



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 63 Number 10

October 2019

Sunday School at 9:30 A.M. (when school is in session)
 Sunday Worship at 10:45 A.M. 700 Poyntz Avenue
 Second Helping Dinner at 6:00 P.M. Manhattan, Kansas 66502
 Thursday Evening Taizé at 7:00 P.M. telephone 785-537-7006
www.uccmanhattan.org

Caretakers of the Way

British naturalist Robert MacFarlane reports that in the 19th century small sickles were hung on stiles or posts where paths connecting communities began. Walkers would pick up the sickle to lop off branches as they walked. They would then leave the tool on the post at the end of the path so a walker going in the opposite direction could do the same. This shared caretaking of the path benefited each individual walker but also the larger community.

Acts tell us that the early Christian movement was known internally as the Way. The life of faith is a way of being human, a way of interpreting, a way of practicing, a way of living...and it is a path we travel together as we Love Unconditionally, Challenge Spiritually, and Minister Fervently as a part of this congregation.

As we say every Sunday when we receive the offering, walking in the Way of Generosity is not just about sharing our financial resources...but about a way of living that is always open to sharing whatever we have with anyone who has need. It's a little like the sign on the Blessing Box "take what you" *[continued pg. 2]*

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need, leave what you can.” When we share our money, our time, our gifts, our prayers, our creativity with one another, we are truly caretakers of the Way of Jesus. The song says “they’ll know we are Christians by our love,” and one of the ways we Love Loudly is by living generously.

I am constantly amazed at the generosity of people in our congregation. Whether it's by responding to a voiced need or acting before “the ask” has even been made, your ability to Be the Church in spirit and deed inspires me...and many others. I made a list while working on this newsletter article...just small and big gifts in our congregation. I initially thought I might share them all, but when the bullet points went onto another page, I knew there wasn't room in this article!

Caretaking the Way of Jesus looks like....

- stopping by the church on your way to an appointment downtown to check on the Blessing Box
- anonymously donating funds so that someone in need can purchase a used vehicle, or buy a plane ticket home for the first time in years, or help paying their medical bills
- gathering in the church basement to sort and pack giant boxes filled with Backpacks of Hope for migrants arriving from Central America
- ensuring Second Helping has cute little stuffed animals and toddler-friendly food for our youngest guests
- writing letters to Congress or caravanning to Topeka to stand in solidarity with those who are marginalized
- showing up month after month to carefully take detailed minutes for the Cabinet or Trustees
- sitting with a woman who is experiencing homelessness for hours, patiently determining her needs and working diligently to find her shelter on a cold winter's night

As we work to co-create God's Realm of justice and peace for all creation, we follow in the tracks of others, ways walked by Jesus himself, paths as old as Abraham and Sarah. It is our joyful call not only to be travelers on the path, but the caretakers, the stewards of that Way. Thank you for the myriad ways you share your generosity with and through our congregation through your prayers, your presence, your gifts, and your service.

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



Lunch Bunch October 2



We join together in an opportunity to get to know one another, Wednesday, October 2 at Olive Garden (715 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 October 10-12. 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.

Living Room Worship for Fall 2019

Living Room Worship is casual evening of acoustic guitar, singing, prayer, and fellowship. If you are hungry to deepen your connection to God and each other, join us in the living room!

Questions? Contact Lisa Tatonetti.

All gatherings are 6:00-7:30pm on Sunday evenings

Sep. 29 - 205 Cedar Dr., Manhattan

Nov. 19 - 421 Leavenworth St., Manhattan

Remembering Our Saints

On November 3, 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.

Kansas-Oklahoma Conference Annual Meeting

The following people from our congregation will be attending the K-O Annual Meeting in Wichita on October 18-19 in Tulsa, OK: Jan Lange (K-O Registrar), Brittani Frost-Shank (lay delegate), Caela Simmons Wood (clergy delegate), Sue Zschoche (clergy delegate). Please hold the work of our conference in your prayers. If you'd like regular updates on what the K-O Conference is up to, you can sign up for e-mail updates at

<https://kocucc.org>.



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/uccmanhattanks.



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.

Stewardship

Dear Friends,

Through First Congregational UCC, you and I share a particular way of being Christian and being church. We are not alone. The early Christian movement was known internally as well as to its persecutors as **the Way** (Acts 9). The life of faith is **a way** of being human, **a way** of interpreting, **a way** of practicing, **a way** of living.

- The wisdom tradition of the faith often spoke of **the Way**. *God watches over the way of the righteous. Psalm 1:6*
- The prophetic tradition of the faith also refers to faith as **a Way**. *Prepare the way of our God, make straight in the desert a highway for our God ... Isaiah 40*
- Jesus refers to himself and his commitment to a cruciform **Way** of life as, *“I am the way” John 14:6*
- Paul advising the early church in Corinth being torn asunder with division counsels that in the way of love, he would show them *“a more excellent way.” I Corinthians 12:31*

Over the coming weeks you are invited to reflect on this shared way and how we individually and collectively are stewards of this way. I invite you to be in prayer about your participation and for the ministries we will make possible.

Our participation is the opportunity for us, the community and our faith to evolve and remain vibrant. First Congregational represents:

- a **way** of being church,
- a **way** of practicing one’s faith,
- a **way** of interpreting received texts and the times in which we live,
- a **way** of articulating *“the hope that is within us,”*
- a **way** of intellectual honesty and courage,
- a **way** of creating a new eco-system for the church,
- a **way** of sustaining a movement not a moment,
- a **way** of doing justice, seeking peace and building community.

Join us in giving to create and maintain this *distinctive way* of being faithful, of Being the Church together.

Sincerely,
Your 2019-2020 Stewardship Committee:
Rick Doll, Stacy Shaffer, Rachel Whetstone

Let me show you a more excellent way

...I Corinthians 12:31



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!

From Vitality & Outreach Committee

Thanks and blessings to our first four UCC Book People who volunteered at the Dinner Discussion. The evening of food, fellowship and people-books was the first in a series sponsored by the Vitality and Outreach Committee.

The Vitality committee recommends the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network, a part of the Justice and Witness Ministries of the UCC, and is our denomination's grassroots advocacy network. The JPANet both educates and engages its members in shaping public policy in keeping with God's vision of a just and loving society. You can engage with JPANet via FaceBook (Justice and Witness Ministries, United Church of Christ) or sign up for their awesome newsletter.

Upcoming:

October 8: 7 PM in Forum Hall in the K-State Student Union. Lou Douglas lecture series hosts **Sarah Smarsh**, author of *Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth*. Her book examines economic inequality through her upbringing among the working poor on a Kansas farm.

February 8: Vitality will sponsor a "Mental Health First Aid Course" taught by experts from Pawnee Mental Health, from 8:30A – 5:00P. The trainers from Pawnee Mental Health can accept 15 participants at \$50 per person. Vitality will offer several scholarships and provide lunch and snacks.

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.

Christian Education

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

October Children's Ministry Schedule

October 6th: Join us for Shining Light Yoga for ages 3 through 6th grade!

October 13th and 20th: Deep Blue (3-3rd grade) and Submerge (4th-6th grade)

October 27th: Word from Children and Children's Choir!

Options during the church service:

While you are always more than welcome to keep your children with you during the service, we also offer some other options if you find these more suit your family:

Prayground: The Prayground is located in the back of the church and is a space with quiet activities for all ages of children so they may wiggle and play while in worship with us.

Nursery: The nursery is available for ages birth through three.

Feel free to take your child before the service, or during the service if you find that it's a better option for you that day! It is staffed by our wonderful Childcare Attendants.

Kids Worship: Kids Worship looks a little different right now than usual because we are still looking for a teacher, but children ages 3-1st grade have the option to go to the nursery after Word for Children where there will be a simple, age appropriate activity for them that mirrors the scripture for that day.

Sacred Space: For grades 2nd-6th, Sacred Space kids utilize a special space in the balcony where they can learn to be in worship in a way that honors their developmental stages.

If you have any questions about Children's Ministry, please don't hesitate to email me at brandy@uccmanhattan.org!

Fall 2019: Sunday School for Adults

The Bible: A Short History of the Good Book

September 8 - October 13

Led by Gregory Eiselein

What is the Bible? The question is simple, but the answer is not. The contents and arrangement of the Bible are different for different faith traditions, despite many overlaps. And what we know as the Bible is the culmination of centuries of writing, editing, reproduction, transmission, discussion, and debate. It contains multiple genres: poetry, legends, histories, genealogies, laws, epistles, visions and oracles, wisdom and proverbs, biographies, and more. It was composed in multiple languages – Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek—and has been translated into so many more. Moreover, the Bible is not really a book, although it is sometimes known as “the good book.” Instead, it is really a book of books, a whole library of diverse reading.

This adult Sunday School class will explore how we got the book we know today as the Bible. We will take a look at its origins and sources and authors, the ways it was pulled together and edited and arranged, its genres and contents, and the different canons and the process of canonization. We will conclude with a look at English translations and modern Bibles.

Board of Mission

In response to our recent donations of \$250 each to both the Wonder Workshop and Pawnee Mental Health’s S.T.A.R.S. camp, the Board of Missions received wonderful thank-you notes from Richard Pitts at WW and the individual children who were able to attend camp at Rock Springs. Since the thank-you cards are difficult to reproduce, here are the sentiments expressed in two of them, the first by a camper and the second, I think, by an adult camp facilitator.

“Thank you for the fun times at STARS Camp. I always have lots of fun. The arts and crafts are my favorite.”

“Thanks for helping kids have a great time trying new things at STARS camp! That is very meaningful! You’re Awesome!”

We also received three wonderful thank you notes from our friends at the Interfaith Welcome Coalition in San Antonio. Because of the outpouring of love and support for our Backpacks of Hope project from our entire congregation, I thought it was important that everyone had the chance to read the full text of these notes.

“Dear First Congregational United Church of Christ. Thank you so much for your generous donation to the IWC backpack ministry. The large boxes filled with backpacks, blankets, and the large variety of supplies for the backpacks will be greatly appreciated by the refugee families. Your kindness is tremendously admired. Thank you again. Sincerely, James Shields and Carolyn Fuller” of the IWC in San Antonio.

“Thanks so much for creating and sending the blankets for babies and others. Blankets are so needed by these families! They are cold in South Texas! (Well, maybe not in July and August..” They are tropical people, and the air-conditioned buses and planes they are about to board are very cold to them! Any comfort we can bring, well, that is our goal! And hand-made blankets with love sewn, knitted, and crocheted in are even better! Know that your gift is well appreciated! Love, Mary Grace” (Mary Grace Ketner is the IWC Co-Chair)

“I work with Interfaith Coalition helping refugees and had the privilege of seeing the joy your lovely handmade afghan brought to a Honduran grandmother taking her 2 grandchildren to their mother. She said it was like a rainbow at the end of their journey and would always be a souvenir of their time. Thank you so much—you gave a lot of joy—Judy Godning”

Your gifts are making a difference in our local community and the wider world. Thank you!

Gretchen Lewis for the Board of Missions

Neighbors in Need Offering • October 6

The Neighbors in Need offering, which we will receive on October 6, 2019, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UC's Justice and Witness Ministries to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. Working with members of the UCC Justice and Peace Action Network (a network of thousands of UCC justice and peace advocates), Justice and Witness continues its strong policy advocacy work on issues such as the federal budget, voting rights, immigration, health care, hate crimes, civil liberties, and environmental justice. Neighbors in Need also supports our American Indian neighbor in the UC. One-third of the offering supports the UCDC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM). Historically, forebears of the UCD established churches and worked with Lakota, Dakota, Nakota, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arickara, and Hocak in North and South Dakota, Wisconsin, and northern Nebraska. Today there are 20 UCC congregations on reservations and one urban, multi-tribal UCC congregation in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These churches and their pastors are supported by CAIM, which is also an invaluable resource for more than 1,000 individuals from dozens of other tribes and nations who are members of other UCC congregations in the U.S.

The theme of the offering this year is Love of Children, and appropriate concern in these difficult times. Please consider giving generously to Neighbors in Need!



Cobb Corner — Going Green

“Our task must be to free ourselves by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty.” – *Albert Einstein*

For over 40 years one of my research areas at K-State was the politics of international tourism which I studied in more than 35 nations and in terms of a variety of impacts both good and bad on

indigenous communities, women, and children, and in many environmental contexts. But this summer I learned about two very important types linked to the climate crisis.

The first is overtourism. This is the phenomenon where a location is so overrun by tourists and their transport that the entire destination is ruined for tourists and locals alike, Today 1.4 billion tourists travel internationally each year. Venice, Dubrovnik, the Grand Canyon and the Galapagos Islands are such examples. Even small communities are sometimes vulnerable.

The U.S. has experienced overtourism in the last few years but international travel to the US has actually dropped significantly due to the overseas unpopularity of the President and due to the warnings from other countries about our gun violence.

The second type of tourism we are experiencing world-wide has been called “Last Chance Tourism.” Such travel is headed for special places about to be irreparably changed. Examples include trophy hunters wanting to bag endangered giraffes or to have selfies next to rhino carcasses.

Then there are other travelers hoping to see Glacier National Park, Iceland or the Antarctic before the last glaciers, penguins and polar bears disappear. Others want to visit Bali or some 2 dozen megacities and South Sea Islands before they slip beneath the rising sea. For some it’s already too late. There are wildfires in the Arctic and the Amazon. The capitol of Indonesia is being moved to Borneo from Jakarta. Over one million animal species are threatened with extinction.

I can’t imagine not exploring, but it is critical that we do so with increased sensitivity to issues of environmental justice. We may also explore closer to home. I recommend looking at the Kansas Guidebooks by Marci Penner and making day trips from Manhattan roaming over the many scenic by-ways of Kansas. What are your favorite close-to-home adventures?

Important update: Thanks to Joy Schell’s past info, I was primed for news surrounding August 26th National Toilet Paper Day. There is a group called We Wipe Right campaigning to save the virgin boreal forest of Northern Canada. One strategy is to seek out toilet paper made from recycled paper. Examples: Trader Joe’s, Small Steps, and Earth First.

continued next page

Consider: If every U.S. person replaced just 1 roll with recycled toilet paper, we could save 1,083,000 carbon-storing trees!! What a simple, cheap way to help the planet. —*Linda Richter*

P.S. Environmentalist Bill McKibben recommends Inconspicuous Consumption: The Environmental Impacts You Don't Know You Have, by Tatiana Schlossberg.

Share ideas for future Cobb columns with Linda Richter.

Second Helping

In August we served 196 Sunday suppers. We also serve about that many seconds plus to-go boxes and we provided about 190 sack lunches that also included breakfast items.

A huge thank you to: Sandy Cravens and to Janice Dinkel/Glenn Phelps for garden produce; Jim Lewis for cart first aid; Ann Smit for her work as secretary of Common Table; First Lutheran Church for 75 pre-made sack lunches; Amanda and Cameron Tross and Dave Manning for coming in every Sunday night to receive and store deliveries from Recovery; and all the wonderful kitchen crew, dessert makers, and grocery picker-uppers!

SWEETS NEEDED! Please consider signing up to bring dessert for our Sunday evening Second Helping meals. Think about grabbing a friend and working together to bring a home-made goodie (they are REALLY appreciated!). We need dessert for 45-50 these days. Cupcakes (thank you Kerri!) are easy for the kitchen crew to serve. Cake, cookies, and cobbler are all a big hit. If no one brings dessert, we serve ice cream as a back up and sometimes this summer we've put ice cream with the cookies, cakes and cobblers brought in by volunteers. PLEASE SIGN UP!

Not a dessert-maker? Here's what else you can do: donate breakfast bars, oatmeal packets, Lysol spray / wipes, and large cans of mushroom soup; volunteer to pick up Sunday groceries at Hy-Vee (talk to Sue Z.); sign up with Di Hinrichs for kitchen crew and church host duty; join our guests for Sunday supper.

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.

October 6, 2019

Dessert: Kerri Keller
Volunteers: Vet Students

Chief Cook: *volunteer needed*
Church Host: *volunteer needed*

October 13, 2019

Dessert: Jane Marshall
Volunteers: Arnold Air Society

Chief Cook: Linda Thurston
Church Host: Susanne Gilmore

October 20, 2019

Dessert: *volunteer needed*
Volunteers: Vet Students

Chief Cook: Martha Mather
Church Host: Pastor Caela

October 27, 2019

Dessert: *volunteer needed*
Volunteers: ESA Sorority

Chief Cook: *volunteer needed*
Church Host: *volunteer needed*

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

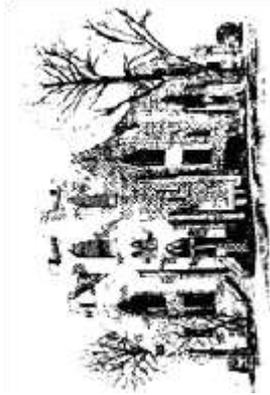
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(785) 537-7006
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>October</h1>		1	2 11:30 Lunch Bunch 5:45 Deacons mtg 7:00 AA meeting	3 5:00 Community Acupuncture 5:00 People's Forum 7:00 Taizé 7:30 NA mtg	4 7:30 NA mtg	5
6 Neighbors in Need 9:30 Yoga+Donuts 10:45 Worship and Communion <i>Fill the Breadbasket</i> 6:00 Second Helping	7 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	8 11:30 Book Study	9 5:30 CE mtg 5:30 Mission mtg 6:30 Vitality mtg 7:00 Trustees mtg 7:00 AA meeting	10 5:00 Community Acupuncture 7:00 Taizé 7:30 NA mtg ----- Ministry of the Decorative Scissors -----	11 7:30 NA mtg	12
13 8:30 Choir rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 6:00 Second Helping	14 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	15 10:00 NCA clergy 11:30 Book Study	16 6:00 Wedding Rehearsal 7:00 Cabinet mtg 7:00 AA meeting	17 5:00 Community Acupuncture 7:00 Taizé 7:00 MLK mtg 7:30 NA mtg	18 7:30 NA mtg 7:30 Hale Library Concert K-O Conf. Annual Meeting, Tulsa, OK - -	19 Hinrichs/Toburen Wedding
20 8:30 Choir rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 6:00 Second Helping	21 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg	22 11:30 Book Study	23 7:00 AA meeting	24 5:00 Community Acupuncture 7:00 Taizé 7:30 Organ Guild mtg 7:30 NA mtg	25 5:00 Newsletter Deadline 7:30 NA mtg	26
27 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 11:30 Book Study	30 7:00 AA meeting	31 5:00 Community Acupuncture 7:00 Taizé 7:30 NA mtg ----- Office Closed / Sandy Vacation -----		