



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 62 Number 10

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

## What Shall We Bring?

All these years later, I can still hear the voice of my high school AP English teacher, exhorting us to choose our words carefully in every assignment we turned in: “Don’t tell me. Show me.” It turns out this bit of wisdom it helpful not just for writing, but for living a life.

People are less moved by who we say we are, than who we show ourselves to be. People are less compelled by words about God than they are by an experience of the Holy. People don’t want to hear Christians talk and talk, they want to know that we can walk the walk. If we’re going to have any hope of walking the path Christ has set before us, we need community. We need others to inspire us, encourage us, and extend grace to us when we inevitably fall short.

This past year has been one of serious walking as we have done our best to “be the church” together here in Manhattan. We’ve struggled for justice as a part of the Poor People’s Campaign and provided space for the wider community to better *[continued pg. 2]*



### Inside this Newsletter



Sharing & Caring .....3

News and Events .....4

Stewardship.....5

Christian Education .....6-9

Neighbors in Need ..... 10

Community News ..... 14

understand immigration issues. We've completed a major renovation project which enables us to continue to offer our building as a community center. We've launched a new kids' yoga program for the wider community while continuing to provide many opportunities for spiritual formation for people of all ages. The Blessing Box offers hospitality 24-7-365 as we prepare to celebrate 20 years of Second Helping.

As your pastor, I have the holy honor of receiving feedback from the wider community about our ministry. When people come to me and say, "I've heard your congregation is welcoming...but is it really okay if I come to worship with my same-sex partner?" I get to tell them "Of course!" and remind them that they are made in God's image. When people come in during the week seeking financial assistance, I get to say, "You're welcome," when they thank us for helping them out of a tough spot. As I come to the building for mid-week meetings, I hear people from our 12 step groups say, "Thank you so much for letting us meet here."

Time and time again, I sit with people who say, "I see the work your church is doing and even though I'm not really a churchy person I just have to tell you, I am so thankful that you are a part of our community." I hear from people who shake their heads and say, "I had no idea there were churches like this."

"Don't tell me. Show me." This is what the wider community - the world - says to those of us who claim to follow Jesus. They don't want to know about our doctrine, they want to see our faith in action. Rooted firmly in God's great love for us, we are freed *for* and compelled *to* action. We are able to take risks and be brave together, knowing that God goes with us. What a gift.

During this month's stewardship campaign, as we ponder the question, "what shall we bring?" let's take time to notice all that this congregation is already bringing to our community and then ask ourselves, "What is my role in ensuring that this is a place where we continue to show our faith rather than just tell others about it?" For we all have a role to play and this congregation is more faith-full when each of us participates in a meaningful way. Thank you for all you do to show God's love to the world around us. It matters more than you know and it is an honor to minister alongside you.

*Pastor Caela*

## Sharing and Caring

### *Prayers and Concerns*

- For more information, please contact the church office.

### *Helping*

- **Need a ride to church?** Contact one of our transportation volunteers: Jim/Carolyn Hodgson, Bill Pallett, or Jeff Keller.
- **Home Communion Visits** The Deacons can bring communion to your home on the first Sunday of the month. Visits at other times can be arranged with the pastor.

***E-MAIL PRAYER CHAIN*** – If you wish to be added to the First Congregational e-mail prayer chain, please contact [office@uccmanhattan.org](mailto:office@uccmanhattan.org). It is a quick and easy way to stay up to date with your church family.





## Step Forward Update

As of late September we have received roughly three-fourths of the total amount pledged to pay for the new flooring in our kitchen and Fellowship Halls. For all of you who have already contributed the amount you pledged, we thank you very much. For those of you who have not, just a reminder that we would like to receive your pledge by the end of the year.

Doesn't the new flooring look great?

David Smit, Moderator

## Lunch Bunch October 3

We join together in an opportunity to get to know one another, Wednesday, October 3 at Olive Garden (715 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.com](http://www.uccmanhattan.com).)



## Upcoming Dates of Interest at First Congregational:

**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

## Ministry of the Decorative Scissors

The Ministry of the Decorative Scissors meets October 18-20. 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.



# “What Shall We Bring?”

## Stewardship Season 2018-2019

Churches and public radio are some of the only places you heard the word "pledge" these days. And "stewardship"? What's that?

As followers of Jesus, we've noticed that there is whole lotta talk about money in the Bible. We feel compelled to take seriously God's call to act as stewards of the resources we have. Stewardship is all about the ways we - as individuals, and as a faith community - use our money, our skills, and our time to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community and our world.

Members of First Congregational are expected to support our shared work together with their prayers, presence, gifts, and service. Part of this support is financial and most of our members make a commitment each year to pledge a certain amount. That pledge helps our church leaders create an annual budget. This process of pondering our pledges and being encouraged to pray and carefully consider what we can each contribute typically happens in the fall each year and we call it the Stewardship Campaign.

This month in worship you'll be hearing other members of our congregation share their reflections on stewardship and giving during worship. You can also expect to receive a mailing from our stewardship committee during the week of October 7th. We invite everyone to prayerfully consider their financial pledge for 2019 and return a pledge card to the church office by October 28. We will dedicate our gifts during worship on the morning of October 28th. If you have any questions about the stewardship campaign, please reach out to any of us. Thank you for being a part of our shared ministry.

The Stewardship Committee

*Sue Gerth, Jake Meyer, Bill Pallett*



# Welcome Brandy McDonald, Our New Director of Children's Ministries

We are so delighted to introduce our newest staff member to you. Brandy McDonald serves as our part-time Director of Children's Ministries, working with children from birth through elementary school. Brandy works with the Board of Christian Education to oversee and coordinate all of our children's ministries including Sunday School, Kids Worship, Sacred Space, the nursery, and Word for Children.



Brandy was born and raised in Manhattan. She graduated from Manhattan High and earned her degree in Family Studies and Human Services at Kansas State University. Brandy has always felt drawn to working with children within the church. At her previous church she enjoyed staffing her church nursery, teaching Sunday School, and being their children's ministry director. She is excited for this next chapter within the First Congregational UCC. Brandy is passionate about volunteering, among which includes being a La Leche League Leader, PTA officer and carnival chair, and enjoys working with people who love working with children! She feels that church is a place where all, especially children, should feel loved and accepted for being exactly the person God created them to be and strives to help children feel that when they're attending.

Brandy and her husband Shaun have three children, who always continue to challenge her "theories" on working with children! Brandy enjoys exercise, listening to podcasts, hiking, and camping with her family.

You can reach Brandy at [brandy@uccmanhattan.org](mailto:brandy@uccmanhattan.org). Please help us welcome the McDonald family warmly when you see them in worship!

## Christian Education

Fall 2018: 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.

### Children's Sunday School Calendar for October

Oct. 7 - Yoga+Donuts

Oct. 14 and 21 - Deep Blue Bible Study

Oct. 28 - Children's Choir



Save the date for the Children's Christmas Pageant and rehearsals. We will rehearse on Sundays, Dec. 9 and 16th at 9:30am. We will also rehearse on Saturday morning, Dec. 15th. The pageant will be during worship on Sunday, Dec. 16th.

Kids' Sunday School @ First Congregational UCC

MOVE	LEARN
CREATE	SERVE

[uccmanhattan.org/childrens-ministry](http://uccmanhattan.org/childrens-ministry)

The graphic is a square divided into four quadrants by a white plus sign. The top-left quadrant is yellow and contains the word "MOVE". The top-right quadrant is orange and contains the word "LEARN". The bottom-left quadrant is pink and contains the word "CREATE". The bottom-right quadrant is purple and contains the word "SERVE". At the top, a dark blue banner contains the text "Kids' Sunday School @ First Congregational UCC". At the bottom, a dark blue banner contains the website address "uccmanhattan.org/childrens-ministry".

# Adult Sunday School

**September 16 - October 14**

**Book study: *Fierce: Women of the Bible and Their Stories of Violence, Mercy, Bravery, Wisdom, Sex, and Salvation* by Alice Connor**

**Led by Sara K Kearns**

From the publisher: "Women in the Bible - some of their names we know, others we've only heard, and others are tragically unnamed." Pastor and provocateur Alice Connor introduces these women and invites us to see them not as players in a man's story - as victims or tempters - nor as morality archetypes, teaching us to be better wives and mothers, but as fierce foremothers of the faith. These women's stories are messy, challenging, and beautiful. When we read their stories, we can see not only their particular, fearsome lives but also our own."

**Oct. 21 - Nov. 11 (four weeks)**

**Twenty Years of Second Helping**

**Coordinated by Pastor Sue and the Board of Mission**

This fall marks the 20th anniversary of Second Helping, our congregation's mission to provide a hot meal to anyone in need on Sunday evenings. Beginning October 21st, adult Sunday School will take part in that celebration to discuss the origins of this program, its impact on us and the wider community, and our hopes for the future. We'll talk to those who were with Second Helping from the very beginning as well as those who continue the program. We'll discuss the place of Second Helping in the broader campaign for church-based meal programs in Manhattan and we will talk to experts on food-shortage issues in Manhattan. And, of course, we will look at what our faith says about feeding our neighbors. We'll hold our official anniversary commemoration at our annual Harvest Potluck on November 18th.



Please join with us and find out more about this important mission!

**November 18 & 25 - NO CLASSES (Thanksgiving break)**

**December 2 - December 16 (three weeks)**

**Advent Class: Examining Faith Through Feelings  
Led by Rachel Shivers**

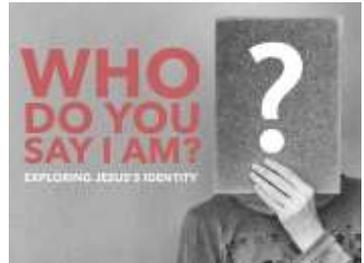
### **Mid-Week Bible Study – “Who Do You Say I Am?”**

Starting October 9th, Tuesdays from 11:30 to 1:00, with Pastor Sue

Our subject will be the still unresolved question of who the historical Jesus was and how he was understood in his own time. Did his listeners see him primarily as a miracle worker? As a teacher of Wisdom? Was he a prophet of the end times? Or was his message perceived as more political? Was he seen as someone seeking to overthrow the Roman Empire? Bible scholars continue to debate this question and our study will attempt to unravel the question.

We will draw on a number of sources (and even a video or two). I've told a few people who have asked that we won't use a book. But I've reconsidered. To give us a starting place, and, as a way to compare other perspectives, we will read Reza Aslan's book, *The Zealot*. The book is available at Amazon, but if you would like the church to order this book, do let me know.

Please feel free to bring your lunch. I will provide coffee, tea, and chocolate. Hope to see you on October 9th. –  
*Pastor Sue*



## **Remembering Our Saints**

On Sunday, November 4, we join with Christians around the globe in remembering our saints on All Saints Day. We invite you to remember the saints in your own life by bringing along an item that represents the person you wish to honor. We will have a table set up in Pioneer/Blachly for your items. Your saint might be a relative or friend. They might be someone famous that you've never met. A saint is simply someone who has gone before us and has showed us how to live. We remember their lives and honor them the first Sunday in November. You may want to bring a photograph, keepsake, newspaper article, or some other memento. We'll have cards available for you to write the saint's name and we can all browse the items during Fellowship Hour.



## Neighbors in Need Offering on October 7, 2018

The Neighbors in Need offering supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service programs. The remaining one-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries. Here is a chance for us to reach beyond our local ministries and contribute to our national witness on issues such as voting rights, environmental justice, and immigration justice. Please consider a generous gift to this vital part of our life as a community of faith. Thank you from the Board of Missions.

## 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.

For more information or to register as an exclusive Saturday Only participant visit [kocucc.org](http://kocucc.org).

## Cobb Corner — Going Green

*“The growing possibility of our destroying ourselves and the world with our own neglect and excess is tragic and very real.” – Billy Graham, p. I-110, *The Green Bible*.*

Where to start? The environmental and political problems are mounting globally even as our coasts flood with 1000-year floods every couple of years. Yet pollsters tell us that only about one-third of all eligible voters actually vote in the midterm elections.

Why? Too busy? Most if not all states have one-two weeks of advance voting. I like to vote early at the courthouse when there are no lines. I also ask for a paper ballot – no hacking that. Too infirm to vote or will be out of town? Request an advance or absentee ballot. You can fill it out at home and send it in. We once did that from India.

Know a new citizen or a teenager who just turned 18? Explain the process of getting registered and encourage them to vote. Studies show those who are newly eligible are least likely to vote even as they often have the most at stake.

Finally, want something terrifying and haunting to read this Halloween month? Read the new book by Pulitzer Prize-winning author, Chris Hedges, *America: The Farewell Tour*. You won't ever forget his chapter on the environment or on the many other topics he discusses with searing, depressing and well-documented prose. He'll have you voting and praying!!

—Linda Richter

P.S. The Humane Society says it is especially important to keep black cats safe inside on Halloween!

*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 the church office.

---

## ***October 7, 2018***

**Dessert:** Kerri Keller

**Volunteers:** Jane Marshall, Mary Ash, Sophia Thurston, Becky & Owen Carnes

**Chief Cook:** Linda Thurston

**Church Hosts:** Kathy Bleam

---

## ***October 14, 2018***

**Dessert:** *volunteer needed*

**Volunteers:** Alpha Phi Omega

**Chief Cook:** Andy Barkley

**Church Host:** Mary Ellen Barkley

---

## ***October 21, 2018***

**Dessert:** *volunteer needed*

**Volunteers:** Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity

**Chief Cook:** Craig Weston

**Church Host:** Tracey Weston

---

## ***October 28, 2018***

**Dessert:** *volunteer needed*

**Volunteers:** ESA Sorority

**Chief Cook:** Gretchen Lewis

**Church Host:** Jim Lewis

---

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

## It's easy to get involved at First Congregational.

Contact the church office during the week or on Sundays you can indicate your interest on the sign-in pad in the pew if you'd like to help with any of these items or in some other way:

**Sunday mornings:** greeting, reading scripture, hosting fellowship hour, serving communion and more.

**Sunday evenings:** volunteering at the Second Helping, our free community meal.

**Anytime:** grounds care (mowing the lawn or clearing snow).

## Free Money!

Do you participate in our Dillons fundraiser? Link your shopper card at [dillons.com](http://dillons.com). If you need help, contact the church office. (Our organization number is # QQ452.) 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.

## Mission Statement

The Mission of First Congregational United Church of Christ is

- To love and accept others unconditionally as God loves and accepts us, and by example, to encourage others to do the same.
- To challenge ourselves to grow spiritually through worship, education, nurture, reflection, discussion, fellowship, and outreach.
- To minister to others locally, nationally, and globally with the same fervor as we minister to ourselves, through the sharing of our talents, gifts, and resources.

We hold ourselves accountable before God for this mission.

## Community News

### Flint Hills Community Gospel Sing A Free Concert of Gospel Music

Note the revised concert time:  
October 7, 2:00 PM



St. Thomas More Catholic Church  
2900 Kimball Ave., Manhattan

Featuring David Dupree,  
Clinician/Director,  
and David Powell, Accompanist

Did you know that a group of your friends and neighbors will be preparing a concert of Gospel music for a free public performance on October 6-7? Come, get in the spirit, and share their joy in performing music from this cherished American tradition! Reception follows the concert.

It's not too late to register to sing! You can sign up at <https://goo.gl/FuzntX>.

Questions? Contact Ann at [flinthillsgospel@gmail.com](mailto:flinthillsgospel@gmail.com).  
*Sponsored by the First Congregational Church, St. Thomas More Catholic Church, the Kansas Oklahoma Conference of the United Church of Christ, and the Dow Center for Multicultural and Community Studies at Kansas State University*

### Indigenous Peoples Day at K-State Monday, October

Keynote speakers include: Elizabeth Kronk Warner, J.D.; Robin Minthorn, Ph.D.; Maggie Walter, Ph.D. For more information. The event is free. Register online at <http://www.k-state.edu/indigenous-alliance/>



## Virginia Bigbee turns 95 on October 27, 2018!

You are invited to help us celebrate at church in Pioneer and Blachly Halls from 2 pm - 5 pm. Virginia and her husband Howard joined First Congregational in 1946. That's 72 years ago! She has seen and been involved in lots of happenings in that time and her church family has always been important to her.

We hope you will join us, but no gifts, please!

Hosted by Judy and Jim Ahrens and Jean Bigbee Hill



## October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Please join us in remembering victims of domestic violence, including seven members of our regional community who were victims of intimate partner homicide: Alex Johnson, Rachelle Peterson, Bobbi Peterson, Amanda Bonner, Carmin Ross, Tanya and Juan Maldonado.



**Friday, Oct. 5 • 12:00 noon • Riley County Courthouse Plaza**

*Crisis Center, Inc., Dept. for Children & Families, Ft. Riley Family Advocacy Program, Fresh Start Recovery Options, Healthy Recovery Options, Kansas Dept. of Corrections/Parole, Kansas Legal Services, KSU C.A.R.E., KSU Family Center, KSU Police Dept., Pawnee Mental Health Services, Restoration Center, Riley County Attorney, Riley County Court Services, Riley Country Police Dept. Sunflower CASA.*

For more information, please contact Crisis Center, Inc. 785-539-7935.

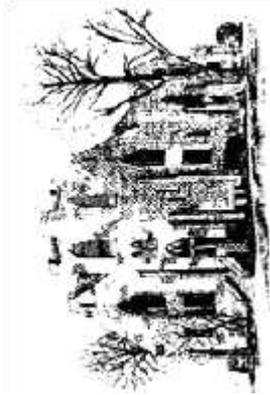
**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
700 Poyntz Avenue  
Manhattan, KS 66502  
(785) 537-7006  
[uccmanhattan.org](http://uccmanhattan.org)

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U S POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 478  
MANHATTAN, KS 66502

**Return Service Requested**



This newsletter is printed on recycled paper  
made of 100% post-consumer content.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 11:30 Lunch Bunch 5:30 OA meeting 5:45 Deacons mtg 7:00 AA meeting	<b>4</b> 5:00 Community Acupuncture 7:00 Taizé 8:00 NA mtg	<b>5</b> 7:30 NA mtg	<b>6</b> 9:00 Gospel Sing @St Thomas More
<b>7 Neighbors in Need</b> 8:30 Choir rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School/Yoga & Donuts 10:45 Worship and Communion <i>Fill the Breadbasket</i> 2:00 Gospel Sing Concert @St Thomas More 6:00 Second Helping	<b>8</b> 12:00 Leadership 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 5:30 OA meeting 5:30 CE mtg 6:30 Vitality mtg 7:00 Mission mtg 7:00 Trustees mtg 7:00 AA meeting	<b>11</b> 7:00 Taizé 8:00 NA mtg	<b>12</b> 7:30 NA mtg  -- K-O Conference meeting, Wichita --	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 8:30 Choir rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 6:00 Second Helping	<b>15</b> 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	<b>16</b> 10:00 NCA clergy	<b>17</b> 5:30 OA meeting 7:00 Cabinet mtg 7:00 AA meeting	<b>18</b> 7:00 Taizé 7:00 MLK mtg 8:00 NA mtg  ----- Ministry of the Decorative Scissors -----	<b>19</b> 7:30 NA mtg	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 8:30 Choir rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 6:00 Second Helping	<b>22</b> 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 5:30 OA meeting 7:00 MHK Renters 7:00 AA meeting	<b>25</b> 7:00 Taizé 8:00 NA mtg	<b>26</b> 5:00 Newsletter Deadline 7:30 NA mtg	<b>27</b> 2:00-5:00 Virginia Bigbee 95th birthday celebration
<b>28 Pledge Sunday</b> 8:30 Choir rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School/Kids Choir 10:45 Worship 6:00 Second Helping	<b>29</b> 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 5:30 OA meeting 7:00 AA meeting	<b>October</b>		