



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 60 Number 4

April 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)

## Finding Resurrection in the Chicken Coop

Just before Thanksgiving, our backyard flock of hens stopped laying eggs completely. As the days grow shorter, our chickens stop laying eggs because their bodies are smart; they know it wouldn't make sense for chicks to be born in the winter.

After collecting 4-5 eggs a day for months, it was sad to see our backyard food production slow down. We ate from our stores for a while, but eventually resorted to store-bought eggs. This is just how it is. The circle of life and all that.

Imagine my joy, then, when I went out to check on their food and water about a month ago and found...an egg. One perfect, beautiful, delicious egg. I cradled in in my hands and shouted to the rest of the family, "We've got an egg! The girls are laying again!" And then it hit me: Easter eggs. I mean, I'd always thought of eggs as a symbol for Easter because they're all about new life. And that makes sense. But I had never realized *[continued pg. 2]*



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before that they are also a “spring food.” Eggs return in the spring. And if I were living on a small family farm 200 years ago and had no grocery store, I would be exceedingly thankful when that perfect protein source returned each spring. I would be lifting my eyes to the heavens and giving thanks that my family had survived another winter.

It’s one thing to read about these ideas in books (or a newsletter article). It’s another thing entirely to *experience* them in your own body and soul. When I found that first egg of spring, I *felt* Easter vibrate through my whole body in a new way. I suddenly understood the promise of new life, spring-after-winter, God’s participation in all things, and Resurrection in a deeply visceral way.

As we journey into spring together and as we celebrate Earth Day later this month, I’d like to invite you to consider how you might be able to connect with the Holy on a deeper level through an intentional practice of going outdoors. Maybe it’s a walk through the neighborhood in the morning or simply resting at the edge of a body of water. Perhaps you’d like to try your hand at gardening this year or open up your windows and notice the sounds of the birds. When we take time to connect with our Mother Earth, we find that we are also connected with our Mother God. It’s amazing. And it’s all right there at our doorstep, just waiting for us to notice.

May God who has created all and loves all go with you as you journey into this Easter season of Spring Hope.

*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.

### *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.

### **Second Helping Time Change**

We are very thankful for all who volunteer for 2nd Helping, our Sunday evening community meal program. We continue to serve 25-40 people every week. In order to make our serving time more consistent with other community meals during the week, the serving time of 2nd Helping will change. Beginning April 3rd, meals will be served at 6:00 pm. For those volunteering, prep time begins at 4:15 and clean-up should be complete around 7:30 pm.



## Lunch Bunch April 6

Join the Women of the Church for Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, April 6 at Houlihan's (Holiday Inn at Anderson and 17th Streets). 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, April 8 until 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 9, 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.



## One Great Hour of Sharing

The Mission Board would like to thank all for their generous giving to One Great Hour of Sharing and the many worthy projects it supports around the globe. Together we raised \$2,229.00.

—*Susanne Gilmore*



## April Mrunch

Our next Mrunch will be on Saturday, April 2nd, at 9:00 a.m. We'll be meeting at Caela'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.

# From the Moderator

This month we are spotlighting the Vitality Committee of our church, and what an exciting charge this group has, as it goes to the very essence of who and what we are! Vitality can be defined as "the state of being strong and active," and it derives from the Latin word "vitalis," which in turn comes from the Latin root "vita," which means "life." We can ascribe this essential meaning to the Vitality Committee--life, for in a very real sense, they are asked to help keep us, as a collective entity, alive, healthy, and relevant, finding the things that need doing and helping to steer the ship in the right direction to accomplish those goals. It is not surprising that this mission goes to the heart of what many may perceive Christianity in the 21st century to be. Indeed, one of my favorite authors, Karen Armstrong, said it this way, "Human beings have always created a faith for themselves, to cultivate their sense of the wonder and ineffable significance of life." She continued, "It becomes clear that there is no objective view of God; each generation has to create the image of God that works for it." I believe that it is the discovery of that fundamental imperative that empowers present day Christianity to best advantage, and it is the living out of that precept that vivifies and gives power and relevance to what we are doing right now at First Congregational Church, Manhattan. Perhaps it comes as no surprise that the basis for this is love, and how powerful was the lectionary reading from January 31 that was focused on love, as explicated by Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians. Theologian Paul Tillich added a salient observation when he said, "Love that cares, listens." And that is another of the tasks, as I see it, that the Vitality Committee does for our church. They listen, they keep their fingers on the pulse of the community, and they are ever vigilant. Doing this, they help to direct us to where needs are to be found, aligning the strengths that we possess to the work that needs to be done. Thus, they quite literally help to make the church body strong, active, and relevant. And history shows that churches that cease to be relevant, die. May it always be so that we stay engaged and focused on the work that needs to be done! Here is a brief description of the Vitality Committee that Brett Parsons has provided. When you see a committee member in church, engage

them and get their personal take on the critical work that they do for us all!

*Alfred*

### **Spotlight: Vitality and Outreach Committee**



The Vitality and Outreach committee has 8 members volunteering in 2016. Brett Parsons serves as the presiding officer and Jeff Feist serves as Secretary. Other members include Dan Barnes, Sue Gerth, Jessica Haymaker, Linda Thurston, Craig Weston, and Paulicia Williams. Our committee meets on the second Wednesday of each month and discusses any new items brought forth by members of the church and Pastor Caela.

Our committee has several responsibilities to oversee on behalf of the church. We put on monthly Dinner Discussions where a member or group from the church leads conversation on a topic and allows time to fellowship within our church community and enjoy a meal. We also help with events like the upcoming Bike Blessing service on May 1st where we will provide drinks, snacks, and clean-up. The committee also provides decisions on advertising for the community and church. The recent talks given by Sister Simone Campbell were co-sponsored by First Congregational and the Black Lives Matter yard signs were purchased to raise awareness for the movement. Jeff Feist led an effort along with the insight of other committee members to craft a letter of support for the Zion UCC Church in Junction City as they transition to become an Open and Affirming church.

The committee enthusiastically considers and executes ideas such as these mentioned previously to share the mission of our church to members of the congregation and our community. We are always excited to hear new ideas that can help us accomplish this.

## **Lost**

A 9x13 Pyrex baking dish and small square serving utensil with a wooden handle went missing after the Easter potluck breakfast. If the items accidentally ended up at your home or you know of their whereabouts, please contact the church office.

## Ready to Become a Member?

On April 17th, we will welcome a new group of members who desire to join with us in covenant as the people of First Congregational United Church of Christ. If you are interested in membership and haven't yet had a chance to sit down with Pastor Caela to talk about what membership means and have your questions answered, please contact her ([pastor@uccmanhattan.org](mailto:pastor@uccmanhattan.org)) to set up an appointment. You can also learn more and fill out a new member information form at [www.uccmanhattan.org/become-a-member](http://www.uccmanhattan.org/become-a-member).

## HCI Fundraiser for the Church

Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

First Congregational UCC is sponsoring an HCI Fundraising show on Friday, April 22 from 10:00 - 6:00 and Saturday, April 23 from 10:00 – 2:00 in Pioneer and Blachly Halls. The proceeds from the show will benefit the mission of First Congregational UCC.

Multiple volunteers are needed to help with set-up, tear-down, and general assistance during the sale hours. Please contact Jim or Judy Ahrens if you'd like to volunteer. HCI Fundraising is a business owned by Jim and Judy Ahrens. They sell top quality products for women, men and children at prices up to 80% below retail. You might find something for Mother's Day or Father's Day! Please plan on checking it out and invite your friends.



## Blessing of the Bicycles

Mark your calendar for Sunday, May 1st! As a part of Manhattan's Bike Month, we'll be blessing bicycles in our church yard immediately after worship. Plan to join us as we bless the bikes, remember lives lost, share in a brief ride around downtown, and enjoy refreshments together. Know

someone who is a cyclist? Invite them to the blessing!

# Transgender Faith Tour



We are honored to welcome Stephanie Mott as our guest preacher on Sunday, April 17th during worship. From Stephanie's biography on the Huffington Post: "Stephanie Mott is a transsexual woman from Topeka, Kan. She has published nearly 100 articles and provided nearly 300 workshops and presentations on being transgender. Stephanie is the founder and executive director of Kansas Statewide Transgender Education Project, president of the Topeka chapter of NOW, a commissioner on the City of Topeka Human Relations Commission, and community liaison for transgender inmates at the Shawnee County (Kansas) jail. She is also the director of the Transgender Faith Tour, seeking to share her faith as a transgender woman in faith institutions everywhere." You can learn more about Stephanie at [transfaithtour.org](http://transfaithtour.org).

## An Invitation to Connect this Summer

Summer will be upon us before you know it. Last year, Pastor Caela organized a couple of get-togethers for us....we got together for a walk on the Linear trail, a playdate at the park, drinks at a restaurant, and breakfast at the Chef. This year, we'd to invite YOU to consider organizing something. In particular, it would be wonderful if some of these activities were outdoors so we can get in touch with nature during the time of year when it's easiest to do so. More relaxed schedules and longer days make it easier to connect with one another. So....what ideas do you have? Splashing at City Park? A hike at Konza? Sitting by the water at Tuttle Creek? A simple stroll or bike ride with church friends? How about a picnic at Anneberg or Blue Earth? The sky's the limit. If you are interested in organizing something, the church office can help you advertise it to the congregation. So, please be in touch with Pastor Caela or Sandy and we'll get the ball rolling.

# Youth Group

Dear Congregation:

Our Youth are still speaking, and their voices are about to get louder and even more refined. This summer five youth from First Congregational of Manhattan are going to be attending a National Youth Event (NYE) in Orlando, Florida. Below you will find a short bio and a little bit about why they want to attend the trip.

To help pay for their trip they are including all of you in a few FUN-raisers. Look below for a full schedule of events in bold. The highlights are: Saturday, April 9th 5-7 p.m. the youth and their families will be hosting a special dinner for the congregation; Saturday, April 23rd the youth will have a Lock-In that will have a financial sponsor component; Sunday May 1st is going to be a youth-led church service and that evening from 5-8 p.m. the youth will be hosting a Variety Show which all church members and their family and friends will be invited to. Also, look for an upcoming Loose Change Offering during church services.

–*Tai Amri*

## Youth Group Calendar

**Sun., April 3- 5-7 p.m.** Dinner Fundraiser Planning Meeting

**Sat., April 9 5-7 p.m.** - Dinner Fundraiser

**Sun. April 17 3-6 p.m.** - 2nd Helping

**Sat., April 23 3 p.m.-Sunday** - Youth Lock-In

**Sun., April 24 10 a.m.-12 p.m.** - Youth Sunday Service Planning Meeting

**Sun., May 1 10:45 a.m.** - Youth Sunday!

**Sun., May 1 5-8 p.m.** - Variety Show

**Sun., May 8 3-6 p.m.** - Meredith's B-day Mini-Golf Adventure

**Sun., May 15 3-6 p.m.** - 2nd Helping

**Sun., May 22** - Stone Sister Going Away Party

## NYE Participant Profiles



**Name:** Zoe Pierson **Age:** 17

**Hobbies:** Singing, Dancing, Drawing, Working, Reading Books

**Why you want to attend the National Youth**

**Event:** I heard about them going to Disney World and I wanted to be a part of helping with the fundraiser also. Plus I think it'll be like a really

cool experience to go to a place I've never been to before. But yeah I want to help and it'll be a really fun experience. I also want to meet new people like expand my social circle a little bit.



**Name:** Sina Hanna **Age:** 15

**Hobbies:** Rowing, reading, traveling, spending time with friends and family

**Why you want to attend the National Youth**

**Event:** My older brother went to NYE 4 years ago and really enjoyed and learned a lot while making new long time friends. I want to go so I can make

new friends and experience new things while having fun with youth from around the country and make memories like the ones my brother told me about.



**Name:** Nadiyah Gamble **Age:** 14

**Hobbies:** Dancing (MHS Dance Team), Singing (choir)

**Why you want to attend the National Youth**

**Event:** I want to attend the National Youth Event because I want to meet new people and learn new things. It seems like a great opportunity to connect

with other youth and experience a lot of fun learning.



**Name:** Zane Pierson **Age:** 13 years old

**Hobbies:** Being active, Acting, Being with animals, Exploring

**Why you want to attend National Youth Event:**

To be noticed and to help the church, also to meet new people, learn new things and talent shows.



**Name** Dean Kinderknecht **Age:** 13

**Hobbies:** gaming, reading.

**Why you want to attend National Youth Event:** So I can experience diversity. I want to learn about different cultures.

## Little Apple Pride Parade Saturday, April 16

Deetails are still coming together for the annual Little Apple Pride Parade. Watch the Sunday bulletins and the church web site for details as they become available. Pastor Caela will be one of the keynote speakers at this year's festival.



# Adult Education

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

**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

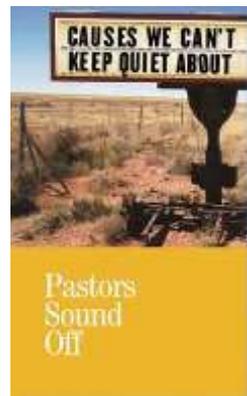


KANSA VILLAGE.  
Engraved from a view in Dr. Smit's Sketches.

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 Hollywood Theatre.

**Causes We Can't Keep Quiet about (Apr. 10 - May 22)** - Jim and Marilyn Mock facilitate a discussion of *Pastors Sound Off!*

From the publisher: "In this collection of brief and very personal essays, eleven pastors and preachers "sound off" on the issues that get them so worked up they can't shut up! These aren't impersonal position statements - they are passionate arguments, rooted in faith, written from very personal perspectives. From pretending racism is over, to churches in denial about addiction, these writers address social issues and justice concerns that you probably have strong feelings about, too."



## Cobb Corner — Going Green

“Ten thousand leaves on every tree, and each a miracle to me; and yet there be men who question God.” — Joaquin Miller *The Green Bible*, 1-107.

Suggestions for April: Some of these tips are recycled at Judy Willingham’s suggestion; others are new, but I’d welcome your ideas.

- Save those Easter lilies and plant them after they’ve finished flowering. They are wonderful perennials and will bloom every year about June. Give them away if you’ve no place to plant them. They are great at “resurrection.”
- Put your used unbleached coffee filters in the bottom of flower pots. Dirt stays in and water drains out. Filters can also be rinsed and reused. Put used coffee around foundation – discourages ants – and around plants.
- Leave cut grass on your lawn if not too heavy as it makes a great fertilizer. Otherwise, put in compost pile.
- April is Prevention of Animal Cruelty Month. Please watch for abused or abandoned animals. Call Animal Control when in doubt. Last July someone left five 3-week old kittens in a shoebox in a parking lot. They were lucky to be found alive. Six weeks later they went to loving homes. Note too, we have coyotes in many neighborhoods, so please keep close watch on outdoor pets.
- April 18-24: entrance to the national parks will be free! It’s the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of what some have called “America’s best idea.”
- On April 22, Earth Day, your donation will help over 25 local non-profits, including our church. Last year over \$200,000 was raised for local charities. Once again a generous donor will match your contribution at 50% during the day at Colony Square.
- April 23, the Zoo will have its own celebration of Earth Day with its Party for the Planet. Don’t miss seeing our new tigers and cheetahs as well as all the special events related to the environment!

— 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.

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**April 3, 2016**

**Chief Cook:** Rev. Paul Allen, Sharon Purvis

**Dessert:** *volunteer needed*

**Church Host:** Jeff Feist

**Volunteers:** First Christian Church, Ann Gleason

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**April 10, 2016**

**Chief Cook:** Andy Barkley

**Dessert:** Paula Pierce, Lois Sauer

**Church Host:** Mary Ellen Barkley

**Volunteers:** Ann Gleason, Danielle Yadon, *3 volunteers needed*

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**April 17, 2016**

**Chief Cook:** Craig Weston

**Dessert:** *volunteer needed*

**Church Host:** Tracey Weston

**Volunteers:** Youth Group (lunches), Danielle Yadon, *2 volunteers needed*

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**April 24, 2016**

**Chief Cook:** Gretchen Lewis

**Dessert:** Kerri Keller

**Church Host:** Jim Lewis

**Volunteers:** ESA sorority

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## Second Helping Time Change

We are very thankful for all who volunteer for 2nd Helping, our Sunday evening community meal program. We continue to serve 25-40 people every week. In order to make our serving time more consistent with other community meals during the week, the serving time of 2nd Helping will change. **Beginning April 3rd, meals will be served at 6:00 p.m.** For those volunteering, prep time begins at 4:15 and clean-up should be complete around 7:30 p.m.



## Worship & Volunteers

### ***April 3, 2016***

<b>Greeters</b> .....	<i>volunteers needed</i>
<b>Scripture Reader</b> .....	Sue Zschoche
<b>Word for Children</b> ....	Pastor Caela
<b>Fellowship Hour</b> .....	<i>volunteer needed</i>
<b>Flowers</b> .....	<i>volunteer needed</i>
<b>Lawn Care</b> .....	Brent Maner ( <i>Mar 28-Apr 3</i> )

### ***April 10, 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> .....	<i>volunteer needed</i>
<b>Lawn Care</b> .....	<i>volunteer needed (Apr 4-10)</i>

### ***April 17, 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> .....	<i>volunteer needed</i>
<b>Lawn Care</b> .....	<i>volunteer needed (Apr 11-17)</i>

### ***April 24, 2016***

<b>Greeters</b> .....	<i>volunteers needed</i>
<b>Scripture Reader</b> .....	Jim Mock
<b>Word for Children</b> ....	Barrett Scroggs
<b>Fellowship Hour</b> .....	<i>volunteer needed</i>
<b>Flowers</b> .....	<i>volunteer needed</i>
<b>Lawn Care</b> .....	<i>volunteer needed (Apr 18-24)</i>

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

## 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.

## World War II Scrapbook

A scrapbook from the church archives has recently come to light that may be of interest to you. The book includes information about and pictures of several church members who served in the military during World War II. The scrapbook is currently in the church office and available for viewing during office hours (M-F 9:00-noon and 1:00-3:00). The scrapbook will also be available for viewing on Sunday mornings throughout April.

## 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

A group of FCC members attended a racism training workshop, "Roots of Justice" in January. We are now reading a book about the history of the Kanza, "The Darkest Period" by Ron Parks. Here are two related activities that you may be interested in. Watch for fellow FCC members at each event! Please join us!

**Thursday, April 7: Ronald Parks, Author of "The Darkest Period: The Kanza Indians and Their Last Homeland, 1846-1873"** will speak about his book and the history of the Council Grove and Manhattan, KS lands. This will take place in the Hale Library, Hemisphere Room from **4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, April 16: KSU Community Powwow** will be in Ahearn Field House from **12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** This will be a social participatory event, come out and join in the games, learn about the dances and support the KSU AISES students and the KSU Native American Student Association (NASA). Funding provided by KSU Diversity Program Committee

## Grow Green Match Day

The annual Grow Green challenge at the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation will take place again in April. Donations made to the First Congregational account at the GMCF will receive a 50% match due to an extremely generous citizen of Manhattan. The church can make use of the 50% immediately. The rest would go into our account. This account is endowed, which means the church cannot use the principal. Most years the GMCF will disburse 4% to the church to use, although GMCF did not disburse any dollars from that fund for 2015, the most recent year. To qualify for the 50% match, donations must be made on **Friday, April 22, 2016 • 7am - 7pm at the Colony Square Office Complex Atrium • 555 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, KS.**



Spread the word!

2016 Homeowner Orientations

Applications will be provided to individuals who attend one of the following orientation sessions.

**April 11, 2016**

7:00 p.m.

Manhattan Public Library - Groesbeck Room

**July 11, 2016**

7:00 p.m.

Manhattan Public Library – Auditorium

**October 10, 2016**

Time and Location TBD

**RSVP**

mahfh.org and click on 'How we Help'

Manhattan Area Habitat for Humanity,  
727 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, KS 66502

## **Blanket Festival for Backpacks of Hope Saturday, April 30**

Everyone is invited to a Blanket Festival on Saturday, April 30, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Andover Hall. We will try to complete thirty quilts and blankets to place into Backpacks of Hope. We need you whether you are a quilter or not, a knitter or



not, a crocheter or not. In order to be successful, we need folks who can cut fabric, sew two pieces together in a straight line, tie a knot, or provide simple meals and snacks. Feel free to provide fabric for a quilt or use fabric that we will have available. For more information contact Sue Gerth.

# ***Fill a Backpack of Hope***

In partnership with the Interfaith Welcome Coalition in San Antonio, TX, we would like to ask that you help us to provide much needed travel supplies families so desperately need after being detained in San Antonio. We need you to buy a backpack, either adult or child size and fill them with items for these families to travel to their next destination in the US. Even from as far away as Kansas we can send a message that immigrants and refugees are welcome here. You can sponsor a backpack individually or even partner with some of your church friends.



We ask you to please drop the backpacks off in our church and we will ship the first collection by **May 31, 2016. THANK YOU!**

**For any additional questions please contact Susanne Gilmore**

## **Mom's Backpack:**

2 pack travel size Kleenex  
1 small hairbrush & comb  
2 pair adult socks  
Small writing pad & pen or pencil  
1 travel size toothbrush & toothpaste

1 washcloth  
1 small travel size deodorant  
4 sanitary napkins  
1 small package of hand wipes  
1 hotel size soap, shampoo,  
conditioner, lotion,

## **Child's Backpack:**

1 washcloth  
2 travel size Kleenex  
2 youth or child socks/ size 7-10  
1 coloring/ activity book

1 child toothbrush and toothpaste  
1 small package of hand wipes  
1 box crayons  
1 small stuffed animal

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

700 Poyntz Avenue  
Manhattan, KS 66502  
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Calendar on following page

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**Return Service Requested**



# April 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 9:00 Mrunch @ Pastor Caela's home
3 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship & Communion <i>Fill the Breadbasket</i> <b>6:00 Second Helping</b> <b>*** new time***</b>	4 5:15 Yoga 6:45 Timeless A Cappella	5 6:00 Living Positive	6 11:30 Lunch Bunch 5:30 Mission 7:00 Deacons & Trustees 7:00 AA meeting	7 7:00 Taizé	8 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Ministry of the Decorative Scissors</div>	9 5:00 Youth Fundraising Dinner
10 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 6:00 Second Helping	11 5:00 AAUW mtg 5:15 Yoga 6:45 Timeless A Cappella	12	13 6:30 CE Board mtg 7:00 Vitality mtg 7:00 AA meeting	14 7:00 Taizé	15	16 1:00 K-STEP mtg 2:00 Pride Parade
17 <b>Covenant Celebration</b> 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 6:00 Second Helping	18 5:15 Yoga 6:45 Timeless A Cappella	19 10:00 N.C. Clergy Mtg.	20 7:00 Cabinet meeting 7:00 AA meeting	21 7:00 Taizé	22 7-7 Grow Green 5:00 Newsletter Deadline <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Church Fundraiser (HCI)</div>	23 3:00 Youth Lock-in
24 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 6:00 Second Helping	25 4:30 Staff mtg 5:15 Yoga 6:45 Timeless A Cappella	26	27 5:00 AA meeting	28 7:00 Taizé 7:00 MLK meeting	29	30 8-8 Blanket Festival for Backpacks of Hope