



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 60 Number 9

September 2016

Sunday School at 9:30 A.M. (when school is in session)  
 Sunday Worship at 10:45 A.M. 700 Poyntz Avenue  
 Second Helping Dinner at 6:00 P.M. Manhattan, Kansas 66502  
 Thursday Evening Taizé at 7:00 P.M. telephone 785-537-7006  
[www.uccmanhattan.org](http://www.uccmanhattan.org)

## Laboring Towards Jubilee

*“When [Jesus] came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.’” (Luke 4:16-19)*

I’ve mentioned in the past that these verses are the only ones I was required to memorize while in seminary. My Introduction to Theology professor, Theodore Walker, ensured that we knew these words of Jesus.....these words that inaugurated his ministry in Luke’s gospel. When Jesus was asked to introduce himself - to give his mission statement, if you will - he made it clear that he had come to bring good news to those [continued pg. 2]

|                          |                                    |         |
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marginalized by the rest of society. He had come to bring a word of hope to those living in poverty, in prison, unable to see, oppressed. And he made it clear that he had come to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

That phrase "the year of the Lord's favor" isn't just a fancy way of saying, "a year where we tell everybody good news about God." Instead, it refers explicitly to a Jubilee year. The Jubilee is a sabbath of sabbaths - every 50 years (7 x 7 years). According to Leviticus, on the Jubilee year the shofar would sound and all who were enslaved, employed, indentured would be allowed to return to their families. Work would cease. Fields would lay fallow. Debts would be forgiven. The Jubilee year is a giant do-over (quite fitting, since I often refer to God as the God-of-eternal-do-overs). The Jubilee was about making sweeping systemic changes to an economic system that, by its very nature, created and sustained inequalities. It's a pretty major thing. I doubt it would make it onto the official platform of any major party in a presidential election.

With the celebration of Labor Day on September 5, I am pondering once again the vast inequalities in wealth in our nation. Just a few weeks ago, I saw another one of those articles online that showed a map of the U.S. and gave data about how much money a person would need to make an hour in order to afford a simple two-bedroom apartment. In Kansas they said a person working full-time would need to make over \$15 an hour just to afford an apartment. And that, of course, is in the whole state of Kansas, where the cost of living is much lower than it is in our town. Minimum wage in Kansas is \$7.25. The people that we help through our Benevolence Fund, the people who eat at Second Helping, the people who receive help from Shepherd's Crossing....most of these people are employed, sometimes working more than one job. But wages simply do not cover expenses. We are a socio-economically diverse congregation. Some of us live this reality on a daily basis.

This Labor Day, I invite you to take just a few minutes on this holiday and reflect on what we might be called to do in terms of creating a society that would make Jesus proud. I doubt that we are likely to convince anyone to inaugurate a Jubilee year, but I take seriously Jesus's call to dream wild dreams. When we work

together and when we invite the Spirit into the mix, very strange and seemingly-impossible things have been known to occur. When our Still-Speaking God whispers words of good news to the poor, what do we hear? How might we respond?

*Pastor Caela*

## **Where's Pastor Caela?**

One of the great joys of my work is sitting down with many of you and people in our community on a regular basis over cups of coffee, boxes of Kleenex, or lunch. I am always available to get together to talk about what's happening in your life, share in a time of prayer, dream about the future, or support you as you do ministry here at the church and in the wider world. It works best if you can send me an email or call/text to set up a time to meet. And I always enjoy meeting your friends, too.

I am most-easily available for appointments Monday through Wednesday during the day, but am also able to make appointments at other times. On Thursdays, I am usually working off-site to prepare the sermon and worship. Fridays and Saturdays are my days off.

Beginning Tuesday, September 6, I'll be starting up my "out – of-the-office hours" at Radina's in Aggieville. Stop by any Tuesday between 2:00-4:00 p.m. to share in conversation or get a quick blessing. No appointment needed.

## **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.

## 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](mailto:office@uccmanhattan.org). It is a quick and easy way to stay up to date with your church family.



## From the Moderator

It hasn't been all that long ago that households would make many of the things that they needed for the coming year—necessity being the mother of invention, as it were. As we're now in the late-to-post-harvest season, one thinks easily of gathering crops and storing them for winter—something humankind has been doing as long as we've had the good sense to realize that “If it tastes good today, wouldn't it be nice to be able to enjoy some later?” Households in bygone years also manufactured many household staples, things like soap and glue. And it's this last word, glue, that's been bouncing around in my head for the last several weeks as I contemplated writing this article. Being the lover of words that I am, I first explored the documented examples of the word glue and saw that they date back to the late-14<sup>th</sup> century and, of course, their use in normal parlance goes back who knows how far. So, why have I been fixated on glue? It's because, in my mind, the women of the church are, quite literally, the glue that holds us together.

For example, at our August Cabinet meeting, there were twelve individuals present—an appropriate number, from a Biblical standpoint, don't you think? Well, here's the rub—ten of us were female and two male! I pointed this out to the group, for it underscored my thoughts going into the meeting that without the women of the church, there would simply be no First Congregational Church, Manhattan, as we know it. I say this not to denigrate the many wonderful men who have ensured our survival and viability in the community—I think of Burke Bayer, for example, and an exemplar of the dedicated men that have served as pillars of our church for many, many years. He, and others, certainly made a strong impression on the younger me. But more about the church's men in a later article—this one focuses on the womenfolk!

Aside from the ongoing leadership and service that women provide to the church's committees and Cabinet, our endowed funds, upon which we rely so much, would simply not be the same without the generosity of women donors who gave so much to the church they loved. That means that we would not be able to accomplish our mission today without the base of support that they provided.

*continued next page*

From a personal standpoint, you may know that I have four children who have grown up in this church, three girls and a boy, and all of them have been nurtured in a profound way by our church community--especially by the women of the church. It's overly simplistic to say it this way, but one of the reasons that the church has the place in their lives that it does, is because when they return to us, they feel like they are "back home." In large part, I suspect, this is due to the environment that is created by the women of the church—an ever unfolding thread of continuity that links us all the way back to the strong and brave souls that founded our church. To them, the little burg of Manhattan was likely out in the middle of nowhere, yet I'd bet you a nickel that for each of them, there was a similar thread of continuity in their lives, and how far back would that stretch?

Did you notice that several weeks ago, Caela referred "to the writer of Hebrews" in her sermon, rather than to the Apostle Paul? Why is that, do you think? (I, for one, grew up thinking that Paul had penned it.) Well, one answer might be that Biblical scholars are not sure who wrote Hebrews, though most, going back centuries, think it probably was not Paul. But it might have been written by one of the dynamic Christian women from the first century, Priscilla. Caela's reference was subtle, but appreciated. And, of course, the epistle might well have been written by some gnarled and bearded fellow, but it's intriguing to contemplate that its author might have been a woman, don't you think?

As we make our way through the lovely month of September, please remember the many contributions that are made by women day in and day out in the life of our church. I hope that you enjoy Judy Willingham's comments.

*Alfred*

### **Spotlight: Women of the Church**

Women of the Church (WofC) is very loosely organized and meets only when necessary - Lunch Bunch meets on the first Wednesday of the month and many times it serves as a business meeting as well as a social event. There are no elected officers, just those who are willing to take responsibility for a position. This group organizes intermittent rummage sales, with the proceeds going toward specific projects (like the remodeled historical narthex, new equipment, and other needs as they arise) and the



WofC treasury. For many years a dedicated group headed by Joy Schell and Barbara Withee, have provided suppers for the evening meetings in our church of AAUW. Organizing receptions and family meals following funeral services of members (a task of sympathy and generosity) involves all members of our church. Treasury funds have also been used to support our church by a donation to the 'Grow Green' campaign for the Manhattan Community Foundation. At Christmas we traditionally express appreciation for church staff with gift cards, and monetary donations are made to several of our community organizations (CASA, Emergency Shelter, Crisis Center, etc.).

*Judy Willingham, default Presiding Officer*

## Common Table/Second Helping Garden News

Many thanks to the hard-working crew that put up the new fence around the garden: Steve Bishop, Andrew Wymer, and Dave Smit. We hope the fence will allow us to put in some fall crops without feeding every rabbit in the neighborhood.

## Pastor Appreciation Service, Bethel AME Church

Our congregation has been invited by Bethel AME Church to be their guests as they take time to show their appreciation for their pastor, Rachel Williams-Glenn. The service will be Sunday, September 11, at 2:30 p.m.

## Lunch Bunch September 7

Join the Women of the Church for Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, September 7 at **The Thai Noodle (1125 Laramie St.)**. It's not for women only—everyone is welcome to join us for lunch at 11:30 a.m. (Find monthly Lunch Bunch locations 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 is from 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 8 until 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 10 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.



## White Memorial Camp Collection extended through September

Camp White is growing and it needs a lot of things to be able to provide a good camping experience for all campers. Many more people are interested in renting cabins for the week, week-end or one night. View a complete list of needs on the entryway bulletin board.

## September Mrunch

Our next Mrunch will be a special - Playdate at the Park - on Saturday, September 10, at 9:00 a.m. at City Park. There will be donuts! 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.

## \$hop \$mart Grocery Cards

If you ever shop at HyVee, the church can gain support through your use of pre-purchased gift cards from the church (which buys them at a 6% discount). Please contact Dave Manning and let him know of your interest. If enough people are interested in these cards, we will continue to have them available.



A special thank you to Dillons shoppers with a Plus-Card linked to the church account. The first seven months of 2016 you have earned \$1,416.33 toward our budget. If you want info about this opportunity contact the church office.

## Cobb Corner — Going Green

“The fact that there’s a Highway to Hell and only a Stairway to Heaven says a lot about anticipated traffic.” (seen on a coffee mug)

I’ve never been convinced theologically about a hell for the most evil, but I’m all too aware of the real hell innocents are enduring in Syria, Iraq, Yemen, and South Sudan, to name only a few war-torn nations. It’s one thing to try our best to save the reefs, the Amazon, the glaciers, and yes, our own coastal cities, but surely we should be at least as concerned about the endangered of our own species.

Nicholas Kristof, the columnist, wrote two weeks ago about our lack of urgency toward those suffering and dying in the hells abroad. True, he acknowledged, we are shaken by the sights of maimed and drowned children, but then we move on. Having just lost an elderly beloved dog, he mused how Americans might react to news that hundreds of thousands of puppies were starving and being barrel-bombed in Aleppo! OMG that shook me to the core! Add kittens and we’d organize an airlift in a heartbeat. No “extreme vetting” of immigrants with that kind of crisis!

If you’d like to help alleviate the suffering of refugees and those stranded in war zones, consider supporting the International Rescue Committee and the Nobel Peace Prize organization Doctors without Borders (Medecin sans Frontières). These are not the only excellent organizations, but they are exceptionally dedicated, efficient and effective. They also have the highest 4\* ranking from Charity Navigator.

Finally, as Edmund Burke once noted: “All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing.”

Since he made the comment in England over 200 years ago, we should cut him some slack for not adding “and women.” — *Linda Richter*

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

# Fall Adult Education Opportunities

Adult Sunday School at 9:30 a.m.

## September 11 - October 9

Join Sue Gerth and Rachel Mollie Martin for transACTION, a five-week course designed to help churches better understand and welcome people who are transgender. This curriculum, designed by the Institute for Welcoming Resources, will help participants understand the needs, apprehensions, and fears of transgender people – as well as the wealth of gifts and graces they bring to congregations. Barbara Satin, author of the curriculum and transgender advocate, says, “We tried to make this a learning experience that would go beyond just the basics of gender identity and gender expression in order to give participants an understanding of the issues and concerns that transgender people have when trying to express their faith and spirituality in a church or any religious setting.” Contact the church office for a participant guide.

## October 16 - November 6

Gayle Doll leads a study of Mary Pipher's bestselling book, *Another Country: Navigating the Emotional Terrain of our Elders*. If you would like the church office to order a copy of the book for you, please let us know by Oct. 10th.

## November 20

Rabbi Moti Rieber, Executive Director of Kansas Interfaith Action, will join us in the pulpit and lead adult Sunday School. His adult Sunday School class will be on the topic of "The Recent Election Results - Reflections and Predictions." Kansas Interfaith Action is a statewide, multi-faith issue-advocacy organization that "puts faith into action" by educating, engaging and advocating on behalf of people of faith and the public regarding critical social, economic, and climate justice issues.

## November 27 - December 18

Dale Stearns will lead our Advent book study. *Awaiting the Already: An Advent Journey through the Gospels* takes us on a tour through the Gospel narratives, showing us what parts of the Christmas story come from which Gospel, and helps us to recognize that each Gospel writer invites us to encounter a fresh experience of the birth of Christ. If you'd like the church office to order a copy of the book for you, please let us know by Nov. 14th.

## Christian Education

This month I've really been enjoying my time getting to know the children and meeting so many people in the congregation. Thank you for such a warm welcome!

I've been amazed at how many people have volunteered to help with the children's Sunday School classes and I'm thrilled to say that we are now offering a Sunday School class for the 2nd-5th grade levels as well as the PreK-1st grade class.

Please let me know if you are interested in sharing your time as a volunteer for Sacred Space to help guide the older children in participating in worship on Sunday mornings.

Thank you for all your kindness and best wishes for the semester ahead.

*Andria Anderson*

(children@uccmanhattan.org)

## Youth Group

Dear Church Family:

It was a long hot summer, but I hope that you all enjoyed your time. Our youth definitely did in Orlando, Florida and feel so grateful to the church for the opportunity and the support of the church. Please look forward to a sharing back of their gratitude and experience in the near future.

Also, this year our StillSpeaking Youth Group will have the opportunity to join with Manhattan's Unitarian Universalist Church in the presentation of the OWL (Our Whole Lives) Curriculum, that will teach them with a holistic perspective of sexuality and gender.

I am looking forward to another year of spiritual growth and connection with the youth of our church and in Manhattan.

If you would like more information about the StillSpeaking Youth Group, please contact Tai Amri at youth@uccmanhattan.org

In peace,

*Tai Amri Spann-Wilson*

# 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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## ***September 4, 2016***

**Dessert:** *volunteer needed*

**Volunteers:** Ann Gleason, Kathy Bleam, Stephanie Reeck, *2 volunteers needed*

**Chief Cook:** Andy Barkley

**Church Host:** Mary Ellen Barkley

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## ***September 11, 2016***

**Dessert:** *volunteer needed*

**Volunteers:** Ann Gleason, *4 volunteers needed*

**Chief Cook:** Angela Hubler

**Church Host:** Pastor Caela

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## ***September 18, 2016***

**Dessert:** *volunteer needed*

**Volunteers:** Carolyn & Jim Hodgson, *2 volunteers needed*

**Chief Cook:** Craig Weston

**Church Host:** Tracey Weston

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## ***September 25, 2016***

**Dessert:** *volunteer needed*

**Volunteers:** ESA Sorority

**Chief Cook:** Gretchen Lewis

**Church Host:** Jim Lewis

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

# Worship & Volunteers

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## *September 4, 2016*

**Greeters**..... Brett Parsons, Jessica Haymaker  
**Scripture Reader**..... Ann Smit  
**Communion Servers** . Paul Hunt, Stacy Shaffer, Judy Ahrens  
**Fellowship Hour** ..... *volunteer needed*  
**Flowers** ..... Brett Parsons  
**Lawn Care** ..... *volunteer needed (Sep 1-3)*

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## *September 11, 2016*

**Greeters**..... *volunteer needed*  
**Scripture Reader**..... Sue Zschoche  
**Fellowship Hour** ..... *volunteer needed*  
**Flowers** ..... *volunteer needed*  
**Lawn Care** ..... *volunteer needed (Sep 8-10)*

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## *September 18, 2016*

**Greeters**..... April Mason, *volunteer needed*  
**Scripture Reader**..... April Mason  
**Fellowship Hour** ..... *volunteer needed*  
**Flowers** ..... *volunteer needed*  
**Lawn Care** ..... *volunteer needed (Sep 15-17)*

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## *September 25, 2016*

**Greeters**..... *volunteers needed*  
**Scripture Reader** ..... Paul Hunt  
**Fellowship Hour** ..... *volunteer needed*  
**Flowers** ..... *volunteer needed*  
**Lawn Care** ..... *volunteer needed (Sep 22-24)*

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# 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/uccmanhattanks](https://www.facebook.com/uccmanhattanks). 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 each Friday with 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.org](mailto:office@uccmanhattan.org) or visit [uccmanahttan.org/newsletters](http://uccmanahttan.org/newsletters) to sign up.

## 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

## Community News

### Crisis Center Volunteer Training

The Crisis Center is offering a Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Workshop and Volunteer Training Program in September. All those interested in the issue of violence against women are encouraged to attend this training. The registration fee of \$15.00 covers training materials and supplies.

Saturday, September 10 & 17 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

In order to volunteer at the Crisis Center it is required to attend both training sessions. For further information or to reserve your spot, please contact the Crisis Center at (785) 539-7935

### Family Day

Sunday,  
September 11, 2016



The Flint Hills Discovery Center shows its appreciation to the community on Sunday, Sept. 11 with FREE admission from Noon to 5:00 p.m. Introducing new activities, community groups and much more!

### Tony Jurich Lecture on Social Justice: The Ethical and Just Treatment of LGB Clients

Thursday, September 22, 2:00 p.m.  
Little Theatre, K-State Student Union

Christi McGeorge, whose research focuses on influence of heterosexism and homophobia in clinical practice and training, gender equity in therapy and higher education, and feminist theories, will present the third Tony Jurich Lecture on Social Justice at 2 p.m. Thursday, September 22, in the K-State Student Union's Little Theatre.

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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

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



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**Return Service Requested**



| Sunday  | Monday  | Tuesday                                  | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday  |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| <h1>September 2016</h1>   |   |  |   | <b>1</b><br>7:00 Taizé<br>8:00 NA mtg                  | <b>2</b><br>7:30 NA mtg                                 | <b>3</b><br>9:00 Mrunch Play<br>Date at City Park |
| <b>4</b><br>8:30 Choir Rehearsal<br>9:30 Sunday School<br>10:45 Worship & Communion<br><i>Fill the Breadbasket</i><br>6:00 Second Helping | <b>5</b><br><b>Office Closed</b><br>5:15 Yoga<br>6:45 Timeless<br>A Cappella<br>7:30 NA mtg | <b>6</b>                                 | <b>7</b><br>11:30 Lunch Bunch<br>5:30 Mission<br>5:45 Deacons<br>7:00 Trustees<br>7:00 AA meeting | <b>8</b><br>7:00 Taizé<br>8:00 NA mtg                  | <b>9</b><br><b>Office Closed</b><br>7:30 NA mtg         | <b>10</b>   |
|   |   |  |   | Ministry of the Decorative Scissors                    |   |   |
| <b>11</b><br>10:45 Worship<br>8:30 Choir Rehearsal<br>9:30 Sunday School<br>10:45 Worship<br>6:00 Second Helping                          | <b>12</b><br>5:00 AAUW<br>5:15 Yoga<br>6:45 Timeless<br>A Cappella<br>7:30 NA mtg           | <b>13</b>                                | <b>14</b><br>6:30 Christian Ed<br>7:00 Vitality mtg<br>7:00 AA meeting                            | <b>15</b><br>7:00 MLK mtg<br>7:00 Taizé<br>8:00 NA mtg | <b>16</b><br>7:30 NA mtg                                | <b>17</b>   |
|   |   | ----- Sandy vacation -----               |   |  |   |   |
| <b>18</b><br>8:30 Choir Rehearsal<br>9:30 Sunday School<br>10:45 Worship<br>12:30 ESA meeting<br>6:00 Second Helping                      | <b>19</b><br>No Yoga<br>6:45 Timeless<br>A Cappella<br>7:30 NA mtg                          | <b>20</b><br>10:00 N.C.<br>Clergy Mtg.   | <b>21</b><br>7:00 Cabinet meeting<br>7:00 AA meeting  | <b>22</b><br>7:00 Taizé<br>8:00 NA mtg                 | <b>23</b><br>5:00 Newsletter<br>Deadline<br>7:30 NA mtg | <b>24</b><br>6:00 Staff Social                    |
| <b>25</b><br>8:30 Choir Rehearsal<br>9:30 Sunday School<br>10:45 Worship<br>6:00 Second Helping   | <b>26</b><br>No Yoga<br>6:45 Timeless<br>A Cappella<br>7:30 NA mtg                          | <b>27</b>                                | <b>28</b><br>7:00 AA meeting  | <b>29</b>  | <b>30</b>   |   |
|   |   | ----- Caela to NGLI in Kansas City ----- |   |  |   |   |