



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 58 Number 11

November 2014

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](http://www.uccmanhattan.org)

## Giving Money is Not Like My Crock Pot

A few years ago our Crock Pot broke and we decided to buy a new one. We discovered that a few things had changed since the 20th century, which is when we had previously purchased a Crock Pot. One of the cool new features we could opt into was a “set it and forget it” temperature-timer system. We can tell our newfangled Crock Pot to cook at a set amount of time at a set temperature. It’s pretty great.

Recently I was a part of an online conversation with some of my UCC clergy colleagues about how we each determine how much we give. It’s Stewardship season in many churches and pastors also spend time in prayer and discernment as they fill out their pledge cards. What I was reminded of in that conversation is that giving money is not like my Crock Pot. It’s not a “set it and forget it” kind of thing. It changes over time. Many folks are learning to give for the first time. Others are dealing with major financial transitions like the birth of a child, *[continued pg. 2]*



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a job loss, going back to school, graduating from a degree program, retirement, the loss of a partner or spouse....with all of these transitions comes the question, "What can I give now?" But even without these major financial transitions, I think it's a good thing to truly engage with that question, "What can I give now?" on a regular basis. In the church, our annual budgeting process leads us to ask people to think about this once a year. But once a year feels about right to me, too, in terms of thinking about my own giving. It's a chance to ask myself, "How is my giving transforming the world in a positive way? How am I living into my covenant with my church through my financial giving? Might I be called to consider increasing my giving this year by a percentage or two of my income? Do I notice what I've given away....is it substantial enough that it's a bit of a challenge to stay committed at this level?"

And the bigger questions, for me, relate to how my giving transforms my own life and spirit: "How is my giving re-shaping my attitudes about money? Is my giving a spiritual practice that reminds me of who and whose I am? Does my giving reflect Jesus Christ and his attitudes about money?"

This is the time of the year when you are invited to sit with these questions. It can be kind of difficult, I know. But considering our financial giving is a lot like other things in life, I think: we get out of it what we put into it. It's a challenge, but what we gain from the experience is rewarding. As we prepare to make our pledges on November 9<sup>th</sup>, I would encourage you to remember you are not alone in pondering these questions. There are upcoming short prayer sessions where you can gather with others from the congregation to spend time in prayer and contemplation around these concerns....and I am also more than happy to meet with you privately or simply keep you in my daily prayers. Just be in touch.

Pastor Caela

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Caela". The ink is dark and the writing is fluid and personal.

## Sharing and Caring

### *Prayers and Concerns*

For more information, please contact the church office at 537-7006 or [office@uccmanhattan.org](mailto:office@uccmanhattan.org).

### *Congratualtions*

- Manhattan High School student **Kyle Weston** is among those named Commended Students in the 2015 National Merit Scholarship program.

### *Thanks*

- On behalf of the First United Methodist Church Mission Committee, thank you for your leadership and energy in making the Fall 2014 edition of Change the World a success. We completed 45 projects. By working together, we can accomplish much. And, in volunteering to share our time and talents, I believe that we also grow as individuals and as a community. We look forward to future opportunities to collaborate.

– *Nancy Peterson, FUMC Mission Committee*

### *Helping*

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

**Daylight Saving Time Ends on  
Sunday, November 2. Remember to  
set your clocks back one hour**



**Saturday night. Enjoy an extra hour of sleep!**

## **Congregational Meeting Sunday, Nov. 16**

We will preview the budget and membership on boards and committees for 2015 at our congregational meeting. Please join us after worship on Sunday, Nov. 16 for this important planning event.

## **Lunch Bunch November 5**

Join the Women of the Church for Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, November 5 at the Huhot Mongolian Grill (Manhattan Town Center). It's not for women only—everyone is welcome to join us for lunch at 11:30 A.M.



## ***E-MAIL PRAYER CHAIN***

If you wish to be added to the First Congregational e-mail prayer chain, please contact [office@uccmanhattan.org](mailto:office@uccmanhattan.org). It is a quick and easy way to stay up to date with your church family.



*History of First Congregational*

## *What does it mean to be UCC?*

*Visits from our conference  
minister and UCC seminarian*

# Getting to Know UCC



**Six-Week Adult Sunday School**  
**9:30 a.m.**  
**Oct. 19 – Nov. 23**

First Congregational UCC | 700 Poyntz  
Manhattan, KS | [uccmanhattan.org](http://uccmanhattan.org)

## Upcoming Adult Sunday School Offerings

**GETTING TO KNOW UCC** – Youth and adults are invited to join us Oct. 19 through Nov. 23 in Pioneer-Blachly Halls. We will spend a few weeks exploring the United Church of Christ denomination; a few weeks learning about the history of First Congregational here in Manhattan; a week visiting with our conference minister, Edith Guffey; and a week Skyping with Sean Weston, who is currently in his first semester at Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

**ADVENT CONSPIRACY** – “Advent Conspiracy is an international movement restoring the scandal of Christmas by substituting compassion for consumption.” Go ahead, read it again. That’s right, they said “the scandal of Christmas.” If you struggle with feeling exhausted by the time you get to Christmas. If you long to reconnect more deeply to the story of Christ’s birth. If you just feel like Christmas is somehow “off” and wish you could get back on track. If you grow weary of feeling like Christmas is a burden rather than a gift...this class is for you. Join us for the four Sundays of Advent at 9:30 a.m. (Nov. 30 – Dec. 21). There is a book that goes with the course, but you don’t have to read it to participate. We will purchase some copies via Amazon before the class begins, so please notify the office by Nov. 19 if you’d like us to order one for you. You can learn more about the movement at [adventconspiracy.org](http://adventconspiracy.org).

### *Poinsettias*

The Advent season brings the opportunity for you to provide poinsettias in memory of or in honor of someone important to you as we decorate the church for Advent and Christmas. The cost to donate Poinsettias is \$10.00 per plant. Please complete the enclosed form and return it to the church office with your check made out to “First Congregational UCC.”



## Christian Education

### Christmas Pageant Planning

It's hard to believe but it's already time to start thinking about the annual Christmas Pageant! This year the kids (Pre-k through 6th grades) will be presenting the musical, *Star of Wonder*. In the play you'll meet such bright luminaries as Superstar, Shooting Star, Lucky Star, Falling Star, Rock Star, the North Star and a constellation full of stars as they anxiously wait for the big announcement—the birth of Jesus! We will be rehearsing the play during Sunday School beginning Sunday, November 9th. The Christmas pageant will be performed during the 10:45 service on Sunday, December 14th. If your child has an interest in being a part of the show please make sure that they are in Sunday school during November and December! Any questions? Contact Barrett Scroggs at [CEDirector@uccmanhattan.org](mailto:CEDirector@uccmanhattan.org).

– Barrett Scroggs



## Youth Group

### Youth Group Schedule

Nov 2	7:00 – Movie
Nov 9	3:30 – 2nd Helping
Nov 16	7:00 – Bowling/Pool at K-State Union
Nov 23	7:00 – Movie
Dec 7	3:30 – 2nd Helping
Dec 14	7:00 – Christmas Party/White Elephant Gift Exchange
Dec 21	No Youth Group
Dec 28	No Youth Group

# Save the Date, Invite a Friend – Advent Events at First Congregational

**Nov. 9 – Dec. 14** – Children rehearse for pageant at 9:30 a.m. each  
Sunday

**Sunday, Dec. 7** – Brass join us for worship

**Sunday, Dec. 14** – Children’s Christmas pageant “Star of  
Wonder” in worship

**Sunday, Dec. 14** at 8:00 p.m. – Blue Christmas service, including  
Worldwide Compassionate Friends Candlelighting Service  
for those who have lost children

**Sunday, Dec. 21** – Lessons and Carols during worship

**Sunday, Dec. 24** at 7:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve worship

**What is Blue Christmas?** Christmas is not a happy time for everyone. A Blue Christmas worship service is a more subdued service designed for those who experience the Christmas season as painful, sad, or difficult. We will also be participating in the Compassionate Friends Worldwide Candle lighting during our Blue Christmas worship. This international movement is a time for parents who have lost children to light a candle and receive the support of the gathered community.



# First Christian Church to make a donation to Second Helping

The First Christian Church has pledged \$500 to assist our Second Helping community meal mission meet expenses for 2014. Conversations with Pastor Paul Allen at First Christian Church alerted him to the fact that the number of guests being served at Second Helping has increased substantially in 2014 and that the Second Helping food expenses are larger than the budget. The Mission Board at First Christian Church had expressed an interest in becoming more involved with Second Helping this summer. The \$500 donation is a much needed and greatly appreciated show of support. First Christian Church is located on Humboldt St. next to the courthouse here in Manhattan. We look forward to a continuing relationship with First Christian Church and the Second Helping mission and thank them for their generosity.

## Church Recycling

by Tim Keane



Foil wrappers of peppermint candies  
waxed paper that once held 'band-aids'  
folded 'tin-foil' mixed with the 'tin cans'  
I guess that makes sense, in a way?

Plastic is plastic, is it not?  
why should it need separation?  
To read those little triangular numbers  
seems but a needless frustration

The Lord must surely recycle  
but I'll bet he sorts trash from what's not  
So please do the same for what you bring to the church  
so I can best use the time that I've got

# Ministry of the Decorative Scissors

The next retreat of the Ministry of the Decorative Scissors will be held from 6 p.m. on Friday, November 7, until 7 p.m. on Saturday, November 8, in Andover Hall. We'll break at midnight on Friday to go home and get a good night's rest but start up again Saturday morning at 7:00 a.m. We welcome everyone to come and experience a joy-filled time for crafting, eating, and laughing. Bring your UFOs (UnFinished Objects) and work on them in an atmosphere of fellowship. We do not guarantee that you will complete any projects, but you will have fun and meet delightful people. Come for an hour or for all 25! Feel free to bring a snack to share. For more information, contact Sue Gerth.



## \$hop \$mart News!

It **PAYS** to shop at Dillons, Hy-Vee, and Ray's. By using the "reloadable" gift cards from Dillons alone we have earned a bonus of over \$2000 in 2014. And now – in response to conversations with Alfred Cochran – **Hy-Vee grocery store is offering its gift cards to local churches at a discount of 6% instead of the previous 4%! Many thanks to Hy-Vee for this new decision.**

If your household makes special meals for the winter holidays, consider using a First Congregational grocery card at your favorite grocery store.

Thanks to all who participate in the \$hop \$mart program.

## \$hop \$mart Grocery Cards

**RELOADABLE - Gift Card for Dillon's!** Purchase the cards after worship on Sunday morning. You can add to your card in any amount up to \$500.00 at your favorite Dillon's checkout stand. **Important:** To add to your card you may use cash, check, or credit card; but this must be done in a **SEPARATE** transaction **BEFORE** making purchases at the checkout counter. The church will receive a 5% rebate on all covered purchases!! Gift cards are also available for HyVee and Ray's Apple Market.



Our Vitality and Outreach Committee invites you to join the wider community in celebrating love in its many forms at

## The Wedding Party

**November 21st**  
**7:00-9:00 p.m.**  
**Pioneer/Blachly Halls**



Gay or straight, married or single, 2 or 92 come enjoy an evening of music, dancing, and cake! We are hoping that by late November, same-sex couples will be marrying in Kansas. We are inviting local couples who are recently-married to bring their friends and join us for a party.

We will have danceable tunes spun by our own DJ, Paul Hunt, interspersed with live singing by Rachel Hunt. Come prepared to dance or just sit and enjoy the conversation.



## Cobb Corner — Going Green

*“There is no such thing as ...throwing anything ‘away’ in an interconnected universe. What goes around whether ...a pollutant or something spiritual ultimately comes around. This is the character of God’s world.”*

— I-55, The Green Bible

November is the month when you find out how many Richter trash pickups there have been this year: 4!! Thanks to Howie’s recycling plastics 1-7, we’ve upped our game and saved \$215 over weekly pickups. We also saved 48 early a.m. trash trips to the curb.

This month many over 70 are dealing with required withdrawals from their retirement accounts. You might want to join national UCC by disinvesting in dirty fuels. As October 2014 Audubon notes, “If you own fossil fuel companies, you own climate change and all the problems it’s going to create.”

When you’re at the animal shelter to bring supplies or pick up a beloved new family member, look at the picture of our own Nikki Keller and friends recognized for their efforts to help the animals. Last week we decided to check out the shelter dogs. One little dog came up to the edge of his pen wagging his tail furiously, sat down primly and looked up at us with loving eyes. We stopped and talked to him and then moved on. At which, he howled most desperately. He’d tried so hard to be adopted and it hadn’t worked. Anyone ready for some unconditional love? We know the place.

Finally, November 29 is Fur-Free Friday! Some know it as Black Friday, which it certainly is for creatures that end up as coats, collars, and trim. There are better non-fur alternatives for warmth and fur looks much better on its owners than it does on us!

— Linda Richter

*Share ideas for future Cobb columns with Linda Richter.*

A promotional poster for a movie night event. The background features a red theater curtain. The text is white and yellow. At the bottom right, there is a large, overflowing bucket of popcorn.

**MOVIE NIGHT**

**Friday, November 21 7:30 p.m.**  
Popcorn, drinks, other snacks and more will be provided.  
Drop off your kids and their friends for a fun evening.  
Hope to see you!

First Congregational UCC | 700 Coyntz | Manhattan, KS  
uccmanhattan.org

# 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 the church office at [office@uccmanhattan.org](mailto:office@uccmanhattan.org) or (785) 537-7006.

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## ***November 2, 2014***

**Dessert:** *volunteer needed*

**Volunteers:** Jenna Pelter, Lisa Junghans, 1 *volunteer needed*

**Chief Cook:** Andy Barkley

**Church Host:** Mary Ellen Barkley

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## ***November 9, 2014***

**Dessert:** *volunteer needed*

**Volunteers:** First Congregational Youth Group

**Chief Cook:** Mary Ellen Titus

**Church Host:** Ralph Titus

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## ***November 16, 2014***

**Dessert:** *volunteer needed*

**Volunteers:** Lisa Junghans, Kathy Bleam, Joy Schell, 1 *volunteer needed*

**Chief Cook:** Gretchen Lewis

**Church Host:** Jim Lewis

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## ***November 23, 2014***

**Dessert:** *volunteer needed*

**Volunteers:** ESA Sorority

**Chief Cook:** Ann Smit

**Church Host:** Dave Smit

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## ***November 30, 2014***

**Dessert:** *volunteer needed*

**Volunteers:** Kathy Bleam, 3 *volunteers needed*

**Chief Cook:** Myles Alexander

**Church Host:** Pastor Caela

## Worship & Volunteers

### November 2, 2014

<b>Greeters</b> .....	Stacy Shaffer, Joy Schell
<b>Scripture Reader</b> .....	Sue Zschoche
<b>Word for Children</b> ....	Caela Simmons Wood
<b>Fellowship Hour</b> .....	Joy Schell
<b>Flowers</b> .....	Mary Ellen Titus
<b>Snow Removal</b> .....	<i>volunteer needed (Oct 30-Nov 1)</i>

### November 9, 2014

<b>Greeters</b> .....	Carolyn Hodgson, Steve & Rebecca Bishop
<b>Scripture Reader</b> .....	Meredith Stone
<b>Word for Children</b> ....	David Smit
<b>Fellowship Hour</b> .....	Gladys Hanna-White
<b>Flowers</b> .....	Virginia Bigbee and Jean Hill
<b>Snow Removal</b> .....	<i>volunteer needed (Nov 6-8)</i>

### November 16, 2014

<b>Greeters</b> .....	Barbara Crooks, Judy Ahrens
<b>Scripture Reader</b> .....	Barbara Crooks
<b>Word for Children</b> ....	Caela Simmons Wood
<b>Fellowship Hour</b> .....	Kristin Mulready-Stone
<b>Flowers</b> .....	Sharon Keane
<b>Snow Removal</b> .....	<i>volunteer needed (Nov 13-15)</i>

### November 23, 2014

<b>Greeters</b> .....	Carrie Lewis, Gina Davidson
<b>Scripture Reader</b> .....	Danielle Stone
<b>Word for Children</b> ....	Sarah Szopinski
<b>Fellowship Hour</b> .....	Keller Family
<b>Flowers</b> .....	Judy Ahrens
<b>Snow Removal</b> .....	<i>volunteer needed (Nov 20-22)</i>

### November 30, 2014

<b>Greeters</b> .....	Jenny Clark, Ben Clark
<b>Scripture Reader</b> .....	Dona Sidorfsky
<b>Word for Children</b> ....	Caela Simmons Wood
<b>Fellowship Hour</b> .....	<i>volunteer needed</i>
<b>Flowers</b> .....	<i>volunteer needed</i>
<b>Snow Removal</b> .....	<i>volunteer needed (Nov 27-29)</i>

To volunteer, contact the church office at 537-7006 or [office@uccmanhattan.org](mailto:office@uccmanhattan.org).

## Community News

### Manhattan Housing Repair Program

The City of Manhattan is pleased to announce that it has been awarded a grant from the Community Development Block Grant Program through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to assist low and moderate income homeowners in repairing their homes. Electrical, plumbing, heating, insulation, painting, windows, structural improvements, sidewalks and other activities will be considered including **emergency repairs**. Qualification for the Program is based upon applicant income and assets. Application packets are available at City Hall, 1101 Poyntz Ave. or on the city's website at [www.cityofmhk.com/housingrehab](http://www.cityofmhk.com/housingrehab).

## 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](http://uccmanhattan.org)



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U S POSTAGE  
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**Return Service Requested**

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

# November



						1
<p><b>2</b></p> <p>8:30 Choir Practice            9:30 Sunday School            10:45 Worship &amp; Communion  <i>Fill the bread basket</i>            5:15 Second Helping</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>5:15 Yoga</p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>11:30 Lunch Bunch            2:00 CoMN Table            3:30 Staff Meeting            7:00 Board Meetings</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>7:00 Taizé</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">             Ministry of the Decorative Scissors           </div>
<p><b>9 Stewardship Sunday</b></p> <p>8:30 Choir Practice            9:30 Sunday School            10:45 Worship            5:15 Second Helping</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>5:00 AAUW            Dinner            5:15 Yoga</p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>6:30 CE Board            7:00 Vitality &amp; Outreach</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>6:30 MAPJ mtg            7:00 Taizé</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>5:30 Wedding Rehearsal</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>5:30 Butler/Bedore Wedding</p>
<p><b>16</b></p> <p>8:30 Choir Practice            9:30 Sunday School            10:45 Worship  <b>Congregational Meeting</b>            5:15 Second Helping</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>5:15 Yoga</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>10:00 N.C. Area            Clergy Mtg            7:00 PFLAG</p>	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>7:00 Cabinet</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>12:00 Newsletter            Deadline            7:00 Taizé</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>7:00 The Wedding Party – hosted by Vitality &amp; Outreach            7:30 Movie Night</p>	<p><b>22</b></p>
<p><b>23 Reign of Christ</b></p> <p>8:30 Choir Practice            9:30 Sunday School            10:45 Worship            5:15 Second Helping</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>5:15 Yoga</p>	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b></p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p><b>Thanksgiving Day</b>            Office Closed</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>
<p><b>30 First Sunday of Advent</b></p> <p>8:30 Choir Practice            9:30 Sunday School            10:45 Worship            5:15 Second Helping</p>						