



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 63 Number 8

August 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

telephone 785-537-7006

www.uccmanhattan.org

Fresh Start

If asked to name a month associated with anticipation, many people would name December. But we are going to talk about August. For many of us, August is back-to-school with all of its new beginnings – new classes, new students, new classmates, new schools, new challenges, and new adventures. This year, at First Congregational, August also brings the anticipation of Pastor Caela’s return from her sabbatical. We hope that she and her family have found renewal and return refreshed.

The three months of Caela’s sabbatical has passed quicker for some than for others. I am sure that it passed very quickly for her. For most of us, the time seemed to pass uneventfully. And that is because so many people worked together to allow us to continue to be the church in Caela’s absence. It also reminded us of how much Caela does. I have so many to thank for stepping up and keeping things running.

For starters, we realized how very much Sandy Nelson does (as if we didn’t already know) when she was sick at the beginning of sabbatical. I don’t know about our moderator, *[continued pg. 2]*



Inside this Newsletter



Sharing & Caring3

News and Events.....4

UCC People Books7

Christian Education 8

Cobb Corner..... 10

Community News 15

Kerri Keller, but I was pretty scared that we were going to be stopped in our tracks before we got started. It took us the better part of a day just to put some semblance of a bulletin together! Even when she was on sick leave, Sandy was there to help us. We are so grateful that she is recovering.

Thank you to Pastor Sue. In the words of Judy Willingham, “Her cheerful leadership fills in those unanticipated voids, not to mention delivering considered and sometimes sobering sermons....is this a characteristic of a history prof?” Thank you also to Gina Davidson for making sure that we had someone to deliver a sermon every Sunday. Our guest speakers, in addition to Sue, include Bill Richter, Ross Allan, Richard Pitts, Rev. Traci Matherly, Greg Eiselin, Debra Bolton, Laura Dungan, and Jeff Keller. Thank you to them for sharing their faith with us. Thank you also to Brandy McDonald for making sure that our children had someone there for them every Sunday.

When it comes to facilities and operations, Judy Ahrens made sure that the rain-drenched mail was taken in when Sandy was not in the office. Jeff Watson and Jim Lewis made sure that the trustees were on hand to keep the building running smoothly. Linda Thurston and all of the dedicated Second Helping folks always made sure that our guests were fed. Also making sure that we were all fed spiritually and kept running smoothly, Gayle Doll and her cookies kept the volunteer lists full for providing flowers, and serving at fellowship. Deacons made sure that Communion would be served and the offering would be taken. Gretchen Lewis and the music committee made sure we had the opportunity to worship through music. And the Ministers of Care helped care for those in need.

Whew! We aren't even finished yet! Our moderator, Kerri Keller, and our treasurer and past moderator, Dave Smit, provided the wisdom and experience to coordinate everything. Finally, what many of you don't know, Caela spent the year before her sabbatical preparing us and providing pages of spreadsheets anticipating (almost) every eventuality. Thank you to everyone for their hard work, patience, love, compassion, and understanding, including those that were inadvertently left off of this long list. Peace, love, and joy in our new adventure.

Sue Gerth

Moderator-Elect

Sharing and Caring

Prayers and Concerns

- For more information please contact the church office.

Congratulations

- **Don Saucier**, distinguished teaching scholar and professor of psychological sciences, has been selected as faculty associate director of the Teaching and Learning Center at Kansas State University. Don is married to **Mary Cain** and they are the parents of **Delaney** and **Liam**.

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 the church office. It is a quick and easy way to stay up to date with your church family.



Lunch Bunch August 7

We join together in an opportunity to get to know one another, Wednesday, August 7 at El Tapitio (2605 Stagg Hill Rd). 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 August 8-10. 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.

Welcome to the New Second Helping Volunteer Coordinator!

Diane Hinrichs has agreed to take on this role starting in August, and we are all grateful for her willingness to serve in this way. So she may be in touch with you about volunteering for Second Helping. The Volunteer Coordinator actually serves as the "nerve center" for our Second Helping Mission--please make her job as easy as possible. Welcome, Diane!

It's Feast and Festival time!

Join us Sunday, August 18th 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 Call Hall 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 friends from Second Helping will join us.

Blessing of the Backpacks and Teachers

Sunday, August 18 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.



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!

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

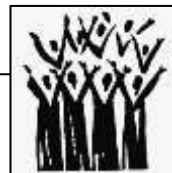
information or to share a photo. Photos make it easier for everyone to put names with faces and any digital photo can be shared with the office and we will upload it into the directory.

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 next to the stairs 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 at the back of the sanctuary. 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.



**Choir returns
Sunday, August 18**



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

Christian Education

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

August means back to school and back to our Children's Ministry routine! Sunday school returns August 18th at 9:30 am.

August 18th: Deep Blue Sunday School curriculum returns! (Psst!

This is also the Sunday we will be doing our Backpack Blessing, so bring those backpacks with you to church!)

August 25th: Children's Choir

August also means that some of our kiddos will be moving to a new option during the church service. Here is a reminder of the ages for these options and what they all include! (Note: we are still looking to hire a new Kids Worship Leader. In the meantime we may not always have Sacred Space or Kids Worship available. We will continue to give directions of the options for that Sunday after Word for Children).

Age 3 to Grade 1: *Kids Worship!* These children go to our theater upstairs and enjoy an age appropriate church service that mirrors our regular service (Sundays when Kids Worship isn't available we will have a simple activity available in the nursery that this age group can enjoy.

Grades 2 to 6: *Sacred Space!* This takes place in the balcony with a supervising adult. The aim of Sacred Space is to allow children to enjoy worship in an environment geared toward their developmental level. We will take some time the first several weeks of the school year to pull all the Sacred Space children aside to make sure they all understand the expectations for this space. On Sundays when Sacred Space isn't available these children may join us in Kids Worship.

The nursery is available year round for newborns and up to age 3. We also have the Pray Ground available in the back of the sanctuary.

MOVE

LEARN



CREATE

SERVE

uccmanhattan.org/childrens-ministry

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

“In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous.”
Aristotle as quoted in *Winning Words* by Allen Klein, p. 371.

Need an environmentally-friendly hobby, an unusual gift idea? Or are you tired of buying expensive fertilizer for your plants and lawn? Deane Lehmann has an option for you:

Are you interested in composting but have limited space? Are you looking for a low-maintenance pet? How about worms? Yes, worms! Okay, maybe other worm owners don't consider them pets, but I am quite fond of my worms and all they do for me.

Worm composting is an indoor composting system. It is easy to get started. I use two Rubbermaid totes and some plastic pipe fittings as spacers. Put the fittings in the bottom of one tote, drill holes in the bottom of the other and stack on top. (The fittings keep the weight from warping the container.) You can also spend way too much time online looking at all the premade worm composters.

For worm bedding you need some sand (worms have gizzards) and some soil which I get from my yard. You can also add leaves and shredded paper. Put the bedding mix in the container and add red wiggler worms which Carol Sevin and I can give you to get you started. Put vegetable scraps in the container below the surface to control fruit flies and odor.

If you are interested in learning more, *Worms Eat My Garbage* by Mary Appelhof is the book to get you started. It is now in its 35th edition! Or ask Carol or Deane. We like to talk about our worms!

Another alternative: We Richters have been composting in our back yards for over 50 years. We put in not only garbage but also grass clippings and leaves and cover with dirt. It makes excellent compost so that we've never needed to buy fertilizer. Moreover, the worms come to us!

We don't get to know them as well as Carol and Deane do, but they've never complained about dinner.

Also, after the first hard spring rains and before neighbors start applying pesticides, I go around the block on a worm hunt. Worms washed into the street and gutter get “saved” in a coffee can (the

continued next page

record is 87 during one walk) and deposited in “worm heaven” – the Richter compost pile!

Not ready to compost? At least put banana skins around your roses and coffee grounds in your bushes and around the foundation to deter ants. Stephanie Reeck has found Dawn dishwashing detergent dissuades ants and Heloise swears by peppermint oil. What do you suggest for ecological entertainment during this very hot summer?—

Linda Richter

Share ideas for future Cobb columns with Linda Richter.



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 **August is Julie Appino**. 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.

Second Helping at Record-breaking High

Second Helping has fed 704 people in the first half of 2019, up about 25% from last year. June is always a high month, but this year was record-breaking at 220 individuals. These are the number of people to whom we served dinner so it does not count the breakfast/lunch sack we give everyone, and the second helpings and to-go boxes. The number of meals is over 2,000. Thanks so much to our volunteers in donating, gathering, preparing and serving the meals.

We are not receiving recovery food from the K-State training table this summer, so your donations of food are very important. If you have extra produce from your gardens, please consider bringing them to the church to be used on Sunday evenings. Please let Linda know if you will be donating produce so she can include it in the menu plans.

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.

August 4, 2019

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: Jane Marshall, Shari Tedford

Chief Cook: Linda Thurston

Church Host: Jonathan Mertz

August 11, 2019

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: Mike & Rita Henry, Dress Barn crew

Chief Cook: Martha Mather

Church Host: Ann Smit

August 18, 2019

Feast & Festival

Bring cake for the cake walk.

August 25, 2019

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: *4 volunteers needed*

Chief Cook: Gretchen Lewis

Church Host: Jim Lewis

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

Feast & Festival



August
18th
6 p.m.



August 29-30

First Congregational UCC will have a table at the Purple Power Play festival this year. There will be pamphlets, buttons, and signs to show who we are as a church! Now we need volunteers to help staff the table on both days: August 29 and 30. If you can help with set up (4:30) or staff the table for an hour or two (5-9pm), please contact Jennifer Edwards.

Thrive! seeking Leaders and Allies

Thrive! is not your typical social service program. It invests resources in a small number of Leaders (those living in financial poverty) for a long period of time to impact true change in their lives. Through the efforts of volunteer Allies and staff, Thrive! helps to build stronger individuals and families. Weekly meals along with adult and youth programming help create the relationships and support needed to allow Thrive! Leaders to increase stability, social connections, health, and the confidence to improve their lives.

To learn more, please join a Thrive! Orientation on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 pm at the Harris Activity Center (530 Poyntz Ave; enter through the back door). The next orientation will be August 6th. We are in dire need of more Allies to support new Leaders joining our program to make change in their lives.

Bridges Out of Poverty trainings

Would you like to better understand how living in financial poverty affects individuals and families? Are you possibly interested in volunteering as an Ally for Thrive!? If so, please join us for one of our upcoming Bridges Out of Poverty trainings at the Groesbeck Room of the Manhattan Public Library. Friday, August 16 from 10 am – 3 pm; Wednesday, August 21 from 6-9 pm; or Saturday, September 7 from 1-5 pm. RSVP to Jayme Morris-Hardeman at jmorrihardeman@gmail.com



A community-driven benefit for the Annunciation House in El Paso, Texas
Located at the green space at the corner of Houston St. & Juliette Avenue.
Sunday, August 25, 2019 6-8:30pm
Come and go. Bring a lawn chair!
Featuring music, ethnic foods, and artists of the Manhattan Community.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>August</h1>				1 5:00 Community Acupuncture 7:30 NA mtg	2 7:30 NA mtg	3
4 10:45 Worship and Communion <i>Fill the Breadbasket</i> 6:00 Second Helping	5 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	6	7 11:30 Lunch Bunch 5:45 Deacons mtg 7:00 AA meeting	8 5:00 Community Acupuncture 7:30 NA mtg ----- Ministry of the Decorative Scissors -----	9 7:30 NA mtg	10
11 10:45 Worship 6:00 Second Helping	12 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	13	14 5:30 CE mtg 5:30 Mission mtg 6:30 Vitality mtg 7:00 Trustees mtg 7:00 AA meeting	15 5:00 Community Acupuncture 7:00 MLK mtg 7:30 NA mtg ----- Sandy vacation -----	16 7:30 NA mtg	17 g
18 8:30 Choir rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship Blessing of the Backpacks 6:00 Feast & Festival	19 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	20 10:00 NCA clergy	21 7:00 Cabinet mtg 7:00 AA meeting	22 5:00 Community Acupuncture 7:30 NA mtg	23 5:00 Newsletter Deadline 7:30 NA mtg	24
25 8:30 Choir rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 6:00 Second Helping	26 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	27	28 7:00 AA meeting	29 5:00 Community Acupuncture 7:30 NA mtg Purple Power Play	30 7:30 NA mtg Purple Power Play	31