



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 62 Number 6

June 2018

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

How Do You See the World?

As I write this, I'm at about 30,000 feet, somewhere over the Rockies. For the past week I've been gathered with about 25 other UCC clergy as a part of the Next Generation Leadership Initiative in the San Francisco Bay Area. This incredible program, sponsored by the UCC Pension Boards, allows me to participate in two weeks of outstanding continuing education each year and connects me with other UCC clergy from around the country.

This year's trip was centered on the process of human-centered design and we were asked to ponder how the Church might adopt practices of Innovators, Artists, and Makers to enhance our ministries. We spent a day at the Maker Faire in San Mateo. We worshiped and shared a meal with a scrappy group of folks who were "doing Jewish" at the Jewish start-up The Kitchen. We met with San Francisco-based public artist George Zisiadis. We looked for God in The Castro in the wee hours of the [continued pg. 2]

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morning while dancing at a bar and in the bright light of day as we experienced Sunday brunch (something we pastors don't usually do!). We worshiped at City of Refuge UCC on Pentecost where the Holy Spirit was most certainly alive and well.

As I delighted in finding the Holy among artists and tech bros, drag queens and theologians my mind and spirit were always coming back to our little corner of the world in the Flint Hills. I found myself giving thanks, again and again, for a congregation filled with people who aren't afraid of questions like "how might we..." and "what if we tried...?"

When we met with George Zisiadis he told us "some people think being an artist is about making things, but, really, it's about how you see the world." Being an artist is about being unafraid to play and dream big. Being an artist is about looking at the world and seeing possibilities. Being an artist is about remembering that you can't fail if you are always experimenting...all you can do is gather more information.

God is, of course, the most artistly artist who has ever existed. Our Holy texts tell us that God looked at nothing and saw something. God is a relentless creative spirit, constantly breathing new life and possibility into all of creation. It strikes me that perhaps one of our most important tasks as the Church is to take seriously our call to be co-creators with that Innovative Spirit, breathing new life and possibility into every corner of creation - beginning with ourselves. I am thankful for the opportunity to be returning home to you, fellow Innovators, Artists, and Makers. Let's keep make God's Realm of Justice and Peace together, okay?

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.

Pastor Caela on Vacation

Caela will be on vacation from Monday, June 11 through Wednesday, June 20. Our Pastoral Associate, Sue Zschoche, will be on call for any pastoral care needs that might arise.

Sandy on Vacation

Sandy will be away from the office June 21-22 and the office will be closed. If you can volunteer to help print the bulletin for Sunday, June 24, please contact the office.

Lunch Bunch June 6

We join together in an opportunity to get to know one another, Wednesday, June 6 at Bluestem Bistro (1219 Moro). 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.)



Ministry of the Decorative Scissors

The Ministry of the Decorative Scissors meets June 7-9. 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.



Finding Pastor Caela This Summer

Summer brings a different rhythm in our community and congregation. Pastor Caela will be using the summer months as an opportunity to focus more intentionally on soul-feeding activities that will enhance her ministry in the busy months ahead. She is hoping to intentionally spend more time practicing spiritual disciplines such as prayer, time in nature, holy reading. Summer will also be a time to dream about the future and read books that will fuel preaching and leadership. As always, much of the pastor's work happens outside of the office and outside of the regular 9-5 timeframe. If you would like to meet with Pastor Caela, the best practice is always to contact her directly to set up an appointment.



Summer Spiritual Practice: Weekday Blessings

We would love to send someone from our congregation to pray with you or simply give a brief blessing at your workplace or home during the week. Beginning June 1 there will be an online sign up to reserve your time slot, or you can contact the church office. One of our pastors and/or a Deacon will visit you at the time and location you select to offer a blessing.

White Memorial Camp Opportunities

Summer is coming and White Memorial Camp is a great place to experience the joys of summer camp. Kids and youth who have completed grades K-12 can attend



camp near Council Grove. Options include the Young Adventurers Camp (completed grades K-3, July 29-31), Family Camp (for all ages, July 27-30), and Last Blast (Completed Grades 4-12, July 29-Aug 4). Some scholarships are available for First Congregational members. Please check with the church office for more information about scholarships. To register for camp, visit whitememorialcamp.com.

Fill the Breadbasket for Second Helping

The Second Helping is funded through our operating budget and special gifts to this ministry. On the first Sunday of each month we "Fill the Breadbasket" during worship. You are invited to bring a cash donation or items for our lunch sacks, such as individual flavored oatmeal packets, granola bars, or individually-wrapped snack crackers (such as cheese or peanut butter).

Mission Moment: Ministers of Care

Those who were in worship on May 27 were able to hear Gayle Doll share this mission moment. We wanted to share it here for those who missed it.

“Many of you may have seen Bishop Michael Curry's sermon at the royal wedding last weekend. His stirring message was simple Love is Power and God is love. God is love and love is everything.

Here at First Congregational one of the ways we demonstrate love is through the Ministers of Care.

This is our mission: ‘The Ministers of Care provide care an encourage the wider congregation to provide care for those in our congregation who are unable to regularly make it to worship, are in need of additional connection or support, or are going through a major life transition.’

As Ministers of Care we may visit, send a note, make a phone call and sometimes share a casserole. We also deliver grief books for those who've lost loved ones. For me, it's allowed me the opportunity to develop some new and wonderful relationships.

Of course, we know that many of you do these things without the official minister of care title and we thank you. But if you know of someone who needs additional support or if you yourself could use some help please notify Pastor Caela or Sandy in the church office and they will match you with one of us.

Love is power.”

Planting your garden?

Consider adding some extra tomato, pepper, and cucumber plants for Second Helping. Fresh produce is a treat for our guests and helps with the Second Helping budget.

When you are harvesting, just bring your fresh, clean produce to the refrigerator and leave us a note about the date and donor. Thank you.



Congratulations 2018 Graduates



Winona Climenhaga, Manhattan High School.

Seth Dills, Bachelor degree in Education, Kansas State University

Sina Hanna, Manhattan High School.

Nicki Keller, Manhattan High School. Nicki has confirmed plans to attend Texas Christian University in the fall.

Patrick Kenney-Tolentino graduated magna cum laude with a Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy and minors in Political Science and Spanish from Kansas State University. Just before graduation, Patrick received an award for Outstanding Civic Engagement from the Staley School of Leadership Studies, for his work with the Manhattan Alliance for Peace and Justice and with International Service Teams on campus. Patrick has confirmed plans to attend Georgia State University in Atlanta, GA, where he will complete his Master's. He was also awarded the Jean Beer Blumenfeld Center for Ethics Fellowship at GSU.

Tai Amri Spann-Wilson, Master degree in Education Curriculum Design, Kansas University.

Did we miss your graduate? Please contact the church office to announce the information in the July newsletter.

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.

Cobb Corner — Going Green

“The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that somebody else will save it.” – Robert Swan, Audubon Magazine, May, 2018

Ready for some good news in the midst of all the undoing of U.S. environmental protections? First, states and cities are stepping up. In January, San Francisco became the first major U.S. city to ban fur sales! Designers Versace, Calvin Klein, Boss, Armani, Stella McCartney, and Gucci have abandoned fur. (*Humane Society of U.S.*, June 18, p. 19)

Secondly, California is poised to become the first state to require solar panels on most new homes! (*The Week*, May 25, 2018, p.16.)

Thirdly, ABC News reported on May 20th that the Volvo 40,000 mile boat race is launching from the U.S. with the banner "Turning the Tide on Plastic!" No plastic bottles on board and all cutlery, cups, and plates are compostable.

Attention! Time for us to step up to the plate so to speak. Deane Lehmann (deanelehmann@gmail.com) is organizing the church garden. We are starting late so please help by bringing plants and helping to maintain the garden.

Let's not be content to mow an empty lot. We've had successful gardens in the past. Let's model usefulness, sustainability, and sharing. You can garden for your own use, the church's, or a combination of both. You can also bring perennials for the garden's perimeter.

Over the next few weeks bring garden or house plants to share. Also bring any extra totes. Let's reduce plastic use while "earning" 5 cents a bag at HyVee and avoiding being charged for bags at Aldi.

Finally, don't forget June is National Adopt a Shelter Cat Month! Looking for a PURRFECT companion? Drop by the Riley County Animal Shelter. – *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.

June 3, 2018

Dessert: *volunteer needed*
Volunteers: Target Team

Chief Cook: Andy Barkley
Church Hosts: Mary Ellen Barkley,
Vanessa Kearns

June 10, 2018

Dessert: *volunteer needed*
Volunteers: Sophia Tolentino Kenney, Patrick Kenney, Jane Marshall

Chief Cook: Linda Thurston
Church Host: Tracey Weston

June 17, 2018

Dessert: *volunteer needed*
Volunteers: *4 volunteers needed*

Chief Cook: Gretchen Lewis
Church Host: Jim Lewis

June 24, 2018

Dessert: *volunteer needed*
Volunteers: ESA Sorority

Chief Cook: Brent Maner
Church Host: Mary Ellen Barkley

**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.

*Thank you for keeping your
pledge current during
the summer months*

Ready to Become a Member?

On July 15, 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.

Gospel Sing Rescheduled!

We are happy to announce that the Gospel Sing that had to be cancelled in February has been rescheduled to October 6-7 at St. Thomas More Church. As before, the Saturday (Oct. 6) will be devoted to rehearsal, and the performance will be in the afternoon on that Sunday (Oct. 7). Do mark your calendars. We'd love to have you sing with us. The registration website will be open during the summer—we'll keep you posted. Contact Ann Smit at flinthillsgospel@gmail.com if you have questions.



FIT Closet

The FIT Closet is closed until July 2. I will take all donations that may accumulate in the basket during the month to the Closet after July 11.

A BIG THANK YOU to all the anonymous donors who have filled the basket with clothes, new socks and underwear, and hygiene items this past school year. You are helping families in need in USD 383. They always leave the FIT Closet saying "Thank You". —*Stephanie Reeck*

Poor People's Campaign 40 Days of Action in Topeka

Needs include people present at the rallies, volunteers for specific tasks on rally days, and those willing to participate in direct action. If you are interested and are not currently on the Kansas PPC mailing list, please email kansas@poorpeoplescampaign.org to receive updates. Upcoming dates/themes are as follows:

Week 4 (Monday, June 4): The Right to Health and a Healthy Planet: Ecological Devastation and Health Care

Week 5 (Monday, June 11): Everybody's Got the Right To Live: Education, Living Wages, Jobs, Income, Housing

Week 6 (Monday, June 18): A New and Unsettling Force: Confronting the Distorted Moral Narrative

Our Blessing Box on the south corner of the parking lot is regularly visited. Thank you to all who have brought food and toiletries for stocking the box. Our supplies are low right now and we'd welcome donations of non-perishable food and toiletries. Need ideas of what to bring? Rebecca Bishop's list can help:

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.

Manhattan Common Table Free Community Meals

Day	Time	Location
Sunday*	6-7 pm	First Congregational
Tuesday*	7-8:30 am	St. Paul's Episcopal
Tuesday	6-7 pm	First Presbyterian
Wednesday*	7:30-8:15 am	First Presbyterian
Wednesday*	6-7 pm	First United Methodist
Thursday	6-7 pm	First Lutheran
Friday	7-9 am	St. Paul's Episcopal
	<i>Summer: 1st and 3rd Friday mornings only</i>	
Friday	6-7 pm	First Lutheran
Saturday	6-7 pm	First United Methodist

*Sack lunch available

Ministry Opportunities *(June 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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