



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 60 Number 7

July 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

Teamwork Makes the Dream Work

Okay, okay. Cheesy title, I know. But, oh, so very true. As we strive to live ever more fully into our shared mission of loving unconditionally, challenging spiritually, and ministering fervently, we rely not only on the Holy Spirit but on one another to keep on keeping on. Anyone who has ever held a job knows that the tasks you are required to complete are but one piece of the picture when it comes to whether or not you enjoy your work. Sometimes the more important piece is who you are working alongside.

We are so very fortunate to have an amazing staff here at First Congregational UCC. I am our only full-time staff member and am often astounded at what these individuals can accomplish in the limited number of hours they work each week. Sandy Nelson, our always-cool-and-collected Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper is here five days a week from 9am-3pm (with an hour off for lunch). She greets guests, coordinates the flow of information between all of us, prepares our publications, *[continued pg. 2]*



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balances the checkbook(s), helps anyone who comes through the door find what they need, coordinates all the building use, and more. And she somehow does it all with a smile. If you've not ever had a chance to meet Sandy, pop in some day when you're in the neighborhood. Chances are good she already knows your name and would love to put a face with it.

Our three musicians work together as a seamless unit - providing beautiful music each and every week during worship. Bob Edwards and Mary Ellen Sutton share the role of organist, crafting a prelude, postlude, and offertory each week, as well as accompanying the choir and other musicians during worship. Gretchen Lewis conducts the choir when they are in session, welcoming new singers of all abilities warmly and selecting music that is always appropriate for the season. Time after time, new guests tell me, "Wow, the music here is spectacular!" I just smile and nod, giving thanks that I have nothing to do with it at all. It all seems to happen by magic...only it's not magic, of course, it's our talented and hardworking staff coordinating it all.

As August approaches, we mark one year of shared ministry with Tai Amri Spann-Wilson, our Director of Youth Ministries. Tai Amri joins us from Lawrence, where he lives with his partner and baby daughter. As such, you'll likely only see him on Sunday's and not at all during the summer, since his is a 10-month position. Tai Amri works with youth in middle and high school in our congregation, plus their families and friends. I have been delighted to see the emphasis on social justice that our youth have taken an interest in and Tai Amri's heart and spirit is the right fit for leading those important explorations. We are lucky, indeed, to have such a gifted leader working with our youth.

Our staff will be rounded out soon by the addition of a new Director of Children's Ministries and we look forward to welcoming another new person to our staff. We are also thankful for the ongoing services of Holmes Cleaning. Nancy Holmes and her daughter Jenny clean our building throughout the week, keeping it ready for all the various ways it is used.

I am constantly in awe of how smoothly things run around here. Much of that, of course, is due to the dedicated and professional volunteer services of our church leaders, but our staff also plays a critical role. I am thankful for our congregation's continued desire to make funding an adequate staff a priority. We are truly able to do so much more together with the support of these wonderful

people. I hope you'll join me in expressing your appreciation the next time you see Sandy, Bob, Mary Ellen, Gretchen, Tai Amri, Nancy, and Jenny.

Pastor Caela

Sharing and Caring

Prayers and Concern

- For more information, please contact the church office.

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.



Congratulations

- To **Jim Hodgson** for the two-page article in the recent issue of *Good for K-State*.
- **Rachel Hunt** was invited to sing the National Anthem and the Alma Mater at two commencements.
- **April Mason**, Provost, made introductions, or presented diplomas at six K-State commencements.
- **Lauren Ritterbush**, Associate Professor in Anthropology, was honored with a 2016 William L. Stamey Teaching Award.
- **Beth Davis** received the 2016 Dr. William and Deanna Pritchard Veterinary Service Outreach Award.
- **Nathan McClendon** was named a National Merit Finalist, ACT Scholar, and received numerous scholarship awards.

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

This month we take a look at the Gifts, Endowments, and Investments Committee, and their charge is all about financial stewardship. One definition for stewardship that seems apropos is this: "the conducting, supervising, and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care." I like this definition because it addresses two very important, and different, aspects of our stewardship responsibility. First, it speaks to the effective looking after of financial resources, but secondly, it affirms that the gifts and endowments that the committee invests on behalf of the church are resources that have been entrusted to our care, by the donors, so that they may be used to good advantage in support of the mission of the church. This makes the whole matter much more personal, linking us directly to those individuals who made the gifts and endowments, and whose vision for the future of the church was keen enough to realize that their contributions, handled

properly and effectively, have the potential to effect positive change. Not surprisingly, the responsibilities associated with such stewardship by the committee members are immense. And, of course, the ramifications are equally significant for our church, as they link directly to our mission and the programmatic emphases that we choose, and are able, to pursue. We are fortunate to have the talented men and women who represent us so expertly on this important committee. When you see them next, let them know your appreciation for what they do for us all. Ann Smit's comments follow, and I think you'll find them most interesting.

Alfred

Spotlight: Gifts, Endowments, and Investments Committee



The Gifts, Endowments, and Investments Committee (GE&I) is appointed by Cabinet. Its current members are Bill Pallett, Brent Maner, and Ann Smit. First Congregational is extremely fortunate to have had several members who remembered the church generously in their wills or during their lives. Most of these gifts have been invested in a way that provides ongoing support for the activities of the church.

The GE&I committee is charged with managing the church's investments, encouraging gifts to the church and providing guidance to donors about needs, and reporting periodically to the Cabinet about the investments. In recent years this committee has developed policies about its internal workings, about gifts and how they will be invested, and about restructuring the investments themselves. These policy statements have been presented to Cabinet for approval. For example, a plan for major restructuring has been presented to Cabinet in the past month. After the restructuring has been carried out, the committee's next task is to develop a brochure for potential donors.

Pastor Caela on Vacation

Pastor Caela will be traveling with her family from Wednesday, July 20 through Wednesday, August 3rd. The Rev. Patrick Funston of St. Paul's Episcopal Church will be on call for our congregation if any urgent pastoral care needs arise. You can simply be in touch with the office during the day or Stacy Shaffer after hours.

Lunch Bunch July 6

Join the Women of the Church for Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, **July 6 at Harry's Deli** (418 Poyntz).

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.)



Connect with us during the week!

Did you know our church has a vital presence on social media? We currently have over 300 people following our church's facebook page for updates about what's happening in our community. Follow us at facebook.com/uccmanhattank. You can find the same content on Twitter @UCCManhattan.

Additionally, if you are a regular attender or member, you're invited to join our closed Facebook group - a place for dialogue and conversation with people you know. Search for "First Congregational UCC Members and Friends" or ask a friend who is in the group to add you.

We also send out updates every Friday with helpful information about what's coming up in our congregation. If you don't already receive those updates, please send your e-mail address to Sandy at office@uccmanhattan or visit uccmanhattan.org/newsletters to sign up.

Ready to Become a Member?

On August 21st, 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) 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.

Ministry of the Decorative Scissors

The next retreat of the Ministry of the Decorative Scissors is from 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 7 until 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 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.



ECM Board of Directors

The Mission Board is offering a great opportunity to represent our church on the ECM Board of Directors. The

Ecumenical Campus Ministry at KSU is

sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (USA), the United Church of Christ, and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). First Congregational UCC provides three representatives to this Board. Kerri Keller and Millie Schroeder will continue into the next year but Jan Lange is finishing the maximum of six years on the Board and her position needs to be filled. As ECM is now settling in the new building, full attention will be given to raising operating funds as supporting denominational support has been cut significantly over the years. Skills and willingness to help toward financial stability will be most welcome in the new representative. The ECM Board meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm. This is an exciting way to be part of the witnessing of our college students as they explore their own faith journeys. Please consider representing our church on this Board. Contact Pastor Caela; the church office; Susanne Gilmore, Mission Board Presiding Officer; or any of the current ECM Board members if you would like to serve on this Board.



Save the Date: August 21st

Blessing of the Backpacks & Covenant Celebration during worship

Welcome Back to the Choir

Sunday School for adults and kids begins at 9:30am

Feast and Festival at 6:00pm

Christian Education

2016 Summer Fun

This summer we will be offering many exciting opportunities for family events at First Congregational United Church of Christ. The best part is that these events will all be FREE! All of the events will occur at the church (700 Poyntz Ave.) The events will be divided into three categories: Movie Night (K-6th Grades), Parents-Day-Out (Toddler-K), and Parents-Night-Out (K-3rd Grades).

Movie night features an age-appropriate movie in the Hollywood Theater. Parents Day-Out is designed for parents with toddlers and pre-school/kindergarten students.

Parents-Night-Out is for families with students K-3rd and features games, arts and crafts, and more. For the Parents-Day-Out and Parents-Night-Out events please send a sack lunch for your child.

Please complete a registration form available in the church office or online at <http://www.uccmanhattan.org/childrens-ministry.html>. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Sandy in the office at office@uccmanhattan.org or 537-7006.



Event	Date	Start time	End time
Movie Night (K-6th Grades)	Fri, 7/8/16	7:30 pm	9:30 pm
Parents-Day-Out (Toddler-K)	Sat, 7/23/16	12:00 pm	2:00 pm
Parents-Night-Out (K-3rd Grades)	Mon, 8/1/16	5:30 pm	7:30 pm

Adult Education Preview for the Fall

Plans are still in the works, but it looks like we'll have several awesome classes on Sunday mornings, including a class on aging with Gayle Doll (Director of K-State Center on Aging), a class on gender identity led by Rachel Martin and Sue Gerth, a 2-week series on the Koran, and an Advent series led by Dale Stearns. Join us Sunday mornings at 9:30am beginning August 21st. Childcare and Sunday School for children and youth happens concurrently.

NYE Update

Dear Church Family:

Manhattan's Still Speaking Youth are at the tail end of their preparations for the National Youth Event in Orlando, Florida from July 26th-30th. They have done a wonderful job raising \$2,215 of the \$3,300 amount. However, there is \$1,085 left to raise and I hope that you can help us raise the amount.

We will be having a lock-in/fun-raiser on Saturday, July 9th and we will have silent auction items offered by our Still Speaking Youth from now until our trip. Feel free to sponsor our youth, participate in the silent auction, or send a donation to First Congregational Church of Manhattan.

Now more than ever it is important to have a positive presence and influence in the world and our youth will be experiencing transformation in what will be known as their generation's "Ground Zero." Our youth ambassadors include:

Nadiyah Gamble
Dean Kinderknecht
Zane Pierson

Sina Hanna
Zoe Pierson



If you would like to sponsor a youth or all of the youth in this event, please contact me at youth@uccmanhattan.org.

In peace,
Tai Amri



You're invited to the annual
Friedens UCC Ice Cream Social



Tuesday July 19 • serving from 7pm to 9pm
5 flavors of homemade ice cream and a variety of cakes!

10 1/2 miles north of Seneca, Kansas on Highway 63
Free Will Offering Rain Date: Thursday, July 21

Cobb Corner — Going Green

The blessing of the animals is always a poignant service. Seeing the kids helping and even tenderly blessing their stuffed animals made me think of how important our pets are to our well-being and we to theirs.

Two new books I've enjoyed this month are ones I hope will be widely read. *Are We Smart Enough to Know How Smart Animals Are?* is by Frans de Wahl of the National Primate Center in Atlanta. It is an excellent and often funny review of the science that has moved in recent years well beyond the assumptions of seeing humans as unique and literally the top of the food chain. Careful research has demonstrated that it isn't anthropomorphism to recognize the amazing skills, problem-solving ability, and even emotions in the rest of the animal kingdom.

For example, Wahl notes how a group of chimps at the London Zoo liked to sit down and have tea in dainty cups in the afternoon. Unfortunately, this creeped out some visitors to see them acting civilized! So the zookeepers had to train them to throw tea cups and overturn chairs.

Then there were the African elephants who would run when they heard Masai language because the Masai would often spear them. But the same words "There are the elephants" spoken in a language of a less threatening tribe had no effect on their behavior.

Another fascinating book, *Alex and Me*, by Irene Pepperberg, explores the abilities of Alex and other African gray parrots. Over 31 years her research at leading universities destroyed the notion that "birdbrain" is a term of disparagement. She and others working with parrots and crows found they are skilled communicators, have long memories, and in the case of the parrots can even learn simple addition as well as expressing their feelings in English.

My favorite example came from when the author had had a bad day and stormed into her lab only to be greeted by Alex with "Calm down, calm down." She had often used this phrase with Alex when he was agitated, wanted to quit training, and was chanting "Wanna Go Back" (to his cage).

His last words to Irene the evening before he died were "You be good. I love you." Jesus couldn't have said it better! — *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.

July 3, 2016

Dessert: Gayle Doll

Volunteers: Lukas Ebert, Kathy Bleam, Stephanie Reeck, Ann

Gleason, *need 1 volunteer*

Chief Cook: Craig Weston

Church Host: Susanne Gilmore

July 10, 2016

Dessert: Barbara Withee

Volunteers: First Christian Church

Chief Cook: Sharon Purvis

Church Host: Susanne Gilmore

July 17, 2016

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Youth Group

Chief Cook: Gretchen Lewis

Church Host: Jim Lewis

July 24, 2016

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: ESA sorority

Chief Cook: Andy Barkley

Church Host: Mary Ellen Barkley

July 31, 2016

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: Lauren Ritterbush, Brad Logan, Kathy Bleam

Chief Cook: Brent Maner

Church Host: Susanne Gilmore

Volunteer by going to
uccmanhattan.org/sign-ups

Worship & Volunteers

July 3, 2016

Greeters.....	Emily Brueseke, <i>volunteer needed</i>
Scripture Reader	Emily Brueseke
Word for Children	Pastor Caela
Fellowship Hour	Tracey Weston
Flowers	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Lawn Care	Gayle Doll (<i>June 30-July 2</i>)

July 10, 2016

Greeters.....	Judy Ahrens, <i>volunteer needed</i>
Scripture Reader	Rick Doll
Word for Children	Emily Brueseke
Fellowship Hour	Kerri Keller
Flowers	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Lawn Care	<i>volunteer needed (July 7-9)</i>

July 17, 2016

Greeters.....	Tracey & Craig Weston, <i>volunteer needed</i>
Scripture Reader	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Word for Children	Pastor Caela
Fellowship Hour	Julie Appino
Flowers	Jennifer Edwards
Lawn Care	<i>volunteer needed (July 14-16)</i>

July 24, 2016

Greeters.....	<i>volunteers needed</i>
Scripture Reader	Judy Ahrens
Word for Children	Rachel Whetstone
Fellowship Hour	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Flowers	Judy Ahrens
Lawn Care	<i>volunteer needed (July 21-23)</i>

July 31, 2016

Greeters.....	<i>volunteers needed</i>
Scripture Reader	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Word for Children	TBD
Fellowship Hour	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Flowers	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Lawn Care	<i>volunteer needed (July 28-30)</i>

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.

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

*Thank you for keeping your pledge
current throughout the summer months.*



Welcome New Members

Joe Henderson

I am the last remaining of my immediate family, but have two generations of nieces/nephews (and hopes for seeing a third one day). I was born and raised in Wichita, and baptized at Plymouth Congregational Church NACCC. I've had a wide variety of jobs, and have lived in Houston, Pompano Beach FL, Chicago, New York City, Boonton NJ, and San Francisco. I'm a cat lover but currently satisfied cuddling with a dog in my current situation.

I moved to Manhattan last June following recovery from emergency hip replacement surgery. When I was preparing to move, one of my pastors at Plymouth suggested First Congregational - I tried it and due to our practice of Open & Affirming and support of Peace & Social Justice, finally decided to join after reading a recent article of Pastor Caela's in the monthly newsletter. FCUCC feels perfect!

Charlotte MacFarland

I am newly retired from Kansas State University after serving there for 40 years as a Theatre professor. During my tenure in the Theatre Department I directed over eighty plays and/or musicals in Nichols Theatre and McCain Auditorium. I also hold undergraduate and graduate degrees in English, and I have an extensive background in Music. I am married to Dave MacFarland who retired in 2008 from Journalism/Mass Communications at K-State. I have two married sons, Mike and Jeff, who are the fathers of my four grandchildren.

I have decided to join First Congregational because I feel it is the church I have been looking for over the course of many years. I have been on a long spiritual journey. I have evolved from being a Missouri Synod Lutheran Minister's daughter, to Buddhist, to agnostic, to ELCA Lutheran, to Mennonite, and back to one who believes in the approach "one god, many different paths." I have chosen to follow the path of the teachings of Jesus Christ because those teachings deeply resonate with me, and the members of First Congregational truly live out those values. When Dave and I have attended First Congregational, we have been thrilled with the glorious music, the wonderful sermons, and the genuinely friendly people.

Dave and I still also love the Mennonites and want to support them as well. We will share time between both churches in the near future. I am grateful to First Congregational for the beautiful music every Sunday, for the rich, powerful sermons, and for the joyous hugs and smiles. This is a congregation that I feel will tolerate me and my imperfections.

Dave MacFarland

I am a retired professor of Electronic Media in the KSU School of Journalism and Mass Communications. I'm the author of four books on radio programming, two of which were about the Top 40 radio format which I grew up listening to. I'm an avid skier--and at 72 years old, I am still cognizant that Kansas is not the ideal place for that sport. Visiting our children and grandkids in Lawrence grows more important to us every day.

Free Money!

Reminders about Amazon Smile, Dillons, and Hy-Vee Fundraisers

If you have a Dillons shoppers card, you can automatically donate a portion of your purchases to the church. **Just go to dillons.com/community-rewards and re-link your shopper's card to our church for 2016.** (Our organization number is #10145.) You have to do this again each calendar year. You can also go online and see how much money you've earned for the church. If you need help, contact the church office.

If you shop at Hy-Vee, you can purchase gift cards at the table near the office each Sunday after worship. The church receives 6% back from your purchases.

When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to First Congregational Church UCC. Go to smile.amazon.com and save First Congregational Church UCC as your AmazonSmile recipient. After you've done that, you will automatically benefit the church every time you shop from smile.amazon.com.

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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



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Calendar follows

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U S POSTAGE
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PERMIT NO. 478
MANHATTAN, KS 66502

Return Service Requested

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>July 2016</h1>						
3 10:45 Worship & Communion <i>Fill the Bread Basket</i> 12:00 Fellowship Hour 6:00 Second Helping	4 Office Closed Independence Day 5:15 Yoga 6:45 Timeless A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	5 6:00 Living Positive	6 11:30 Lunch Bunch 3:45 Common Table 5:30 Mission Board 7:00 Trustees, Deacons 7:00 AA mtg	7 7:00 Taizé 8:00 NA mtg	8 5:00 Wedding Rehearsal 7:30 Movie Night 7:30 NA mtg	9 5:00 Wedding 7:00 Fun-raiser Rock-in
				Ministry of the Decorative Scissors		
10 10:45 Worship 12:00 Fellowship Hour 6:00 Second Helping	11 5:15 Yoga 6:45 Timeless A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	12	13 6:30 CE Board 7:00 Vitality & Outreach 7:00 AA mtg	14 7:00 Taizé 8:00 NA mtg	15 7:30 NA mtg	16
17 10:45 Worship 12:00 Fellowship Hour 6:00 Second Helping	18 5:15 Yoga 6:45 Timeless A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	19 10:00 N.C. Area Clergy mtg	20 7:00 Cabinet Mtg 7:00 AA mtg	21 7:00 Taizé 7:00 MLK mtg 8:00 NA mtg	22 12:00 Newsletter Deadline 7:30 NA mtg	23 12:00 Parents Day Out
				Caela vacation thru 8/3		
24 10:45 Worship 12:00 Fellowship Hour 6:00 Second Helping	25 5:15 Yoga 6:45 Endless A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	26	27 7:00 AA mtg	28 7:00 Taizé 8:00 NA mtg	29 7:30 NA mtg	30
				National Youth Event • Orlando, Florida		
Caela vacation						
31 10:45 Worship 12:00 Fellowship Hour 6:00 Second Helping						
Caela vacation						