



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 63 Number 7

July 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

July Sabbaticals

At the Cabinet meeting in June, practically every representative of a church board or committee reported that their board or committee would not be meeting in July. They are taking Pastor Caela's advice to make time for "Sabbath," a time for what she called in her May newsletter, a period of rest, renewal, and rejoicing.

Historically, Christians have understood "Sabbath" to be on Sunday, because one of the Ten Commandments God gave Moses on Mount Sinai was to "remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy," to set aside every seventh day as a day of rest in commemoration of the six days God created the heavens and the earth. Later the Israelites instituted a "sabbatical year" in which every seventh year, they would let the land rest and not engage in plowing, planting, or harvesting.

Nowadays, of course, we understand the idea behind the celebration of "Sabbath" less as a command [continued pg. 2]



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from God to keep the Sabbath day holy but simply common sense. It's a way to avoid "burn out" from our often busy, even hectic, lives. When I was in college, even a pastor in the conservative Christian Reformed Church I grew up in declared from the pulpit that the commandment to keep the Sabbath day holy was less a matter of avoiding work on Sunday than it was to rest on a regular basis, not just on Sunday, in order to keep ourselves healthy and sane.

The more I think about Sabbath, the more I would expand on Pastor Caela's call for rest, renewal, and rejoicing, and add simple "Awareness" with a capital A, awareness that we can often only realize when we are resting and consciously seeking renewal, awareness that, as Pastor Caela said, "we can all step aside and the world will keep spinning without us," that the very existence of the world, indeed even our own existence, is a miracle, and that what are often the most important things in our lives are the little things we don't often pay attention to: things like the new flowers in our window box or backyard garden; someone bringing us a cup of coffee when we need it; the person who volunteers to take over a task at church that for some reason we can't do as we had promised. Sabbath gives us a chance to be more aware of all that really matters.

David Smit

Past Moderator

Save the Date
Backpack blessing, Feast & Festival
August 18, 2019

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

- **Gayle Doll**, associate professor and director of the Center on Aging at K-State, recently received the Distinguished Faculty Award from the Gerontological Society of America.
- Laura Beth Cochran and Jacob Laha welcomed a new daughter to their family. Ridley Lynn Laha on was born on June 12. **Al Cochran** is the proud grandfather.

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.

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.

Lunch Bunch July 3

We join together in an opportunity to get to know one another, Wednesday, July 3 at LongHorn Steak House (505 Tuttle Creek Blvd.). Everyone is welcome to join us for lunch at 11:30 a.m.



Ministry of the Decorative Scissors

The Ministry of the Decorative Scissors meets July 11-13. 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.



Fill the Breadbasket for Second Helping

The Second Helping is funded through our operating budget and special gifts to this ministry. On the first Sunday of each month we "Fill the Breadbasket" during worship. You are invited to bring a cash donation or items for our lunch sacks, such as individual flavored oatmeal packets, granola bars, or individually-wrapped snack crackers (such as cheese or peanut butter).

Help Us Fill the Blessing Box

Summer is a time of heightened food insecurity, and it is a challenge for us to keep the Blessing Box filled. We are finding that our neighbors are especially needy of the following items:

- canned soups and canned instant meals like ravioli, etc.
- peanut butter
- canned tuna fish
- instant macaroni or other pasta meals
- breakfast bars
- individual applesauce cups

If each of us could bring 2 items when we come to church each week, and place them in the bin marked Blessing Box in the lobby off the parking lot, that would go a long way towards meeting the food needs of our community.

Thank you from the Board of Missions!

From the Trustees

The Access Control Intercom System is now installed on the doors by the offices. During office hours, the doors will be locked, and visitors will have to be buzzed in. We feel that this added level of security for those working in the building during office hours is a much-needed improvement. A sign is posted on the door and on the intercom box so anyone can easily seek entry. During evening activities and meetings during the day, the doors can be unlocked as usual so that attendees can enter. Check with Sandy if you have any questions about using the system.

Reminder that the balcony will be closed for Sunday worship except for the youth Sacred Space and for those approved by the ushers to use the balcony. Signs will be posted at the stairwells and on the doors into the balcony on Sundays. This is another safety measure that we hope also promotes fellowship by having visitors sit downstairs where they can be made to feel welcome by our congregation. The balcony will be open for special occasions.

Connect with us during the week!

Did you know our church has a vital presence on social media? We currently have over 550 people following our church's Facebook page for updates about what's happening in our community. Follow us at [facebook.com/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. The audio of the sermon is also posted on our website at a later date once it's processed.

Christian Education

Please contact Brandy McDonald (brandy@uccmanhattan.org) or Brittani Shank (brittani@uccmanhattan.org) for more information about options for children and youth.

July Children's Ministry Schedule

Sunday school, yoga, and children's choir are on break for the summer! See you in the fall!

Because we are low on childcare staff and currently without a Kids Worship leader, we will be playing each Sunday by ear as far as Sacred Space and Kids Worship availability goes so that we are able to serve the most kids each Sunday. We will let you know what's available at the end of the Word for Children. Thanks for your patience as Brandy works on getting some more staff hired!

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

Midweek Bible Class is doing Summer School!

The Midweek Bible Class has resumed and meets weekly throughout July. Our book this summer is Richard Rohr's new book *The Universal Christ*. The book's jacket notes describe it this way:

“Drawing on scripture, history, and spiritual practice, Rohr articulates a transformative view of Jesus Christ as a portrait of God's constant, unfolding work in the world. ‘God loves things by becoming them,’ he writes, and Jesus' life was meant to declare that humanity has never been separate from God—except by its own negative choice. When we recover this fundamental truth, faith becomes less about proving Jesus was God, and more about learning to recognize the Creator's presence all around us, and in everyone we meet.”

We are so hopeful that you can join us for good fellowship, a LOT of chocolate, and active discussion about this thought-provoking book. That's Tuesdays, this summer, from 11:30 to 1:00.

Join us for
The First
UCC People Books

Friday, September 13, 2019
6:30 – 9:00 PM
Blachly Room



We need **books** and **readers**

Books are created by people who wish to tell their story of: a personal experience, a unique experience or something that matters to them. Readers experience a new way of listening to gain an understanding of the book's experience and perspective.

This innovative event is modeled on **"The Human Library Project"** and offers a comfortable environment for us to meet, ask questions, and learn from each other.

To apply to be a "people book," please go to bit.ly/uccpeoplebooks. There you will find more information to help you create your book. To be a "reader," just come. There will be just a few directions given at the event.

The Vitality Committee invites all to participate. We will provide the main dish, drinks and dessert. If you wish to bring a side dish, please do.

Jennifer Edwards, Jess Girder, Rita Henry, Carol Sevin, Linda Thurston, and Craig Weston

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

Cobb Corner — Going Green

“How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge?” – Proverbs 1:22, *The Green Bible*, p. 616.

You’ve probably heard the old adage “it helps to have skin in the game” to make people sit up and take notice about an issue. Well, Joy Schell provided information about one of the real tests of how much you love this planet. It gets to the bottom about one of the least publicized environmental issues: toilet paper.

The NRDC, a 4-star Charity Navigator charity has published a shoppers’ guide which includes important cautionary info about toilet paper brands. Companies are using “old growth and virgin forests to produce soft-paper products favored by Americans. While only 4% of the world’s population, we consume 20% of the soft toilet paper.

The best “A” rated companies are Trader Joe’s, Green Forest and 365 Bath Tissue. Does anyone know if these can be purchased around here? Bill and I used to buy Small Steps (Grade “B”) from HyVee for the church and our home, but it is no longer available. It was excellent.

I recall when I first urged the use of recycled Small Steps for the church one member was horrified. She feared the tissue was made from used toilet paper! Let’s be clear: Small Steps is made from other paper into toilet paper.

The locally-available brands are not environmentally sound. Cottonelle and Scott have “D” ratings and Charmin, Angel Soft and Quilted Northern are rated “F.” Let’s talk to grocery managers about providing better alternatives.

I did discover that our church uses a brand which is new to me which is ok but not particularly soft (my research never stops!). It’s available locally from BD4 Distributors. Finally, I’m not certain if this is NRDC or Joy’s rallying cry but it deserves to be a motto for all of us: “Let’s not flush our forests down the toilet!!”

—Linda Richter

P.S. Excellent new books: *The Uninhabitable Earth: Life After Warming* by David Wallace-Wells and *Losing Earth* by Nathaniel Rich.

Share ideas for future Cobb columns with Linda Richter.

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.



Ministers of Care On Call

During Pastor Caela's sabbatical (May 1 - August 15) we have designated Ministers of Care who are on call to assist you with any pastoral care needs that might arise. The Minister of Care who is on call for assistance during the month of **July is Deane Lehmann**. Please note: you should leave a voicemail if the Minister of Care doesn't answer her phone, as many of us receive a high volume of spam calls and do not pick up when the telephone number is unknown. You are also welcome to call Pastor Sue or the church office.

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 at office@uccmanhattan.org or (785) 537-7006.

July 7, 2019

Chief Cook: Ann Smit/Martha Mather/Jennifer Edwards

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Church Host: David Smit

Volunteers: Mechelle Martinez, Rachel Whetstone, *1 volunteer needed*

July 14, 2019

Chief Cook: Sharon Purvis

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Church Host: Wade Honey

Volunteers: First Christian Church

July 21, 2019

Chief Cook: Linda Thurston

Dessert: *Kerri Keller*

Church Host: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: Linda's crew

July 28, 2019

Chief Cook: Gretchen Lewis

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Church Host: Jim Lewis

Volunteers: ESA Sorority

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

Community News

Summer at Camp White

Summer means it's time to get registered for camp! Camp White 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, find camp information at: <https://whitememorialcamp.com/youth-camps/> First Congregational UCC offers scholarship assistance to campers. Contact Sandy Nelson in the office if interested or contact Jeff Keller for more information.



S.T.A.R.S. Camp

Pawnee Mental Health Services annually puts on S.T.A.R.S. (Strength, Teamwork, Attitude, Relationships, Self-Esteem) Camp. This camp is for children age 7-17 who experience Serious Emotional Disturbances (SED). S.T.A.R.S. Camp is free of charge to participants, and for many of the children it is the ONLY camp they are able to attend due to the severity of their symptoms. To help fund and enhance the camp Pawnee is seeking donations from community members. Donations needed include monetary donations or donations of the following items: snack items (*crackers, granola bars, chips, cookies, fruit snacks or juice boxes*), health and safety items (*sunscreen, insect repellent, first aid items, small but effective flashlights*), or efficiency items (*string bags, water bottles*). If you wish to support S.T.A.R.S. Camp please bring donation items to church. A collection box is in the office. For more information, please contact Diane Hinrichs, Pawnee Development Manager at 785-564-1059 or diane.hinrichs@pawnee.org



Sunday
July 14, 2019

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
700 Poyntz Avenue
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uccmanhattan.org

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	2	3 11:30 Lunch Bunch 7:00 AA meeting	4 Independence Day Office Closed 5:00 Community Acupuncture 7:30 NA mtg	5 7:30 NA mtg	6
7 10:45 Worship and Communion <i>Fill the Breadbasket</i> 6:00 Second Helping	8 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	9	10 7:00 AA meeting	11 5:00 Community Acupuncture 7:00 Taizé 7:30 NA mtg	12 7:30 NA mtg	13
14 Jazz Service 10:45 Worship 6:00 Second Helping	15 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	16 10:00 NCA clergy	17 7:00 Cabinet mtg 7:00 AA meeting	18 5:00 Community Acupuncture 7:00 Taizé 7:00 MLK mtg 7:30 NA mtg	19 5:00 Newsletter Deadline 7:30 NA mtg	20 Bean/Kempcke Wedding
21 10:45 Worship 6:00 Second Helping	22 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	23	24 7:00 AA meeting	25 5:00 Community Acupuncture 7:00 Taizé 7:30 NA mtg	26 7:30 NA mtg	27
28 10:45 Worship 6:00 Second Helping	29 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	30	31 7:00 AA meeting			

---- Ministry of the Decorative Scissors ----