



**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
NEWSLETTER**

Volume 53 Number 18

September 30, 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

Comes Autumn Time

I'm not thinking of the overture by American composer Leo Sowerby here, but of the sense I get when I step outside these days, especially in the morning. The smell, the sights, the sounds—all of it confirms the change of season. I am immediately returned to autumn mornings long ago walking to the school bus through the mounting carpet of oak leaves. When the day is cool and rainy, I am transported to a grey Thanksgiving when I was a child. I cannot tell you why—what was particularly memorable I do not recall. There is something about autumn that triggers memory, evokes nostalgia, and, as the season progresses, bears the tart flavor of melancholy. Once again the exuberance of spring and bounty of summer give way to a beauty that comes as much from death as from life. Dying leaves show their true colors. Mature grass takes on the hues of the earth that nourished it.

I like the ambiguity of autumn. Spring is too easy to like. Summer and winter have their fans and their detractors, usually based in the reality that one is hot and the [continued page 2]

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other cold, and you either like the hot or the cold or you don't. But autumn is coy and fickle. One day is glorious and the next, well not so much. As quickly as the wind switches from south to north, so changes the emotional color of autumn.

There is a lovely hymn we do not often sing that captures this ambiguity with poetic elegance. It is a text written by a United Church of Christ pastor, William Gay, in 1969. While it references winter (and was, in fact, written for a Christmas letter that he and his wife sent to friends) it speaks of the uncertainty:

*Each winter as the year grows older,
We all grow older too.
The chill sets in a little colder;
the verities I knew seem shaken and untrue.*

This year, during October, the lectionary brings us four texts from the book of Job. Surely no other book in the bible engages the difficult existential questions of faith more directly than Job. The book is the antithesis of a prosperity gospel.

There is a certain cultural literacy regarding Job, though I am not sure how accurate. The phrase "the patience of Job" always makes me chuckle. Patience is not how I think of Job so much as defiantly stubborn. Virginia Woolf famously wrote in her diary, "I read the book of Job last night. I don't think God comes well out of it." Again, I'm not sure I agree—though the book of Job certainly challenges some of our assumptions about God.

During October, my preaching will focus on the book of Job, seeking to engage some of the challenging questions it raises about the nature of God, the meaning of suffering, the relationship of order and chaos, and the question of justice. Job engages questions we tend to avoid, and yet, at some point in life, almost always ask.

- October 4: "God at Risk"**
- October 11: "Divine Absence"**
- October 18: "Divine Presence"**
- October 25: "The Problem with Happy Endings"**

Grace & Peace,

Kent

Sharing and Caring

Prayers and Concerns

Please call the church office for further information.

Thank You

- Thank you First Congregational Church for the sympathy cards, the prayers, and the kind thoughts shared after the loss of my father. September has been a difficult month. I have made multiple trips to Cincinnati, Ohio with my father's illness and passing, and to help with my mother. Dale and I look forward to returning for worship with you in October. *Anne Stearns*
- Thank you to all of those who were concerned and sent cards of sympathy after my fall. *Evelyn Keller*
- **Neighbors in Need** Thank you to the congregation for its donation of \$538.00 to the Neighbors in Need campaign thus far. You can still contribute. Just mark your gift "NIN," and you will help the UCC do justice work in places near and far.

E-MAIL PRAYER CHAIN

If you wish to be added to the First Congregational e-mail prayer chain, please contact office@uccmanhattan.org.



Helping

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

Women of the Church



Lunch Bunch does Thai Women of the Church will host Lunch Bunch at Aroy Thai on **Wednesday, October 7**. It's not for women only—everyone is welcome to join us for lunch at 11:30 A.M.



CROP Walk is October 11

What is a CROP Hunger Walk? It is neighbors walking together to take a stand against hunger in our world. Together we raise awareness and funds for international relief and development, as well as local hunger-fighting. Plan to walk with our congregation's contingent on Sunday afternoon, October 11. If you can't walk, please sponsor one of our walkers.



Tower Roof Project Moves Forward

Two thousand six hundred pounds of old tower roof is gone! With cooperative weather, repairs have proceeded smoothly. The new roof structure is in place, masonry repairs are being made this week, and roofers will soon render everything weather tight.

Early in the process, the → workers stripped away nine layers of roofing material so that the decorative metal cornices could be carefully removed.



← With the broken joists and rotted wood of the old roof structure removed, work began on reconstructing the roof—a much stronger structure that will appear unchanged when the project is complete.

The original metal cornices → were carefully restored and repainted. They are now back in place on the tower.



The 2009 Mostly Shrubs Plant Sale

The Plant Sale was a big success—we raised almost \$600 (\$500 after expenses). The proceeds will be split among the Emergency Shelter, Shepherd’s Crossing, and The Second Helping.

We had a good variety of plants, including house plants. We are grateful to all who donated plants, most especially to Ann Scott of Lee Creek Gardens for the donation of most of the shrubs and perennials.

The Plant Sale would not have succeeded without the help of many volunteers. Lauren Ritterbush and Melissa Jones drove their pickups out to Lee Creek, and it was raining hard when they and Don Cannon unloaded the trucks at the church. Shai Buelow and her friend Dalton helped to prune the shrubs to improve their appearance. Many other people helped on Friday and Saturday, including Kathy Bleam, Martha Miller, Kent Cormack, Gretchen Lewis, Carolyn Hodgson, Linda Richter, Bill Richter, Joy Schell, and Virginia Bigbee (hope we haven’t forgotten anyone). All the remaining shrubs went to a new church south of Manhattan on 177, and David Smit drove Lauren’s pickup to help with that transfer.

***THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED
AND TO EVERYONE WHO BOUGHT SHRUBS & PLANTS***

Oktoberfest

at White Memorial Camp

Saturday & Sunday, October 17--18

The Camp is open 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM On Saturday and 1:00 PM to 7:00 PM On Sunday

Admission: \$5.00 per person 5 and under free (other fees may apply)

Activities

- . Hayrack Rides
- . Bonfire
- . Face Painting
- . Boat Rides
- . Outdoor Cooking
- . Hay Maze
- . Concession Stand
- . Pumpkin Carving
- . Hiking & Crafts
- . Haunted Things

Fun for All!



Christian Education



Join us in Blachly Hall on Sunday **October 18**, for a Dessert Potluck. The fun starts at 7:00 P.M.

Adult Forum Sundays at 9:30 A.M.

A Sacred Conversation on Race

The United Church of Christ and the National Council of Churches has invited congregations to engage in *A Sacred Conversation on Race*. As part of that conversation, the Adult Forum on Sunday mornings is focusing our attention on the subject of race and racism in America. We meet at 9:30 A.M. each Sunday in Pioneer Hall (the original church building of our abolitionist forebears), and you are invited.

The remaining forums include: “A History of Racism in the United States” on October 4, 11, 18, & 25. “White Privilege” on November 1. “Is Affirmative Action Still Needed?” on November 8. “Do Segregated Churches Imply Racism” on November 15.

Youth Corner—October Events

Friday and Saturday, October 2 &-3

Youth attend the K-O Conference Meeting in Wichita

Friday October 9, meet at 5:30 P.M.

Trip to Kansas City Haunted Houses

Sunday October 18

Church event—Dessert Potluck

Friday and Saturday, Oct. 23 & 24

OWL (Our Whole Lives) Retreat for Senior High at White Memorial Camp

Worship & Church Volunteers

October 4, 2009

FlowersKathy Bleam
Greeters.....Jeff Keller, Jan Lange
Scripture Reader.....Kathy Bleam
Word for Children ...Jean Hill
Fellowship Hour*Volunteer Needed*
Lawn Mowing.....Brad Logan (*through October 10*)

October 11, 2009

Flowers*Volunteer Needed*
Greeters.....*Volunteers Needed*
Scripture Reader.....*Volunteer Needed*
Word for Children ...Jim Mock
Fellowship HourMary Ellen Barkley
Lawn Mowing.....Jim Lewis (*through October 17*)

October 18, 2009

Flowers*Volunteer Needed*
Greeters.....*Volunteers Needed*
Scripture Reader.....*Volunteer Needed*
Word for Children ...Dave Smit
Fellowship Hour*Volunteer Needed*
Lawn Mowing.....*Volunteer Needed* (*through October 24*)

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..



October 4, 2009

Chief CookSteve Staker
Volunteers.....Manhattan Mennonite Church, Ann Gleason
Dessert.....*Volunteer Needed*

Community News

Pumpkin Patch Arts & Crafts Fair

CiCo Park on October 2nd, from 10:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. and October 3rd from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Senior and disabled shopping hours will be held from 9:00 A.M. to 10:00 A.M. both days. Food will be available and admission is free. All proceeds benefit Mercy Regional Health Center.

The New Fred L. Parish Lecture Series in Religious History “Was Jesus the First Feminist?”

Professor Ben Witherington III, of Asbury Theological Seminary in Wilmore, Kentucky, one of the worlds leading authorities on the history of early Christianity, will discuss this and related issues concerning the role of women at the dawn of what would become the Christian faith. Witherington, will address not only the history of women in first-century Christian history but also the various myths and misunderstandings of the place of women in the movement.

The lecture begins at 7:30 P.M. on Thursday, October 15, in the Banquet Room of the Kansas State University Alumni Association Building . The lecture is free and open to the public. This new lecture series, named for Professor Fred Louis Parish, a former long-time history faculty member at K- State.

From Loss to New Life Support Group beginning October 13 at 323 Poyntz Avenue

Homecare and Hospice invites you to participate in a five-week grief and loss support group. The group will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays for five weeks, from 5:00-6:30 P.M. in the Homecare and Hospice conference room. If you would like to attend please RSVP to Dan Clayton at 537-0688 or via email at socialwork2@homecareandhospice.org.

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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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



Sun

Mon

Tue


Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

October



1

7:00 Taizé

2

9:00 Crisis Center Meeting

6:00 Story Time

Kansas- Oklahoma Conference Annual Meeting

3

5 World Communion

8:30 Choir Rehearsal
 9:30 Church School
 10:45 Worship & Communion
 12:00 Fellowship Hour
 12:15 Music Committee
 5:15 Second Helping

5

6

7

11:30 Lunch Bunch

7:00 Board Meetings

8

7:00 Taizé

9

9:00 Crisis Center Meeting

6:00 Story Time

10

10:00 N.C. Assn. Committee on Ministry

11

8:30 Choir Rehearsal
 9:30 Church School
 10:45 Worship
 12:00 Fellowship Hour
 2:00 CROP Walk
 5:15 Second Helping

12

12:00 Newsletter Deadline

3:00 AAUW Dinner Preparation

13

14

15

7:00 Taizé

16

9:00 Crisis Center Meeting

6:00 Story Time

18

18

8:30 Choir Rehearsal
 9:30 Church School
 10:45 Worship
 12:00 Fellowship Hour
 5:15 Second Helping
 7:00 Dessert Potluck

19

20

10:00 N.C. Assn. Clergy
 7:00 P-FLAG

21

6:30 Vitality Team
 7:30 Cabinet

22

7:00 Taizé

23

9:00 Crisis Center Meeting

6:00 Story Time

24

25

8:30 Choir Rehearsal
 9:30 Church School
 10:45 Worship
 12:00 Fellowship Hour
 4:00 Fall Assn Meeting, Centralia
 5:15 Second Helping

26

12:00 Newsletter Deadline

27

28

5:30 Crisis Center Meeting

29

7:00 Taizé

30

9:00 Crisis Center Meeting

6:00 Story Time

31

10:00 MAPJ

Birthdays

1	Allison Karnowski	19	David Manning
1	Lauren Ritterbush	21	Judy Ahrens
3	Kelly Brown	21	Carolyn Hodgson
5	Jean Ponte	23	Hikaru Peterson
5	Nada Buelow	24	Jim Lewis
10	Paula Pierce	25	Jeff Keller
13	Justin Getty	26	Mary Ellen Barkley
13	Taylor MacDondald	26	Sarah Sinnott
14	Emma Caffey	27	Virginia Bigbee
15	Russ Briggs	28	Elisabeth Vanderlip
17	Bill Eberle	29	Eric Sandell
19	Judy Davis	30	Evan Sherow
19	Ann Smit		

October

Dates to Remember

October 2-3	K-O Conference Annual Meeting
October 4	World Communion Sunday Fill the Breadbasket
October 7	Lunch Bunch Board Meetings
October 11	CROP Walk
October 12	Newsletter Deadline
October 18	Dessert Potluck
October 21	Vitality Team Meeting Cabinet Meeting
October 25	Fall Assn. Meeting, Centralia
October 26	Newsletter Deadline



Anniversaries

6	Ellen Logan & Kara Burns
8	Jerry & Atina Hanna
10	Robert & Karen Bauernfeind
13	Scott & Melissa Steele
15	Russell & Ilene Briggs
27	Jim & Carolyn Hodgson
29	Burke & Margery Bayer

