



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 59 Number 10

October 2015

Sunday School at 9:30 A.M.
Sunday Worship at 10:45 A.M.
Second Helping Dinner at 5:15 P.M.
Thursday Evening Taizé at 7:00 P.M.

700 Poyntz Avenue
Manhattan, Kansas 66502
telephone 785-537-7006
www.uccmanhattan.org

“A Future with Hope”

I could tell you dozens of things I have learned about First Congregational UCC since coming here last June. For the purposes of this article, though, I want to highlight three:

- 1) **We are bold.** (We aren't afraid to stand for justice. We aren't afraid to share a laugh. We enjoy speaking up and proclaiming the Good News of God's radical hospitality to all.)
- 2) **We are generous.** (When a need arises, we find a way to meet it. We give joyfully of our time and money to the Second Helping. We share our space gladly with the community.)
- 3) **We are not overly anxious about money.** (We don't have four-hour-long conversations about tiny expenditures. We operate from a mindset of abundance. We trust that we can work together creatively with the Holy Spirit to live into our mission.)

Wow. Can I just say WOW? Those three things are huge. They are a key part of why people in Manhattan are finding their way to us and deciding to stick around. In the past year, we've seen our average worship attendance move from around 70 to 90. We have new guests with us almost every single week. We are growing because we have Good News to share with the *[continued pg. 2]*



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people in the Manhattan area...and we are vibrant, alive, and excited about welcoming new people into our community so they can find what we've found here.

In a world filled with all kinds of Bad News, our congregation speaks boldly from a place of deep faithfulness. We share Good News with the world. For every Kim Davis who denies same-sex couples the right to marry, we are out there on the courthouse lawn cheering same-sex couples who want to be married. That's Good News. As racist microaggressions and acts of violence continue in our nation, we are trying our best to proclaim that Black Lives Matter. We are working to understand and dismantle racism when we host the Roots of Justice training this coming January. That's Good News. As government at every level draws inward and refuses to take seriously their job of caring for all people – especially the most vulnerable – we keep trying to find new ways to reach out to those who are living on the margins. The Second Helping is Good News that happens every single week. And as people who are transgender suffer from discrimination and violence at alarming rates, we keep trying to love louder. When TransKansas happened here a few weeks ago? It was GOOD NEWS.

It's an amazing thing, watching the Spirit move in this place. One of the things I often get to see that you may not is the number of people who, quite literally, weep with joy upon discovering we exist. They are finding the Spirit of Christ alive and well here...and they are thankful.

This month, we'll be hearing from some of our members as we participate in our annual Stewardship Campaign. The Stewardship Committee will be contacting all of us and asking us to prayerfully consider our financial support of this congregation. The theme of our Stewardship Campaign, "Trust in the Promise," comes from the Book of Jeremiah, "For surely I know the plans I have for you...to give you a future with hope."

I have no doubt that God has big plans for First Congregational UCC. Our future is filled with hope and it is an absolute joy to live into God's big dreams together. Thank you for your careful consideration of the Stewardship Committee's request this month as we all prayerfully consider what we may be called to give in the coming year.

Pastor Caela

Sharing and Caring

Prayers and Concerns

- For more information, please contact the church office at 537-7006 or office@uccmanhattan.org.

Thank You

- In behalf of the students, staff and directors of the Ecumenical Campus Ministry (ECM) at K-State, I want to thank those from First Congregational Church UCC who came out to celebrate the dedication of our new building on Sunday, Sept. 20, those who provided cookies and prayers for the occasion, and Pastor Caela for her presence and participation in the service. And a special thank you to David Wood for taking pictures! It was a beautiful day and a service made especially meaningful by your support, encouragement and involvement. Thank you. *David Jones*

Helping

- **Need a ride to church?** Contact one of our transportation volunteers: Jim/Carolyn Hodgson, Bill Pallett, or Jeff Keller.
- **Home Communion Visits** The Deacons can bring communion to your home on the first Sunday of the month. Visits at other times can be arranged with the pastor.

Congratulations

Nathan McClendon was one of four MHS seniors named as a semifinalist for the National Merit Scholarship Program.

E-MAIL PRAYER CHAIN—If you wish to be added to the First Congregational e-mail prayer chain, please contact office@uccmanhattan.org. It is a quick and easy way to stay up to date with your church family.



Lunch Bunch October 7



Join the Women of the Church for Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, October 7 at McAllister's Deli (near Best Buy). It's not for women only—everyone is welcome to join us for lunch at 11:30 A.M. (See individual Lunch Bunch locations for the year by going to the church website at www.uccmanhattan.org and then clicking on Community Life/Events Calendar.)

Dinner Discussion

Join the Vitality Committee for our next dinner discussion on Friday, October 30 at 6:00 p.m. in Andover Hall. Leo Schell will be leading a discussion on the Big Band Era.

Future Dinner Discussion date: Wade Honey will present on the history of prosthetics in November. If you would like to lead a future Dinner Discussion, contact Julie Hunt.



October Mrunch

Our next Mrunch will be on October 3rd at 9:00 a.m. at Bluestem Bistro. Mrunch is a time for mothers of elementary age kids and younger (even if you are just expecting) to come and enjoy a peaceful supportive environment with other mothers in the same season of life. If you have questions or would like information on free childcare for this meeting, please contact Heidi Casto.

All Church Picnic

The Vitality committee invites you to our All Church Picnic on Sunday, October 25 at 3:00 p.m. at the Lazy Heart D Ranch (<http://lazyheartdranch.weebly.com>). Meet at the church at 2:30

p.m. to carpool, go directly to the ranch by 3:00 p.m. or just come for dinner at 4:30 p.m. We'll start our event with a hayride tour that lasts about 90 minutes to see the Easter egg chickens, review Ice Age history and the bison, touch hands-on bison artifacts and finally make a trip to the pasture to see/feed the bison.



After the tour, host Ed Dillinger will grill buffalo burgers and provide a fire pit for s'mores. Vitality will bring s'mores fixings, drinks and paper products. Church members should bring a side to share. The buffalo burgers cost \$2.50 per sandwich. Ed Dillinger does not charge a fee for the event, he just asks for a donation to the Wamego's Community Health Ministry, www.wamegochm.org. We will have a free will offering at the event.

There will be bales of hay to sit on during dinner, but some may prefer to bring their own lawn chairs.

To sign up, contact the office or write BISON on the attendance sheet at church. Please indicate how many are attending and the number of bison burgers you would like to order.

Contact information for the Ranch:

Ed and Susan Dillinger
17455 Pauling Run Road
Westmoreland, Kansas 66549
Phone: (785) 456-9465

We hope you will join us for this fun family event!

Ministers of Care

The First Congregational UCC Ministers of Care serve an important role in our congregation. They regularly visit and pray for those who are a part of our congregation but can no longer worship with us regularly on Sunday mornings. They also assist Pastor Caela in providing pastoral care on other occasions. Please hold our Ministers of Care in your prayers and thank them for their ministry. If you'd like to be involved, please contact Pastor Caela.

Ministers of Care: Jean Hill, Carolyn and Jim Hodgson, Wade Honey, Gretchen and Jim Lewis, Martha Miller, Dona Sidorfsky , Mary Ellen and Ralph Titus.

Where's Pastor Caela?

One of the great joys of my work is sitting down with many of you and people in our community on a regular basis over cups of coffee, boxes of Kleenex, or lunch. I am always available to get together to talk about what's happening in your life, share in a time of prayer, dream about the future, or support you as you do ministry here at the church and in the wider world. It works best if you can send me an email or call/text to set up a time to meet. And I always enjoy meeting your friends, too.

I am most-easily available for appointments Monday through Wednesday during the day, but am also able to make appointments at other times. On Thursdays, I am usually working off-site to prepare the sermon and worship. Fridays and Saturdays are my days off.

Now that the fall semester is in full swing, I am also back to my weekly "out-of-the-office hours" at Radina's in Aggieville. Stop by any Tuesday between 12:30-2:00pm to share in conversation or get a quick blessing. No appointment needed

Next Generation Leadership Initiative

Over the next few years, you'll hear Pastor Caela mention NGLI from time-to-time. The Next Generation Leadership Initiative ("NGLI" for short) is an exciting opportunity for our pastor and congregation to learn and grow. NGLI is a program of the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance through the UCC Pension Boards. The program seeks to honor and challenge young clergy who demonstrate significant potential, who have accepted the high calling to parish ministry, who view parish ministry as a career path, and who are willing to make a long-term commitment to service in congregational settings of the United Church of Christ.

As a participant in the program, Pastor Caela will be provided with advanced training to hone her skills and gifts in order to serve as a transformational leader. She will also have the opportunity to create a cohort of colleagues in which they can encourage and challenge one another, as well as reflect together on the life of a local church pastor in the twenty-first century.

On a practical level, this means that Pastor Caela will be gone two weeks per year to participate in NGLI events. The costs for these continuing education events are covered by the NGLI program and will not cost the church anything. You can expect to hear a lot of "well, when I was at NGLI we learned..." in the next four years. Pastor Caela joins three other young clergy in the K-O conference who are already a part of the NGLI program and applied for NGLI with the blessing of our Church Cabinet and Conference Minister.

Ministry of the Decorative Scissors

The next retreat of the Ministry of the Decorative Scissors will be from 4:00 p.m. on Friday, October 2 until 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 3, in Andover Hall. Everyone is welcome. There are no guarantees that you will complete any projects, but you will have fun and meet delightful people. Come for an hour or for the whole time! Feel free to bring a snack to share. For more information, contact Sue Gerth.



Youth Ministries

The Youth Group is looking forward to attending Annual Meeting Oct. 2-4. We have been meeting on Sunday evenings, trying to plan out what we want Youth Group to look like while having as much fun as possible. Our schedule will be a little strange in the coming month because we will be spending so much time at Annual Meeting and have hopes for October that may or may not be possible. However, here is the tentative schedule:

October 4: Annual Meeting! No Sunday School or Youth Group

October 11: May take week off after previous long weekend

October 18: Second Helping

October 25 or November 1: Camp White October

Fest/Haunted House if they'll let us

November 8: Going to see Guys & Dolls at the high school

November 15: Second Helping

November 22: Indigenous Day Meal and Movie Celebration

November 29: Thanksgiving Break

December 6: Christmas Party

December 13: Second Helping

December 20-27: Christmas Break

Church Night Continues

Join us Thursday evenings for dinner, adult Bible study, Taizé worship, and children's activities. Come for the whole evening or come for part of the evening. Church Night continues for all of October. It's helpful if you can please make a reservation for childcare and dinner by the Sunday before. You can sign up online (uccmanhattan.org/sign-ups) or by the kitchen.

5:30-6:30 Dinner

6:00-6:30 Children's Creative Activity with Barrett

6:30-7:30 Covenant Bible Study with Lesley

7:00-7:30ish Taizé Worship

Childcare available from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Christian Education

Acolyte Schedule

We have a large group of brand new acolytes that went through training in September. We do not have a formal schedule of acolytes and the current acolytes work on an informal rotation. If your child was recently trained to acolyte they can now begin assisting in the service. Once your child acolytes one week, please encourage your child to wait a few weeks before acolyting again in order to give everyone an opportunity. Barrett will also keep an eye out to make sure that everyone is rotating and getting the chance to acolyte. We would also like for there to be one "returning acolyte" (one of our older students who has done it often) to be partnered with a new acolyte for a while. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Barrett at children@uccmanhattan.org.

New Adult Sunday School Class Begins

Vietnam Conflict from Vietnamese and American Perspectives (Oct. 4-Nov. 15) – Kristin Mulready-Stone, a member of our congregation and Associate Professor of History at K-State, will lead a seven-week exploration of the Vietnam Conflict. We will have a chance to learn about the war in Vietnam from both sides, rather than solely the U.S. point-of-view most of us are probably more familiar with. Kristin will incorporate the history of imperialism in the region, as well as theological and social justice questions and observations.



MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, Oct. 16 7:30 p.m.

Popcorn, drinks, & other snacks! Drop off your kids and their friends for a fun evening. Hope to see you!

First Congregational UCC | 700 Poyntz

Blessings on our Annual Meeting Delegates

October 2-4, our delegates join with others from the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference of the United Church of Christ in Overland Park, KS for our Annual Meeting. They will complete the business of the conference, enjoy worship and fellowship, and participate in Sacred Conversations on Race led by the Rev. Da Vita McCallister from the Connecticut Conference. Please keep our delegates in your prayers, thank them for their service, and ask them how it went when they return!

Clergy Delegate: Caela Simmons Wood

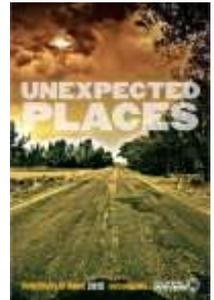
Lay Delegates: Courtney Keith and Kerri Keller

Youth Delegation: Didi Gamble, Tahji Gamble, Taylor Hicks, Nicki Keller, Zoe Pierson, Julianne Stone, and Meredith Stone.

Tai Amri Spann-Wilson will be attending with the youth delegation and Jeff Keller will be attending as a part of the Conference leadership.

Neighbors in Need

The Neighbors in Need offering, on October 4, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. The 2015 theme for NIN is "Unexpected Places" and connects to the work of the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM) and our denominational advocacy to address centuries of



injustice stemming from the Doctrine of Discovery. Historically, forebears of the UCC established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM. CAIM is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

Please give generously on October 4. Contributions to Neighbors in Need can be made on-line at any time at: www.ucc.org/nin

Volunteers! Volunteers! Volunteers!

Volunteers are the lifeblood of any church. Yes, First Congregational has some paid staff who do outstanding work, but another part of keeping the church moving forward is done by volunteers. Volunteers take care of the church grounds, unblock drains, represent the church at community events, serve meals of welcome and celebration, worry over the church budget, and generally take care of everything else that needs doing.

This year the Nominating Committee is not only encouraging First Congregational members and friends to serve on boards and committees, but also we want to encourage every person in the congregation to be on one or more teams. A team would be an informal group, and its members might be called on once or twice a year to help with an activity or event related to the church.

Sample teams might be:

Hospitality/Cooking/Kitchen Crew (this team needs lots of members)

Social Justice

Community Service

Photography and Graphic Design

Community Events Participation (like Purple Power Play on Poyntz)

Financial Review

Crafts and Games Nights

Building Repairs/Troubleshooting

Second Helping Prep/Desserts

Children/Youth Activities

Please be thinking about whether you are called to serve on a board or committee, and also which teams represent your interests.

And because Nominating Committee celebrates volunteers, we heartily thank Andy Casto for volunteering to serve on Nominating Committee this year.

Peace,

Nominating Committee (Ann Smit, Brent Maner, Andy Casto)

Cobb Corner — Going Green

“Poor innocent little creatures, if you were reasoning beings and could speak, you would curse us. For we are the cause of your death, and what have you done to deserve it?” — Isaac, the Syrian, late 17th century, *The Green Bible*, I-101.

Last month Bill and I took a wonderful road trip through three scenic byways of Western Kansas. We visited incredible rock formations, Cheyenne Bottoms, Quivira Wildlife Refuge and several museums.

However, my most searing image is of thousands of acres devoted to stinking feedlots filled with doomed cattle. Even as we rationalize their deaths for our Big Macs, consider the consequences. According to the current issue of *Food and Water Watch*, U.S. cattle *every day* produce enough manure to fill the Empire State Building! That manure, laced with antibiotics, is creating antibiotic resistance even as it pollutes our air and water.

Moreover, “for every serving of beef we eat more than five pounds of greenhouse gasses are released into the environment.” Then, there is the impact on our water supply: “For animals, it is not just the water they drink, but also the water it takes to grow all the food they eat over their lifetime.” The number of gallons *per serving* is 464 for beef, 180 for pork, 130 for chicken! *Nutrition Action*, October, 2015, p.7. Then there are the health impacts, particularly of red meat, but more about that another time.

Maybe as one steakhouse put it “You can’t fake steak.” But as Christian stewards of this planet, is it too much for us to reduce the suffering and environmental costs associated with meat?

— Linda Richter

Share ideas for future Cobb columns with Linda Richter.

The Second Helping

Our Second Helping ministry continues to be a wonderful way in which our church extends its mission to the community of Manhattan. We regularly serve 25-35 people each week. Many of you have helped with this mission in a variety of ways, and that is much appreciated!



Currently we are hoping to add some more volunteers to our list of "regulars." We are particularly in need of individuals who would be willing to serve as Head Cook and Church Host. If you are interested in learning more about either of these positions, or volunteering in other ways, please contact Mary Ellen Barkley at office@uccmanhattan.org or 785-537-7006.

October 4, 2015

Dessert: Whetstone/Martinez

Volunteers: Ann Gleason, Kathy Bleam, Lukus Ebert, Haley Goranson

Chief Cook: Andy Barkley

Church Host: Mary Ellen Barkley

October 11, 2015

Dessert: Susanne Gilmore

Volunteers: Dress Barn crew, Ann Gleason

Chief Cook: Brent Maner

Church Host: Tracey Weston

October 18, 2015

Dessert: Kerri Keller

Volunteers: Kathy Bleam, Charlotte MacFarland, Haley Goranson,
1 volunteer needed

Chief Cook: Gretchen Lewis

Church Host: Jim Lewis

October 25, 2015

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: ESA sorority

Chief Cook: Ann Smit

Church Host: Dave Smit



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Worship & Volunteers

October 4, 2015

Greeters	<i>volunteers needed</i>
Scripture Reader	April Mason
Word for Children	Barrett Scroggs
Communion Servers	Judy Ahrens, Carrie Lewis, Stacy Shaffer
Fellowship Hour	Ann Smit
Flowers	Vanessa Kearns
Lawn Care	Bill Pallet (Oct 1-3)

October 11, 2015

Greeters	Susanne Gilmore, <i>volunteer needed</i>
Scripture Reader	Jim Lewis
Word for Children	Pastor Caela
Fellowship Hour	Greta Climenhaga
Flowers	Marcia McFarland
Lawn Care	<i>volunteer needed (Oct 8-10)</i>

October 18, 2015

Greeters	<i>volunteers needed</i>
Scripture Reader	Jonahtan Mertz
Word for Children	Pastor Caela
Fellowship Hour	Kristin Mulready-Stone
Flowers	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Lawn Care	<i>volunteer needed (Oct 15-17)</i>

October 25, 2015

Greeters	<i>volunteers needed</i>
Scripture Reader	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Word for Children	Barrett Scroggs
Fellowship Hour	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Flowers	Greta Climenhaga
Lawn Care	David Wood (Oct 22-24)

**Volunteer by going to
uccmanhattan.org/sign-ups**



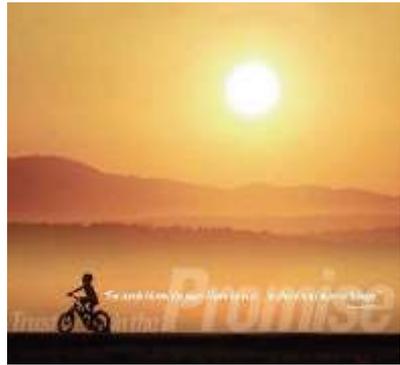
CROP Walk

Many thanks to all who walked or donated to the annual CROP Walk. There's still time to support CROP. Log onto cropwalk.org to make a donation.

Stewardship Sunday: November 1

Watch for a stewardship mailing the week of October 11 and join us on November 1 for Stewardship Sunday.

“For surely I know the plans I have for you...to give you a future with hope.” Jeremiah 29:11



Mission Statement

The Mission of First Congregational United Church of Christ is

- To love and accept others unconditionally as God loves and accepts us, and by example, to encourage others to do the same.
- To challenge ourselves to grow spiritually through worship, education, nurture, reflection, discussion, fellowship, and outreach.
- To minister to others locally, nationally, and globally with the same fervor as we minister to ourselves, through the sharing of our talents, gifts, and resources.

We hold ourselves accountable before God for this mission statement.

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

700 Poyntz Avenue
Manhattan, KS 66502

(785) 537-7006

uccmanhattan.org



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Return Service Requested

CALENDAR ON FOLLOWING PAGE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>October</h1>		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>*Thursday Church Night: 5:30-6:30 Dinner 6:00-6:30 Children's Activity (ages 3+) 6:00-7:30 Childcare 6:30-7:30 Covenant Bible Study 7:00-7:30 Taizé Worship</p> </div>		1	2	3 9:00 Mrunch ---- K-O Annual Meeting ----
				Ministry of the Decorative Scissors		
4 Neighbors in Need 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship & Communion <i>Fill the Bread Basket</i> 5:15 Second Helping	5 6:45 Timeless A Cappella	6	7 11:30 Lunch Bunch 3:45 Common Table meeting 7:00 Board Meetings 7:00 AA meeting	8 Church Night* 7:00 Taizé	9 Office Closed	10
11 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 5:15 Second Helping	12 5:00 AAUW dinner meeting 5:15 Yoga 6:45 Timeless A Cappella	13	14 6:30 CE Board 7:00 Vitality & Outreach 7:00 AA meeting	15 Church Night* 7:00 Taizé	16 7:30 Movie Night	17
18 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 5:15 Second Helping	19 5:15 Yoga 6:45 Timeless A Cappella 7:00 MLK Jr. Mem. Comm.	20 10:00 N.C. Area Clergy Mtg	21 7:00 Cabinet Mtg 7:00 AA meeting	22 Church Night* 7:00 Taizé	23 12:00 Newsletter Deadline	24 Clarke/Davis wedding
25 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 3:00 Bison Ranch Tour/Picnic 5:15 Second Helping	26 5:15 Yoga 6:45 Timeless A Cappella	27	28 7:00 AA meeting	29 Church Night* 7:00 Taizé	30 6:00 Dinner Discussion	31