



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 62 Number 2

February 2018

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

telephone 785-537-7006

www.uccmanhattan.org

An Invitation for Lent: Just Be.

Lent is traditionally a time in the church year where we start to think about “making changes.” Traditionally, Lent has been a time of fasting, penance, sacrifice. As a child growing up in a community where Lent was taken quite seriously, it was common to hear kids at school say, “So...what are you giving up for Lent this year?” There are folks for whom giving something up is very meaningful and find a deepening of their faith through that practice each year. If that’s you, I say GO FOR IT.

Other folks approach Lent by “making changes” by adding something in. Perhaps they commit to a new prayer practice or find an outlet for community service. Again, this seems like a lovely practice for Lent. Adding something in with the desire to deepen your faithful roots into the ground is what it’s all about. Lent is a time for lengthening, sending our roots deep down into the fertile soil that is about to wake. Lent is a time *[continued pg. 2]*



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for ripening, waiting patiently for warmer days to come as we quietly and carefully lay the foundation for new life and growth. If adding something in helps you grow and deepens your connection to the Holy, I say GO FOR IT.

For those wanting to try something new this year, or those “just not feeling it” as Lent approaches – I have another possibility for you. How about a year where your Lenten practice is to Just Be? Father Richard Rohr wrote an article, “Lent is About Transformation,” back in 2012. I’ll post a link to it on the church website if you’d like to read it. In it, Fr. Rohr says that, too often, Lenten practices are about making changes, not about being changed. This whole practice of following Jesus is about transformation – about allowing our very form to be altered on a foundational level – not just about making surface-level changes. Sometimes, of course, the practice of living in new ways leads to foundational shifts. I think that’s what we are often seeking when we give something up or add something in for Lent. When that works, it’s a powerful, powerful thing.

Sometimes, though, what we need (perhaps especially in a world that is always changing) is less movement and more stillness, fewer changes and more steadiness. Sometimes we don’t need to radically alter ourselves. Sometimes we simply need to be present and allow. This is not a passive waiting. This is an active, intentional way of grounding ourselves in each moment and inviting an awareness of God’s presence in our lives. This be-ing requires careful self-discipline and awareness. In his book *Everything Belongs: The Gift of Contemplative Prayer*, Fr. Rohr says, “Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I am. Be still and know. Be still. Be.”

Be.

It’s a radical invitation in a world where we are told we need to be constantly in motion. It’s a radical invitation when our whole lives are built around the never-ending cycle of producing and consuming. It’s a radical invitation to rest in God’s presence and learn to simply be present. To honor the holiness of each passing moment. To be inspired by something as beautiful as our own breath. To stop striving, working, moving. To just BE.

I’m not suggesting, incidentally, that you try to Just Be 24-7 during Lent. I’m pretty sure that’s not possible. But I am going to

work this year on Just Be-ing during short daily meditations. You might decide to Just Be during conversations with your loved ones at the dinner table. Or maybe you want to Just Be when that negative voice starts to play in your head. Perhaps you want to Just Be in nature, or in worship, or at the gym. I think it can be done anywhere, really. It's about a quality of awareness we bring to each moment as holy – nothing more, nothing less. However you observe this season of lengthening that we call Lent, know that I will be praying for you as you seek wholeness and growth on this journey towards Easter.

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. It is a quick and easy way to stay up to date with your church family.



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.

Heartfelt Thanks

We would like to our church family at First Congregational for the many prayers and tangible support we received over the past year as Matt underwent cancer treatments and surgeries. Matt's most recent scan, blood work and colonoscopy show no signs of cancer. (Hooray!) We are thankful for the many skilled doctors and health professionals at KU Med and here in Manhattan who have made this possible.

Emily, Matt, Graham and Connor Brueseke

Lunch Bunch February 7



We join together in an opportunity to get to know one another. Wednesday, February 7 at **Little Apple Brewing Co.** (1110 Westloop). 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.)

Mrunch

Mrunch will get together again Saturday February 3, from 9-11am at Radina's Bakehouse (Blue Earth Plaza, 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

Ministry of the Decorative Scissors

The Ministry of the Decorative Scissors meets February 8-10.

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.



Living Room Worship Night

Sunday, March 4, 6:30 - 8:30 pm

A casual evening of acoustic guitar, singing, prayer, and fellowship.

If you are hungry to deepen your connection to God and each other, join us in the living room! Please contact the church office for the night's location.

Lent 2018

Lent is the 40 days preceding Easter and is a time when Christians traditionally cultivate their faith in more intensive ways. For some this may include giving something up or adding in a new spiritual practice. As a gathered community, we always include additional focused opportunities for worship and communal prayer. Here is a preview of opportunities during Lent. As more information becomes available, it will be shared at uccmanhattan.org/lent and uccmanhattan.org/holy-week

WORSHIP:

Wednesday, Feb. 14 - Ashes to Go, various locations and times, see website for details

Ash Wednesday worship, 7:00pm

Sunday, Feb. 25 - Living Room Worship, 6:30-8:30pm

Thursdays - Taize Worship, 7:00pm

LEARN:

Thursdays beginning Feb. 15 - Book Study *The Misunderstood Jew*, 11:30am-1:00pm

Flint Hills Gosper Sing, Feb. 17-18

Sundays beginning Feb. 18 - Adult class on Christianity and Anti-Semitism, 9:30am

SERVE:

Volunteer at Second Helping on Sunday evenings

Second Helping Host Training on Feb. 25, 12:30-2:00pm

Get involved with our new Blessing Box

Holy Week begins March 25 with Palm/Passion Sunday. We will observe Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. Details will be available in the March newsletter. Easter Sunday is April 1.



Second Helping Host Training

As we prepare to celebrate 20 years of Second Helping later this year, the Board of Mission would like to invite those are interested in becoming Church Hosts at Second Helping to attend a training session. The Church Host is present for the meal each week, welcoming our guests, answering questions, and ensuring that the atmosphere remains warm and home-y.

There will be a training session on Sunday, Feb. 25 from 12:30-2:00pm. A simple lunch will be provided and we are thankful that Kevin Tilley, who is the director of security at Via Christi Hospital and a regular attender at our services, will help provide part of the training. You can expect to learn helpful tips for making Second Helping run smoothly, including time to talk about how to help prevent or respond to conflict between guests and how to best serve our guests who may be intoxicated or living with mental illness. If you have any questions, please contact Jackie Kerstetter, P.O. of Mission. We hope to have another training in March and you can watch the bulletin for that future date.

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.

Christian Education

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.

ADULT EDUCATION UPDATES

Pastor Caela's four-week class on Judith and the Apocrypha continues on Sunday mornings at 9:30am. You can feel free to jump in at any time. The next adult Sunday School class will begin Feb. 18th and will be led by Brent Maner. Pastor Sue will also begin a new mid-week book study on Thursday, Feb. 15th.

Adult Sunday School:

Feb. 18 through Mar. 18 (five weeks) at 9:30am

Christianity and Anti-Semitism: A Troubling History

Led by Brent Maner

During the season of Lent—a time set aside for reflection, prayer, and penitence—this Sunday School class will examine the horrible place of anti-Jewish violence in Christian history. We will use the insights of historians and theologians to unpack the descriptions of Jews in the New Testament and in early Christianity that became features of Western anti-Semitism from the Middle Ages to the present day. We will also strengthen our own commitment to justice and our belief in God's universal love by considering the efforts by religious leaders to overcome this troubling history through prayer, atonement, and interfaith dialogue.

Apr. 8 through May 13 (six weeks)

We Sing Freedom!

Led by Tai Amri Spann-Wilson, Richard Pitts, and David Wood

Movements of liberation and resistance have always been built upon the mind-body-spirit connection of music. In this six-week class we will honor the sacred song of silence, explore the history

of freedom songs, and leave plenty of room for making music together as Tai Amri and David teach us songs from various freedom movements. Our special guest Richard Pitts will be with us on Apr. 22 to share about the new living history project he is launching as a part of his work with the Underground Railroad tours in our community.

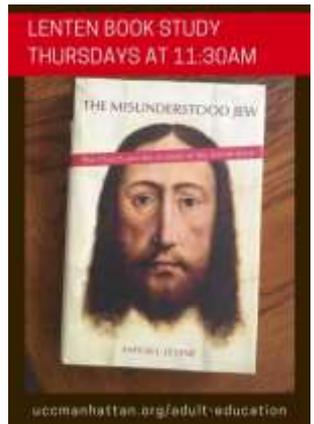
Midweek Class:

Thursdays from 11:30am-1:00pm, beginning Feb. 15

Book Study: *The Misunderstood Jew* by Amy-Jill Levine

Led by Sue Zschoche

On February 15, we will begin what I hope will become a tradition: a midweek Bible study group exploring various topics in depth. We will meet from 11:30 to 1:00 on Thursdays in Andover Hall. (I hope that some of you can “sneak” a slightly longer lunch hour with us). If anyone needs childcare to attend, please let me know – we will make some arrangements. I’ll provide coffee and iced tea – do feel free to bring a sack lunch.



The subject of this first, seven-week study will be Amy-Jill Levine’s book, *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus*. Levine notes that most Christians have difficulty remembering that Jesus was an observant Jew and that his message was deeply rooted in Jewish tradition and life in first century Palestine. Put another way, Jesus was not a Christian. Her point: understanding the Jewish roots of what became the Christian faith is a necessary corrective to centuries of Christian misunderstanding, and persecution, of Judaism. The book is available on Amazon in both print and digital form. If you would like the church to order you a copy, please let us know by Sunday, 11 February. I do so hope that many of you can join us. Peace, Sue Z.

Youth Ministry: Our Whole Lives

Dear Church,

This month it was my great honor to be trained in the 7th-9th grade curriculum on sexuality, relationships and communication created by the Unitarian Universalist Association and United Church of Christ, known as Our Whole Lives. While I had a very happy childhood and amazing parents, I grew in one of those households where we just didn't talk about sexuality or sex. That means that all the lessons I learned were from my peers, and the vast majority were the wrong kind of lessons. And while I had my struggles growing up, I recognize that the youth of today have a whole different struggle. I don't want to sound as though I believe that things were so much easier when I was a kid, perhaps every generation has their own dangers and challenges, I had the internet where the generation before me only had magazines. But social media has once again changed the game. As much as I needed guidance, that wasn't really there, to help me navigate the waters of sexuality, our youth need it today. I don't know that Our Whole Lives was available around me when I was growing up, but I wonder how different my life would have been if it was. There's a reason they call it Our Whole Lives, because even though I've been trained to work with 7th-9th graders, that wasn't the only time I needed to understand my body and my sexuality, I started to inquire and make decisions about that when I was preschool. We are whole human beings from birth, what a blessing that we have a teaching that helps us to embrace beauty of this truth. I hope that every one of us would be able to learn from what has been set before us.

In peace,

Tai Amri

OWL Thanks

We give thanks for our friends at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Manhattan who always invite us to participate in Our Whole Lives (OWL) classes. We currently have six K-1st graders participating.

Cobb Corner — Going Green

“When asked what he’d do if he knew God was coming back tomorrow, the theologian Martin Luther responded that he’d plant a tree....He understood that tending God’s good earth was itself a high act of spiritual worth....Every time we save another acre of rain forest, clean up another river, recycle another bottle, say no to another frivolous purchase, we are serving God’s creation and we are serving the poor.”

– “Loving the Earth is Serving the Poor,” by Gordon Aeschliman, in *The Green Bible* p. 1-97.

Celebrating Sean Weston’s ordination January 28th reminded me of that old verse “and a little child will lead them.” Many of us have been privileged to watch Sean grow up into a delightful and accomplished man. Along the way, nine years ago Sean came back from a UCC conference to tell the church enthusiastically about an inspiring talk John Cobb gave, challenging the UCC churches to embark on a major commitment to save the planet.

Sean described it as the “Cobb challenge” to compete among member churches to embark on a sustained effort to protect the environment. Sean suggested we start by contesting with Plymouth Congregational in Lawrence. At the time Manhattan and Lawrence were competing for a \$100,000 prize for environmentally friendly actions. (Manhattan won!)

So many things were undertaken: The empty land the church owned became a garden plot, incandescent bulbs were swapped out for CFLs and later LEDs. Recycled toilet paper and office supplies were purchased as well – the former a source of consternation to a few until they saw the clean rolls!

Recycling from members soared. There was a discussion about trying again to have church an hour earlier in the summer to cut AC use, but it was discarded as members recalled that sleepy parishioners are spiritually diminished. So we settled on a programmable thermostat and more efficient kitchen appliances.

I’m not certain how I ended up with this column but Jim Mock gave me *The Green Bible* for inspiration. Having just retired, my excuses for not doing something were not well-honed. Fortunately, within the first year the newsletter went from publishing every two weeks to once a month – thus saving postage, paper and me!

continued next page

Cobb Corner continued...

I mention all this to both thank Sean for his inspiration to me and others and to encourage Sean to carry his environmental leadership to his new congregation.

In the months ahead I will be de-briefing deacons and other members on what we are doing and planning to do both collectively and individually to meet Sean's "Cobb Challenge" and what our faith requires. – *Linda Richter*

Share ideas for future Cobb columns with Linda Richter.

Vitality News

The Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) is an excellent source of information and inspiration for those of us who try to practice LOVE rather than HATE. For the new year, SPLC suggests five actions that will increase our impact on social justice this year. We will share these with you over the next several newsletters.

#1 Pledge to start a conversation. Don't stay silent when you hear words of hate and bigotry. Sometimes it's hard, so SPCL has a great guide that is used in schools: *Speak UP: Responding to Everyday Bigotry*. The guide covers everything from stranger's remarks and causal comments of friends and family, to real estate racism and biased customer service. The content includes real-life stories AND the exact words you can use! This resource is great for family conversations and can be downloaded free from the splcenter.org website.

Kansas Interfaith Action (KIFA) is working with the Alliance for a Healthy Kansas on two issues related to KanCare, both of which need input from constituents. Check out kansasinterfaithaction.org for information about how you can make your voice heard.



Calendar for actions in Topeka:

Muslim Lobby Day is tentatively scheduled for February 28.
WEALTH Day (climate and energy) is March 15.

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

ECM is back in action for the spring semester! Thank you for your on-going support. Our community is dynamic and vibrant. Your support allows us to continue to share with our students and young community leaders.



In need of your snow shoveled? Your weeds pulled? Or other small odds and ends? ECM students are eager to help! Please contact us at ecmksu@gmail.com to schedule our services.

Welcome New Member



Jake Meyer

I was born in Mound City, MO, a small town of 1100 people where I grew up knowing everyone. I spent most of my life going to a Disciples of Christ Church with some classmates. I graduated and am now attending Kansas State majoring in Electrical Engineering.

I first discovered UCC when I was looking for a new church home back in August. Having no idea where to start, I reached out to my house mom, Stacy Shaffer. She invited me to go to church with her, and I felt something there that I hadn't felt in a church in a long time: I felt at home. I'm so excited to be able to give my efforts to this new home I've become so fond of.

Watch for more new member bios in the coming months.

Be a Blessing: Help with Our Blessing Box

When I was a child I heard the Grimm's Fairy Tale, *The Elves and the Shoemaker*, and it stuck with me ever since. For those of you who are not familiar with this story: Once, through no fault of his own, a shoemaker had fallen on hard times. He had just enough materials left to make a single pair of shoes so he got everything ready then retired to bed for the night. Before falling asleep he said his prayers, thanking God for the things he did have. The next morning, much to his surprise, the shoes he planned to make were already made! Soon, someone came into his shop and were so impressed with the quality, they paid more than his asking price. Now the shoemaker had enough to buy materials for 2 pairs of shoes. He bought the materials, readied them before retiring to bed, and once again the following morning, the shoes were already done! In no time they were purchased and he had money to buy materials for 4 pairs. The same scenario kept repeating itself until at last the shoemaker was back on his feet and in fact doing quite well. He and his wife stayed up late one night to see how this incredible feat was being accomplished. They quickly discovered that it wasn't magic, it was a group of elves, working together, donating their time and their talents, to make the shoes for the shoemaker to sell.

By supporting the Blessing Box with food and personal item donations, we have a chance to be like the elves from the story: we can lend a hand to those in our community who may have fallen on hard times and need some help to get by for a day or two. The box will be open to anyone at any time: there are no forms to be filled out, no requirements to be met, no judgements to be made; anyone is welcome to take what they want should they have the need.



I agreed to be the point person on this outreach endeavor and I need help from the rest of the congregation. Before we can begin filling the box we need items to fill it with. These items must be non-perishable and able to withstand the freezing temperatures outside, meaning nothing with liquid until spring. I've compiled a

list below of suggested donations but this isn't an exhaustive list, if you have other ideas, they are welcome too. Items marked with * would be stocked only when temperatures remain above freezing. If you want to help, we'll be setting out a tote soon where you can drop your donation.

Food Items: granola bars, breakfast cereal (individual boxes/cups), instant oatmeal (cups/packets), dry soup (packets/cups), ramen, mac & cheese (cups/boxes), peanut butter & cracker packs, cheese & cracker packs, instant coffee singles, hot cocoa packets, koolaid mixes, pasta, dry pasta sauce mixes, crackers, chips (individual bags), rice, dried beans, boxed/bagged rice/noodle/potato dishes, seasoning packets, dry milk, pudding/jello cups*, jelly*, canned fruit/vegetables*, canned pasta sauce*, peanut butter*

Personal Items: bar soap, deodorant, wet wipes, razors, shaving cream, laundry soap powder (small boxes), toothpaste, tooth brushes, gloves, stocking hats, hand warmers, tissues, toilet paper, feminine sanitary products, shampoo*, lotion*, dish soap*

I'd like to set up small group of volunteers who can take turns making sure the box is filled after church on Sunday's. I believe there are several people who have already expressed an interest when the idea first arose but perhaps there are more of you who would like to help. If you are interested in being part of this group, please see me after service or send me an email and we'll get started! Also, if you have any questions, please let me know.

–Rebecca Bishop

American Guild of Organists
KSU/Manhattan Chapter
Member's Recital
Sunday, February 11 4:00 p.m.
First United Methodist Church

The Second Helping

Our Second Helping ministry continues to be a wonderful way in which our church extends its mission to the community of Manhattan. We regularly serve 25-35 people each week. Many of you have helped with this mission in a variety of ways, and that is much appreciated!



Currently we are hoping to add some more volunteers to our list of "regulars." We are particularly in need of individuals who would be willing to serve as Head Cook and Church Host. If you are interested in learning more about either of these positions, or volunteering in other ways, please contact Mary Ellen Barkley through the church office.

February 4, 2017

Dessert: Gayle Doll

Volunteers: Shivers Family, Kathy Bleam, Molly Sanderson

Chief Cook: Brent Maner

Church Host: Pastor Caela

February 11, 2017

Dessert: Kerri Keller

Volunteers: Kathy Bleam, Julia Johnson & friend, *1 volunteer needed*

Chief Cook: Craig Weston

Church Host: Tracey Weston

February 18, 2017

Dessert: Linda Thurston

Volunteers: Mary Ash, Jan Middendorf, Shivers Family

Chief Cook: Linda Thurston

Church Host: April Mason

February 25, 2017

Dessert: *Volunteer needed*

Volunteers: ESA Sorority

Chief Cook: Gretchen Lewis

Church Host: Jim Lewis

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

Boards & Committees for 2018

(*first term, **second term)

Board of Deacons

Term ending 2018: Carrie Lewis**, CoPO; Emily Brueseke*;
Mechelle Martinez**; Julie Appino*; Brent Maner*

Term ending 2019: Gina Davidson**, CoPO; Gayle Doll*;
Jonathan Mertz**; Carolyn Hodgson*

Board of Christian Education

Term ending 2018: Stephanie Swank*, PO; Rick Doll*; Rachel
Hunt*

Term ending 2019: Deane Lehmann*; Marcia McFarland*; Lisa
Tatonetti*

Board of Trustees

Term ending 2018: Tracey Weston, CoPO; Kay Clarke; Donna
Keyser, CoPO;

Term ending 2019: Greg Eiselein; Mike Henry; Jim Mock

Term ending 2020: Al Gerth; Jim Lewis; Jeff Watson

Board of Mission

Term ending 2018: Barbara Crooks**; Stephanie Reeck**;
Vanessa Kearns**

Term ending 2019: Jackie Kerstetter*, PO; Gretchen Lewis*

Cabinet

In addition to those listed below, the Church Cabinet includes representatives from each of the four boards, the recording clerk, and a representative from UCC Women of the Church. The Pastor, Treasurer, and a representative of the Gifts, Endowment, and Investments Committee shall be ex-officio members without vote.

Moderator: David Smit

Moderator Elect: Kerri Keller

Past Moderator: Julie Hunt

Cabinet Members (at Large)

Term ending 2018: Amanda Tross

Term ending 2019: Joy Schell

Term ending 2020: Sara K. Kearns

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Boards & Committees for 2018 continued

--The following are positions are appointed by Cabinet or Trustees.--

Church Co-Clerks

Judy Willingham, **Recording**
Judy Ahrens, **Membership**

Treasurer

David Smit

Head Usher

David Smit

Budget Officer

To be named

Financial Secretary

Jeff Keller

Archivist/Historian

Gretchen Lewis

Gifts, Endowments & Investments Committee

Ann Smit**, term ending 2018; Bill Pallett**, term ending 2019;
Brent Maner**, term ending 2020

Nominating Committee

Mary Ellen Barkley, term ending 2018; Alfred Cochran, term
ending 2019; Julie Hunt, term ending 2020

Pastoral Relations Committee

Term ending 2018: Andrea Chamberlain (c)**; Sue Gerth (p)**

Term ending 2019: Jean Hill (c)*; Andy Barkley (p)*

Music Committee

Wade Honey, Julie Hunt, Donna Keyser

Vitality & Outreach Committee

Term ending 2018: Linda Thurston**; Rita Henry*, PO; Carol
Sevin*

Term ending 2019: Craig Weston**; Jess Girdler*; Jennifer
Edwards*

UCC Women of the Church

Judy Willingham, **Coordinator**; Virginia Bigbee, **Treasurer**

Ecumenical Campus Ministry

Representatives of First Congregational to the ECM Board

Carol Sevin, Kerri Keller, Millie Schroeder

Ministry Opportunities *(February edition)*



Second Helping is in need of additional church hosts. The church host greets the guests, makes sure people have what they need, and generally monitors the progress of the meal. Volunteers will be paired with an experienced host until they feel comfortable with the position. The church hosts often get to know the guests over time, which is a privilege of the host position. If you would like to serve in this important role, please indicate your name and contact information on the line.

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.

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 ministry opportunities? Circle the paragraph that interests you 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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