



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 61 Number 9

September 2017

Sunday School at 9:30 A.M. (when school is in session)

Sunday Worship at 10:45 A.M.

Second Helping Dinner at 6:00 P.M.

Thursday Evening Taizé at 7:00 P.M.

700 Poyntz Avenue

Manhattan, Kansas 66502

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www.uccmanhattan.org

Namaste

As I walk out of my children's school on a perfect late-summer morning the sky is blue and the birds are chirping. Teachers stand outside the doors greeting students by name, "Good morning, Koby! Good morning, Jasmine! So glad you're here today!" Teachers seem to have a gift for making sure every child is known, greeted, welcomed, loved.

I turn onto the trail that will take me home and notice a dad I know by face but not name ahead of me. I see him reach up and gently touch the leaves on a tree as he passes it. He glances up for a moment at the canopy overhead.

Each time I practice yoga we end class in the same way. Our teacher puts her hands together as if praying and bows deeply. "Namaste," she says.

Namaste is one of those deeply theological words that, sadly, seems to have become a caricature of itself. In Sanskrit it literally means, "I bow to you." The more poetic, extended version is something like, "That which is holy in me [continued pg. 2]



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sees and recognizes that which is holy in you.” But mostly these days you see it on coffee cups, embroidered pillows and in ad campaigns.

It makes me sad to see this sacred and important word lose its actual value.

Because it seems to me that what the world needs right now is *namaste*. We need a reminder that each of us has a spark of the divine within. “God created humanity in God’s own image,” we are told in the ancient words of the Creation story. C.S. Lewis reflected on the spirit of *namaste* in his 1942 sermon *The Weight of Glory*:

It is a serious thing to live in a society of possible gods and goddesses...All day long we are, in some degree, helping each other to one or other of these destinations. It is in the light of these overwhelming possibilities, it is with the awe and the circumspection proper to them, that we should conduct all our dealings with one another, all friendships, all loves, all play, all politics. There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal.

Sometimes it is easy to remember that we are all filled with the Holy. The sun shines and the birds sing overhead. A man looks up at the beauty of a tree. *Namaste*. A young child runs eagerly for the door of their school with a big smile on her face. *Namaste*.

But other times, it is much harder. The baby wakes me up in the middle of the night for the ninth time. *Namaste*. In my moment of deep need, a dear friend says the wrong words. *Namaste*. A person driving while down at their cell phone almost hits my car. *Namaste*.

This isn’t to say that we can’t ever get mad or frustrated. Far from it. But I have noticed that when I try to carry within myself the awareness that the Holy resides inside each and every person I encounter, my anger and frustration can often be channeled in more productive, less poisonous ways. AND...when I remember that the Holy resides in me I am more intentional about the way I talk to myself and the choices I make throughout the day.

To be made in the image of God is to be Love Incarnate. It’s a gift. It’s a challenge. It’s terrifying. It’s beautiful. *Namaste*.

Pastor Caela

Sharing and Caring

Prayers and Concerns

- 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 marianfuller@gmail.com. It is a quick and easy way to stay up to date with your church family.



Upcoming Dates of Interest at First Congregational:

- September 29:** Welcoming Dinner for those new to our congregation
- October 29:** Pledge Sunday
- November 12:** Guest preacher Stephanie Mott

Mrunch

The Mrunch group meets Saturday, September 2, from 9-11am at Sparrow Specialty Coffee (219 S. 4th St, Manhattan). Mrunch is a time for mothers of elementary aged 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. If you have questions or need childcare, contact Andrea Chamberlain.

Lunch Bunch August 2

We join together with Bethel AME Church in an opportunity for members of our two congregations to get to know one another. Wednesday, September 6 at **Green Tea Sushi** (1120 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 clicking on Community Life/Events Calendar on the church website at www.uccmanhattan.com.)



New Bible Study/Small Group Beginning September 10th

How do we learn to take the Bible seriously, but not literally? Join us bi-weekly on Sunday evenings at 7pm as we discuss tough biblical questions and explore progressive Christianity. The location for this group is still being determined. For more information contact Kowan Russell, Mattie O'Boyle, or Craig Weston.

Finding Pastor Caela

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. Mondays through Wednesdays are typically best for routine meetings, as Thursdays are used for sermon and worship preparation and Friday-Saturday are her days off.



Free Money!

Do you participate in our Dillons fundraiser? It's easy! Just go to dillons.com to link your shopper card. If you need help, contact the church office. (Our organization number is #10145.) Check your enrollment by checking the very bottom of your Dillons receipt. You should see "...donating to First Congregational UCC."

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.

Ministry of the Decorative Scissors

The Ministry of the Decorative Scissors meets September 14-16. 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.



Sunday Parking on Poyntz

Parking on Poyntz is somewhat limited on Sunday mornings. There is a sign at the west end of the block that reads "Parallel parking except Sunday AM". You are encouraged to park at an angle to allow for more spaces on Sunday mornings, however, don't leave your car too long after the noon deadline or you will receive a ticket.



New: Member's Area on Church Website

Your church leadership has been at work over the summer creating some new communications tools to help us keep each other informed. Please visit our website to access these forms. You can type www.uccmanhattan.org/members-area into your browser or simply go to uccmanhattan.org and then hover over “Community Life” and “Members’ Area.”

In the Members’ Area you will find instructions on using the Church Directory, the Sign Up Genius page, and (new!) helpful online forms.

The Online Forms section has three new forms that will be very helpful for all of us. They are a one-stop-shop for you to share information with the people who need it. No more remembering who needs to know what! When you use the forms we will have all the information we need to follow up in one place. No more searching through e-mails and post-it notes!

Work Order - If you see something in our building that needs attention, please submit it via the Work Order. The Board of Trustees will be notified right away.

Event Registration - If you are planning on having a church event that needs to go on our calendar OR you need to request space in the building, please use the Event Registration. Sandy will check the calendar and be in touch.

Publicity Request - Once you have a date/time/location for your event, this is a way for you to request that we publicize it in the bulletin, newsletter, bulletin boards, Friday e-mails, etc. All YOU have to do is write a short description one time and the office will take care of the rest. Pretty sweet, huh?

As we are getting used to these new methods of communication, if you have any questions, please contact the office.

The honor of your presence
and the support of your prayers
are requested
at the marriage of

William Tucker Pugh
and
Robert Kent Cormack

on the occasion of
their twenty-fourth anniversary

Saturday, the sixteenth of September
two thousand seventeen
at two o'clock in the afternoon

First Congregational
United Church of Christ
700 Poyntz Avenue
Manhattan, Kansas

Reception to follow in Pioneer Hall

Kent and Bill add: "Absolutely no gifts. After 24 years we don't need anything except your continued friendship, love, support, and prayers. No R.S.V.P. is required"

Christian Education

Fall 2017:

Sunday School Opportunities for Adults and Youth

All classes are at 9:30a.m. The nursery is open for babies and toddlers. Sunday School classes for preschoolers and elementary-schoolers take place on the second floor. Middle-schoolers and high-schoolers are invited to the classes below or may be interested in helping teach younger children. Please contact Andria Anderson (children@uccmanhattan.org) or Tai Amri Spann-Wilson (youth@uccmanhattan.org) for more information about options for children and youth.

August 20 through September 24 (six weeks)

Peace Training I: (for High Schoolers, College Aged and Adults Participants)

Led by Tai Amri Spann-Wilson

This 6-week, multi-generational class is designed for those interested in participating in a basic training on peace and conflict resolution. Drawing from experience with the Quaker curriculum from the Alternatives to Violence Program (AVP) and Help Increase the Peace Program (HIPP) as well as trainings in Beyond Diversity 101 (BD101) and The Kingian Nonviolent Training Program, I will be incorporating tools and lessons designed to align body, mind and spirit with the objectives of peace and social justice. Each class will involve movement, spiritual practice, and strategies for creating social change, following the motto to be the change that we want to see in the world. Participants, aged 13 and up, are encouraged to bring comfortable clothing, notebooks, and an object of special meaning to them for a makeshift altar. If you have any questions, please contact Tai Amri Spann-Wilson at youth@uccmanhattan.org.



October 1 through November 12 (seven weeks)

The Language of Faith

Led by Dave Smit

Ever hear the slogan, “Take people for what they mean, not for what they say?” It turns out the slogan is right. We understand each other in complicated ways that cannot be accounted for primarily by the words we use. The context in which we use words may be more important than the words themselves.

In this class, we’ll examine how we talk about what matters to us, following the procedures of Hermeneutics, or the theory and practice of interpretation. We can call it Hermen, for short. We’ll begin by studying how we rely on context to understand each other’s everyday speech and writing, then move on to examine how we bring our own background and experience to written texts. With this as a framework, we’ll delve into how to effectively use terms such as “good” and “bad,” and “right” and “wrong,” how to appropriately interpret sacred texts, and how to share our faith with others who may think our beliefs and values are very strange. We’ll explore ways to make our judgments seem reasonable to people who disagree with us and our faith sensible to those whose beliefs are very different from our own.

Children's Sunday School

Fall Sunday School classes began August 20 and we plan for 11 weeks of education. The first four weeks will be focused on the theme of love in 1 Cor. 13. Tracey Weston and Paulicia Williams are teaching children in Pre-K through 1st grade in the Craft Room, and Amanda

Tross is teaching children in 2nd through 5th grade in the theater and conference room. We will begin Christmas Pageant Rehearsals on November 5th during the Sunday School hour.



ECM Notebook

Ecumenical Campus Ministry is a cooperative ministry at K-State supported by the Presbyterian Church (USA), the United Church of Christ, and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). www.ksu.edu/ecm

As reminded by this weekend's events in Charlottesville, the world continues to call us forth for discipleship and faith-filled lives that demonstrate the peace, justice and love of Jesus Christ. I can't think of a better time for us to breathe new life into Ecumenical Campus Ministry at K-State than now!



If you have not heard already, Rev. Christian Watkins has been called to the position of ECM Campus Pastor effective August 1, 2017. Rev. Watkins is returning to her home state of Kansas after serving most recently as a mission co-worker in Istanbul, Turkey with Global Ministries. Prior to that, she worked in parish ministry with the United Church of Christ. Rev. Watkins graduated from the University of Kansas, completed a master's degree at Yale Divinity School and is ordained in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). As Campus Pastor, Christian will provide pastoral and programmatic leadership to support K-State students in exploring their spiritual beliefs through fellowship, study and service.

While Rev. Watkins assumes the full-time Campus Pastor role, Rev. David Jones has transitioned into a part-time position as ECM Director of Development. Rev. Jones will plan, organize and direct all of ECM's fundraising efforts. After 20 years serving as campus pastor, David's new role is an exceptional opportunity to ensure the sustainability of ECM for years to come.

Clearly, we have been abundantly blessed with leadership for the way forward. Please contact me if you have any questions or input as we pursue this new path on the ECM journey.

Kerri Keller, ECM Board President

Cobb Corner — Going Green

“Lots of people talk to animals....Not very many listen though....That’s the problem” – A.A. Milne

A few weeks ago I went to an unusual dinner party with Bill. We were forewarned to think about whom we’d most like to talk to living or dead. It was an interesting question. Helen Keller, Gandhi, Martin Luther King came to mind, but I already know quite a bit about their beliefs.

Then I considered how much NASA and other scientists are spending to try to contact alien life. Yet consider how little we know of the thoughts of non-human primates with whom we share up to 98% of DNA.

I decided if given the opportunity I’d like to talk to Koko, the middle-aged gorilla who knows more than 3000 words in sign language. I’ve followed her life since she was very young. From what I know we share a love of cake and cats and are worried about the environment. Koko has been quoted as signing “Koko love people, but people sometimes act stupid.”

My 17 year old granddaughter, Savannah, knows sign language so I’d take her along. We would of course discuss cats. Did Koko miss All Ball, her name for her first tailless Manx? What does she like most or least about living with people? What does she worry about? Is she going to do more public service announcements? What is most fun? Does she have any questions for me and Savannah?

I’ve been a member of the Gorilla Foundation for a long time, so I know that talking with Koko is not far-fetched. Betty White and numerous other celebrities have had conversations with her and a couple of her signing gorilla buddies.

But even more than talking to Koko I wish I could apologize to all those species that have gone or are going extinct because MY species wanted their plumage, fur, skin, eggs, tusks, horns, or habitat.. -- *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.

September 3, 2017

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: Kathy Bleam, Carolyn Hodgson, Lauren Ritterbush, Brad Logan

Chief Cook: Andy Barkley

Church Host: Mary Ellen Barkley

September 10, 2017

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: Mary Ash, Jane Marshall, Rob & Krista Caffey

Chief Cook: Linda Thurston

Church Host: Susanne Gilmore

September 17, 2017

Dessert: Tross family

Volunteers: Alpha Phi Omega Sorority

Chief Cook: *volunteer needed*

Church Host: April Mason

September 24, 2017

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: ESA Sorority

Chief Cook: Angela Hubler

Church Host: Pastor Caela

**Volunteer by going to
uccmanhattan.org/sign-ups**

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 Saturday, September 9 & 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The registration fee of \$15.00 covers training materials and supplies. For further information or to reserve your spot, please contact the Crisis Center at (785) 539-7935

Conversations on Race Reconciliation: A Community-Based Dialogue

October 30, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

St. Thomas Moore Catholic Church

A panel discussion of prepared questions will be followed by round table groups as we are joined by Cats for Inclusion to discuss the issues raised and possible initiatives to improve issues of race relations.

For more information contact Jennifer Edwards at jremezzo@gmail.com.

ww.facebook.com/manhattanksConversations



Neighbors in Need

The Neighbors in Need offering, on Sunday, October 1, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Through ucc.org/justice, our national Justice and Witness Ministries office offers resources, news updates, and action alerts on a broad spectrum of justice issues. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice.

Please give generously on October 1. Contributions to Neighbors in Need can be made on-line at any time at: www.ucc.org/nin

Welcoming Dinner — On Friday, September 29 we will gather together people who are new and new-ish to the church for a Welcoming Dinner. This is a lovely evening of breaking bread and getting to know each other. Those who attend will be given an opportunity to ask questions about First Congregational and meet some of our long-time members. The Board of Deacons assists Pastor Caela in hosting this event. If you are new to the church and want an invitation to the dinner, please e-mail Pastor Caela (pastor@uccmanhattan.org). If you are interested in helping cook, serve, or clean, please contact Linda Thurston.

Ministry Opportunities



Second Helping has been an outreach ministry of First Congregational Church for 15+ years. From 4:15-7:30 each Sunday, volunteers prepare and serve a hot meal and provide a sack lunch for members of the community who are in need of fellowship and a meal. Volunteers each week include a Head Cook, 4 crew members and a Church Host. We are always looking for people to help with this effort, so if you are interested, please provide your contact information below. Training is provided for all roles, so don't be afraid to give it a try! **Want to be a part of the Second Helping ministry? Circle this paragraph and drop this paper in the collection plate with your name and contact information.**

Worship volunteers have many Sunday morning tasks. They greet at the door, read scripture, host fellowship hour, usher, contribute flowers, and offer the Word for Children. Sign up is easy! **Want to be a part of the worship ministry? Circle this paragraph and drop this paper in the collection plate with your name and contact information.**

Grounds care in spring, summer, and fall requires mowing the church lawn, in addition to the church garden lot adjacent to the alley, prior to Sunday's worship (Thursday, Friday, or Saturday). In the winter it's a little different. Sign up for a whole week – Monday-Sunday – and if it snows, you "win" what is affectionately called the snow lottery. You've got to clear the walkways with the church snow blower. **Want to be a part of the grounds care ministry? Circle this paragraph and drop this paper in the collection plate with your name and contact information.**

Name: _____

Phone number(s): _____

Email: _____

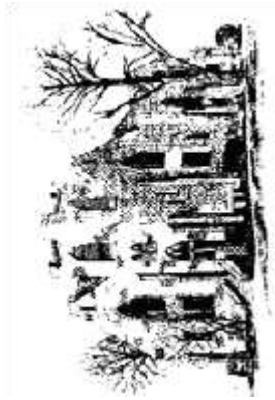
**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>September</h1>						
					1 7:30 NA mtg	2 9:00 Mrunch @Arrow
3 9:30 Choir Rehearsal 10:45 Worship & Communion <i>Fill the Breadbasket</i> 6:00 Second Helping	4 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	5	6 11:30 Lunch Bunch 5:30 Mission 6:00 Deacons 7:00 Trustees 7:00 AA meeting	7 7:00 Taizé 8:00 NA mtg	8 7:30 NA mtg	9
10 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 6:00 Second Helping	11 4:30 Min. of Care 5:00 AAUW 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	12	13 6:30 Christian Ed 7:00 Vitality 7:00 AA meeting	14 7:00 Taizé 8:00 NA mtg	15 7:30 NA mtg	16 2:00 Wedding
----- Sandy on vacation -----						
17 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 6:00 Second Helping	18 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	19 10:00 NCA Clergy 6:30 Trans Parent Support meeting	20 7:00 Cabinet 7:00 AA meeting	21 7:00 MLK mtg 7:00 Taizé 8:00 NA mtg	22 23 ESA fundraiser	
					12:00 Newsletter Deadline 7:30 NA mtg	
24 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 6:00 Second Helping	25 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	26	27 7:00 AA meeting	28 7:00 Taizé 8:00 NA mtg	29 6:00 Welcoming Dinner 7:30 NA mtg	30