



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 63 Number 1

January 2019

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

“I’ll take care of it.”

As guests were gathering for our Friday night event, Sustaining Activism for the Long-Haul: Connecting to Deep Purpose, I stopped into the kitchen where members of the Vitality Committee were putting the final touches on dinner. I thanked them for their willingness to take care of everything in terms of hospitality for this community-wide event. Craig Weston remarked that the words, “I’ll take care of it,” are some of the most beautiful words to receive.

I agreed with Craig. And my mind immediately went back in time several weeks to when I received the unexpected news of my father’s death. My brother called me early on a Friday morning and the rest of the day was a whirlwind as I tried to process the news, pack to leave for Oklahoma, and spent a lot of time calling/e-mailing/texting people to find coverage for all that would need to be managed in my absence. I’m sure it won’t surprise you to learn that every person I contacted said, “I’ll take care of it.”

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It was such an incredible gift to have colleagues and members here step up and immediately agreed to just handle whatever needed to be handled. I felt surrounded by love and care as I made the drive to Oklahoma to meet my siblings.

Once I arrived in Oklahoma, there were more people there who were waiting to say, “We’ll take care of it.” My cousin spent most of the weekend with my siblings and I, making local connections and shuttling us from the funeral home to the florist and more. She took us out to dinner. She invited us to church on Sunday morning. She just took care of things I didn’t even know I needed taken care of because I wasn’t thinking very straight. Another cousin’s church sent lunch over to my aunt’s house after church on Sunday so we all had a chance to eat together. Time after time, people took care of my needs before I even had a chance to ask. It was an incredibly grace-filled experience.

When I arrived at the funeral home on Monday night, the number of flowers there by my dad’s casket literally caused my breath to catch in my throat. My husband and I started looking at the flowers...one from my mother-in-law, another from a close friend from college, and then another plant that simply said “First Congregational UCC.” I felt your prayers with me in that moment and felt so surrounded by the entire Church uplifting our spirits, gathering there with us in those sacred and challenging moments.

I often talk about how powerful it is when we are able to “Be the Church” together. The weeks after my dad’s death were an opportunity for me to experience how important it is when the Church shows up to support us during challenging times. Thank you for Being the Church for me...and for each other...and for all of Manhattan...and for the whole world. It matters. It truly does.

Pastor Caela

E-MAIL PRAYER CHAIN – If you wish to be added to the First Congregational e-mail prayer chain, please contact marianfuller@gmail.com. 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.

Congratulations

- **Dr. Beth Davis** recently presented seven lectures at a fall conference for veterinarians in Oklahoma. She also was recognized at K-State for her positive contributions toward diversity and multi-cultural student affairs.

Holiday Greetings

Hi, I hope everyone is doing well in Manhattan! We are doing well here at Fort Drum. We are attending a Methodist church, there are two services in two different towns and I sing in the choir at both services. Eli is doing well here! He helps with offering and he shakes hands with people at passing of the peace. It is only possible with the start he got in Manhattan and the kindness of so many people there. Yours, Lesley Noble

Lunch Bunch January 2



We join together in an opportunity to get to know one another, Wednesday, January 2 at Chipotle (606 N. Manhattan Ave. - Aggieville). Everyone is welcome to join us for lunch at 11:30 a.m.

Annual Reports due Friday, Jan. 4

All reports should be received by **Friday, January 4, 2019** in order to be included in the Annual Report Book.

Pastor Caela Traveling for Continuing Education

January 3-9, Pastor Caela will be traveling to Arizona for the January session of the NGLI (Next Generation Leadership Initiative). This is Caela's final year attending the January class in Arizona. She will also be adding on a vacation Sunday after the class and will return to the office on Monday, Jan. 14. While Caela is gone, our Pastoral Associate Sue Zschoche will be on call for any pastoral care needs that arise.

Recommend Substitute Preachers

Pastor Caela will be on sabbatical from May 1 - August 15, 2019. The Deacons are seeking both worship leaders and preachers for a number of weeks during this period. If you are willing to serve in either capacity, have questions, or you'd like to recommend a guest speaker/preacher, please contact Gina Davidson. The Deacons will consider all submissions and will try to set a tentative schedule by March, so please make your submission prior to the end of February.

Ministry of the Decorative Scissors

The Ministry of the Decorative Scissors meets December 6-8. 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 .

Leadership Kick Off, Jan. 16th

A reminder that all new and returning board and committee members have Board Orientation on Wednesday, Jan. 16th from 6-8pm. Dinner will be provided. Please RSVP to Dave Smit to help us plan. We look forward to sharing an evening of fellowship and learning more about being leaders in our congregation.

Free Money!

Do you participate in our Dillons fundraiser? Link your shopper card at 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.

Annual Meeting and Recognition of Church Officers Sunday, January 20

Please join us on Sunday, January 20 as we begin our new church year. First, during the worship service there will be a special blessing of outgoing and incoming church officers. Then following worship we will hold our annual meeting. At that time, we will briefly review the annual report and vote on the budget for 2019. The 2019 budget will be available on January 6.

Christian Education

Sunday School Opportunities for Adults and Youth

All classes are at 9:30a.m. The nursery is open for babies and toddlers. Sunday School classes for preschoolers and elementary-schoolers take place on the second floor. Middle-schoolers and high-schoolers are invited to the adult classes or may be interested in helping teach younger children. Please contact Brandy McDonald (brandy@uccmanhattan.org) or Brittani Shank (brittani@uccmanhattan.org) for more information about options for children and youth.

Christmas Pageant Thank You

Thanks to all who helped us make our pageant a success! A special thanks to Diane Hinrichs, Brittani Shank, Deane Lehmann, Shonna Lindo, and Kerri Keller for helping during our Saturday advent morning. The kids enjoyed learning more about the Advent Wreath and a fellowship lunch with parents. Finally, a HUGE thanks to all the kids who participated this year! We enjoyed getting to see and hear you share the story of Jesus' birth!

New Upper Elementary Class coming soon!

We are so grateful that Tracey Weston has volunteered to add an upper elementary Sunday school class to our Sunday morning offerings! This will happen the same Sundays that we do the Deep Blue curriculum with the younger children and will be for 4th-6th graders. Our first Sunday for this will be January 20th in the youth room, just down the hall from the regular Sunday school/art room upstairs. Thanks to Cassidy Moreau for volunteering to take over Tracey's spot teaching the Deep Blue Sunday school.

January Children's Ministry Schedule

January 6 - 9:30am- Shining Light Yoga

January 13 - No Sunday school, No Sacred Space (nursery and Kids Worship will be available for those children)

January 20 - Deep Blue and Upper Elementary Sunday school. No Sacred Space (nursery and Kids Worship will be available for those children).

January 27 - Children's Choir

—Brandy McDonald

Shining Light Yoga Updates

We continue to welcome children from the community into our building each month for yoga. We gather at 9:30am on the first Sunday of each month and have had 20-40 kids participating each time. Our team of volunteer teachers offer three age-based classes for kids aged 3 through 6th grade. Donuts are donated by Varsity Donuts each month and other expenses have been covered by our Genesis Grant from the UCC. You can learn more about the program and view photos on our new website: shininglightmhk.com. We also encourage you to follow us on social media!

If you'd like to get involved with this ministry, contact Brandy. We can always use help checking kids in, monitoring the lobby to welcome latecomers, and preparing fruit for each Sunday that we gather.



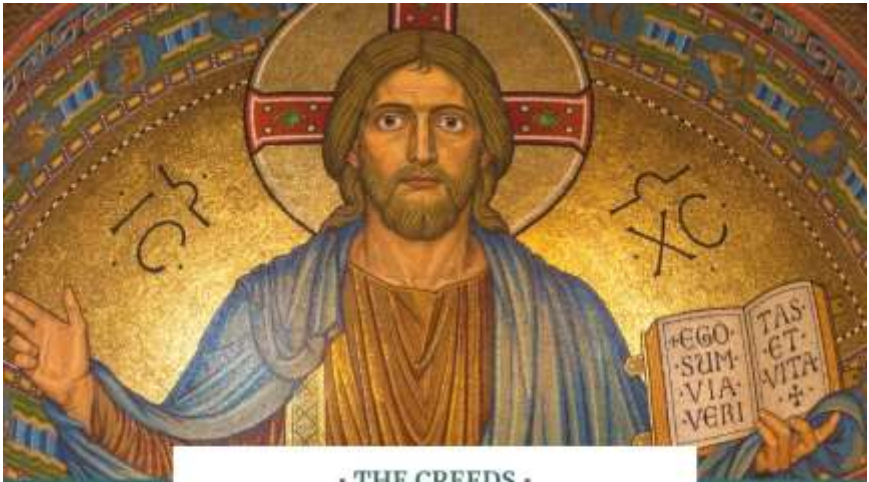
Spring 2019: Sunday School Opportunities for Adults

January 20-March 3

The Creeds

Led by Ross Allen

Beginning January 20th, Ross Allen takes us on a guided tour of the “creeds,” the statements of faith that have been central to centuries of Christianity and are a central part of our legacy from the Protestant Reformation. The class will take a close look at the Apostle’s Creed (and/or the Nicene Creed) and explore where the ideas expressed came from, how they are historically situated, and, in particular, examine how, in a non-dogmatic church such as ours, these statements speak to us today.



• THE CREEDS •

Adult Sunday School class led by Ross Allen

Sundays, Jan. 20 - March 3

9:30am

Learn more at uccmanhattan.org/adult-education

March 10 - April 7

**Lenten Book Study on The Last Week by Borg and Crossan
Led by Jim Mock**

From the publisher: "Using the gospel of Mark as their guide, Borg and Crossan present a day-by-day account of Jesus's final week of life. They begin their story on Palm Sunday with two triumphal entries into Jerusalem. The first entry, that of Roman governor Pontius Pilate leading Roman soldiers into the city, symbolized military strength. The second heralded a new kind of moral hero who was praised by the people as he rode in on a humble donkey. The Jesus introduced by Borg and Crossan is this new moral hero, a more dangerous Jesus than the one enshrined in the church's traditional teachings." **Please contact the church office by March 4 if you'd like us to order you a copy of the book.**

**April 14 - NO CLASS, Palm Sunday Parade from City Park
April 21 - NO CLASS, Easter Potluck Breakfast**

April 28 - May 19

**Fierce Women of the Bible: Part Two
Led by Sara K Kearns**

We didn't get a chance to discuss this book as thoroughly as we wanted to in the fall semester, so we're bringing it back! 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." **Please contact the church office by April 22 if you'd like us to order you a copy of the book.**

Mid-Week Bible Study

"Who Do You Say I Am?," Part 2

Tuesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with Pastor Sue

On January 22, the mid-week Bible Study will resume our exploration of the historical Jesus. Our subject will be the still unresolved question of who the historical *(continued next page)*

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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 be reading Marcus Borg's book, *Jesus: The Life, Teaching, and Relevance of a Religious Revolutionary*. Please know that attendance at Part 1 this past fall is NOT a requirement for participation in this class.

The class meets on Tuesdays from 11:30 to 1:00 and we will continue for as long as it takes to get through the book. I hope that you will consider joining what has proven to be a lively discussion. Bring your lunch if you like, and we promise that coffee, tea, and lots of chocolate will be provided. The book is available on Amazon for about \$11. If you would like the church to order the book for you, please tell me or Sandy by Monday, January 14th.

— Sue Zschoche

Congratulations 2018 December Graduate



Cassidy Moreau, Bachelor Degree in Social Work, Kansas State University.

Cobb Corner — Going Green

*“The world is too much with us, late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay waste to our powers.
Little we see in nature that is ours.”*

– William Wordsworth (1770-1850), p. 1-106, *The Green Bible*

I may have used this quotation before – it’s always apt, but especially as the bills come in after Christmas. Now, as we start the New Year we are full of good intentions. Unfortunately, the most common resolution is to lose weight and it typically motivates for only two weeks.

A more successful strategy might be to waste less food, purchasing conservatively and freezing or composting any extra. When purchasing food consider the local farmers’ market which even in winter operates twice monthly at Pottorf Hall in CICO Park.

Also consider the sustainability and quality of our supermarkets. Convenience is always important, but according to Greenpeace worker-owned HyVee is ranked 2nd out of 22 supermarket chains in the nation for its commitment to sustainability and its efforts to protect the oceans and seafood workers. It also pays 5¢ for every reusable bag you use.

Aldi encourages less plastic by charging for each bag it supplies. They also sell reusable bags that say “I was once a water bottle!”

Dillons pioneered paying for bags over 20 years ago, but it stopped several years ago. It, like Hy-Vee, does encourage bringing reusable bags and has a place to recycle plastic. It has been faulted by environmental groups for purchasing produce that has been sprayed by bee-killing pesticides. On the other hand, Dillons has hired handicapped workers over the decades.

Whatever the store, market, or restaurant we patronize, we can make a difference by being aware of policies and praising or complaining when appropriate. Right now and for the last several years, I have unsuccessfully voiced my dismay at Harry’s menu including foie gras, a particularly brutal, cruel, and unhealthy food banned in some states and throughout much of Europe.

None of us protect this earth as we should, but let’s keep reminding ourselves that if we and our families make Earth unliveable, there’s no Planet B! —Linda Richter

P.S. Just a reminder – if you still have your live Christmas tree or fresh greens you can leave them in Long’s Park, assured that they will be recycled by the Optimists.

Share ideas for future Cobb columns with Linda Richter.

Connect with us during the week!

Did you know our church has a vital presence on social media? We currently have over 600 people following our church's facebook page for updates about what's happening in our community. Follow us at [facebook.com/uccmanhattank](https://www.facebook.com/uccmanhattank).



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 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) or you can watch for them on our Facebook page.

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.

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.

January 6, 2019

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: Andy & Jenna McIlwee, Sophia Thurston, Jane Marshall

Chief Cook: Linda Thurston

Church Hosts: Kathy Bleam

January 13, 2019

Dessert: Ann Smit

Volunteers: Martha Mather, Martha & Meg Stevens, *need 2 volunteers*

Chief Cook: Angela Hubler

Church Host: Susanne Gilmore

January 20, 2019

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: Target Team

Chief Cook: Andy Barkley

Church Host: Mary Ellen Barkley

January 27, 2019

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: ESA Sorority

Chief Cook: Gretchen Lewis

Church Host: Jim Lewis

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

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Observance Activities

MLK Jr. Community Celebration

Saturday, January 19, 4:00-6:00 pm

Peace Memorial Auditorium

1101 Poyntz Avenue

Hear and see the creative work of the finalists from the MLK Jr. Art and Writing contest. Share in the words and music of the Civil Rights movement.

Speaker: Corey Williamson, Executive Director, Kansas State University Student Union

Title of Talk: More than the Eye Can See

Faith services

Sunday, January 20

Dr. King's words about love, social justice and service can be heard in faith communities throughout the community. Check your faith community for service times and locations.

Prayer Breakfast

Monday, January 21, 8:00 am

Four Points by Sheraton

530 Richards Drive

Join together in prayer, reflection and breakfast.

\$10 for breakfast buffet

Speaker: Dr. David L. Griffin Sr., Former Assistant Dean, College of Education and Director of the Center for Student and Professional Services, Kansas State University

Title of talk: Responding to the Dream



MLK Jr. Day of Service

Saturday, January 26, 9:00 am to noon

Join the Staley School of Leadership Studies, Kansas State University, and the surrounding Manhattan community for the Martin Luther King Junior Day of Service on Saturday, January 26, 2019.

Service will take place at various locations around Manhattan. Individuals and groups can register to volunteer at: http://bit.ly/MLK_2019. For more information or to volunteer, contact: handson@ksu.edu or 785-532-6085.

Laying of the Wreath

Friday, February 1, 2:00 pm

K-State Student Union

Participants will walk from the KSU Student Union (003) to the bust of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in front of Ahearn. Wreaths will be laid in his honor and there will be a short program.



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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>January</h1>		1 New Year's Day Offices Closed	2 11:30 Lunch Bunch 7:00 AA meeting	3 5:00 Community Acupuncture 7:00 Taizé 8:00 NA mtg ----- Pastor Caela at NGLI -----	4 7:30 NA mtg	5
6 Epiphany 8:30 Choir rehearsal 9:30 Yoga & Donuts 10:45 Worship and Communion <i>Fill the Breadbasket</i> 6:00 Second Helping	7 5:15 Yoga 7:30 NA mtg	8	9 7:00 AA meeting	10 7:00 Taizé 7:00 MLK mtg 8:00 NA mtg -- Ministry of the Decorative Scissors ----	11 7:30 NA mtg	12 ----- Pastor Caela at NGLI -----
13 Baptism of Christ 8:30 Choir rehearsal 10:45 Worship 6:00 Second Helping --Pastor Caela on vacation --	14 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	15 10:00 NCA clergy	16 6:00 Leadership Kickoff 7:00 Board meetings 7:00 AA meeting	17 7:00 Taizé 7:00 MLK mtg 8:00 NA mtg	18 7:30 NA mtg	19
20 2nd after Epiphany 8:30 Choir rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 12:00 Annual Meeting 6:00 Second Helping	21 MLK Day Offices Closed 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	22	23 6:00 Renters MHK 7:00 Cabinet mtg 7:00 AA meeting	24 7:00 Taizé 8:00 NA mtg	25 5:00 Newsletter Deadline 7:30 NA mtg	26
27 3rd after Epiphany 8:30 Choir rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 6:00 Second Helping	28 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	29	30 6:00 Renters MHK 7:00 AA meeting	31 7:00 Taizé 8:00 NA mtg		