



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 53 Number 19

October 14, 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

Father, forgive them...

There was a point last week when I had to really question the wisdom of my plan to preach on Job during the month of October. Preaching “Divine Absence” in a way that does not lead to either despair or agnosticism is something of a treacherous path, and I’m not entirely sure I succeeded. On the other hand, it is certainly proving to be an interesting journey. And please remember that “plan” is a bit of an overstatement. It’s not that I had a plan so much as I decided to do it. It’s sort of like sermon titles—those things I am supposed to invent for the newspaper two days *before* beginning to write the sermon.

One thing that comes with nine years of preaching to the same congregation is a desire to venture into different territory. So lately, while staying mostly within the lectionary, I have been tackling some less-preached texts—texts like Esther and Job, particularly the parts of Job other than God’s speech from the whirlwind which does seem to get a lot of press. *[continued p. 2]*

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It’s good for all of us to engage some of the more challenging parts of the biblical canon—stories that we wish weren’t there because of their violence or exclusiveness. Passages that describe a God or a Jesus we don’t particularly like. That is a part of taking the bible seriously. So it is that on the heels of the American Library Association’s observance of banned book week, the *Christian Century* blog brought me this news:

Conservapedia, Andrew Schlafy’s answer to the perceived liberal bias of Wikipedia has taken on an ambitious new project: the “Conservative Bible Project,” a collaborative, wiki-based version of the Old and New Testaments intended “to correct the rampant liberalism of mainstream translations,” in some cases by simply removing offending phrases. I am not making this up! The following examples come from the project’s website:

The earliest, most authentic manuscripts lack this verse set forth at Luke 23:34: Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” Is this a liberal corruption of the original? This does not appear in any other Gospel, and the simple fact is that some of the persecutors of Jesus *did* know what they were doing. This quotation is a favorite of liberals but should not appear in a conservative Bible.

Socialistic terminology permeates English translations of the Bible, without justification. This improperly encourages the “social justice” movement among Christians. For example, the conservative word “volunteer” is mentioned only once in the ESV, yet the socialistic word “comrade” is used three times, “laborer(s)” is used 13 times, “labored” 15 times, and “fellow” (as in “fellow worker”) is used 55 times.

All I have to say is I hope you are more interested in continuing to wrestle with scripture and puzzle it’s meanings in many imperfect translations than you are in deciding what it should have said and making it so. That’s my plan for now. Read any good banned books lately?

Grace & Peace,

Sharing and Caring

Prayers and Concerns

- Please call the church office for further information

Thank You

- Thank you to the **Empty Bowls Project** for its donation of \$740.00 to support the work of The Second Helping ministry to our community.
- Thank you to **Sue Gerth** for stepping forward to fill the position of Sunday School teacher for our kindergarten through second grade class.
- **Neighbors in Need Update:** A big thank you to the congregation for additional donations of \$365.20 to the Neighbors in Need campaign. The latest total of gifts to Neighbors in Need is \$903.20.
- On behalf of everyone at the Ecumenical Campus Ministry at Kansas State University, I wanted to thank you for your recent contribution of \$425.00 to the ministry. We appreciate the ongoing support you give to this ministry.
— *David Jones, ECM Campus Pastor*

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.

North Central Association Fall Meeting

Sunday, October 25, at 4:00 P.M. Join UCC folks from around our area as we gather at the First Congregational UCC in Centralia. Hear about an ecumenical internship pilot project that took place this summer at Evangelical UCC in Marysville, and enjoy worship, fellowship and supper.

Oktoberfest



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; ages 5 and under free. (other fees may apply)

Christian Education Fun



Dessert Potluck Members and friends are invited to join us in Blachly Hall on **Sunday, October 18, at 7:00 P.M.** for a Dessert Potluck hosted by the Board of Christian Education. There will be ice cream and drinks provided by the Board of Christian Education. Please bring a dessert to share.

Study & Discussion Opportunities for Adults

Thursday Evening Bible Study

On October 29, our Thursday evening Bible Study will resume. We meet at 5:30, and you are welcome to bring a brown bag supper or snacks. Child Care will be provided. We conclude by 6:45. Taizé worship follows at 7:00.

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, and you are invited. The remaining forums include: "History of Racism in the United States," "White Privilege," "Is Affirmative Action Still Needed?" and "Do Segregated Churches Imply Racism."

Youth Corner—October Events

Sunday October 18

All-Church event—Dessert Potluck at 7:00 P.M.

Friday and Saturday, Oct. 23 & 24

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

Worship & Church Volunteers

October 18, 2009

Flowers..... *Volunteer Needed*
Greeters..... Knick & Caren Knicklebine
Scripture Reader..... Ann Smit
Word for Children... Dave Smit
Fellowship Hour..... Jeff, Kerri, & Nicki Keller
Lawn/Snow Removal *Volunteer Needed (through October 24)*

October 25, 2009

Flowers..... R.C. & Melissa Jones
Greeters..... Chantel Vogel, *Volunteer Needed*
Scripture Reader..... Chantel Vogel
Word for Children... Melissa Jones
Fellowship Hour..... Atina Hanna
Lawn/Snow Removal *Volunteer Needed (through October 31)*

November 1, 2009

Flowers..... *Volunteer Needed*
Greeters..... Mary Ellen Barkley, Jim Mock
Scripture Reader..... Judy Ahrens
Word for Children... *Volunteer Needed*
Fellowship Hour..... Judy Ahrens, Virginia Bigbee
Lawn/Snow Removal *Volunteer Needed (through November 7)*

Financial Statements The Third Quarter Financial Statements are now being distributed. If you like to have a record of weekly details, please save this statement. Please review it for accuracy and contact the church office to make any adjustments.

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.



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UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

700 Poyntz Avenue
Manhattan, KS 66502
(785) 537-7006
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October 18, 2009

Chief Cook Andrew Barkley
Volunteers Ann Gleason, Mary Ellen Barkley,
..... Delta Sigma Theta
Dessert Donna Sidorfsky

October 25, 2009

Chief Cook Ann Smit
Volunteers ESA Sorority
Dessert Ann Smit

November 1, 2009

Chief Cook *Volunteer Needed*
Volunteers Ann Gleason, *Volunteers Needed*
Dessert *Volunteer Needed*



Community News

Rummage Sale October 30, 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.
and October 31, 7:30 A.M. to 12:00 noon at **College Avenue
United Methodist Church** College Avenue United Methodist
Church located at 1609 College Ave will host a rummage sale
selling a wide variety of items. Items range from clothes, to toys
and furniture. All proceeds benefit the Ogden Friendship House
and Mission Projects.