



# 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.	<a href="http://www.uccmanhattan.org">www.uccmanhattan.org</a>

## 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](mailto: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 18<sup>th</sup>. 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 8<sup>th</sup>. That will give me time to print them before the twins arrive.

Thank you, Chasity Seibert, Administrative Assistant

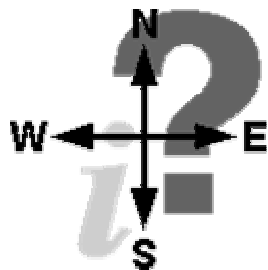
## Inquirer's Lunches

### 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup>, 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*

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**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*

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**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*

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**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*

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**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](mailto: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](http://uccmanhattan.org)**



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

# February

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