



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 63 Number 5

May 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.

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Manhattan, Kansas 66502

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Rest, Renewal, Rejoicing

As you receive this newsletter at your home, my sabbatical is beginning to unfold. I give thanks for the many capable congregational leaders and staff who have helped prepare our congregation for this liminal time. I am so grateful for the five years of ministry we have already shared together and look forward with eager anticipation to discover what the Spirit has in store for us when I return!

But, first: it's time for sabbath. You've already heard from our church leadership about what this will look like for our congregation. And if you have any questions, I hope you'll reach out to the church office or Moderator, Kerri Keller, to find answers. You may also be wondering what this period of sabbath will look like for me!

I have structured my sabbatical around the themes of rest, renewal, and rejoicing. First, God's great gift of REST. An opportunity to remember that we can all step aside and the world will keep spinning without us. A chance for others to try new things in our absence. A commandment for us to put aside to do lists for a time. Although I can still scarcely imagine what it will *[continued pg. 2]*



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be like to unplug from e-mail, facebook messages, texts, and my unending to do list....I'm going to do my best to take God's commandment seriously. I am looking forward to reading all the books that have been piling up for ages and spending copious amounts of time in nature. Rest is a sacred gift. Thanks be to God.

Next, RENEWAL. My regular work of sermon and worship preparation are major spiritual disciplines in my life. What will it look like for me to renew my relationship with the Holy without those anchors? I've recently begun working with a spiritual director and she's been helping me think through that very question. I will continue to meet with her on a regular basis during my sabbatical. I am also participating in two retreats: one is an online class on Teresa of Avila's *Interior Castle* with the Center for Action and Contemplation, the other will be a retreat with the Benedictine sisters in Atchison. Additionally, I'm looking forward to having more time for meditation, my yoga practice, and connecting with other faith communities. I'll be worshipping with our friends at Mayflower UCC in Oklahoma City this first Sunday in May and have plans to visit the Kansas Buddhist Center in Lawrence, among others. Renewal is a sacred gift. Thanks be to God.

Finally, REJOICING! The longer I live, the more seriously I take the practice of cultivating joy. I plan to nurture relationships and share joyful experiences with those nearest and dearest to me....regular lunch dates with my husband, travel with my immediate family, visits with my brother in Minnesota, a road trip with my mom, and a couple of much-needed "girls' weekends" will all be happening. I also anticipate lots of time for more mundane, deep, personal, everyday joy....riding my bicycle alone for long stretches, reading poetry, soaking up the sun while playing catch with my boys, and more. Rejoicing is a sacred gift. Thanks be to God!

I look forward to August 18th, when I return to worship with you. With gratitude....

Pastor Caella

E-MAIL PRAYER CHAIN – If you wish to be added to the First Congregational e-mail prayer chain, please contact the church office. 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

- **Matt Brueseke** will be recognized at the K-State Award Ceremony with the Big 12 Faculty Fellowship for his work in geology. **Matt** and **Emily** are parents of **Graham** and **Connor**.

Free Money!

Do you participate in our Dillons fundraiser? Last quarter the church earned **\$187.00 in fundraising dollars**. 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.

Ministry of the Decorative Scissors

The Ministry of the Decorative Scissors meets May 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.



Lunch Bunch May 1

We join together in an opportunity to get to know one another, Wednesday, May 1 at Cox Brothers BBQ (223 McCall Rd). Everyone is welcome to join us for lunch at 11:30 a.m.



From the Trustees

The trustees have undertaken several projects so far this year. Number one was the completion of the roof project. Our flat roofs are now in great shape which should alleviate leaks. The outside doors in Pioneer Hall have been refurbished and re-hung. Please take a look when you have time. They look great.

We are still working on installing picture rail around the perimeter of Pioneer so that we may hang artwork or pictures and not damage the walls.

Of great importance to everyone, we are installing a security system on the doors by the offices. This will include a buzzer and camera that will be controlled in each office. You will have to buzz in to enter during the day. We feel this is a much needed step to increase security during the weekdays. Of course, the doors will be open for activities and worship time. We will present more on this for the congregation closer to installation.

We have decided to close the balcony for Sunday worship except for the youth Sacred Space and for those approved by the ushers to use the balcony. This is another safety measure that also promotes fellowship by having visitors sit downstairs. The balcony will be open for special occasions.

We will be working on installing a flat screen TV in the building that can be used for classes, meetings, and possibly video-conferencing. This is a new project that we are undertaking thanks to a generous donation of a 55 inch flat screen recently.

In addition to these projects we continue to work on maintenance items as they occur and seek ways to promote the use of our facility in a safe and secure manner.

– Jeff Watson, Board of Trustees

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

Christian Education

Sunday School Opportunities for Adults and Youth

All classes are at 9:30 a.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.

May Children's Ministry Schedule

May 5th: Our last yoga Sunday before we break for the summer! Don't miss it!

May 12th: Although we are having Worship in the Park on this Sunday, we WILL still be having Deep Blue and Submerge Sunday School at the church as normal.



May 19th: Our last Sunday of Sunday School before the summer AND Christian Education Recognition Sunday during worship! We will be recognizing the children and teachers who participated in Children's Ministry so don't miss it! We will also be presenting bibles to all our 2nd graders and also to those of you who let me know that your older child hasn't received one. We hope you can be there!

We are hoping to plan a few get-togethers for our families over the summer, so watch your emails for any plans!

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

Spring 2019: Sunday School Opportunities for Adults

April 28 - May 19 / Fierce Women of the Bible: Part 2 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."

Education Update

**May 19th is the final Sunday for adult, youth,
and children's Sunday School until August.**

**We'll thank all our Christian Education
teachers and participants and celebrate them
in worship on that day.**

Save the Date

Backpack blessing: August 18, 2019

Feast & Festival: August 18, 2019

Second Helping News

Seeking Volunteer Coordinator

Have you wanted to be a part of our Second Helping ministry, but find that other obligations make it impossible to commit to Sunday afternoons? The Second Helping depends on volunteers of all sorts: cooks, servers, hosts, and people to recruit others to do this meaningful and fulfilling work. After nine years on the job, our Second Helping Volunteer Coordinator Mary Ellen Barkley is stepping down, and we need someone to take her place as Volunteer Coordinator, beginning May 1st. If this sounds too daunting, rest assured that many of the volunteers for the month of May are already in place; we have two head cooks who volunteer each month, plus church members and outside groups who volunteer on a regular basis. Mary Ellen has indicated that she will be happy to work with a new Coordinator, sharing contacts and ideas for volunteer recruiting.

If you would like more information, or if you know you would like to help out in this vital ministry in our church, please speak to anyone on the Board of Missions: Gretchen Lewis, Ann Smit, Jackie Kerstetter, Olivia Collins, or Martha Mather, or indicate your interest to Pastor Sue. Thank you!

Head Cook Orientation and Training

Second Helping is a vital mission of our congregation. We served 154 hot meals on Sunday evenings in March. Counting breakfast and lunches provided in our to-go bags, that's at least 462 meals! Our diligent cooks and wonderful hosts and volunteers make it happen. You can be part of this effort by volunteering as a kitchen crew, a host or a head cook. We will have a Head Cook Orientation and Training for all new Head Cooks, "old" Head Cooks, and wanna-be-Head-Cook-sometime-in-the-future-maybes. Learn about:

- How Second Helping works
- H.C. role and responsibilities
- Managing your volunteer team
- Food safety

Please consider this opportunity, being held on Friday, May 10 at 5PM. We'll make a light supper and end the evening with a meal together. Please let Linda Thurston or Gretchen Lewis know of your interest.

Cobb Corner — Going Green

“A society in which consumption has to be artificially stimulated in order to keep production going is a society founded on trash and waste and such a society is a house built on sand.”

– Dorothy Sayers, *The Green Bible*, 1-109.

I am indebted to Carol Sevin for introducing me to a wonderful association: BUY NOTHING. It is built around sharing everything from time to recipes to lawnmowers and tools and giving everything, including care, money, training and companionship. It is both nationwide and local. Check out these websites Carol provided:

Project Website: <https://buynothingproject.org>

Facebook Groups:

Manhattan (East):

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/355790381465075/>

Manhattan (West):

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/597153300468952/>

Green Valley/Central Blue Twp:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/968796133169450/>

Wamego/St. George (East):

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/968796133169450/>

Junction City: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/302518416794229/>

BUY NOTHING represents quite a contrast with business as usual. A recent article noted that in 1929 the average man had six work outfits and the average woman had nine outfits. Today the average American buys five items of clothing each month! Moreover, 84% of unwanted attire ends up in landfills!

There’s no excuse for this. Damaged clothes can be fixed, mended or used for rags, doll clothes and pet bedding to name only a few possibilities. Other unwanted items can be sold in garage sales or church rummage sales, or donated to thrift stores. Several exist in less than three blocks from our church on Poyntz!

Re-Store, an arm of Habitat for Humanity, will pick up tools, furniture, paint, cleaning items to be later sold at their store, with the proceedings going toward housing for the poor. Such items could also be shared with the BUY NOTHING groups in our area!

Let’s use this Spring as an opportunity to clean not only our houses but our minds to think more humanely and sustainably.

—Linda Richter

Share ideas for future Cobb columns with Linda Richter.

Backpacks of Hope Return to First Congregational UCC

Jesus challenges us to love God and our neighbors, and it seems that we are faced daily with the reality of neighbors in need. In recent years, under the leadership of Susanne Gilmore and Church World Service, we have had two separate collections of supplies to help our neighbors who are arriving at our southern border, and the Board of Missions has decided it is time for another. Specifically, we are again collecting adult and children's backpacks to be distributed to sponsored women and children who are being released from detention and sent on buses to their sponsors. The need is great, and this is one way we can help.

During the May, we will be collecting the following items:

Adult/child backpacks

Small Blankets (4 ft. x 6 ft.); new or gently used

Small stuffed animals (approx. 6 x 8 in.)

The donations can be dropped off in the bin located in the lobby. The collection deadline will be June 1, 2019. For additional questions or comments please contact Susanne Gilmore or speak to someone on the Board of Missions: Olivia Collins, Jackie Kerstetter, Gretchen Lewis, Martha Mather, or Ann Smit.

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 30-40 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.

May 5, 2019

Dessert: Linda Thurston

Volunteers: MATC Dental Program

Chief Cook: Linda Thurston

Church Host: Kathy Bleam

May 12, 2019

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: Danielle Soliday, Target Team

Chief Cook: Andy Barkley

Church Host: Mary Ellen Barkley

May 19, 2019

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: Carolyn & Jim Hodgson, Michelle Martinez, Rachel Whetstone

Chief Cook: Sue Zschoche

Church Host: Susanne Gilmore

May 26, 2019

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: ESA Sorority

Chief Cook: Gretchen Lewis

Church Host: Jim Lewis

Boards & Committees for 2019

Board of Christian Education

Term Ending 2019

Deanne Lehmann, PO
Marcia McFarland
Molly Sanderson

Term Ending 2020

Mary Cain
Ross Allen
Leslie Bell

Board of Deacons

Term Ending 2019

Gina Davidson, co PO
Gayle Doll
Carolyn Hodgson, co PO
Di Hinrichs

Term Ending 2020

Julie Appino
Brent Maner
Kerry Priest
Don Saucier

Board of Trustees

Term Ending 2019

Greg Eiselein
Mike Henry
Jim Mock

Term Ending 2020

Al Gerth
Jim Lewis
Jeff Watson, PO

Term Ending 2021

Amanda Tross
Judy Willingham
Steve Bishop

Board of Mission

Term Ending 2019

Gretchen Lewis, PO
Jackie Kerstetter

Term Ending 2020

Ann Smit
Martha Mather
Olivia Collins

Cabinet

Moderator: Kerri Keller
Moderator Elect: Sue Gerth
Past Moderator: Dave Smit

Members at Large

Term ending 2019: Joy Schell
Term ending 2020: Sara K. Kearns
Term ending 2021: Kathy Bleam



Boards & Committees continued

-----The following positions are appointed by Cabinet or Trustees.-----

Church Co-Clerks

Judy Willingham, **Recording**

Judy Ahrens, **Membership**

Treasurer (*appointed by Trustees*)

Dave Smit

Head Usher

Dave Smit

Budget Officer

To be named

Financial Secretary

Appointed by Trustees

Jeff Keller

Archivist/Historian

Appointed annually

Mary Ellen Titus

Gifts, Endowments & Investments Committee

Bill Pallett term ending 2019

Brent Maner term ending 2020

Millie Schroeder term ending 2021

Nominating Committee

Wade Honey term ending 2019

Julie Hunt term ending 2020

Dave Smit term ending 2021

Pastoral Relations Committee

Term ending 2019

Jean Hill (c)

Andy Barkley (p)

Term ending 2020

Carol Sevin (c)

Tom Hawk (p)

Music Committee

Wade Honey

Julie Hunt

Donna Keyser

Vitality & Outreach Committee

Term Ending 2019

Craig Weston

Jess Girdler

Jennifer Edwards, PO

Rita Henry

Term Ending 2020

Carol Sevin

Linda Thurston

Stephanie Reeck

Ecumenical Campus Ministry

Representatives to ECM Board

Carol Sevin

Paulicia Williams

From Vitality

A big thank you to those who were able to walk with us in the Pride Parade and help with our booth at the Festival. We gave away 250 love stickers and about 125 buttons about pride and other social justice issues. The volunteers enjoyed talking to community members about the work of our church in the community.

Save the date: The KIFA (Kansas Interfaith Action) annual dinner is on June 5 in Topeka. Last year the Vitality committee was honored with the KIFA award for “Faith in Action” in the state. The speaker this year is Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis, with the Poor People’s National Campaign and the honorary event chairs are Kris and Lt. Gov. Lynn Rogers. Keep an eye out for more information. Let’s get a good contingent from FCUCC to this important event.

Community News

Summer at Camp White

Summer is coming which means it's time to get registered for camp! Camp White is currently registering for this summer and early bird pricing deadlines are fast approaching. The camp has an exciting lineup this summer. All ages can enjoy the tranquil setting on the lake in Council Grove. If you are interested in sending your child to Camp White, you can find their camp information at their website.



<https://whitememorialcamp.com/youth-camps/> First Congregational UCC offers scholarship assistance to campers. Sandy Nelson in the office if interested or contact Jeff Keller for more information

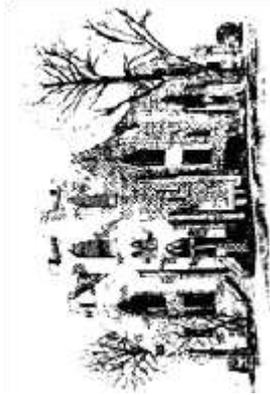
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>May 2019</h1>			1 11:30 Lunch Bunch 5:45 Deacons mtg 7:00 AA meeting	2 5:00 Community Acupuncture 7:00 Taizé 7:30 NA mtg ----- Sandy Vacation -----	3 7:30 NA mtg	4
5 8:30 Choir rehearsal 9:30 Yoga & Donuts 10:45 Worship and Communion <i>Fill the Breadbasket</i> 6:00 Second Helping	6 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	7 5:00 Renters Together	8 5:30 CE Board 5:30 Mission Board 6:30 Vitality 7:00 Trustees Board 7:00 AA meeting	9 5:00 Community Acupuncture 7:00 Taizé 7:30 NA mtg ----- Ministry of the Decorative Scissors -----	10 7:30 NA mtg	11
12 Outdoor Worship 8:30 Choir rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship in the Park 6:00 Second Helping	13 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	14 10:00 NCA clergy	15 7:00 Cabinet mtg 7:00 AA meeting	16 5:00 Community Acupuncture 7:00 Taizé 7:00 MLK mtg 7:30 NA mtg	17 7:30 NA mtg	18
19 CE Recognition 8:30 Choir rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 6:00 Second Helping	20 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	21	22 7:00 AA meeting	23 5:00 Community Acupuncture 7:00 Taizé 7:30 NA mtg	24 5:00 Newsletter Deadline 7:30 NA mtg	25
26 9:30 Choir rehearsal 10:45 Worship 6:00 Second Helping	27 Memorial Day Office Closed 7:30 NA mtg	28	29 6:00 Renters Together	30 5:00 Community Acupuncture 7:00 Taizé 7:30 NA mtg	31 7:30 NA mtg	