



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 64 Number 2

February 2020

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

all about love

One of the most profoundly moving books I've had the opportunity to read in the past few years is *all about love: new visions* by bell hooks. As a pastor, I spend a lot of time thinking and wondering about love. After all, Jesus said it's the most important commandment. Perhaps you've come to church and thought to yourself, "Is the preacher going to preach ANOTHER sermon about love?" Well, I just want you to know that, time and time again, I've sat down to prepare a sermon...and when the Spirit tells me it's going to be ANOTHER sermon about love, I think, "Really? Another one?"

The thing is, love is one of those words that we throw around so easily. Many of us say it to friends and family on a daily basis. Pop and country stars croon about it on the radio every time we get into our vehicles to run an errand. And since it's February...well, you can't even go to the grocery store without being inundated with LOVE all wrapped up in pink and red - attractively packed for you for Valentine's Day. *[continued pg. 2]*



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Love is all around us, but my guess is many of us would find it difficult to define. bell hooks writes in her book about how useful it was for her when she discovered M. Scott Peck's definition of love: love "as the will to extend one's self for the purpose of nurturing one's own or another's spiritual growth."

Go ahead. Read it again. Or maybe three more times. There's a lot packed into that short statement. hooks says that the most significant impact this definition had in her own life is that it helped her understand that love isn't something that we FEEL....it's something that we DO, despite how we may or may not feel.

I want to invite you to do something. Would you consider writing down Peck's definition (or another definition of love that you find meaningful) and putting it somewhere you'll see it regularly throughout the month of February? Perhaps you'd like to write this alongside it:

[Jesus said] "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." (Matthew 22:37-40)

Imagine what might happen in our community and world if we all took Peck's definition of love seriously...imagine how the world could change if we had the simple goal, each and every day, of living into Jesus's Greatest Commandment.

Pastor Caela

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.

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.

Lunch Bunch February 5

We join together in an opportunity to get to know one another, Wednesday, February 5 at Little Apple Brewing Co. (1110 Westloop). 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 February 20-22. 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.



Bylaws Update

Many thanks to everyone who was able to attend our Congregational Meeting on January 26th. We approved our budget for 2020 and the proposed bylaw revisions from the Church Cabinet. Copies of the bylaws are available on our website and copies of the 2020 budget are available in the office. We also encourage you to pick up a copy of the 2019 Annual Report as we celebrate the ways we lived out our mission this past year.

Love Unconditionally*Challenge Spiritually*Minister Fervently

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.

Living Room Worship February 7

The next Living Room Worship is Friday, February 7 at 7:30pm at 205 Cedar Dr, Manhattan. Living Room Worship is a 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.



Mental Health First Aid February 8

The Board of Justice and Witness is sponsoring “Mental Health First Aid Training”, offered by staff from Pawnee Mental Health, organized by Carol Sevin. The cost is \$50 per person. First Congregational Church will sponsor anyone who needs assistance.

Please register at: bit.ly/feb8registration.

Saturday, Feb. 8, 2020

8:00AM – 5:00 PM

Blachly Hall

First Congregational UCC



Lenten Devotionals Available Feb. 16th

In the wilderness our faith is born, nurtured, challenged, and resurrected. This Lent, journey through the wilderness with our devotional booklet. Beginning with Ash Wednesday and ending with Easter Sunday, this devotional includes art, poetry, prompts, and reflections inspired by the Lenten lectionary scriptures (year A) and the theme, Wilderness.

This booklet is great for older youth and adults of all ages—and especially for those who are hungry for readings and prompts to dig into each week. You can pick up your free devotional from *A Sanctified Art* in the lobby of the church building anytime after February 16th. If you're away from church and need a copy mailed to you, please contact the church office and we'll take care of you!

Ash Wednesday is February 26, 2020

Deacons are planning to try a Continual Prayer Day starting on Tuesday, February 25th at 7 pm through Wednesday February 26th at 7 pm. Members will have time to sit in the quiet of the sanctuary to pray and reflect. This will not replace the Ash Wednesday service at 7 pm, but we hope to enhance the beginning of your Lenten journey. People are encouraged to sign up for a half hour slot or more. You may also sign up as a group or by yourself. For more information, contact Gayle Doll.

Ash Wednesday Material Donations Needed:

This year's Ash Wednesday worship service will take us into the Wilderness as we begin the season of Lent. Participants will get to make their old piece of "wilderness" to take home. We are seeking donations of the following between now and Feb. 20th:

- sticks/branches (2-4 feet in length, able to be broken into smaller pieces)
- smooth river stones (for writing on with Sharpies)
- clear vases with wide mouths (note: will not be returned)
- sand
- decorative moss

Please drop off donations in the church office or leave them outside Pastor Caela's door if the office is closed. Thank you!

Poverty Simulation – March 21

Poverty is a reality for many individuals and families. But unless you have experienced poverty, it's difficult to truly understand.

Join us on March 21 at Presby Place Gym, First Presbyterian Church, 801 Leavenworth St. : Participants from **1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.** and Volunteers (those who have experience working with people who are financially challenged) from **10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** for an interactive immersion experience that will help you understand the realities of living in poverty.

Volunteers (up to 30 accepted) register by Feb. 15

Participants (up to 80 accepted) register by March 15

Register online at: bit.ly/MHKpovertysimulation

If you have questions please contact Jennifer Edwards.

Save the Dates: Lent and Easter 2020

Lent is the 40 days preceding Easter and is a time when Christians traditionally cultivate their faith in more intensive ways. For some this may include giving something up or adding in a new spiritual practice. As a gathered community, we always include additional focused opportunities for worship and communal prayer. Because Easter is a movable feast (meaning, the date changes each year based on moon cycles), the dates for Lent change each year.

In 2020, the following dates will guide our journey through Lent and Eastertide:

February 26: Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent

March 1: First Sunday of Lent

April 5: Palm Sunday

April 9: Maundy Thursday

April 10: Good Friday

April 11: Holy Saturday

April 12: Easter Sunday

May 31: Pentecost Sunday, which ends Eastertide

YGC FCUCC

“
**SPRING 2020
REGULAR SCHEDULE**
”

ALL EVENTS ARE
AT FCUCC UNLESS
OTHERWISE NOTED

CONTACT BRITTANI
@ 785-643-2104 OR
BRITTANI@UCCMANHATTAN.ORG

FEB 2
9:30AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL
YOUTH GROUP
YOUTH ROOM

MAR 1ST
9:30AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL
YOUTH GROUP
YOUTH ROOM

APR 5
9:30AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL
YOUTH GROUP
YOUTH ROOM

MAY 3
9:30AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL
YOUTH GROUP
YOUTH ROOM

Christian Education

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

February Children's Ministry Schedule

February 2nd- Yoga and Donuts

February 9th and 16th- Traditional Sunday school (ages 3 through 3rd grade with Cassidy and grades 4-6 with Tracey)

February 23rd- Children's Choir

Kids Worship is back!

We are so grateful for our new Kids Worship Leader, Aida! Kids Worship starts after Word for Children for ages 3 through 1st grade. This happens in the theater upstairs and is designed to be a service designed to be developmentally appropriate and engaging for some of our youngest friends. If your child would like to join, just listen for directions for who is taking the Kids Worship kids upstairs.

As always, if you have questions, concerns, or suggestions regarding Children's Ministry at First Congregational, please don't hesitate to contact Brandy at brandy@uccmanhattan.org.

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 20-30 kids participating each time. Our team of volunteer teachers offer three age-based classes for kids aged 3 through 6th grade. You can learn more about the program and view photos on our new website: shininglightmhk.com. We also encourage you to follow us on Facebook!

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.



Adult Sunday School

Living Fully Expressed In Love: A Four-Week Conversation on Life and Worship

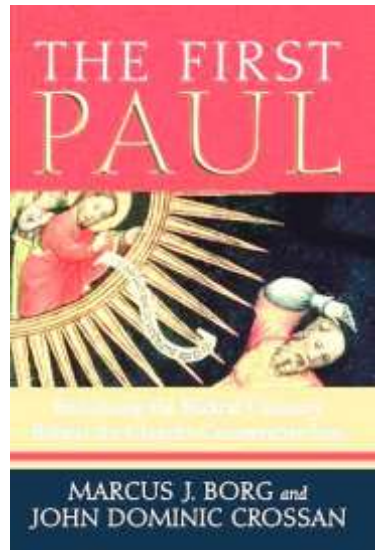
Sundays at 9:30am, Feb. 2-23

What is worship? And what does it have to do with what happens from Monday through Saturday? Join us for this four-week series, led by Pastor Caela. Each week we will view a short film from TheWorkOfThePeople.com and share in a rich conversation together. From the publisher: “As we experience the divine wisdom blown through the incredible insight of Sara Miles, Ian Morgan Cron, Marlon Hall, Jonathan Brooks and Soong-Chan Rah, we’ll engage our intellect, our emotions, and our bodies through guided conversational sessions. There is no expectation for what we will learn, only the hope that we will encounter a new space for learning and growth, and see what happens when we stretch into it.” No need to do anything to prepare....just show up and let the Spirit lead

Tuesday Bible Book Club

On January 28 we began reading *The First Paul* by Marcus Borg and Dominic Crossan.

We are so hopeful that you can join us for good fellowship, a LOT of chocolate, and active discussion each Tuesday from 11:30 to 1:00. Contact Pastor Sue with any questions (sue@uccmanhattan.org).



Cobb Corner — Going Green

“Did God make the world? Does he sustain it? Has he committed resources to our care? His personal concern for his own creation should be sufficient to inspire us to be equally concerned.” – “Under the Bright Wings,” *The Green Bible*, Intro. I-III.

First the good news – Macy’s and Bloomingdales have closed their fur salons! They were among the last. I shall always regret my mink coat collar in the Sixties and the arctic fox hat I bought on a sub-zero day in the old Soviet Union in 1982. I came home to see at the zoo a curled-up baby arctic fox that looked just like my hat! I felt sick. I gave the hat to a sanctuary that puts furs in with baby orphaned animals.

Other good news – Natasha, my incredible daughter-in-law, gave me a large Christmas basket filled with eco-friendly products that I never knew existed! One is a bamboo toothbrush with charcoal bristles. It comes in a cardboard box –no plastic, compostable. It is wonderful! I’ve been using it for over a month and it looks new. The package suggests using charcoal brushing powder but it works well with regular toothpaste and I have no idea where one gets the powder. Do you? The brand is Isshah. News of other basket contents to come over the months.

Now to terrible news you have been reading about. Australia’s still uncontrolled wildfires have burned over 25 MILLION acres, killed dozens of people, destroyed thousands of homes and businesses, and killed more than one BILLION animals – most of which live nowhere else on earth. Those not yet dead will find their habitats destroyed.

In 1987 I spent a spring semester on sabbatical in Australia. In those days there was no fire season. I spent a magical day at Lone Pine Sanctuary near Brisbane with kangaroos, wallabies, and koalas all milling about. I got to hold a koala! It was sheer bliss.

Please pray that the Prime Minister, a climate change denier, “gets religion” and acts to protect the people and wildlife and moves to regulate the oil and gas industry he has indulged.

Merciful God, hear my prayer!

– Linda Richter

Share ideas for future Cobb columns with Linda Richter.

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.

February 2, 2020

Dessert: Kerri Keller

Volunteers: Morgen Budde, Mike Henry, Rita Henry, *1 volunteer needed*

Chief Cook: Craig Weston

Church Host: Pastor Caela

February 9, 2020

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: Vorhies Squadron of Arnold Air Society

Chief Cook: *Volunteer needed*

Church Host: Kathy Bleam

February 16, 2020

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: Martha Mather, Mogen Budde, Jennifer Edwards,
1 volunteer needed

Chief Cook: Andy Barkley

Church Host: Mary Ellen Barkley

February 23, 2020

Dessert: Gayle Doll

Volunteers: ESA Sorority

Chief Cook: Gretchen Lewis

Church Host: Jim Lewis

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

Welcome New Members

Quentin and Sarah Kaufman

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.

Conversation on Race Reconciliation continues! Monday, Feb. 24, 7-9:30pm at Pottorf Hall (CiCo Park)

"Who are we? The world within MHK"

This is the first in a series of FOUR community conversations. Several Manhattan residents will tell their diverse stories and share about their particular connection to our community. Future conversations will delve into key community issues of concern to all.

Facilitated small group conversation follows the panel presentations. Light refreshments and casual conversation conclude the evening.

Free and open to all. Registration is STRONGLY encouraged. To register go to: <https://tinyurl.com/ManhattanVoices> OR call: (785)532-7252

Joy Harjo, U.S. Poet Laureate Reading March 24

A Reading by U.S. Poet Laureate Joy Harjo is sponsored by the Department of English, the Indigenous Faculty and Staff Alliance, the Dow Center for Multicultural and Community Studies at K-State Libraries, and the Beach Museum. Tuesday March 24, 5:30 - 7:00 PM
K-State Alumni Center
1720 Anderson Ave, Manhattan KS

https://events.k-state.edu/event/reading_by_us_poet_laureate_joy_harjo#.XiDVB797m0J

GriefShare



Are you dealing with the death of your spouse, a parent, a sibling, a child or a friend? Come to any or all of a series of meetings to help you understand, cope, and heal through a process called GriefShare. Whether it's been one month, one year or 10 years, GriefShare can help you heal from the loss of your loved one. Each week the group will watch a video seminar on DVD. The GriefShare videos cover topics essential to your recovery from the hurt of grief and loss. We will begin a new series on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 6:30PM in the Seven Dolors Parish Center, 731 Pierre, Manhattan. Questions? **Call Rosie at 565-5000 or email at formation@sevendolors.com. to register.**

KIFA Advocacy Day – March 18

Kansas Interfaith Action is holding a KIFA Advocacy Day on March 18. Advocacy days are set aside to lobby for Social Justice causes, most often having to do with legislation. Mark the date on your calendar. More information will be forthcoming.

Crisis Center Volunteer Training

The Crisis Center is offering a Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Workshop and Volunteer Training Program in February. All those interested in the issue of violence against women are encouraged to attend this training Saturday, February 8 & 15 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The registration fee of \$15.00 covers training materials and supplies. For further information or to reserve your spot, please contact the Crisis Center at (785) 539-7935.

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
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uccmanhattan.org

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| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|--|--|---|---|
| <h1>February 2020</h1> | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 8:30 Choir rehearsal 9:30 Yoga+Donuts 10:45 Worship and Communion <i>Fill the Breadbasket</i> 6:00 Second Helping | 3 5:15 Yoga 7:30 NA mtg | 4 11:30 Book Study | 5 11:30 Lunch Bunch 5:15 Yoga 5:15 Deacons 7:00 AA meeting | 6 7:00 Taizé 7:30 NA mtg | 7 7:30 Living Room Worship 7:30 NA mtg | 8 8:00 Mental Health First Aid |
| 9 8:30 Choir rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 6:00 Second Helping | 10 5:15 Yoga 7:30 NA mtg | 11 11:30 Book Study | 12 5:15 Yoga 5:30 Mission, CE 6:30 Justice & Witness 7:00 Facilities 7:00 AA meeting | 13 7:00 Taizé 7:30 NA mtg | 14 7:30 NA mtg  | 15 |
| 16 8:30 Choir rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 6:00 Second Helping | 17 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:30 NA mtg | 18 11:30 Book Study | 19 5:15 Yoga 7:00 Cabinet mtg 7:00 AA meeting | 20 7:00 Taizé 7:00 MLK mtg 7:30 NA mtg | 21 5:00 Newsletter Deadline 7:30 NA mtg | 22 <p style="text-align: center;">----- Ministry of the Decorative Scissors -----</p> |
| 23 Transfiguration 8:30 Choir rehearsal 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship 6:00 Second Helping | 24 5:15 Yoga 6:45 A Cappella 7:00 Conversation on Race Reconciliation 7:30 NA mtg | 25 11:30 Book Study <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">-- Continual Day of Prayer --</div> | 26 Ash Wednesday 7:00 Ash Wed. Service 7:00 AA meeting | 27 7:00 Taizé 7:30 NA mtg | 28 7:30 NA mtg | 29 |