



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 60 Number 3

March 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.

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Manhattan, Kansas 66502
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Making Space for Holy Week

I'd like to invite you to get out your calendar – paper, smartphone, book, your brain, whatever you've got. Take a look at the week of March. 20-27. Yes, it's the week after Spring Break for those of you who might be affected by school calendars. Perhaps you've got a bunch of things scheduled – you're busy with this and that. Or maybe the week is completely open – you've got your daily routines that you'll settle into once it arrives, but nothing formally on the schedule.

Now, if it's not already marked, I encourage you to mark it: HOLY WEEK. This one week is actually the high point of the Christian year. I know, I know, Easter doesn't get as big of a buzz out there in the real world as Christmas, but in terms of the Christian tradition, Easter is most certainly the highest holy day of them all.

[continued pg. 2]



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I know that many of us did not grow up in settings that celebrated Holy Week. Perhaps you grew up in a church that didn't do much. Many of us didn't grow up in a church at all and are still trying to figure out what this whole Christian liturgical year is! And, of course, some of us DID grow up marking Holy Week...and we might have positive or negative association with those memories.

Here is what I have discovered over the years: Easter is a force. It is this amazing, mystical, celebration of renewal and new life that has the power (if I allow it) to resurrect my spirit in mighty and magnificent ways. But it seems to require preparation. If I'm just ho-humming about and then show up in church on March 27th and am taken by surprise ("Oh! It's Easter! Aren't the lilies pretty?") it's just not the same as actively and intentionally preparing myself for this event.

And so I invite you to look at Holy Week. Consider planning at least one thing you will do that week to walk into Jerusalem with Jesus. Will you be there on Palm Sunday to wave the branches and cheer his arrival? Will you join us on Maundy Thursday as we remember the last meal he shared with his friends? Perhaps you will come at Noon on Good Friday as we gather with other congregations to stare death in the face and remember Jesus's last moments. Maybe there's something intriguing about the idea of gathering at sunset on Holy Saturday to kindle a new flame in the darkness as we light and carry the Paschal Fire into our holy space together. Or maybe it's something else entirely. Whatever it is (and, gosh, I hope it's actually even more than one of these things) schedule it now. Write it down or make a personal commitment. You can find full details about Holy Week inside this month's newsletter or on our website at <http://www.uccmanhattan.org/holy-week>.

Easter comes only once a year. And in order to allow our souls to fully sing, dance, play, rejoice on Easter morning, we first must journey through that holiest of weeks together. I, for one, am thankful to have your company on the journey. Peace be with you as we continue through this Lenten season of reflection and realignment.

Pastor Caela

Sharing and Caring

Prayers and Concern

- For more information, please contact the church office.

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.

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.



Pastor Caela's Travels and Pastoral Care Coverage

Pastor Caela will be gone two times this month.

On March 1-3, she travels to Washington, D.C. at the invitation of the nation UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries D.C. office. Caela is one of two UCC pastors joining a larger, interfaith delegation. She will meet with congressional leaders to advocate for robust and humane foreign aid funding. If you are in need of pastoral care during this time, please contact the church office during the day or Stacy Shaffer, P.O. of Deacons, after hours. The Rev. Kati Collins from First Presbyterian Church is on call for our congregation.

During Spring Break (Mar. 13-19), Caela will be taking a week of vacation. The Rev. Jonalu Johnstone from the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is on call for any pastoral care concerns that may arise.

Pastor Caela's Office Hours and Out-Of-The-Office Hours

Pastor Caela keeps her own calendar, so if you'd like to get together the simplest thing is to e-mail, call, or text to set up a time. She also has weekly "out-of-the-office" hours on



Tuesdays from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Radina's in Aggieville. You can always stop by during that time to catch up, share a coffee, share a blessing, and feel free to bring a friend. Pastor Caela typically reserves Thursdays as her sermon and worship preparation days and keeps Fridays and Saturdays as her days off, so Mondays through Wednesdays are typically best for routine meetings.



Spring Ahead - Sunday, March 13 Daylight Saving Time begins.

Be sure to set your clock ahead one hour on Saturday night.

Lunch Bunch March 2

Join the Women of the Church for Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, March 2 at Meadowlark Hills (2121 Meadowlark). 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.)



Ministry of the Decorative Scissors

The next retreat of the Ministry of the Decorative Scissors will be from 9:00 a.m. on Friday, March 11 until 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 12, 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.



Dinner Discussion

A glimpse of First Congregational in the last 30 years

Vitality and Outreach will be kicking off the 2016 Dinner Discussion series with a look at our church's history. On March 11th at 6:00pm we will be having an open discussion about how our church operated and changed towards the end of the 20th century. Anyone with a story or memory to share will be greatly appreciated and welcome. If you don't have a story to share but just want to enjoy dinner and conversation make sure to attend. We will be recording this conversation to preserve historic value. Dinner will be provided.



From the Moderator

This month, I'd like to begin the process of sharing information about the standing committees of the church and its cabinet, and we'll begin with Christian Education. Following my comments, I've included a brief report from the presiding officer of Christian Education, Dale Stearns, to tell us more about this very important aspect of our church. When next you see Dale, or the other members of the committee, I hope you will engage them in conversation about this topic, about which they believe so strongly and for which they devote so much of their time and energy.

This month's Latin quotation is "sic parva magna," and it translates as "greatness from small beginnings." Our children come into the world so utterly helpless, and what a wonder it is to see their maturation into grounded adolescents and then thoughtful and hard working adults of whom we are so proud! In time, they take their rightful places beside us in society, and this on-going cycle represents so clearly the adage "sic parva magna"--greatness from small beginnings, and why we, as a church, believe so strongly that a solid program of Christian Education is essential. From a personal perspective, Mary Lee and I came to First Congregational Church after the birth of our first child. We wanted to make sure that she understood the Christian faith, as we perceived it, and we did quite a bit of church looking to find the right church home for our young family. After visiting First Congregational, we looked no more, and that's now over thirty years ago! Realizing the truth of "sic parva magna,"--greatness from small beginnings, our church is proud of its program of Christian Education. May it always be so.

Alfred

Spotlight: Board of Christian Education

The Board of Christian Education has 6 members for 2016. Dale Stearns serves as presiding officer and representative to Cabinet. Leslie Noble serves as Secretary. The other members include Bob Edwards, Wade Honey, Tabitha Goulette, and Rachel Whetstone. The Board meets the second Wednesday evening each month and receives reports from Pastor Caela, Barrett Scroggs,



Director of Children’s Ministries, and Tai Amri Spann-Wilson, Director of Youth Ministries.

Highlights in our education program include growth in the number of children attending our Pre-Kindergarten through First Grade Sunday School class. Amanda Tross, Sue Gerth and Paulicia Williams do a wonderful job teaching this class. The Adult Sunday School class has recently completed a series of lessons on play in our spiritual lives. Barrett led the class with very innovative activities. The current series of lessons is led by Pastor Caela using the Dr. Atul Gawande’s book, “Being Mortal.” The Kids’ Worship and Sacred Space continue to offer our children and youth very good opportunities for age appropriate worship activities. Members of our Youth Fellowship are considering participation in the United Church of Christ and Disciples of Christ National Youth Event this summer in Orlando, Florida. The K-O conference may be able to help with travel or registration expenses for our youth participants. Tai Amri is discussing this opportunity with the youth. There are challenges faced in our Christian Education program and the Board will seek improvements, but we are happy with the many good things that are currently happening.

One Great Hour of Sharing offering – March 6, 2016



In Ruth we read of the encounter between two refugees, Naomi and Ruth. Naomi is a refugee in Moab due to famine in Judah, and Ruth is a refugee due to patriarchal systems that rendered single women utterly vulnerable. Both Naomi and Ruth took refuge in Naomi’s land, and they survived such tumultuous transitions because each one gave the greatest gift: their very selves.

By participating in the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, we follow God’s command to love. Through this ministry we stand in solidarity with the most vulnerable. Through our giving, we as a Church stand in solidarity with refugees as they seek to rebuild their lives. Prayerfully consider your gift on March 6 to be part of this opportunity to reach out in love.

Lent and Holy Week at First Congregational UCC

Stay up to date at <http://www.uccmanhattan.org/lent>

Sundays beginning Feb. 14

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

Wednesdays, through March 23

Community Lenten Luncheons at <i>FUMC</i>	Noon
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Palm Sunday, Mar. 20

Palm Processional on Poyntz (City Park)	9:30 a.m.
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Maundy Thursday, Mar. 24

Maundy Thursday Meal & Worship	6:00 p.m.
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Good Friday, Mar. 25

Good Friday w/First Christian & Bethel	Noon, here
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Holy Saturday, Mar. 26

Paschal Fire at Sunset	7:44 p.m.
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Easter Sunday, Mar. 27

Potluck Breakfast	9:30 a.m.
Festival Worship	10:45 a.m.
Egg Hunt	Noon

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’s 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.

Palm Sunday – Gather with community members from the other downtown churches at 9:30 a.m. in City Park (near the shelter on Poyntz). We will share in music and process down Poyntz towards our churches. At each stop along the way, we’ll share a blessing

for the people of that congregation as they peel off to go to their own worship services. There will be no Sunday School that day (nursery care is still available) and our regular worship service will include a palm processional for our children at 10:45 a.m.

Maundy Thursday – “Maundy” comes from the same root as “mandate” and this holy day is the day we remember Jesus’s commandment to love and serve one another. We gather for a simple meal provided by the Deacons at 6:00 p.m. After we eat, we share prayer and singing together and remember Jesus’s last supper with his friends through the sharing of Holy Communion.

Good Friday – This year we will gather with friends from Bethel AME and First Christian Church in our sanctuary at Noon. Join us for a simple and contemplative worship service as we remember the day of Jesus’s death.

Holy Saturday Paschal Fire – Have you ever been to an Easter Vigil? It’s an ancient Christian tradition to gather in the darkness of night, light a new fire, and prepare for the morning to come. We will be doing our own (much shorter) take on Holy Saturday at sunset (7:44pm). Join us as we share in a simple liturgy together, kindle a Paschal Fire in front of the church, and then process this new light into our Sanctuary. We thank the Ministry of the Decorative Scissors for making our Paschal Candle, which will be re-lit throughout the coming year at baptisms and funerals as we remember the promise of God’s unending Easter love.

Easter – Our morning is filled with a lot of exciting activities.

9:30 a.m.: Potluck Breakfast. The Vitality committee is sponsoring a potluck breakfast. All are invited. Please feel free to bring a dish to share.

10:45 a.m.: Easter Worship. Join us as we celebrate together. We are excited to announce that we will have brass in worship that morning. Also, all who are able to access the balcony easily are invited to consider sitting above to make more room for our guests.

12:00 p.m.: Easter egg hunt. Children of all ages are invited to participate in our egg hunt directly following worship. Children are invited to bring their baskets if they prefer. We will have bags for children to use for the hunt as well.



Adult Education

Stay up to date at <http://www.uccmanhattan.org/adult-education>

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."

No Adult Sunday School on Mar. 20 (Palm Sunday Processional at City Park) or Mar. 27 (Easter Breakfast Potluck).

Blue Earth: Home of the Kanza 1790-1829 (Apr. 3) - Although many know that our state is named for the Kanza (Kansa or Kaw) Indians, few are familiar with their history. After migrating from the east more than 300 years ago, the Kanza made their home along the Missouri River in present-day northeastern Kansas. By 1790, they moved their settlement westward and established a village near what is now our own community. Blue Earth village served as seasonal home for the tribe for roughly 35 years. This was an important period in Kanza culture history as its later years and abandonment were marked by major changes in the cultural dynamics of the region. Youth and adults are invited to join K-State Associate Professor of Archaeology Lauren Ritterbush for this one-day presentation in the Holywood Theatre.

Cobb Corner — Going Green

“As the Lord keeps and sustains us, so we must keep and sustain our Lord’s creation ” — Genesis 2:15. *The Green Bible*, 1-28.

When I was a kid I used to give up ketchup for Lent. I couldn’t imagine a bigger sacrifice. But rather than not doing something, how about doing some positive actions this year? I realize Lent is well underway, but if you aren’t doing anything special, here are a few ideas for you and our earth:

1. RECYCLE! Now that more people are shopping Parmesan-line there is a new crisis in cardboard trash. Add plastic, food waste and other refuse crises and we need to do more NOW.

2. Try for meatless Mondays and some other days. Calling foods what they are may make it easier:

Pig strips, cow slices, heifer crumbles and baby cow parmesan may dampen your cravings. True, Jesus does mention sacrificing the fatted calf but only on special occasions like the return of the prodigal son, not as a part of lunch at McDonald’s. Think such hardship doesn’t matter much?

“If Americans gave up meat one day a week, they would save an amount equivalent to the entire flow of the Colorado River each year.”(*The Atlantic*, March 2016, p. 90). Add transport pollution savings, reduced cholesterol and cost to yourself and you’ve got a whopper of a deal!

3. Consider committing to spending an extra hour or two outside each week, off the grid and away from screens – walking, picking up trash, visiting the zoo’s new tigers and baby maned wolf, strolling the linear trails, or visiting nearby lakes. Research shows it is good for one’s health and reminds us that we are part of nature and that it is not just background for our selfie sticks!

4. Encourage children to participate in each of these activities and to think of how best to protect and appreciate our world.

Hopefully, what starts as ways of observing Lent will carry us on to Earth Day (April 22) and before you know it, we have acquired some positive habits of caring for God’s creations.

— 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.

March 6, 2016

Dessert: Ann Smit

Volunteers: Ann Gleason, Carolyn & Jim Hodgson, Kathy Bleam,
1 volunteer needed

Chief Cook: Brent Maner

Church Host: Susanne Gilmore

March 13, 2016

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: Manhattan Mennonite Church, Ann Gleason

Chief Cook: Karen Franz

Church Host: Jeff Feist

March 20, 2016

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: Kathy Bleam, Youth Group (lunches), *2 volunteers needed*

Chief Cook: Gretchen Lewis

Church Host: Jim Lewis

March 27, 2016

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: ESA sorority

Chief Cook: Andy Barkley

Church Host: Mary Ellen Barkley

Volunteer by going to
uccmanhattan.org/sign-ups

Worship & Volunteers

March 6, 2016

Greeters	<i>volunteers needed</i>
Scripture Reader	Paulicia Williams
Word for Children	Barrett Scroggs
Fellowship Hour	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Flowers	Judy Willingham
Snow Removal	Knick Knicklebein (<i>Feb 29-Mar 6</i>)

March 13, 2016

Greeters	<i>volunteers needed</i>
Scripture Reader	Brett Parsons
Word for Children	Pastor Caela
Fellowship Hour	Kathy Blead
Flowers	Judy Willingham
Snow Removal	Dave Smit (<i>Mar 7-13</i>)

March 20, 2016

Greeters	<i>volunteers needed</i>
Scripture Reader	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Word for Children	Barrett Scroggs
Fellowship Hour	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Flowers	Judy Willingham
Snow Removal	Jim Ahrens (<i>Mar 14-20</i>)

March 27, 2016

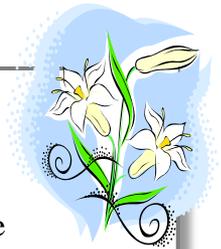
Greeters	Angela Hubler, <i>1 volunteer needed</i>
Scripture Reader	Angela Hubler
Word for Children	Pastor Caela
Fellowship Hour	Easter Breakfast
Flowers	Easter Lilies
Snow Removal	Westons (<i>Mar 21-27</i>)

March Mrunch

Our next Mrunch will be on Saturday, March 5th, at 9:00 a.m. We'll be meeting at Lesley Noble's 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.

Electronic giving

Contributions can now be securely debited automatically from your checking or savings account. Our new electronic giving program offers convenience for you and much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. Collection basket offerings can fluctuate significantly from week to week due to travel, illness and other circumstances, but when contributions are automated, the church receives funds on a steady, uninterrupted basis. To set up your electronic donation, ask treasurer Dave Smit for an authorization form or stop by the church office.



Easter Lilies

Honor family or friends by purchasing a lily for the Easter Day worship service on March 27. The lilies are \$10.00 each. Please send your check and completed form to the church office or place it in the offering plate on any Sunday.

Did you know... when the Easter lilies arrive, Donna Keyser carefully removes the pollen-bearing stamen. Thanks Donna!

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.

Community News



Sock It to Us March is SOCK Month at the FIT Closet



The bins are low and the feet are cold. All donations help the needy in the 383 school district. We need new men's, boys', women's, and girls' socks.

*USD 383 FIT Closet and Clothing Exchange
1609 College Ave.*

*"The White House"- Behind College Ave United Methodist Church
Fitclosest383@gmail.com
785-236-9944*

Sister Simone Campbell Tuesday, March 8

*Movements that Matter – Social Activism in Changing Times
2:30 p.m., KSU Union Room 227*

*Bridge the Divides: Making a Nation for the 100%
7:00 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 612 Poyntz Ave.*



Sister Simone Campbell is a religious leader, attorney, and poet with extensive experience in advocacy for systemic change. In Washington, she lobbies on issues of peace-building, immigration reform, healthcare, and economic justice.

Simone has often been featured in the national and international media, including appearances on *60 Minutes*, *The Colbert Report*, and *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*. She is the recipient of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Four Freedoms Award.

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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uccmanhattan.org



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Return Service Requested

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>March</h1> 		1 6:00 Living Positive	2 11:30 Lunch Bunch 12:00 Lenten Lunch & Worship @FUMC* 5:30 Mission 7:00 Deacons & Trustees 7:00 AA meeting	3 7:00 Taizé	4	5 9:00 Mrunch @ Lesley Noble's home 6:00 Welcome Dinner
		6 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship & Communion <i>Fill the Breadbasket</i> 5:15 Second Helping	7 6:45 Timeless A Cappella	8	9 12:00 Lenten Lunch & Worship @FUMC* 5:30 AA meeting 6:30 CE Board mtg 7:00 Vitality mtg	10 7:00 Taizé
13 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 5:15 Second Helping	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;"> Daylight Saving begins </div> 14 5:15 Yoga 6:45 Timeless A Cappella	15 10:00 N.C. Clergy Mtg.	16 12:00 Lenten Lunch & Worship @FUMC* 7:00 Cabinet meeting 7:00 AA meeting ----- Caela Vacation -----	17 7:00 Taizé	18 7:00 Movie Night	19
20 Palm Sunday 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School/ Palm Processional 10:45 Worship 5:15 Second Helping	21 5:15 Yoga 6:45 Timeless A Cappella	22	23 12:00 Lenten Lunch & Worship @FUMC* 7:00 AA meeting	24 Maundy Thursday 6:00 Light Supper & Worship 7:00 No Taizé	25 Good Friday 12:00 Worship 5:00 Newsletter Deadline	26 Holy Saturday 7:44 Paschal Fire at Sunset
27 Easter Sunday 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Easter Breakfast Potluck 10:45 Festival Worship 12:00 Egg Hunt 5:15 Second Helping	28 5:15 Yoga 6:45 Timeless A Cappella	29	30	31	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> *First United Methodist Church </div>	