



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
NEWSLETTER**

Volume 53 Number 23

December 16, 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

Celebrate the Season

At First Congregational United Church of Christ

Sunday, December 20 at 10:45 A.M.

Advent IV Music by the Bell Choir, Chancel Choir, and organ
A Festival of Lessons and Carols

Thursday, December 24 at 8:00 P.M. -- Prelude at 7:45 P.M.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion

Music featuring the organ, violins, and the Chancel Choir

Sunday, December 27 at 10:45 A.M.

Christmas I Service of Word and Music, Kent Cormack preaching;
Jenny Lee and Bernie Vaughn, violin
Carols and Hymns for Choir and congregation

Sunday, January 3 at 10:45 A.M.

Christmas/Epiphany Celebration Service of Word & Sacrament,
R. Kent Cormack preaching

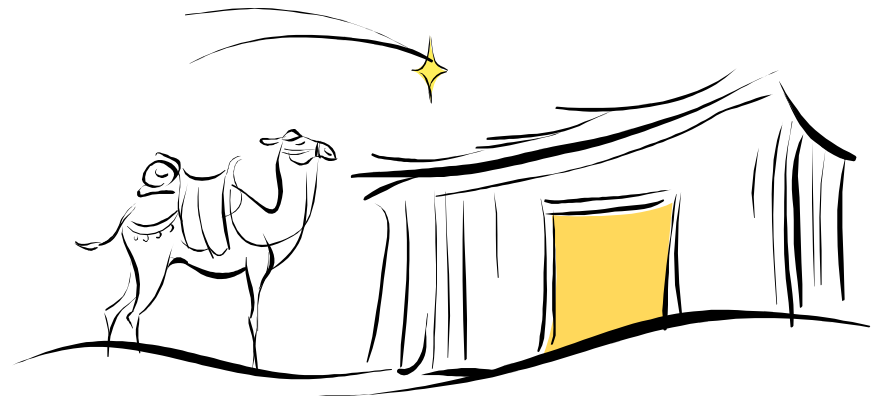
Sunday, January 10 at 10:45 A.M.

Baptism of Christ Service of the Word, Sean Weston preaching

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from the staff of
First Congregational
United Church of Christ



**Wishing you a blessed Christmas
and peace and joy in the New Year.**

Sharing and Caring

Prayers and Concerns

Please call the church office for further information.

Congratulations

- **Holly Marie Tross** arrived November 25, weighing 6 pounds, 13 ounces, and 19½ inches long. Proud parents Amanda and Cameron and older brother Gabe are thrilled!

Helping

- **Need a ride to church?** Contact one of our transportation volunteers: Jim & Carolyn Hodgson, Bill Pallett, Mike & Martha Miller, or Jeff Keller.
- **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.

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

- The Manhattan Emergency Shelter would like to thank you for your donation of \$163.30 on October 28, 2009. Your support is deeply appreciated. Contributions like yours help us to provide a stable living environment for our guests as they seek to improve their situation.
- **It Takes a Church...**
My heartfelt thanks to the wonderful members of this church—our church—for the gift certificate to Lee Creek that I will put to good use in the spring and summer. It has been my blessing to work with many, many good people from this church over the years to make The Second Helping into the vital mission that it is. So my new garden will be The Second Helping garden, with shrubs that put on a show in more than one season. — *Ann Smit*
- To my friends at First Congregational Church: Thank you for your note and the poinsettia. — *Joe Koudele*

Directory Updates

- **Millie Schroeder & Donna Keyser**
1434 Givens Road, Manhattan, KS 66503

*You are invited to a
Christmas Party Open House
from 4:00 to 9:00 P.M. on Sunday, December 20
at the home of Kent Cormack & Bill Pugh
212 Carlisle Terrace
We hope you can join us for a bit of Christmas cheer!*

*From Seth Child Road, go southwest on Amherst Avenue,
then turn left onto Drake Drive.
Carlisle Terrace will be the second right off of Drake.*



**CANDLELIGHT
CHRISTMAS EVE
SERVICE OF
WORD & SACRAMENT**
**8:00 P.M. THURSDAY
DECEMBER 24**
PRELUDE MUSIC AT 7:45 P.M.

Join as we sing hymns, carols, and anthems of Christmas, proclaim the Christmas Good News, celebrate Holy Communion and light candles in the darkened Sanctuary. Invite friends and family who are visiting!



The Christmas Fund

Proceeds from the Christmas Fund Offering are used to provide gifts to clergy and lay employees in all stages of their lives and ministries to and through the UCC. Gifts to the Christmas Fund go directly to those who serve or have served the church, in their moments of critical need. In 2008 The Christmas Fund received \$1,600,000,

and nearly 1,500 families were assisted. Our goal is to be able to provide at least \$1,650,000 in assistance from the 2009 appeal.

Amidst the depressed economic climate which continues to drag on, your gifts are needed more than ever to help the growing number of retirees whose low income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs. An envelope is enclosed in this newsletter for your gift. You can mail it to the church or place it in the offering at worship. All offerings received at the Christmas Eve service are directed to The Christmas Fund. The Board of Mission and Outreach thanks you for your support of The Christmas Fund.



The Second Helping Gift Bags

Each year at Christmas time we prepare gift bags for our Second Helping guests. These include not only the usual food for breakfast and lunch the next day, but also some gift items. This year we plan to make up 18 bags for men and 9 bags for women, and the Sunday School children will help pack them on Sunday morning, December 20. If you would like to

contribute to this project, here are some of the items that would be helpful:

- Men's socks (warm ones)
- Women's socks (warm ones)
- Small canisters of shaving cream
- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Granola bars or packaged crackers with cheese or peanut butter
- Small Christmas decorations, such as a candle or an ornament
- Christmas cards for the children to sign and put in the bags

Many of you have contributed toiletry items such as those from motels and hotels, and so we have some. However, we can always use more.

Thanks once again for the generosity you have consistently shown toward the Second Helping project. Our guests will also be grateful—for some of them, this is the only Christmas present they will get this year. Please contact Ann at 537-7006 or at office@uccmanhattan.org if you need additional information.

Second Helping News and Needs

For the past eight years, Ann Smit has coordinated Second Helping. She needs to step down from most of this work at the first of the year. Therefore, if we as a congregation are going to maintain this mission commitment, volunteers are urgently needed for the following parts of the coordinating position:

1. **Management and Menu Coordinator:** Ann is willing to continue for a time with this part of her present job, but one or two understudies/substitutes are needed. This part of the position requires approximately 2 hours per week.
2. Two or three **Food Safety Coordinators** for weekly or monthly rotation. Ideally, these volunteers will also serve occasionally as head cook. They will take the day-long training offered by the County Health Department, serve as food safety proponents, ensure the supply of materials needed for food preparation and clean-up, and occasionally train new head cooks in their food safety responsibilities. After the initial training, each of these persons would average well under an hour per week in carrying out these duties during his or her rotation.
3. Two or more persons for **Shopping and Setup**. Each of these persons would, one or two weeks per month, do the weekly shopping (which will be detailed by the Management and Menu Coordinator) on Friday or Saturday and, on Sunday Morning, set out everything the head cook will need. This job involves 2-3 hours for each week worked.

For more information about any of these jobs, please contact Ann Smit office@uccmanhattan.org or 537-7006. To volunteer for one or more of these jobs, please contact Ann Smit (Coordinator) or Jerry Hanna (Presiding Member, Board of Mission and Outreach).

Stewardship 2010 Update:

The Stewardship Committee reminds you that we need your help. We are continuing to narrow the gap, but we have not yet funded our projected 2010 budget. In order to avoid cuts in ministry and mission, we need about \$17,000 more in financial commitments for 2010. If you have not yet had the opportunity to make a financial commitment to the mission and ministry of First Congregational UCC for 2010, we hope you will do so soon.

Raise the Roof Funds We have received pledges and/or gifts that total \$7,670 toward our goal of \$12,000. The Board of Trustees thanks you for your support of this campaign.

Financial Reminders

- For any who like to make pre-payment on 2010 pledges, please mark this clearly on your check so that we are able to credit it as you intend. Also, if you are completing your 2009 pledge with a 2010 check, please note that as well.
- In order to “close the books” and make a timely Annual Report, the final deposits for this year will include monies received by Sunday, December 27 or in the church office by noon on Thursday December 31. Monies received after that time will be welcomed and included in the 2010 reports.

— *Joy Schell*, Financial Secretary

A note from the Treasurer

- The end of the year is fast approaching, and I need to close the financial records on December 31. If you have any receipts for budgeted or approved expenses, and you need to be reimbursed, PLEASE get me your receipts as soon as possible and no later than the 31st of December. You can either mail them to me or put them in my mail slot at the church. I'll reimburse you very quickly. Thanks for your help.

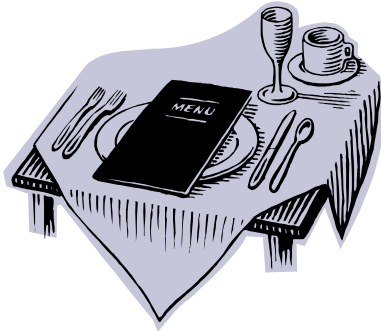
— *Judy Ahrens*, Treasurer

Annual Reports

Please have your annual reports to the office as early as possible. We encourage you to turn in your report before the end of the year if at all possible. All reports must be received by January 4, 2010, in order to be included in the Annual Report Book.

Women of the Church Lunch Bunch January 6

Join the Women of the Church for Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, January 6, at Harry's in downtown Manhattan. It's not for women only—everyone is welcome to join us for lunch at 11:30 A.M.



The Doane College Choir

We are well on our way, but can still use a few more volunteers to accommodate members of the Doane College Choir coming at the end of January. The Choir, from UCC related Doane College in Crete, Nebraska, will be giving a concert at our church on the evening of **Saturday, January 30, 2010**. They will also sing in our worship service the following morning.

If you have an extra bed or two, and are willing to house folks on Saturday night and get them to the church on Sunday morning, please call the church office or sign up on the sheet on the office door.

Study & Discussion Opportunities for Adults

Thursday Evening Bible Study

Our Thursday evening Bible Study is up and running, and you still have time to check it out! We have chosen the book *Velvet Elvis: Repainting the Christian Faith* as a jumping off point for our discussions this fall. We meet at 5:30 P.M. in Blachly Hall, and you are welcome to bring a brown bag supper or snacks. Child Care is provided. We conclude by 6:45. Taizé worship follows.

Bible Study will not meet December 24, 31, or January 7. We will resume on January 14.

Adult Forum: Advent Adventures

The Sunday Adult Forum at 9:30 A.M. goes on our final Advent Adventure this Sunday with a screening of a Christmas classic. Even if you think you don't like opera, you will want to give Amahl a chance!

December 20: *Amahl and the Night Visitors* "The quintessential version of *Amahl*," this is the 1955 version of the Christmas classic and most performed opera in history.

Christian Education for Kids

Thank you to all those who participated, parents, teachers and children, in making this years Christmas pageant a success.

Childcare will be available for the Christmas Eve service.

OWL Curriculum Information for the upcoming OWL course being taught to children in grades Kindergarten through first will be sent to parents in the near future. The first parents' meeting is currently scheduled for January 10, 2009.

There will be no Sunday School Classes for children, youth, or adults on December 27 or January 3.

Worship & Church Volunteers

December 20, 2009

Flowers Advent Poinsettias
Greeters *Volunteers Needed*,
Scripture Reader Jim Lewis
Word for Children ... *Volunteer Needed*
Fellowship Hour *Volunteer Needed*
Snow Removal Jim Lewis (*through December 26*)

December 24, 2009 Christmas Eve Service

Greeters *Volunteers Needed*
Scripture Reader Kathy Bleam

December 27, 2009

Flowers Advent Poinsettias
Greeters *Volunteers Needed*,
Scripture Reader Kent Cormack
Word for Children ... *Volunteer Needed*
Fellowship Hour *Volunteer Needed*
Snow Removal Bill Pallett (*through January 2*)

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 or office@uccmanhattan.org



December 20, 2009

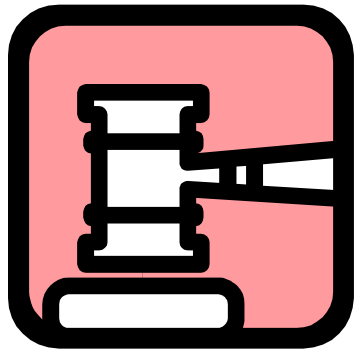
Chief Cook Ann Smit, Sue Zschoche
Volunteers Ann Gleason, *Volunteers Needed*
Dessert *Volunteer Needed*

December 27, 2009

Chief Cook Ann Smit
Volunteers ESA Sorority
Dessert Ann Smit

January 3, 2009

Chief Cook *Volunteer Needed*
Volunteers *Volunteers Needed*
Dessert *Volunteer Needed*



Annual Meeting Notice

The Annual Meeting of the First Congregational United Church of Christ, Manhattan, Kansas, will be held Sunday, January 24, 2010, following Morning Worship.

Community News

The Story of Christmas in Negro Spiritual

Sunday December 20, at 4:00 P.M. at First United Methodist Church 612 Poyntz A vocal and instrumental concert with Dr. La Verne L. Baker and friends. Accompanied by Ray Baker on saxophone, Marilyn Caldwell on piano, Mary Caudel-Kidd on piano and Brock Dale on violin.

Martin Luther King Jr. Week, 2010

Celebrate with your community. Events are as follows:

January 5, 2010

6:45 P.M. City Hall—Martin Luther King Jr. Proclamation

January 10, 2010

Manhattan Public Library art and writing contest deadline.

Visit www.manhattan.lib.ks.us for more information

Theme: What are you doing for others?

January 15, 2010

7:00 P.M. Manhattan Christian Fellowship Church
Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration Service

January 16, 2010

6:30 P.M. Community Celebration, Manhattan High School East with Keynote Speaker Emmanuel Cleaver II
Followed by a Candlelight Walk from MHS East Campus to First Lutheran Church

January 17, 2010

K-State Martin Luther King Jr. Activities

January 18, 2010 Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service and Entertainment

8:00 A.M. Prayer Breakfast at Clarion Hotel

8:45 A.M. Sign up begins for Day of Service Volunteer Activities
Contact Laura Cline, 532-3670

10:00 A.M. King Holiday Activities at Manhattan Town Center
Manhattan Community Lunch
Flint Hills Job Corps Culinary Art Program Catering

4:00 P.M. Celebration Dessert

January 19-22, 2010

K-State Martin Luther King Jr. Activities

WISDOM KEEPERS GATHERING

APRIL 22-26, 2010 at White Memorial Camp

Native American Elders annual gathering in the Flint Hills of Kansas, sharing a wide variety of traditions and knowledge with participants.

SAVE THE DATES OF APRIL 22-26, 2010
ON YOUR CALENDAR

2010 Registration Cost Covers: Elders' transportation, camp costs, honorariums; participant's camp cost; WK publicity, supplies. *Registration & photos on website. 1, 3, & 4-day Gathering passes are posted on the website.

Meals are included for all passes. Lodging is included for 3 & 4-day passes.

Location: White Memorial Camp near Council Grove, KS.

Children 8+: Supervision required.

Sacred Drum or Rattle-Making Workshop, \$150, taught by Terri Delahanty, Cree. Attendance at the gathering is required for this workshop.

SPONSORSHIP OF NATIVE & NON-NATIVE INDIVIDUALS IS WELCOMED. CONTACT US:

Website: www.fhwisdomkeepers.org

Email: jstrauss@fhwisdomkeepers.org

Phone: Julie or Steve Strauss, 785-293-5795

Sponsored by the Flint Hills Wisdom Keepers Board of Directors

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 <i>New Year's Day</i> Office Closed	2
3 <i>Christmas II</i> 9:30 Choir Rehearsal 10:45 Worship & Communion 12:00 Fellowship Hour 5:15 Second Helping	4	5	6 <i>Epiphany</i> 11:30 Lunch Bunch 7:00 Board Meetings	7 7:00 Taizé	8 9:00 Crisis Center Meeting 6:00 Storytime	9 10:00 NC Assn. Church on Ministry
10 <i>Baptism of Christ</i> 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Church School 10:45 Worship 12:00 Fellowship Hour 5:15 Second Helping	11 12:00 Newsletter Deadline 3:00 AAUW Dinner Prep	12	13	14 5:30 Bible Study 7:00 Taizé	15 9:00 Crisis Center Meeting 6:00 Storytime	16
17 <i>2nd after Epiphany</i> 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Church School 10:45 Worship 12:00 Fellowship Hour 5:15 Second Helping	18 <i>Martin Luther King Day</i> Office Closed	19 10:00 N.C. Assn. Clergy 7:00 PFLAG	20 6:00 Vitality Team 7:30 Cabinet	21 5:30 Bible Study 7:00 Taizé	22 9:00 Crisis Center Meeting 6:00 Storytime	23
24 <i>4th after Epiphany</i> 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Church School 10:45 Worship 12:00 Fellowship Hour 12:15 Annual Meeting 5:15 Second Helping	25 12:00 Newsletter Deadline	26	27	28 5:30 Bible Study 7:00 Taizé	29 9:00 Crisis Center Meeting 6:00 Storytime	30 Doane College Choir Concert
31 <i>3rd after Epiphany</i> 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Church School 10:45 Worship 12:00 Fellowship Hour 5:15 Second Helping						

January 2010

Birthdays

4	Betty Garzio	20	Harold Hartley
7	Margery Bayer	21	Doyle Barnes
7	Ben Clark	24	Shelia Stevens
7	Nick Clark	24	Matthew Toland
9	William Knicklebine	26	Don Gibson
10	Kaia Peterson	27	Knox Karnowski
17	Gretchen Lewis	31	Sharyl Reynard
19	Jerry Reynard		

Anniversaries

1	Kyle & Kimberly Douglas-Mankin
7	Don Cannon & Jim Flak
8	Don & Julie Gibson
12	Rob & Krista Caffey
25	Dave & Ann Smit

January

Dates to Remember

January 1	New Year's Day— Office Closed
January 6	Lunch Bunch Board Meetings
January 11	Newsletter Deadline
January 18	Martin Luther King Day— Office Closed
January 20	Vitality Team Meeting Cabinet Meeting
January 24	Annual Meeting
January 25	Newsletter Deadline
January 30	Doane College Choir Concert
January 31	Doane College Choir joins us in Worship