



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 60 Number 2

February 2016

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)

## Lengthen Your Connection to God this Lent

I recently started working with a personal trainer on campus. I had to give up my Crossfit career (hopefully not forever!) due to an injury this past fall. Since then, I've been working on stability and mobility... which means I've been doing a lot of yoga. At my first session with the trainer, I had to do one of those tests where you sit, stretch your legs in front of you, and then reach past your toes so they can measure how far you can stretch (answer for me: not very far). I'm hoping that, over time, my reach will lengthen as I continue to work on my flexibility.

It occurs to me that Lent is quite a lot like that little exercise of reaching past my toes. The word Lent actually comes from the word "lengthen." It's the time of the year when the days are getting longer (glory! rejoice!). Plants that appear to be dead are quietly preparing, beneath sleepy exteriors, to lengthen their roots and spring to life again soon after Easter. *[continued pg. 2]*



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Lent is about lengthening. It's about stretching ourselves, too. It's a time to lengthen our own roots more deeply into our faith. Traditionally, it's been a time of giving things up – not to punish ourselves, but to allow time and space for new ideas, commitments, ways of being to grow.

This year, we'll be moving into a sermon series called "Give it Up" during Lent. Together, we'll be exploring things God might want us to give up (you know, beyond chocolate cake) and what new practices might grow within us to replace the old ways of being. Some people from our congregation will be invited to give testimonies during worship on their own experiences of these practices.

There are many other ways for you to stretch and lengthen your faith a bit this Lenten season...whether that's signing up to serve at Second Helping for the first time, attending Taizé on Thursday on a regular basis, participating in our adult Sunday School class on *Being Mortal*, attending some of the Community Lenten Lunches, or simply making a commitment to being in worship each Sunday.

May the God of new growth be with us all as we seek to stretch and lengthen our connections to the Holy this Lent.

*Pastor Caela*

**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.



## Sharing and Caring

### *Prayers and Concern*

- For more information, please contact the church office.

### *Congratulations!*

Tai Amri Spann-Wilson was recently named a winner of this year's Langston Hughes Creative Writing Award. Co-sponsored by the Raven Book Store and the Lawrence Arts Center, the annual award B and its \$500 cash prize B is given to two writers who continue Hughes' tradition of portraying life experience through poetry and prose. A celebration and reading will be held in honor of the winners in the main auditorium of the Lawrence Arts Center, 940 New Hampshire St., at 7 p.m. Feb. 1, Hughes' birthday. A reception will follow in the Arts Center gallery.

### *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.

# From the Moderator

Friends, it is my pleasure to serve as your Moderator this year; my third time doing so, and I'm excited to work with you to advance the mission of our church. When I served in this capacity previously, I always wrote a short column for the newsletter, and with this note, I'll resume that practice. Frequently, to conclude those columns, I included a short phrase in Latin that was meaningful to me--hard to forget high school Latin! This time, I'm going to start with it: "ab uno disce omnes" (from one, learn all). This saying comes from Virgil's Aeneid, and it refers to situations where a single example or observation indicates a general or universal truth.

As we move through this new year, one that is sure to be, in Thomas Gray's words, "pregnant with celestial fire," we will be confronted with many opportunities and challenges. Some of these may test us uncomfortably and strenuously, while others hold the potential for us to grow in wonderfully new ways. In a sense, that set of challenges and opportunities is what each of us, including our church's committees and Cabinet, is looking toward in 2016. And, truth be told, we are each asking ourselves, "Will I be up to the tasks that lie ahead?" And isn't that one of the main reasons that we gather as a church community? For together, we are stronger than we are as individuals.

So, why have I chosen to share with you the phrase "ab uno disce omnes" (from one, learn all)? Well, that's what I'm working to prepare myself for this year, and I'd like to invite you to join me. My goal is that each day, I want my actions to reflect the best of what I purport to believe, the best of what we, as individuals, understand that our church stands for. Thus, when we interact with others, may it be so that they see and hear the very best of us demonstrated through our actions and words.

Ab uno disce omnes.

*Alfred*



## A Big Birthday

One of our members, Paul Young, is turning 100 on February 13<sup>th</sup>. You are invited to send cards and well-wishes to Paul.

## Free Money!

**Updates to our Dillons Fundraiser & Amazon Smile Reminder Important Information!** If you participate in our Dillons fundraiser, you must go to the Dillons website – [dillons.com](http://dillons.com) – and re-link your shopper's card to our church for 2016. You have to do this, even if you've done it in the past. If you've never used your Dillons shopper's card to raise funds for the church, it's easy! Just go to their website to link your card. If you need help, contact the church office. (Our organization number is #10145.)



\*\*You can double check your enrollment by checking the very bottom of your Dillons receipt. You should see "...donating to First Congregational UCC." If you don't, you still need to enroll.\*\*

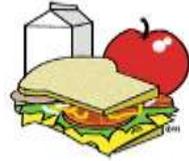
### **ALSO: A quick reminder about AmazonSmile.**

When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to First Congregational Church UCC. Bookmark this link – <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/48-0949129> – and support us every time you shop. Once you save First Congregational Church UCC as your AmazonSmile recipient, you will automatically benefit the church every time you at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).



## Lunch Bunch February 3

Join the Women of the Church for Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, February 3 at Carlos O'Kelly's (in the Mall). 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](http://www.uccmanhattan.org) and then clicking on Community Life/Events Calendar.)



## Ministry of the Decorative Scissors

The next retreat of the Ministry of the Decorative Scissors will be from 9:00 a.m. on Friday, February 12 until 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 13, 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.



## February Mrunch

Our next Mrunch will be on Saturday, February 6th, at 9:00 a.m. We'll be meeting at Amanda Tross' house. Childcare, provided by church nursery staff, will be available at the house. 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. For address information and/or if you have questions, please contact Heidi Casto.

## Financial Statements

2015 year-end financial statements are now being distributed. These statements provide a weekly detail of any fourth quarter giving and summary of total giving for 2015. Please review this report carefully as it serves as the audit of the accuracy of the Financial Secretary's records. If you have a question or concern, please leave a message at the church office (537-7006).

# Roots of Justice Wrap Up

A huge thank you to everyone who participated in our Roots of Justice Anti-Racism Training last month. It was an “all hands on deck” experience to plan such a large event. The 46 participants and three trainers had nothing but kind words of thanksgiving for our hospitality and we look forward to seeing what may come out of the training for our community.

We are thankful for those who were able to attend the training and look forward to learning from them: Andy & Mary Ellen Barkley, Emily Brueseke, Sue Gerth, Julie Hunt, Kerri Keller, Jim & Carolyn Hodgson, Marsha Tannehill, Victoria Banks, Andrew Konecny, Tracey Weston, and Kyle Weston.

And a huge thank you to all who helped behind-the-scenes with hospitality tasks – setting up meals, buying groceries, cleaning up, cooking, and more: Tom Ballowe, Patti Ballowe, Mary Ellen Barkley, Jenny Clark, Gina Davis, Jennifer Edwards, Jeff Feist, Jessica Haymaker, Jim Hodgson, Julie Hunt, Donna Keyser, Carrie Lewis, Gretchen Lewis, Brent Maner, Dave Manning, Mechelle Martinez, Sandy Nelson, Brett Parsons, Lauren Ritterbush, Joy Schell, Karen Shump, Linda Thurston, Mary Ellen Titus, Craig Weston, Tracey Weston, Rachel Whetstone, Judy Willingham.

Many area clergy also helped Pastor Caela with the set up and provided morning centering time for our participants. Thank you to the Rev. Justin Jamis of K-State Wesley, the Rev. Jonalu Johnstone of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, the Rev. David Jones of ECM, the Rev. Patrick McLaughlin of FUMC, and the Rev. Rachel Williams-Glenn of Bethel AME for your help.

# Lenten Services

Ash Wednesday is Feb. 10th - We will have a worship service here at First Congregational that evening at 6:30 p.m. It will be a quiet, contemplative service that includes the imposition of ashes. Ash Wednesday is a time to remember our mortality and to center ourselves as we begin the season of Lent. This period of 40 days plus Sundays before Easter is an ancient period of fasting and preparation for Holy Week and Easter. If you are unable to come to the service, you can also have ashes imposed by area clergy at "Ashes to Go." Watch the bulletin and Friday update for specific locations and times. There will likely be locations downtown, Aggieville, and on campus over the early morning, noon-hour, and late afternoon.

Community Lenten Luncheons (Feb. 17 – Mar. 23) - During the Lenten season the Manhattan Ministerial Alliance will be hosting Community Lenten Lunches at the First United Methodist Church. The theme is "When Real Faith meets Real Life." Each Wednesday Noon we will gather for a catered lunch in the church fellowship hall, followed by a 30-minute worship service. During each worship service we are inviting a leader in the Manhattan community to reflect upon the question, "How my Christian faith informs and guides my personal and professional life." Our list of speakers includes....Mayor Karen McCulloh, Dr. Steve Short, Coach Bill Snyder, State Representative Sydney Carlin, County Attorney Barry Wilkerson, and Manhattan High School Principal, Greg Hoyt.



# Lent at First Congregational UCC

Wednesday, Feb. 10

Ash Wednesday Worship 6:30 p.m.  
Ashes to Go with Area Clergy times vary

Sundays beginning Feb. 14

Being Mortal – Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
“Give it Up” - Sermon Series 10:45 a.m.

Wednesdays., beginning Feb. 17

Community Lenten Luncheons *at FUMC* Noon

Palm Sunday, Mar. 20

Palm Processional on Poyntz (City Park) 9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, Mar. 24

Maundy Thursday Meal & Worship 6:00 p.m.

Good Friday, Mar. 25

Good Friday w/First Christian & Bethel Noon, here

Holy Saturday, Mar. 26

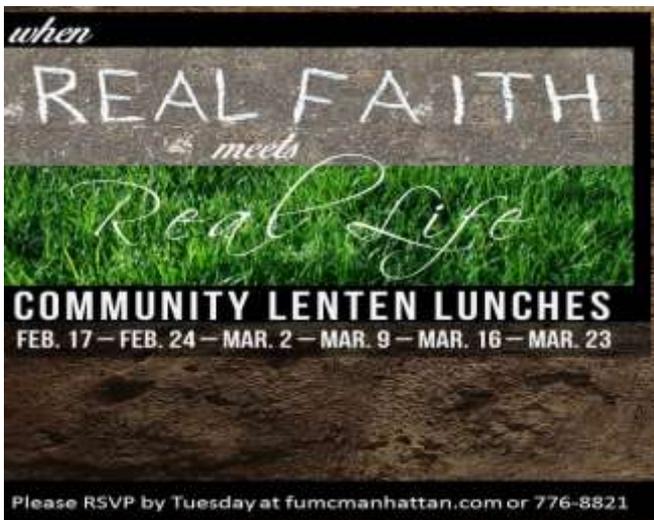
Paschal Fire at Sunset 7:44 p.m.

Easter Sunday, Mar. 27

Potluck Breakfast 9:30 a.m.

Festival Worship 10:45 a.m.

Egg Hunt Noon



# Children's Ministries updates

We have some exciting opportunities coming up for kids and their families. Kids of all ages are invited to join us for Sunday School each week from 9:30-10:30. There are two changes that are occurring:

- The PreK-1st grade class has continued to grow! They will now meet upstairs in the classroom (also used for Kids' Worship).
- The 5th graders will join the Youth Group Sunday School class led by our Director of Youth Ministries, Tai Amri.

Even though the 5th graders are moving up in Sunday School they are still invited to participate in Sacred Space each Sunday.

As the New Year begins we are also inviting any of our current 1st/2nd graders to join us in Sacred Space. They can continue to go to Kids' Worship or sit with you during worship, but if they would like they are welcome to join us in the balcony each Sunday.

## Youth Ministry

Happy New Year parents and youth! 2016 will see the expansion of youth Sunday school to include 5th graders and the National Youth Event in Orlando, Florida. Please look forward to more information about this special, once in a lifetime trip to serve justice, have fun, and meet UCC and Disciple of Christ youth from all around the world. For more information about Sunday School, please see below.

### **Still Speaking Youth! (For 5th-12th Grades)**

Join Tai Amri Spann-Wilson for Faith-Forming Activities, Conversations and Rituals that confirm that God is on the side of justice. We will be exploring practices created specifically so youth can grow into the leaders that God wants them to be. Our spiritual growth will be aided by the UCC Curriculum *Homegrown Faith & Justice*, and youth will grow to a deeper understanding of how Biblical scriptures support God's vision for a better world with books from the *Caffeine Youth Curriculum*. Come share your voice so we might know – like the young boy who shared his lunch with Jesus so that the 500 could be fed, like Joseph who helped keep alive a nation with his plans to feed all, and like the slave girl of the Old Testament who pointed the way to the Prophet Elisha—that our UCC Youth are Still Speaking.

## Adult Sunday School In February

**Play! (Jan. 24 - Feb. 7)** – Join Barrett in an exploration of both the spirituality of play and how we can all play in adulthood. We will be using James H. Evans Jr.'s book *Playing* which is a part of a larger series of books exploring the sacred in everyday activities. “Play is what you do, in a lighthearted way, for your own pleasure because you find it amusing somehow” (Erikson, 1998, p. 53). Play is spontaneous, lacks consequences (Colarusso, 1993) and “renews the psyche; like refreshing sleep” (Hoare, 2002, p. 118). Through this freedom participants can also experience the sacred in everyday life. Join us for discussion, storytelling and, of course, play.

**Lenten Study of Being Mortal by Atul Gawande (Feb. 14 - Mar. 13)** - Join Pastor Caela in a discussion of surgeon Atul Gawande's recent book, *Being Mortal*. From the publisher: "In his bestselling books, Atul Gawande, a practicing surgeon, has fearlessly revealed the struggles of his profession. Now he examines its ultimate limitations and failures – in his own practices as well as others’ – as life draws to a close. And he discovers how we can do better. He follows a hospice nurse on her rounds, a geriatrician in his clinic, and reformers turning nursing homes upside down. He finds people who show us how to have the hard conversations and how to ensure we never sacrifice what people really care about. Riveting, honest, and humane, *Being Mortal* shows that the ultimate goal is not a good death but a good life – all the way to the very end." | PRE-ORDER YOUR COPY BY MONDAY, FEB. 8

## Cobb Corner — Going Green

“Is God green? Did Jesus have anything to say about the environment? ... People are starting to ask ... are we killing our planet?” — *The Green Bible*, preface

Thirty years ago I used Al Gore’s book, *Earth in the Balance* in my Public Policy class. To some it seemed way too pessimistic; indeed, to most of the current Presidential candidates it would seem far-fetched. Gore’s argument and those of most scientists then was not absolute certainty of environmental doom, but the notion that it would be prudent to move quickly to mitigate likely risks – sort of the seatbelt theory of contingency planning.

If the worst didn’t happen, great. The alternative: Ignore risks and if the worst happens “oops.” The Maya and the Easter Islanders are but two of many groups who lost their bet with nature. We have currently many indigenous citizens of Alaska and Canada as well as island nations like the Maldives and Kiribati who are becoming environmental refugees through no fault of their own.

More recently I’ve been reading sobering articles and books that argue that the rest of us may have lost our bet with nature. How long the earth will be habitable differs among writers but many conclude it will be too short for us to find and transition to a “Goldilocks planet” like Earth was with the right temperature, oxygen and water.

To sample a few of the recent scientists, see the essays in the Fall 2015 issue of *Utne Reader*, called “Curtain Call.” It is available in the periodical room of the public library. A few factoids from the articles: (1) in 10 years population will peak at 8.2 billion, but in 100 years will be down to 300 million. (2) Half the earth’s topsoil has been lost in the last 50 years. (3) acidified oceans will eliminate saltwater fish by 2048. (4) In 2014, mathematicians funded by NASA predicted that without drastic reductions in global inequality and population growth, the collapse of civilization will be “difficult to avoid.” p.55.

I don’t know if these articles are unduly alarmist, but I do know the predictions scorned 30 years ago by some greatly underestimated the problem. Failure to mobilize political will then and now have only narrowed our options. Let’s pray we dramatically and immediately improve our protection of the earth in all its beauty and diversity. What steps will you take as a Christian, parent, citizen?

— *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 through the church office.

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## ***February 7, 2016***

**Dessert:** Linda Thurston

**Chief Cook:** Bob Atchison

**Church Host:** Pastor Caela

**Volunteers:** Manhattan Mennonite Church, Ann Gleason

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## ***February 14, 2016***

**Dessert:** Kerri Keller

**Chief Cook:** Andy Barkley

**Church Host:** Mary Ellen Barkley

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

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## ***February 21, 2016***

**Dessert:** Julie Appino

**Chief Cook:** Angela Hubler

**Church Host:** *volunteer needed*

**Volunteers:** Kathy Bleam, Cheyenne Helms & friend, *1 volunteer needed*

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## ***February 28, 2016***

**Dessert:** Jeff Feist

**Chief Cook:** Gretchen Lewis

**Church Host:** Jim Lewis

**Volunteers:** ESA sorority

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**Volunteer by going to  
[uccmanhattan.org/sign-ups](http://uccmanhattan.org/sign-ups)**

## Worship & Volunteers

### February 7, 2016

<b>Greeters</b> .....	<i>volunteers needed</i>
<b>Scripture Reader</b> .....	<i>volunteer needed</i>
<b>Word for Children</b> ....	Pastor Caela
<b>Fellowship Hour</b> .....	<i>volunteer needed</i>
<b>Flowers</b> .....	Ann Smit
<b>Snow Removal</b> .....	Brent Maner ( <i>Feb 1-7</i> )

### February 14, 2016

<b>Greeters</b> .....	<i>volunteers needed</i>
<b>Scripture Reader</b> .....	<i>volunteer needed</i>
<b>Word for Children</b> ....	Barrett Scroggs
<b>Fellowship Hour</b> .....	<i>volunteer needed</i>
<b>Flowers</b> .....	Mary Ellen Titus
<b>Snow Removal</b> .....	<i>volunteer needed (Feb 8-14)</i>

### February 21, 2016

<b>Greeters</b> .....	<i>volunteers needed</i>
<b>Scripture Reader</b> .....	<i>volunteer needed</i>
<b>Word for Children</b> ....	Pastor Caela
<b>Fellowship Hour</b> .....	<i>volunteer needed</i>
<b>Flowers</b> .....	Donna Keyser
<b>Snow Removal</b> .....	Dave Smit ( <i>Feb 15-21</i> )

### February 28, 2016

<b>Greeters</b> .....	<i>volunteers needed</i>
<b>Scripture Reader</b> .....	<i>volunteer needed</i>
<b>Word for Children</b> ....	Pastor Caela
<b>Fellowship Hour</b> .....	<i>volunteer needed</i>
<b>Flowers</b> .....	Judy Willingham
<b>Snow Removal</b> .....	Brad Logan ( <i>Feb 22-28</i> )

## Oops

If you picked up an early copy of the 2015 Annual Report note that the Financial Secretary's report was accidentally the 2014 report. Correct copies of the 2015 Annual Report are now being distributed.

# Phone Directory Update

Please help update the church phone directory with your current information:

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this information to the office via the pocket on the office door or via email: [office@uccmanhattan.org](mailto:office@uccmanhattan.org).

## Community News

### GriefShare

Are you dealing with the death of your spouse, a parent, grandparent, child, sibling or friend? Come to all or come to any of a series of meetings to help you cope, understand and heal through a program called *GriefShare*. Whether it's been one month or 10 years, *GriefShare* can help you heal from the loss of your loved one. Each week, the group watches a video seminar on a DVD with a discussion following. The first session is Tuesday, February 2, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Center of Seven Dolores church. In order to have enough workbooks, please call Rosie at the parish office to pre-register at 565-5000 or email her at [formation@sevendolores.com](mailto:formation@sevendolores.com).

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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

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



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MANHATTAN, KS 66502

**Return Service Requested**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
*First United Methodist Church	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 6:00 Living Positive	<b>3</b> 11:30 Lunch Bunch 3:00 Common Table mtg 7:00 Board Meetings 7:00 AA meeting	<b>4</b> 7:00 Taizé	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship & Communion <i>Fill the Breadbasket</i> 5:15 Second Helping	<b>8</b> 5:15 Yoga 6:45 Timeless A Cappella 7:00 MLK mtg	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b> 6:30 Service 7:00 CE Board mtg 7:00 Vitality mtg	<b>11</b> 7:00 Taizé	<b>12</b> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;">Ministry of the Decorative Scissors</div>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 5:15 Second Helping	<b>15</b> 5:15 Yoga 6:45 Timeless A Cappella 7:00 MLK mtg	<b>16</b> 10:00 N.C. Clergy Mtg.	<b>17</b> 12:00 Lenten Lunch & Worship @FUMC* 7:00 Cabinet meeting 7:00 AA meeting	<b>18</b> 7:00 Taizé	<b>19</b> 12:00 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 Movie Night	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 1:30 Private party 5:15 Second Helping	<b>22</b> 5:15 Yoga 6:45 Timeless A Cappella 7:30 AGO mtg	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 12:00 Lenten Lunch & Worship @FUMC* 7:00 AA meeting	<b>25</b> 7:00 Taizé	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 5:15 Second Helping	<b>29</b>	<b>February 2016</b>				