



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

NEWSLETTER

Volume 62 Number 8

August 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

Fall: A Time for Learning

Orange and yellow leaves are still a long way off, but as we turn the calendar to August we switch back into “fall mode” at First Congregational. Our big “kick off” Sunday for the fall semester is August 19th. We will bless backpacks and teacher that morning in worship and party with our neighbors that evening at Feast and Festival. At 9:30 on the 19th we will also gather together as the Sunday School year begins.

I am so thankful for those who volunteer their time and energy with our robust Christian formation ministries at First Congregational. Throughout the school year we offer Sunday School for all ages from 9:30-10:30am each Sunday morning. The nursery is available for children 3 and under so that siblings and caregivers can attend classes. In recent years we have also had some small groups that meet during the week and I’m delighted that Pastor Sue will again be leading a “chewy” [continued pg. 2]



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theology-focused class this fall on Thursdays, probably over the noon hour.

We have a great lineup of adult Sunday School options this fall, beginning with a four-week class led by Pastor Sue on what it means to be a part of the United Church of Christ. Other classes this fall semester will include a discussion of the book *Fierce: Women of the Bible and Their Stories of Violence, Mercy, Bravery, Wisdom, Sex, and Salvation* (led by Sara K Kearns), a class celebrating the 20th anniversary of Second Helping (coordinated by Pastor Sue and the Board of Mission), and an Advent class on exploring faith through our feelings (led by Rachel Shivers). You can find a full calendar of upcoming adult offerings at uccmanhattan.org/adult-education and on page ??? of this newsletter.

This fall we also kick off a new way of doing children's Sunday School. Each week of the month will have a different focus. The first Sunday of each month we invite the whole Manhattan community to join us for Yoga + Donuts. We will offer classes for three age groups on this Sunday (ages 3-Kindergarten, 1st-3rd grade, 4th-6th grade). Our volunteer teachers for the yoga program are Andria Anderson, Emily Brueseke, Susann Campbell, Tanya Gonzalez, Donna Keyser, Rachel Shivers, and me. On the 2nd and 3rd Sunday of each month, kids will learn about the Bible with Tracey Weston and Paulicia Williams using curriculum from Seasons of the Spirit. Fourth Sundays will be a children's choir, led by Andria Anderson. And on fifth Sundays we will engage the kids in service projects.

It's a wonderfully fulfilling thing to be able to ask questions and grow together. We look forward to seeing you at one (or more!) of our faith formation activities this fall.

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.

Congratulations

- Dr. Kerry Priest awarded the 2018 Association of Leadership Educators (ALE) Outstanding Scholar Award. She is an Associate Professor at the Staley School of Leadership Studies at K-State.

Thank You!

- We have an ice machine in the basement! Many thanks to Millie Schroeder and her friend, Dale Anderson, who plumbed and installed it.

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

Pastor Caela will be on vacation August 8-13. Our Pastoral Associate, Sue Zschoche, will be on call for any pastoral care needs that might arise.

Lunch Bunch August 1

We join together in an opportunity to get to know one another, Wednesday, August 1 at La Fiesta (Blue Hills Shopping Center). 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.)



Share the Love at Purple Power Play!

Are you thankful that you somehow learned about First Congregational UCC? Join us at Purple Power Play on August 30-31 as we tell others in our community about our congregation. We will feature several of our outreach ministries like the new kids' yoga ministry, Second Helping, the Blessing Box, our social justice activities, and the Ministry of the Decorative Scissors. If you are willing to sign up for a 1-2 hour slot on Thursday or Friday evening, please visit the sign ups on our website (Community Life > Members Area > Sign Ups).

“Be the Church” T-Shirt Order – Deadline is August 5

We are ordering a new set of church t-shirts! They are a lovely tri-blend fabric and available in men's, women's, and youth cuts. View the five colors available and order at uccmanhattan.org or by visiting the clipboard in the lobby. Order deadline is August 5th and you can pay at pick up in late August. Shirts are estimated to be \$12 or less. If you have financial need, please talk to Pastor Caela.



Upcoming Dates of Interest at First Congregational:

August 5 - "Be the church" t-shirt order deadline

August 12 - Jazz Worship

August 19 - Blessing of the Backpacks, Sunday School for all ages begins, Feast and Festival at 6pm

August 20 - Application deadline for Director of Children's Ministries position

August 25 - Family Yoga at the public library led by our teachers, 10:00am

September 2 - Yoga + Donuts begins (first Sunday of each month at 9:30am)

October 6-7 - Flint Hills Gospel Sing

October 7 - CROP Walk

October 13 - the Rev. Traci Blackmon speaks at the KO Annual Meeting in Wichita

November 3 - Welcoming Dinner for those new to First Congregational

Blessing of the Backpacks and Teachers

Sunday, August 19 we will have a Blessing of the Backpacks during worship. Children are invited to bring their backpacks and receive a blessing as they return to school. We are thrilled that the Ministry of the Decorative Scissors is again providing the custom-made backpack trinkets for our children. "Big kids" and adults are welcome to bring along their briefcases, diaper bags, work uniforms or other items that represent their daily work in the world. We will also bless those who are returning to teaching – whether that's in a college classroom, an elementary school, or at home with young children.



Finding First Congregational Friends - Our Church Directory



Did you know we have a church directory where you can find contact information for other folks who are a part of our congregation? You can ask Sandy for a print copy OR access it online or via the free smartphone/tablet app. Instructions are available at www.uccmanhattan.org/church-directory. It's also important to be sure and keep YOUR information in the directory up to date, so please contact Sandy, office@uccmanhattan.org) with any changed information or to share a photo.

Photos make it easier for everyone to put names with faces and any digital photo can be shared with the office and we will upload it into the directory.

Grow Green Results

The April Grow Green fundraiser at the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation (GMCF) was a great success. As part of the Grow Green event, members and friends of First Congregational had an opportunity to donate to the church's account at GMCF, with a 50% match made available to the church immediately. This year, Grow Green contributions totaled \$7,830. The 50% match came to \$3,915, and there was an additional \$100 hourly door prize won by Dave Manning, which he designated to First Congregational. Thanks to all the people who gave generously to this fundraiser, with special thanks to Dave Manning. We are also grateful to GMCF for hosting the Grow Green event, which benefits many organizations in Manhattan.



It's Feast and Festival time!

Join us Sunday, August 19th at 6 pm in Pioneer and Blachly Halls for food and fun. Paper goods will be provided or bring your own table set-up. Menu will include vegan options and homemade ice cream. Once again, we will have the cake walk and the Ministry of Decorative Scissors will have a crafting table set up. Monetary donations are requested and if you have a cake/dessert to donate, it will be appreciated! Our fiends from Second Helping will join us.

Feast & Festival



**August
19th
6 p.m.**



Ministry of the Decorative Scissors

The Ministry of the Decorative Scissors meets August 9-11. 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.

We're Hiring and Need Your Help!

Can you help us find our next part-time Director of Children's Ministries? We've been so blessed by Andria Anderson's presence in this position for the past two years. Andria finished her employment with us at the end of July and looks forward to simply being a part of our congregation as a member in the future. The Board of Christian Education has put together a position posting and it can be found on our website at uccmanhattan.org/work-with-us. Hard copies are also available in the lobby.

This part-time staff member works with the Board of CE and Pastor Caela to oversee all children's ministries. The position averages 8-10 hours a week and requires Sunday morning availability. This staff member oversees our childcare staff and works with volunteer Sunday School teachers. The ideal candidate will have strong interpersonal and administrative skills. Thanks in advance for thinking about your networks and inviting people to apply for this important position!

Kids' Sunday School @ First Congregational UCC

MOVE LEARN

+

CREATE SERVE

uccmanhattan.org/childrens-ministry

Kids' Sunday School Important Dates:

August 19 - Sunday School begins for the fall at 9:30am (Bible and faith focused activities)

August 25 - FREE Family Yoga class at the Public Library led by our yoga teachers, 10:00am

August 26 - children's choir meets at 9:30am and sings during worship

September 2 - first Yoga + Donuts class at 9:30am - invite a friend!

Adult Education Fall Preview

Full descriptions will be available soon at uccmanhattan.org/adult-education

Adult Sunday School

Aug. 19-Sep. 9 (four weeks) - Class on what it means to be a part of the UCC (Pastor Sue)

Sep. 16-Oct. 14 (four weeks) - Book study: *Fierce: Women of the Bible and Their Stories of Violence, Mercy, Bravery, Wisdom, Sex, and Salvation* by Alice Connor (Sara K Kearns)

Oct. 21-Nov. 11 (four weeks) - Second Helping 20th anniversary celebration (Pastor Sue and the Board of Mission coordinating)

Nov. 18 & 25 - Thanksgiving break

Dec. 2-16 (three weeks) - Advent Class: Examining Faith Through Feeling (Rachel Shivers)

Midweek Class

Starting first Thursday in October - "Who do you say I am?"

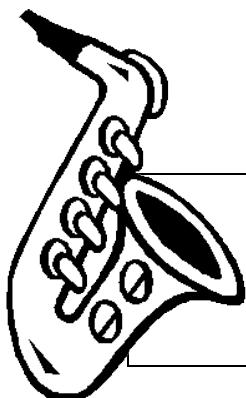
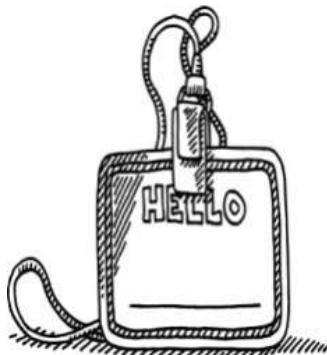
Exploring who we think Jesus was led by Pastor Sue. If you are interested in this class, please talk to Sue to give input on the best time of day for you. This class will likely meet sometime in the middle of the day.

**Choir returns
Sunday, August 19**



Name Tags = Hospitality

As we prepare to welcome newcomers in August, a quick reminder to please wear your name tag each Sunday during worship. Name tags help new people learn our names and faces quickly. They also make it easier for you to identify a new person when they are attending worship - and welcome them warmly! If you do not have a permanent name tag, please contact the church office to ask for one. When new name tags are made, they "debut" in the lobby near the kitchen so you can find them easily. If you see a new person, please ask them if they'd like a name tag and let them know they can simply make a note of it in the attendance pad on Sunday morning. Another way you can greet our visitors warmly is to offer them a bag of popcorn and thank them for "popping in." The popcorn is located in the small table in the narthex (the entry off Poyntz). If you see families with young children, be sure to help them by showing them the pew cards with information about our children's ministries. And, as always, it's always lovely to offer to walk someone into coffee hour after worship, visit for a few minutes, and then introduce them to someone new. Thanks for making First Congregational UCC a warm and welcoming place for newcomers.



**Jazz Worship
Sunday, August 12**

Conspire 2018 MHK at WMC

Friday, August 31 – Saturday, September 1

Join others on the journey for fellowship, meditation and renewal while viewing the Center for Action and Contemplation "Conspire 2018" webcast. It will be a weekend of contemplative teachings, practices, reflection, and conversation with Richard Rohr, Barbara Holmes, Brian McLaren, Barbara Brown Taylor, and Mirabai Starr. We'll inhale and exhale, listen and share, let go and receive while in the beautiful surroundings of WMC at the Council Grove Reservoir. Accommodations for two overnights, all meals and the webcast provided with your \$65 registration fee. Proceeds from the weekend retreat will benefit Ecumenical Campus Ministry (ECM) at K-State. Register today via

<https://whitememorialscamp.com/conspire-2018-registration/>

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.



Mutuality of Hospitality

Last Sunday Pastor Caela talked about the *Mutuality of Hospitality*. Second Helping, the community meals we plan, prepare, and serve every Sunday in Pioneer-Blachly provide hot meals for those in the community who need food and conversation. Second Helping also blesses us with the opportunity to visit with guests and volunteers and an opportunity to serve God's children.

Did you know?

Second Helping serves 100-150 hot meals every month. We also provide sack breakfast/lunches for all our guests. What does it take to provide up to 300 meals a month:

Volunteers: cooks, kitchen crews, church hosts, and coordinators who plan meals, order food, and pick up groceries and supplies. That's a minimum of 10 people a week! (and about 27-30 hours a week!)

Supplies: the church budget provides most of our supplies and paper products. We use over 100 sandwich bags a week, which we fill with sandwiches, cookies, and carrots and celery.

Food: During the school year, we often receive food recovered from the K-State training table, which is frozen for use to store and use as needed. We also receive some commodities, such as ground beef, noodles, rice, and canned fruit and vegetables. We purchase needed weekly groceries at Hy-Vee at a discount. We often need to buy:

- 4 loaves a bread a week
- 35 breakfast bars a week
- 70 – 105 cookies a week
- 70 packages of instant oatmeal a week
- dinner rolls (about 4 dozen)
- 35 packaged peanut butter or cheese crackers a week

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Donations: On the first Sunday of every month, we collect food items and cash donations that go to providing our meals. Church volunteers sometimes bring dessert for our Sunday meals. Others bring produce or extra food and beverages from catered events.

Wondering how you can be a part of Second Helping? You can:

- Volunteer to be a church host (training provided).
- Volunteer to cook or be part of the kitchen crew (training provided).
- Sign up to provide dessert for 35-40 on Sunday evening.
- Give a cash donation.
- Include our guests and volunteers in your prayers.
- Donate food: breakfast bars, packaged cookies (Oreos are very popular), instant oatmeal packet, packaged cheese crackers,
- And our guests appreciate fresh produce, fruit and home-made goodies. Last year we put out donated pears, tomatoes and cucumbers for our guests to take when they picked up their sack lunches—a big hit!

Our guests are thankful for our efforts – some help out as we set up or clean up. Guests have handed us coins to help with expenses. Others play the piano for the group or help others with more iced tea or coffee. And we as individuals and as the church are blessed by our guests and our community of volunteers.... The mutuality of hospitality.

Linda Thurston

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 162 year history of Christ The King United Church of Christ.

A featured voice with many regional, national, and international media outlets 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.

Thinking of You post cards...

The "Thinking of You" cards located in the church pews are an awesome way to write a message to a member of our church family. It might be someone that you know is ill and needs some encouragement or someone you've missed seeing in church for awhile. All you have to do is write the person's name on the front and the message on the back. Sign the card, then drop it in the offering plate and Sandy, our administrative assistant, will mail the card. It might brighten someone's day beyond measure!

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.

Cobb Corner — Going Green

"I have set before you life and death....choose life." – (Deut.30:19).
Foreword, *The Green Bible*.

Today I have a different sort of environmental issue to discuss.

I'm getting old. I can remember going to school without having to put my lunch box and books through a security scanner. I can remember fire drills but not lockdowns. I remember security being a nurse when I felt sick, a counselor when I was worried and a principal if I'd been mean to someone else. True, I remember a spanking ... at home when the school reported I'd pulled someone's hair, but no one I remember had a felony or even a misdemeanor. It was pretty much that way for our kids.

I remember as a young adult planning to go to a play in London and wondering how we'd get back to our hotel after the subway train let us off at 11p.m. What could we do I asked the hotel clerk. "You could walk," he said. "At that hour?" I asked. "Certainly, why not?"

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I remember living in India during the Indo-Pakistan War. We had curfews and blackouts. We later lived in Pakistan and the Philippines under martial law. But I never saw a civilian with a gun.

It's different today. Now students can bring guns to campus. And after the Newtown massacre I remember the kids I tutored at Northview were encouraged to bring stuffed animals to class. I remember the principal had been so proud of her renovated classrooms which allowed her to monitor any classroom because of the glass walls. But now she worried that any shooter could also see into all those classrooms.

I remember when church was a true sanctuary from the week's frantic pace. But after the numerous church shootings I find myself sitting in church and wondering if I'd be safer in the back under the balcony or in front by the door.

Are more guns the answer to the over 150 mass shootings so far this year in the United States? Do we accept having the highest rate of gun violence of any developed country in the world? If we intend to conserve a decent way of life we'd better get active by supporting groups and voting for candidates that are trying to reduce gun violence.

A local group, Moms Demand Action, is a campaign of the national organization, Every Town for Gun Safety, which was launched the day after the Newtown tragedy. It has 130,000 members in 50 states. In 2013, it joined forces with Mayors Against Illegal Guns, a bi-partisan coalition of over 1000 mayors. For more information contact info@everytown.org. Several other organizations also support responsible gun ownership while promoting legislation to protect public safety.

The coming elections could well determine if we get "caught in the cross-hairs" or give it our "best shot" for choosing life!

– 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 at the church office.

August 5, 2018

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: Lucas and Ryan Shivers, Mike and Rita Henry

Chief Cook: Brent Maner

Church Hosts: Pastor Caela

August 12, 2018

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: Manhattan Mennonite Church

Chief Cook: Karen Franz

Church Host: Kathy Bleam

August 19, 2018

Feast and Festival

Church Host: Mary Ellen Barkley

August 26, 2018

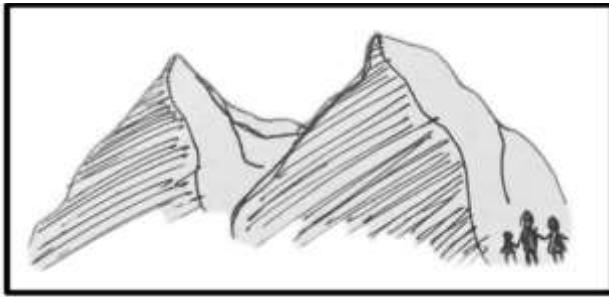
Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: Mary Ash, Jan Middendorf, Sophia Thurston, ESA Sorority

Chief Cook: Linda Thurston

Church Host: *volunteer needed*

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



Arts on the Green: Welcoming the Stranger a benefit

**Sunday, August 5, 2018
6pm-10pm**

**Corner of Houston St. and Juliette Avenue
Bring a blanket or chairs**

What to expect:

- Musicians—The 606 Rounders Mennonite String Band; Seven Dolors Children’s Choir; Katy Benne and Chris Davis; Tony Ridder and the Grateful Dudes; and others
- Poetry readings by community members
- Art and craft creations
- Culturally diverse bake sale
- Beverages
- Donations opportunity to support immigrant hospitality

Hosted by Seven Dolors Catholic Church Social Justice Committee Free will donations will benefit the Annunciation House, El Paso, TX and their immigrant guests served there. Miles from crisis ourselves, we are still urged by Christ to love and support those in great need: our recently arrived immigrants and refugees.

Please visit Annunciationhouse.org for information about the ministry provided to hundreds of souls weekly.

Ministry Opportunities (*August 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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