Pugh plays them after the postlude.

The chime project is not quite complete; we still have odds and ends to finish in the second floor tower room and in the chime loft. Please contact Sean Weston at 313-5792 or the church office at 537-7006 if you can help.

We would also like to repay the \$5,000.00 internal loan from the Brill Fund which provided for cash flow during the project. If you would like to contribute, your gift (marked "TOWER CHIMES") can be sent to the church office or placed in the offering on Sunday.

Mission and Outreach Opportunity

The Flint Hills Community Clinic is looking for volunteers or sponsors for the following:

- Regular volunteers for Thursday afternoons.
- Volunteer to train for occasional absence of regular volunteer. (Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, morning or afternoon)
- Volunteer(s) for data entry. (Familiarity with medical office procedures would be helpful.)
- Volunteer to pick up and deliver bottled water donated by Wal-Mart (once a month).
- Cleaning of clinic: vacuum, wipe surfaces in waiting room and exam rooms. Ideally, we would like to have this done Friday morning, weekly or bi-weekly.
- Sponsor a paid cleaning position.
- Volunteer to coordinate donations of food for volunteers on clinic evenings. We have previously received donations from restaurants.
- Find \$\$ for providing more medications. (Working with pharmacist or through grants?)
- Active nurses and additional providers.

The Flint Hills Community Clinic provides access to health care for members of our community who are not able to afford health insurance. To volunteer, sponsor, or get more information, please contact Sue Ann Wright at 323-4351.



Youth Group Activities for February

January 31 Saturday Lock-in

Meet at church at 8:00 P.M. Bring sleeping bag, pillow, and snacks.

February 8 Sunday

7:00-8:30 P.M. Youth Groups meet at Paul Hargrove's house, 1741 Fairview Avenue (yellow, corner house)

February 22 Sunday

3:30-6:30 P.M. Youth are Second Helping Volunteers

9:30 Sunday Adult Forum on Health Care

We are entering another window of opportunity for transforming U.S. health care. Are we ready to make that happen? What would a health care future that includes all of us and works well for everyone look like? How can people of faith take the lead in promoting values-based reform?

February 1

- Where we are and how we got here
- What about other countries?
- Imperatives for reform

February 8

- Faith values in the health care debate
- Looking at current reform proposals
- Connecting Faith values to public policy

February 15

- What has to change?
- What is the role of the faith community?
- What can individual people of faith do?

2009 Officers & Board Members

Deacons

Terms ending 2009:

Jeff Keller
Marsha Tannehill
Gretchen Lewis
Carolyn Hodgson
Angela Hubler
Sean Weston

Terms ending 2010

Sue Zschoche
Chantel Vogel
Ann Smit
Mary Ellen Barkley
Jim Mock

Position Open

Trustees

Terms ending 2009:

Bill Pugh
Bill Pallett
Donna Keyser

Terms ending 2010

Jan Lange
Jim Hodgson
Jim Lewis

Terms ending 2011

Dan Clark
Mike Miller
Scott Steele

Church Clerks

Judy Willingham
Virginia Bigbee

Mission & Outreach

Terms ending 2009:

Judy Davis
Charles/Andy Barkley
Elise Dunnigan

Terms ending 2010:

Jerry Hanna
Victor Force
Judy Willingham

Christian Education

Term ending 2009:

Atina Hanna
Paula Pierce
Brent Maner

Terms ending 2010:

Dave Smit
Amanda Tross
Tracey Weston

Cabinet Members

Staggered 3 year terms

Barbara Withee
Joy Schell
Jim Ahrens

Moderator

Craig Weston

Moderator Elect

Gretchen Lewis

Past Moderator

Martha Miller

Worship & Church Volunteers

February 1, 2009

Greeters Mary Ellen Barkley, Angela Hubler
Flowers Barbara Withee
Scripture Reader Judy Davis
Word for Children .. Leo Schell
Fellowship Hour Judy Ahrens
Snow Removal R.C. & Melissa Jones (*through February 7*)

February 8, 2009

Greeters Tracey Weston, Sean Weston
Flowers Al & Sue Gerth
Scripture Reader Marsha Tannehill
Word for Children .. Brent Maner
Fellowship Hour Burke & Margery Bayer
Snow Removal Brent Maner (*through February 14*)

February 15, 2009

Greeters Dan Clark, Carolyn Hodgson
Flowers Burke & Margery Bayer
Scripture Reader Sue Zschoche
Word for Children .. Angela Hubler
Fellowship Hour The Weston Family
Snow Removal Brad Logan (*through February 21*)

February 22, 2009

Greeters Burke & Margery Bayer, Jim Mock
Flowers Jeff, Kerri, & Nicki Keller
Scripture Reader Sean Weston
Word for Children .. Atina Hanna
Fellowship Hour *Volunteer Needed*
Snow Removal Jeff Keller (*through February 28*)

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 Mandy Strawn at 537-7006.



February 1, 2009

Chief Cook Jeff Keller
Volunteers Ann Gleason, Phi Eta Sigma
Dessert Amanda Tross

February 8, 2009

Chief Cook Andy Barkley
Volunteers Ann Gleason, Mary Ellen Barley
Dessert Barbara Withee

February 15, 2009

Chief Cook Steve Staker
Volunteers Ann Gleason, Manhattan Mennonite Church
Dessert Bill Pugh

February 22, 2009

Chief Cook Ann Smit
Volunteers First Congregational Youth Group
Dessert Ann Smit

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We need your help to make the 2009 phone directory of members and friends of First Congregational as accurate as possible. Please fill out this form and return it to the church office by February 8. If nothing has changed from the 2008 directory, all you need to do is check that box. Before you forget, take minute to fill out the form, and either place it in the pocket on the office door or mail it to the church. You may also call the office between 9:00 and 3:00 Monday-Friday, or send a note to office@uccmanhattan.org.

Names: _____

Address: _____

Zip _____

Home # _____

Work # _____

Cell # _____

E-mails _____

Addition Info: (birthdays, anniversaries, emergency contact)

No changes from 2008 information

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**700 Poyntz Avenue
Manhattan, KS 66502**
(785) 537-7006
uccmanhattan.org



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

February

<p>1 4th after Epiphany 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Church School 10:45 Worship & Communion <i>Fill the Breadbasket</i> 12:00 Fellowship Hour 5:15 Second Helping</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 11:30 Lunch Bunch 3:30 Confirmation Class 7:00 Board Meetings</p>	<p>5 7:00 Taizé</p>	<p>6 9:00 Crisis Center Meeting 6:00 Japanese Storytime</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 5th after Epiphany 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Church School 10:45 Worship 12:00 Fellowship Hour 12:15 Inquirers Lunch 5:15 Second Helping</p>	<p>9 12:00 Newsletter Deadline 3:00 AAUW Dinner Prep</p>	<p>10 6:30 Cinema & Soul</p>	<p>11 3:30 Confirmation Class</p>	<p>12 7:00 Taizé</p>	<p>13 9:00 Crisis Center Meeting 6:00 Japanese Storytime</p>	<p>14 Valentines Day 10:00 N.C. Assn. Committee on Ministry</p>
<p>15 6th after Epiphany 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Church School 10:45 Worship 12:00 Fellowship Hour 12:15 Inquirers Lunch 5:15 Second Helping</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 10:00 N.C. Assn. Clergy Meeting 7:00 P-FLAG</p>	<p>18 3:30 Confirmation Class 6:00 Vitality Team 7:30 Cabinet</p>	<p>19 7:00 Taizé</p>	<p>20 9:00 Crisis Center Meeting 6:00 Japanese Storytime</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 Transfiguration 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Church School 10:45 Worship 12:00 Fellowship Hour 5:15 Second Helping</p>	<p>23 12:00 Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 Ash + Wednesday 12:00 Community Lenten Service 3:30 Confirmation Class 7:00 Worship</p>	<p>26 5:30 Lenten Bible Study 7:00 Taizé</p>	<p>27 9:00 Crisis Center Meeting 6:00 Japanese Storytime</p>	<p>28</p>

February Birthdays

1	Lysle Oppenlander	14	Paul Young
1	Joanna Smit	15	Carol Chalmers
2	Brad Logan	17	Don Cannon
4	Cheryl Poister	17	Nicholas Douglas
4	Van Withee	22	Christie Crenshaw
5	Andrew Barkley	23	Martha Miller
6	Jan Lange	23	Donna Keyser
7	Tim Keane	23	Kaylin Getty
12	Tim Crawford	27	Dorothy Nonamaker
13	Damien Hebert	28	Lilly Marshall
14	Kathryn Bleam		

February Anniversaries

10	Doyle Barnes & Sherwood Bishop
14	Marc Johnson & Karen Penner
26	Van & Barbara Withee

February

Dates to Remember

<i>February 4</i>	Lunch Bunch at Texas Star Board Meetings: Trustees, Deacons, Christian Ed. and Mission & Outreach
<i>February 9</i>	Newsletter Deadline
<i>February 10</i>	Cinema and Soul Movie Night
<i>February 14</i>	<i>Happy Valentines Day!</i>
<i>February 18</i>	Vitality Team Meeting Cabinet Meeting
<i>February 23</i>	Newsletter Deadline
<i>February 25</i>	<i>Ash Wednesday</i> +
<i>February 26</i>	Lenten Bible Study Begins