



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 53 Number 4

February 25, 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

Schedule Adjustments

We are creatures of habit. Since shortly after I arrived as your pastor in the fall of 2000, I have maintained a schedule in which my day off each week was Friday. That worked well for several years. However, over the past year it has become increasingly difficult for me to make Fridays work.

This January I began on an experimental basis to take Monday off instead of Friday. It has been working much better, and so it seemed wise to let you know that I plan to continue that schedule. With a Tuesday through Sunday workweek there has been more flexibility to adjust my schedule when unexpected situations arise.

Of course, in the case of an emergency, you should still call me at home anytime I am not available in the office. Please remember that at home or in the office there is an answering machine—please leave a message if you don't get an answer. If it's urgent, don't hesitate to leave a message at both numbers.

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This week marks the beginning of a temporary change in the schedule of the Administrative Office as well. Our wonderful Administrative Assistant has begun 6 weeks of parental leave. During this time, you may hear a variety of people answering the telephone. Our Director of Christian Education Grizelda MacDonald will be in on Mondays and Tuesdays from 9:00 A.M. until Noon. Volunteers will often be covering the phone on Wednesday mornings.

Afternoon hours will be more limited and will depend in large part on the Pastor's schedule. The same will be true of Thursday and Friday mornings.

I hope you will be patient during this time of limited staffing. We may have a bit of temporary help in the office, but we will be trying to cover this time of Chasity's leave with volunteers and other staff due to the need to minimize extra expenditures in the 2009 budget year.

E-mail reminder. If you send e-mail to office at our web address it goes directly to the administrative office, not to the pastor. If you are trying to contact me, it is best to send it directly. If you send e-mail to pastor at the web address, it goes directly to me and no one else sees it.

I do not check e-mail on my day off—that's a part of observing sabbath time, and I highly recommend it.

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

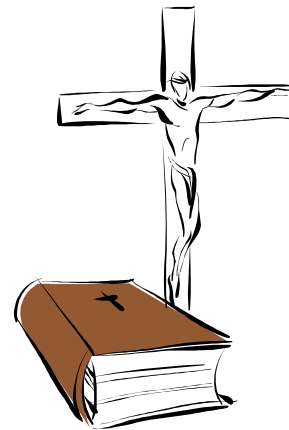
- Thank you First Congregational Church for your hospitality and grace. It was lovely to have a home away from home while on vacation. *Christy & Christina Dew*

Helping

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

Thursday Evening Bible Study

We took a break during the coldest months of winter, but have resumed the Thursday Evening Bible Study. Join us at 5:30 P.M. in Blachly Hall. You are welcome to bring a brown bag supper or snack. We conclude at 6:45 P.M., just in time for Taizé worship. During Lent we will be studying the book of Amos, generally acknowledged to be the earliest literature of the prophetic tradition in the Hebrew Bible.



Ecumenical Lenten Worship & Luncheons

Once again, the Manhattan Ministerial Association is sponsoring Community Lenten worship services at **Noon on Wednesdays** during Lent. Each service lasts about one half hour and is followed by a simple lunch. These events will be held at First Christian Church, Courthouse Plaza. Come as you are to share in worship and fellowship.

Women of the Church

Lunch Bunch March 4 Please join Women of the Church for Lunch Bunch at 11:30 A.M. on Wednesday, March 4, at the HuHot Mongolian Grill in the Manhattan Town Center.

Cinema & Soul

Reel Theology & Contemporary Issues

Tuesday, March 24, at 6:30 P.M.

King Corn

You are what you eat. *King Corn* is a feature documentary about two friends, one acre of corn, and the crop that drives our fast-food nation. Ian and Curt move from the east coast to Iowa to grow one acre of corn and follow it through the food system. What they learn raises troubling questions about what we eat and how we farm. *Not rated. 2007. 88 minutes.*

Join us for popcorn and a movie worth thinking about!



Tower Chime Photo Op!

All who helped with the removal, restoration, and installation of our tower chime system are invited to join in a very brief photo shoot after church on March 1. Those who are able to climb to the loft can pose with our red and black chime rack for a picture, and those who cannot climb can pose in front of the tower for a separate picture. We will send the photos and our story to UCC headquarters in Cleveland for publication. The loft is quite clean, so it is safe to wear your go-to-meeting clothes as long as you don't brush against the stone walls of the tower. No high heels please, as they would damage the new rubber deck.

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 Bill Pugh at 587-9500 if you can help.

Donations toward paying the \$5,000.00 loan from the Brill Fund can be sent to the church office and will be greatly appreciated.

Pocket Change to Change the World



During the month of March, we invite you to empty out your pocket change into the offering plate. These bits of metal will be dedicated *as a special addition* to our **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)** offering on **March 22**.

You will literally feel lighter when you release the weight of those coins to benefit those in need around the world.

Use your pocket change to change the world!

*The Board of
Mission and Outreach*

Watch for more One Great Hour of Sharing materials in the next newsletter.

Youth Corner

Upcoming activities in March

March 8 Sunday

7:00-9:00 P.M. Movie at Church

March 15 & 22

No Youth Group—Spring Break

March 28 Sunday

6:00 P.M. Progressive Dinner (Details to be announced)

All-Church Poker Night Saturday, February 28th at 7:00

The youth are hosting a church-wide Texas Hold'em poker tournament in Blachly Hall. All ages are invited. Drinks and snacks will be provided.



Christian Education

Adult Forum at 9:30 Sundays

Grab a cup of coffee and join us Sunday mornings in Pioneer Hall as Victor Force leads two more thought-provoking discussions on current topics.

March 1 Race, Gender, Class, and the Bible

March 8 A Theology of Food

Worship & Church Volunteers

March 1, 2009

Greeters Dan Clark, Marsha Tannehill
Scripture Reader Jim Lewis
Word for Children .. Kerri Keller
Fellowship Hour Kathy Bleam
Snow Removal The Westons (*through March 7*)

March 8, 2009

Greeters *Volunteer Needed*, Brent Maner
Scripture Reader Jim Mock
Word for Children .. Gretchen Lewis
Fellowship Hour Lauren Ritterbush
Snow Removal Jim Fuller (*through March 14*)

March 15, 2009

Greeters Carolyn Hodgson, *Volunteer Needed*
Scripture Reader Judy Davis
Word for Children .. Jim Ahrens
Fellowship Hour Carolyn Hodgson
Snow Removal **volunteer needed** (*through March 21*)

March 22, 2009

Greeters *Volunteers Needed*
Scripture Reader Craig Weston
Word for Children .. Tracey Weston
Fellowship Hour Sue Zschoche & Judy Davis
Snow Removal **volunteer needed** (*through March 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 785-456-6743 or Mandymtbc@yahoo.com.



March 1, 2009

Chief Cook Brent Maner
Volunteers Ann Gleason, Brent Maner's Crew
Dessert Bill Pugh

March 8, 2009

Chief Cook Gretchen Lewis
Volunteers Ann Gleason, Phi Eta Sigma
Dessert *Volunteer Needed*

March 15, 2009

Chief Cook Jeff Keller
Volunteers Ann Gleason, First Christian Youth
Dessert *Volunteer Needed*

March 22, 2009

Chief Cook Ann Smit
Volunteers ESA Sorority
Dessert Ann Smit

New Members

During March we will be receiving new members during Sunday Worship. If you are interested in joining First Congregational United Church of Christ, please contact the pastor.

Community News

Shepherd's Crossing

Nine years ago, Shepherd's Crossing began its work as a cooperative venture organized through the Manhattan Ministers Association and about 6 local churches. Now over 30 local churches and many other agencies are involved.

Shepherd's Crossing provides assistance to people in our neighborhood who help with rent, utilities, and prescription medications. In 2008, 981 households were helped by Shepherd's crossing. The majority of funds came from churches—over \$70,000 in 2008.

First Congregational United Church of Christ provides financial support to Shepherd's Crossing through our Mission and Outreach Budget. Designated gifts to Shepherd's Crossing above and beyond this support are always appreciated.

Elisabeth of Berlin

On April 27, at 7:00 P.M. you can view the film *Elisabeth of Berlin* at the Manhattan Public Library sponsored by the Micah Society. The film is set in Germany during the Second World War and tells the story of Elisabeth as she seeks to help Jews in her community in the face of the Holocaust. The producer of the film will be present to discuss the film after the screening. All are welcome.

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

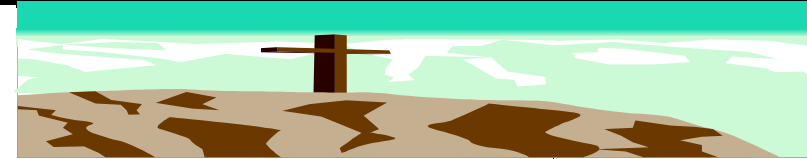
Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

MARCH



<p>1 Lent I 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Church School 10:45 Worship & Communion 12:00 Fellowship Hour 5:15 Second Helping</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 11:30 Lunch Bunch 12:00 Lenten Worship 3:30 Confirmation 7:00 Board Meetings</p>	<p>5 5:30 Bible Study 7:00 Taizé</p>	<p>6 9:00 Crisis Center Meeting 6:00 Storytime</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 Lent II <i>Daylight Time</i> 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Church School 10:45 Worship 12:00 Fellowship Hour 5:15 Second Helping</p>	<p>9 12:00 Newsletter Deadline 3:00 AAUW Dinner Prep</p>	<p>10 10:00 N.C. Assn. Clergy 7:00 PFLAG</p>	<p>11 12:00 Lenten Worship 3:30 Confirmation Class</p>	<p>12 5:30 Bible Study 7:00 Taizé</p>	<p>13 9:00 Crisis Center Meeting 6:00 Storytime</p>	<p>14 10:00 N.C. Assn. Church & Ministry</p>
<p>15 Lent III 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Church School 10:45 Worship 12:00 Fellowship Hour 5:15 Second Helping</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 12:00 Lenten Worship No Confirmation</p>	<p>19 5:30 Bible Study 7:00 Taizé</p>	<p>20 9:00 Crisis Center Meeting 6:00 Storytime</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 Lent IV OGHS 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 6:30 Cinema & Soul: <i>King Corn</i></p>	<p>25 12:00 Lenten Worship 3:30 Confirmation 6:00 Vitality Team 7:30 Cabinet</p>	<p>26 5:30 Bible Study 7:00 Taizé</p>	<p>27 9:00 Crisis Center Meeting 6:00 Storytime</p>	<p>28 10:00 Spring NC Assn. Mtg.</p>
<p>29 Lent V 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Church School 10:45 Worship 12:00 Fellowship Hour 5:15 Second Helping</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				

March Birthdays

1	Carson Schuette	16	Macy Vogel
3	Rob Hayes	17	Joshua Manning
5	Lisa Hamer	17	Elliot Stevens
10	Jack Dayton	19	Sue Zschoche
11	Chris Hogan	20	Joy Schell
13	Nathan Yeager	21	Bill Pugh
14	Joan McCrann	23	Kimberly Douglas-Mankin
14	Brian Jones		
14	Cameron Tross	28	Sherwood Bishop
15	Neil Dayton	29	Marian Fuller

March Anniversaries

2	Pat & Paula Caffey
25	Tom & Tammi Hawk

March Dates to Remember

Wednesdays at Noon throughout March

Community Lenten Worship
at First Christian Church
Courthouse Plaza
sponsored by the
Manhattan Ministers Association
30 minute service followed by lunch

<i>March 1</i>	Fill the Breadbasket 12:00 Music Committee
<i>March 4</i>	11:30 Lunch Bunch 7:00 Board Meetings
<i>March 9</i>	12:00 Newsletter Deadline
<i>March 17</i>	7:00 PFLAG Meeting
<i>March 22</i>	One Great Hour of Sharing
<i>March 23</i>	12:00 Newsletter Deadline
<i>March 24</i>	6:30 Cinema & Soul: <i>King Corn</i>
<i>March 25</i>	6:00 Vitality Team Meeting 7:30 Cabinet Meeting
<i>March 28</i>	10:00 North Central Association Spring Meeting