



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 62 Number 7

July 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

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

## Giving Thanks: Genesis Grant Received!

I am pleased to be able to share with you that our congregation has received a Genesis Program Grant from the national setting of the United Church of Christ to fund a new community ministry for children, beginning in September. From ucc.org, “The Genesis Fund, established in 1996 from funds raised through the Make a Difference Campaign, provides seed money for faith-based projects that are innovative or experimental, represent a new initiative in Christian mission, or that may be deemed controversial.” Our congregation has been awarded \$6,750 as seed money for our “Yoga + Donuts + ???” Ministry.

The stated purpose of this ministry is to improve the overall mental, spiritual, and physical health of children in our community by helping them learn to manage emotions, care for and connect to their bodies. We hope to help the children learn *[continued pg. 2]*



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skills for living peacefully and cultivate a commitment to non-violence in a violent world. We will do this by offering a free yoga program for children on the first Sunday of each month at 9:30 a.m., beginning in September 2018. Our vision is to have children from the wider community and our own congregation gather at 9:30am on Sunday mornings to share 20-30 minutes of yoga with certified instructors, followed by a rotating activity each week (that's the "???"), and then fellowship over donuts. Rotating activities will include art, music, poetry, and stories focused on uplifting kindness and compassion towards all people.

Children have the right to feel safe in their schools, homes, and public spaces. Unfortunately, this is not the case for many children in our country. We seek to help children cope with an anxious world through the ancient spiritual practices of yoga and meditation. We will also create new relationships and a sense of community among the children and their families. Children who are grounded in spiritual practices, feel secure in their own bodies, and have a healthy community of support will be more likely to resist both the anxiety and violence of the world around them. Through the practice of yoga AND the content during the rotating activities each week, the children will be better equipped to respect and care for themselves and others they encounter. We will share stories of peace, non-violent struggle for justice, and create art together. The children who are a part of this program will help build a world where all people's rights and freedoms are protected and honored.

Additionally, we seek to engage families who may be without a faith community in a space that may become a community of support for them. Even if they never come to our worship services, they can still "be church" to each other through this ministry.

The grant is providing funds for several folks from our congregation to receive training as children's yoga instructors. Andria Anderson, Emily Brueseke, Donna Keyser, Tanya González, Rachel Shivers, and I will all be trained here in Manhattan this summer. We will also be able to purchase some yoga mats and other props as well as the donuts and various supplies for the duration of the program. The grant will also fund our work with marketing firm to create some branding for the ministry and publicize it to the wider community.

If you have any questions about “Yoga + Donuts + ???” please reach out to myself, one of the teachers, or Deane Lehmann, the P.O. of Christian Education. And....if you’re an adult who is looking for a yoga opportunity for yourself, Donna Keyser leads a class on Monday evenings at the church and you can check in with her for details. Also, we’ll be looking for other volunteers to work with the non-yoga portion of the ministry so be sure to reach out to Andria Anderson if you’d like to volunteer with any of our children’s ministries.

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



## **Sandy on Vacation**

Sandy will be away from the office July 18-24 and the office will generally be closed. Office hours might be dependent on Pastor Caela's meeting schedule. Please call the church before coming to be sure that someone is there.

## **Lunch Bunch July 11**

We join together in an opportunity to get to know one another, Wednesday, July 11 at Long Horn Steak House (505 Tuttle Creek Blvd). 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.org](http://www.uccmanhattan.org).)



## Sharing and Caring

### *Prayers and Concerns*

- Please contact the church office for more information.

### *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.

## Thank You

- Thanks for helping to spread the word about our organization and the actions we planned these past few months. – *Manhattan chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America*
- Thank you to everyone who has brought items for the Blessing Box and has helped to re-stock it. It's receiving a LOT of use. If you'd like to know more about how to be involved, please contact Rebecca Bishop.
- The German youth who recently visited our congregation as a part of their partnership with the KO Conference had a great time. Many thanks to everyone who helped coordinate, house, feed, transport, and share hospitality with the youth: Krista Danielson and Daniel Rolles, Jess Girdler, Jackie and Tod Kerstetter, Deane Lehmann, Brent Maner and Janine Stines, Jonathan Mertz, Carol Sevin, Tracey and Craig Weston.

## Children's Sunday School Exciting Updates

In addition to the new Yoga + Donuts ministry that will happen on the first Sunday of each month, beginning in September, there are other exciting developments with our children's Sunday School program. In addition to the traditional focus on Bible stories and spiritual development, children will also have the opportunity to sing in a children's choir each month and participate in service projects throughout the year. Read more at [uccmanhattan.org/children's-ministry](http://uccmanhattan.org/children's-ministry) and contact Andria Anderson for more information or to learn how to volunteer.



## Save the Date

Our big fall kick off will be August 19. Sunday School classes for people of all ages will start up again at 9:30am. We will bless the backpacks and teachers as people return to school. And Feast and Festival with Second Helping will be held at 6pm that evening.

# Summer Blessings Continue

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. You can sign up for a time slot by visiting [uccmanhattan.org](http://uccmanhattan.org) or simply call the church office and Sandy will assist you. One of our pastors and/or a Deacon will visit you at the time and location you select to offer a blessing.

# 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).

# Connect with us during the week!

Did you know our church has a vital presence on social media? We currently have over 550 people following our church's Facebook page for updates about what's happening in our community. Follow us at [facebook.com/uccmanhattanks](https://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 every Friday with helpful information about what's coming up in our congregation. If you don't already receive those updates, please send your e-mail address to Sandy at [office@uccmanhattan](mailto:office@uccmanhattan) or visit <http://www.uccmanhattan.org/news-and-updates> to sign up.

Did you miss a sermon? Pastor Caela's sermon manuscripts are posted online each week by Monday on her personal sermon blog ([revcaela.blogspot.com](http://revcaela.blogspot.com)) or you can watch for them on our Facebook page. The audio of the sermon is also posted on our website at a later date once it's processed.

# The Rev. Traci Blackmon to Speak at the KO Annual Gathering

**Oct. 12-13 at the Marriot Hotel in Wichita**

Executive Minister of Justice & Local Church Ministries for The United Church of Christ and Senior Pastor of Christ The King United Church of Christ in Florissant, MO. In her position as Executive Minister Traci leads the work justice witness ministers and local church ministries. Traci is well known for her compassion and commitment to those often forgotten and excluded in the halls of power. And she knows the critical role of the church in being a force for justice and compassion.

Initially ordained in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Rev. Blackmon served in various ministry capacities prior to becoming ordained in the United Church of Christ and installed as the first woman pastor in the 162year history of Christ The King United Church of Christ.

A featured voice with many regional, national, and international media out- lets and a frequent contributor to print publications, Rev. Blackmon's communal leadership and work in the aftermath of the killing of Michael Brown, Jr., in Ferguson, MO has gained her both national and international recognition and audiences from the White House to the Carter Center to the Vatican.

Rev. Blackmon currently resides St. Louis, MO and Cleveland, OH and was named 2017 Citizen the Year by The St. Louis American and as one of St. Louis' 100 most influential voices.

For more information and to sign up for the KO e-news, visit [kocucc.org](http://kocucc.org).

## Congratulations 2018 Graduate

**Eli Logan** graduated with a Master's of Architecture II from Harvard's Graduate School of Design (GSD) with distinction on May 24, 2018, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The end of his studies at the GSD were marked by receipt of the Academic Achievement Prize in Architecture, in addition to the Julia Amory Appleton Traveling Fellowship in Architecture.



# Happenings...



First Congregational UCC has been busy supporting the Poor People's Campaign 40 Days of Moral Action which began on May 13. In total, 108

people from the state of Kansas were arrested in Topeka during the six week campaign and hundreds more participated in other roles. Donna Keyser, Jess Girdler, Carol Sevin, and Caela Simmons Wood from



our congregation were among those

arrested. Rachel Shivers played a key role in the campaign as the state's media coordinator. Our congregation provided lunches for one of the six weeks and provided some financial support for Rachel to travel to D.C. as a part of the Kansas Delegation to the national gathering on the Mall. Over 25,000 gathered at the nation's capitol on June 23 for a march. The Kansas Poor People's Campaign is currently soliciting funds to assist with the legal fees for the 108 people who were arrested. If you'd like information about how to donate, please contact the church office.







On June 6, about 25 people from the Manhattan community gathered on the lawn outside of Hale Library for the Read Together in Honor of Hale event that our congregation co-sponsored with ECM. Participants were asked to bring a book and share a passage aloud in small groups. The event also provided space for people touched by the fire to gather with others and share community together.

On Sunday, June 24 our congregation hosted a #KeepFamiliesTogether information sharing event co-hosted by ECM and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Manhattan.

Approximately 40 people from the Manhattan community gathered around this guiding question: how can we advocate for a humane response to immigrants and asylum-seekers, especially children



and families? The gathering was facilitated by Revs. Jonalu Johnstone, Caela Simmons Wood, and Christian Watkins. Members of the Vitality Committee greeted participants, provided refreshments, and took notes. The group compiled a Google Document of information and ideas for action, which can now be accessed on our website at [uccmanhattan.org/immigration](http://uccmanhattan.org/immigration). The group wanted to meet again in July and the Vitality Committee agreed to convene the group. Watch the bulletin and Friday e-mails for updates.

# Free Money!

Do you participate in our Dillons fundraiser? It's easy! Just go to [dillons.com](http://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.

## 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.

## Ministry of the Decorative Scissors

The Ministry of the Decorative Scissors meets July 12-14. 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.



# Notes from the Vitality Committee

June 20 was World Refugee Day, but for the immigrants at our US borders, every day is a day of fear and tragedy. As people of faith, we follow a God who calls us to welcome the stranger (Matt. 25:35) and to love immigrants as ourselves (Lev. 19:33-34). Our faith's teachings on immigration promote protection of the most vulnerable, family reunification and dignified treatment of immigrants and refugees, all of which should be critical pieces of our immigration system. With the tragic stories of our government's treatment of children and families, we may feel so dismayed and angry that we are immobile. But there is much we can do. You can join local and national efforts to change policy, help families, and support ongoing missions. For example, Immigration Advocates Network (IAN) and partners created [www.standwithimmigrants.org](http://www.standwithimmigrants.org) to connect volunteers to opportunities and resources. The site has a national volunteer opportunities guide, a page on national volunteer programs and other/local initiatives, basic legal information, and a calendar of trainings. There is an *Interfaith Toolkit to End Family Separation and Keep Families Together* on the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network website ([ucctakeaction@ucc.org](mailto:ucctakeaction@ucc.org)) that has sample letters and a list of mass actions around the country. Keep up with our First Congregational UCC Facebook page to find out about community efforts. Yes, it's overwhelming. Yes, you can do something to make a difference.

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.uccmanhattan.org/become-a-member).

## Cobb Corner — Going Green

*“Being fully human begins with a careful nurturing attention to the fertile earth. Land care itself is a primary religious obligation.” – I-60, The Green Bible*

I just finished an article in Green America called “Dying to be Green” offering suggestions for more natural, environmentally-friendly, less expensive ways to deal with the dead. Green burials are growing in popularity but there are variations.

Not likely to catch on is one we discovered when we lived in India. Near Bombay the Zoroastrians place their dead on a special rooftop after services. About 20 minutes later the buzzards leave only bones behind. As the city has grown, however, neighbors have started complaining about body parts dropped on their rooftops.

In much of the world, the dead are washed, wrapped in a sheet and buried within 24 hours. This simple practice is growing in the U.S., including in Lawrence.

Other local options include donating the body to a medical center for teaching purposes. Another option is the donation of usable parts. Such donations are desperately needed and can be facilitated by having your wish to donate indicated on your driver’s license. One body can often save many lives.

A modified “green” burial where the body is not embalmed but put in a special liner before being placed in the ground is available locally at Sunrise Cemetery. I knew someone who did this. At his funeral we sang the old Chris Biggs song “Send Me to Glory in a Glad Bag.” We left the church with lighter hearts.

Finally, have you noticed that prices for recycled aluminum have gone up 20-30% this month? The Trump administration tariffs on aluminum have increased the costs of many things but recyclers can benefit! Hang on to your old computers, washing machines and other appliances. Most went up about 17% this month.

We may find that our current political environment may curb conspicuous consumption more than any scolding by environmentalists! – *Linda Richter*

P.S. If you are heading to Canada this summer don’t be surprised if more than the weather is cool. Turns out the so-called U.S. trade deficit with Canada that led to our imposing tariffs on our closest ally was a mistake. Actually last year we had an \$8 billion dollar surplus! Oops!

*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 at [office@uccmanhattan.org](mailto:office@uccmanhattan.org).

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## ***July 1, 2018***

**Dessert:** *volunteer needed*  
**Volunteers:** Target Team

**Chief Cook:** Craig Weston  
**Church Hosts:** Tracey Weson

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## ***July 8, 2018***

**Dessert:** *volunteer needed*  
**Volunteers:** Jane Marshall, Mary Ash, Sophia Thurston, *1volunteer needed*

**Chief Cook:** Linda Thurston  
**Church Host:** Kathy Bleam

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## ***July 15, 2018***

**Dessert:** Kerri Keller  
**Volunteers:** First Christian Church

**Chief Cook:** Sharon Purvis  
**Church Host:** Pastor Caela

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## ***July 22, 2018***

**Dessert:** *volunteer needed*  
**Volunteers:** ESA Sorority

**Chief Cook:** Gretchen Lewis  
**Church Host:** Jim Lewis

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## ***July 29, 2018***

**Dessert:** *volunteer needed*  
**Volunteers:** Target Team

**Chief Cook:** Andy Barkley  
**Church Host:** Mary Ellen Barkley

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

## Community News

### Manhattan Common Table Free Community Meals

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Sunday*	6-7 pm	First Congregational
Monday	6-7 pm	Senior Center
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

### 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](http://whitememorialcamp.com).



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

# Ministry Opportunities *(July 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  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 10:45 Worship and Communion <i>Fill the Breadbasket</i> 3:00 NA mtg 6:00 Second Helping	<b>2</b> 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	<b>3</b>	<b>4 office closed Independence Day</b> 5:30 OA meeting 7:00 AA meeting	<b>5</b> 7:00 Taizé 8:00 NA mtg	<b>6</b> 7:30 NA mtg	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 10:45 Worship 3:00 NA mtg 6:00 Second Helping	<b>9</b> 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 11:30 Lunch Bunch 5:30 OA meeting 5:45 Deacons mtg 6:30 Vitality mtg 7:00 AA meeting	<b>12</b> 7:00 Taizé 8:00 NA mtg	<b>13</b> 7:30 NA mtg	<b>14</b> Wedding
<b>15</b> 10:45 Worship 3:00 NA mtg 6:00 Second Helping	<b>16</b> 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	<b>17</b>	<b>18 office closed</b> 5:30 OA meeting 7:00 AA meeting	<b>19 office closed</b> 7:00 Taizé 7:00 MLK mtg 7:00 Renters mtg 8:00 NA mtg	<b>20 office closed</b> 5:00 Newsletter Deadline 7:30 NA mtg	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 10:45 Worship 3:00 NA mtg 6:00 Second Helping	<b>23</b> 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg  -----Sandy vacation-----	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 5:30 OA meeting 7:00 AA meeting	<b>26</b> 7:00 Taizé 8:00 NA mtg	<b>27</b> 7:30 NA mtg	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 10:45 Worship 3:00 NA mtg 6:00 Second Helping	<b>30</b> 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	<b>31</b>				