



# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 64 Number 5

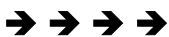
May 2020

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](http://www.uccmanhattan.org)

## Big Rocks

Have you ever done that time management exercise where you take a bunch of stuff and try to cram it into a jar? You have some big rocks, some pebbles, some sand, and some water. The goal is to get as many things into the jar as possible and the trick is to put the BIG STUFF in first. If you put the water in and then the sand and then the pebbles and then the rocks it won't work very well. But if you put in the rocks and THEN the pebbles (and give it a little shake-shake-shake) and then the sand (shake-shake-shake) and FINALLY the water. ....well, the water runs down into the crevices and you can fit more in.

I've been thinking about this analogy a lot this past month while trying to adjust to the massive changes in every area of my life during the COVID-19 pandemic. "What are the big rocks for today?" I think. Not just in terms of time management, but in terms of "what really matters here?" What is the very essence of Being the Church together? What are the parts *[continued pg. 2]*



### Inside this Newsletter



Sharing & Caring .....	4	Weekly Connection Points.....	10
News and Events.....	5	Christian Education .....	12
Moderator Reflection .....	8	Cobb Corner.....	14

of being a pastor and leader that are absolutely essential? What are the components of being a parent, partner, friend, human that I cannot let slip?

Incidentally, I feel like I'm doing pretty good these days if I can identify and hold on to a couple of the BIG ROCKS. I'm letting the pebbles, sand, and water fall completely off my radar screen.

This is a time for focusing on essentials. For the Church that looks like loving God and loving our neighbor as ourselves. I've long said that if we take that charge seriously, we'll find that Jesus has given us our marching orders for every single day of our lives. Loving God and loving our neighbor as ourselves looks different when the circumstances change, but the commandment stays steady. It's the Big Rock of our faith.

In the midst of all these changes, our congregational leadership has been working steadily behind the scenes. Even before COVID-19 we were asking ourselves "what are the Big Rocks for First Congregational UCC?" What are the values that guide us? How do we want to be together and do our work together? What are the most critically important parts of our shared ministry that are absolutely essential?

Turns out it's helpful that we've already had those conversations because when we find ourselves in a place where the Big Rocks are the only things we have room for, there is clarity around how we can spend out limited time and energy in the midst of a crisis.

As our world continues to shift and change, I invite you to set aside 15-20 minutes sometime this week to have that Big Rocks chat with yourself and with God. Light a candle, center your breath. Find a quiet space where you can connect with God. And then start to think through the different roles you play in your life....your identity with family and friends, your professional or volunteer work. Don't forget to make space for pondering what it means to be human and a Beloved Child of God.

And then sit with God and ask for some clarity as you try to discern what the Big Rocks are. What are the absolute essentials? Write them down, tuck them away where you can find them later, and revise as needed. But when you start to feel overwhelmed or like there's not quite enough of you to go around, go back to the Big Rocks. Focus on only those. And know that God goes with you – sustaining you when you're weary, picking you up off the floor

when you have to get back up, showing you so much gentle grace when things don't go as planned. You are not alone. You continue to do this very hard work of being human with God's help, God's grace, God's love coursing through your veins.

*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](mailto:office@uccmanhattan.org). It is a quick and easy way to stay up to date with your church family.



## Did You Miss Worship? Worshiping Online Not Your Thing?

Every Monday we post the previous days' service on our website at <http://www.uccmanhattan.org/news-and-updates/category/worship>. You can view the live worship from Sunday, listen to the audio-only version, or even access a written manuscript which you can use to have your own self-guided worship at home. Please also remember that you can always CALL IN for audio-only on Sunday mornings at 10:45 a.m. If none of these options are meeting your needs or you need help accessing them, please don't hesitate to reach out to Pastor Caela so we can find out what might work better for you



## Sharing and Caring

### *Prayers and Concerns*

- For more information, please contact the church office.

### *Thanks*

My dear Congregational friends,

Once again, as so often in the past, you have and continue to come through for me during this difficult and painful period. I can't imagine going through this grieving process alone. The love and care you have shown me have softened my grief and comforted my sorrow.

On the heavy day of Frank's graveside service, I was feeling pretty bereft because of the paucity of number of people who could attend. No one else in our family could attend, due to respiratory symptoms and the danger of airport germs. I could hardly see the road through my tears on my drive to the cemetery. The incredibly welcome

surprise upon my arrival, to see so many of you sitting there in your cars to be with me while maintaining distancing, profoundly warmed my heart and soul. When a number of you came down the hill to join me, you filled me with deep joy. Your overflowing of love was the balm I so sorely needed. I will never forget the image of all of you straining the extra mile to bring me comfort. Your presence helped to make the service so much more meaningful.

Special thanks go to Pastor Caela for the gentle, kind, soothing, and helpful counseling in the days following Frank's passing and for the beautiful spirit-led service. Special thanks also to Virginia Bigbee for arranging the car brigade.

Your many heartfelt cards and calls have continued the flow of love and support, and continue to help me bear this loss. I keep rereading the precious cards and they provide a candle flame in my heart.

When the sun shines sufficiently to burn the coronavirus, we will gather at the church to celebrate the wonderful life that Frank shared with all of us.

With grateful love, yours in Christ,  
*Dona Sidorfsky*

## **No In-Person Worship**

As the threat from the Covid-19 virus continues, the Cabinet has decided to extend the period that we will not have in-person worship or activities in our church building. No exact date has been set to go back to normal in-house worship or activities. We will continue to monitor the recommendations from the state and local authorities and refrain from meeting in-person until the Cabinet decides it is safe to resume normal activities. We invite you to read the full letter from our church leadership on our website at [uccmanhattan.org/covid](http://uccmanhattan.org/covid).

**If you're having trouble accessing  
worship or any of our online activities,  
please contact the church office.**

# Here's How You Can Help

In this moment of crisis, we know you are wondering how you can still “Be the Church” with us. We have a page on our website dedicated to this very question: <http://www.uccmanhattan.org/news-and-updates/heres-how-you-can-help>. Check it regularly for updates and contact the office if you have additions.

## **Things you can do today to make a difference**

- gather accurate information and make wise choices to help stop the spread of COVID-19 (WHO, CDC, KDHE, Riley County Health Department)
- Second Helping (our carry out meal on Sunday evenings) is seeking new volunteers so that our volunteers in the high-risk category do not have to come in
- if you're already going to the store, offer to pick up items for a neighbor or friend (please contact the office if you need items picked up and we'll make arrangements)
- if you're already going to the store or ordering items online, pick up items for the Blessing Box
- bake cookies for Second Helping (contact Linda Thurston for details)
- continue to support our ministries (Second Helping costs have gone up with costs for carry out materials and no food recovery)
- the Ministry of the Decorative Scissors invites you to join them in making fabric face masks (contact Sue Gerth to learn more)
- our partners at Shepherd's Crossing recommend making monetary donations to the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation, the United Way, or Shepherd's Crossing to help with COVID relief.
- advocate for those on the margins (our Justice & Witness Board invites you to support the work of Renters' Together MHK, [renterstogogether.org](http://renterstogogether.org))
- PRAY and CHECK IN on other people on the phone, via e-mail, or text - we're all in this together and God goes with us each and every day!



# Building Use, Small Groups, Staffing, Church Office Information

Our staff is working remotely and no one is allowed to enter the building unless it is for preparation of the Second Helping meal, cleaning by our cleaning service, and walk-throughs for the purpose of building security which have been authorized by our leadership.

Please note that Sandy and Caela are still available during their typical work hours. Both can be reached via e-mail or phone (call the office for Sandy, call Caela on her cell phone). We are also still able to receive mail sent to the church office.

The Second Helping ministry is the **ONLY** thing happening in our building. Since many of our regular Second Helping volunteers are in the CDC's high-risk category and/or K-State students, we are in need of **NEW** volunteers for Second Helping.

If you have items to drop off for the Blessing Box, please leave those outside **ONLY** and please be sure to wear gloves or wash your hands before and after delivering those items.

As new updates are available they will be shared with our church e-mail list and posted at [uccmanhattan.org/covid](http://uccmanhattan.org/covid). Please contact the church office at any time if you have questions.

**The Deacons want to celebrate graduate achievements so please report to the church office any high school or college students planning to graduate this spring.**



## Need Help?

Please reach out to the church office or Pastor Caela if you are in need. We have volunteers to help pick up groceries and medication or help you learn how to order online for delivery/pick up. If you are being adversely affected by loss of income, please let us know. If you are ill or need prayer, please let us know. Sandy and Caela continue to check e-mail on their days in the office and can also be reached by phone (please use Caela's cell phone).

# Reflection in a Time of Pandemic

*Opening reflection for our Cabinet Meeting on April 15, 2020 by Sue Gerth, Moderator*

You don't need me or anyone else to tell you that we are in the midst of an extraordinary time. A scary, terrifying, challenging, sad time. Not one of us is exempt from the feelings that life will never be the same again, even when this pandemic is over, whenever that is.

Some of us are working much harder than ever before, trying to do the work we used to do, but in a completely new way. That alone creates extra work. And on top of that, many have more to do. We are stressed, tired, anxious.

Some of us no longer have our jobs, either just for now or because the jobs will not be back. We don't know how we will pay the bills or feed our families. We are stressed, tired, anxious.

Some of us are confined to our homes and are bored, filling the time doing puzzles or making butter sculptures. We feel guilty because we have the luxury of being bored. But still, we are stressed, tired, anxious.

Some of us are working from home, while also managing the completely new way in which our children are learning. The very words "quality time" make us shudder. What is that exactly? The kids are stressed, tired, anxious. And so are we.

Some of us find irony in the safe-at-home order, because we have no home. Or we are incarcerated and definitely not feeling safe. Or detained in a confinement facility. We are stressed, tired, anxious.

Some of us are facing illness or loss of a loved one. We cannot gather with those we love to grieve the loss and celebrate the life. We are stressed, tired, anxious.

Most of us miss the closeness of community. We miss the hugs and the celebration of being in the company of those we love. We are stressed, tired, anxious.

There are so many things that we cannot do to fix this. We feel powerless. And then a sibling sets up a Zoom family gathering and we laugh as if everything is normal. And someone brings a load of groceries and leaves it safely on our porch. And our church keeps upping their game with services and meetings that almost feel as if we are together again. And we hear of local healthcare providers who give up the security and comfort of home to go to New York because they are needed. And people share funny, bawdy, silly memes and cartoons and songs, because laughter is powerful.



More powerful even than laughter, is love. We see it over and over again. The love given freely from those close to us and from strangers. The love that shines as we witness daily that the shuttered buildings were never the churches. The love that shines when we see still another example of people being the church. The love that tells us that it is okay to be sad and happy, to grieve and celebrate, to embrace all of the feelings that we feel.

And we realize that life never should be the same, because the way things were wasn't very good for so many. And there was already isolation and inequity and pain. And we know now that we have the power to do better, to be better. And so we pray, Lord help us to carry the lessons of this time into the future. Let us remember the power of community, the power of love, the power of understanding the stress and the fear that so many feel every day. And help us to do what we can, when we can. Amen

## Virtual Offering Plate

**While we may not be together on Sunday, the work and mission of First Congregational UCC continues.** Please continue to financially support the church as we offer sanctuary and support to each other and the wider community.

### **Options for giving:**

1) Mail your contribution to 700 Poyntz Ave., Manhattan, KS 66502.

2) Donate online via PayPal (no login required). Go to [uccmanhattan.org](http://uccmanhattan.org) and scroll down to the DONATE button.

3) Setting up a recurring online gift is a convenient way to provide consistent financial support to the church. Your bank may be able to do this for you OR you may contact the church office for a copy of our authorization form and we can set it up for you.

Thank you for your continued support and please contact the office if you have questions.



# Weekly Connection Points

During this time of physical distancing, let's be sure we're still staying spiritually and socially connected! You will find links to all of the connection points below at [uccmanhattan.org/worship-online](http://uccmanhattan.org/worship-online).

## **Sunday Worship at 10:45 a.m.**

Join us on Facebook Live ([facebook.com/uccmanhattanks/live](https://facebook.com/uccmanhattanks/live) - no login required) or call 1-669-900-6833 and dial meeting ID 921-954-012# at the prompt for audio only. Meeting password is 66502.

## **OTHER EVENTS ON SUNDAYS:**

### **Adult Sunday School from 9:30-10:30 a.m. through May 10**

Join us via Zoom using the link on our website or call for audio only: 1-669-900-6833 and dial meeting ID 152-486-671# at the prompt. Meeting password is 66502.

### **Fellowship Hour immediately following worship**

It's a party on Zoom with familiar faces and new friends. We typically have 20-30 people who stay for Fellowship Hour. We wave and say "hi" and then go into breakout rooms with 4-8 other people to talk about whatever's on our minds. You can bring your favorite beverage or snack and all ages are welcome. People tell us they are enjoying meeting new people in our congregation that they didn't know before! Use the Zoom link on the website or call for audio only: 1-669-900-6833 and dial meeting ID 606-107-240# at the prompt. Meeting password is 66502.

### **Sunday School and other children's activities available!**

E-mail [Brandy@uccmanhattan.org](mailto:Brandy@uccmanhattan.org) to get on the list.

## **TUESDAYS:**

### **Tuesday Book Group from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. via Zoom.**

Use the zoom link on our website or for audio only: 1-669-900-6833 and dial meeting ID 948-980-791# at the prompt. Meeting password is 66502.

## **THURSDAYS:**

### **Prayers & Fellowship at 7:00 p.m.**

We gather via Zoom and share a brief scripture reading, song, and then move into Prayers of the Church. You can offer your prayers aloud or listen to others pray. The prayer time usually ends by 7:30 and then you're welcome to stay and hang out or sign off if you're done for the evening. Use the Zoom link on our website or for audio only: call 1-669-900-6833 and dial meeting ID 590-240-441# at the prompt. Meeting password is 66502.

# The Board of Witness and Justice is promoting MHK Timebanking.

Timebanking is a value-based service exchange mechanism. The idea is that those practicing timebanking give service, and they receive service in exchange; in timebanking the giving and receiving of services occurs within a community network – the timebank!

The purpose of a Timebank is to build a resilient community and help create neighborhoods where people grow to know and trust each other. The more resilient our neighborhoods, the greater our quality of life. Through Timebanking, we help create more vibrant and connected neighborhoods. When we share what we love to do with others, give of our talents, and receive help when needed, communities and neighborhoods thrive.

Timebanking values: assets, social networks, respect, redefining work, and reciprocity.

## Timebanking Asks and Offers

- What are three activities that you do each day but do not get compensated and/or acknowledged for?
- What are three activities you do in your typical day that someone else might benefit from?
- What are three activities that others may realize you could use assistance with?
- What are safe activities or “services” we can offer and/or receive during this unprecedented time?

If you are interested in joining the time bank please contact Carol Sevin and she will schedule an orientation around that interest and advertise it to the whole church in case others are also interested.

## 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](mailto:brandy@uccmanhattan.org)) or Brittani Frost-Shank ([brittani@uccmanhattan.org](mailto:brittani@uccmanhattan.org)) for more information about options for children and youth.

### Midweek Bible Book Club

**New Session starting on Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 to 1:00: “The Meaning of Mary Magdalene”**

Please consider joining us for the new sessions of our midweek ZOOM class. Beginning of Tuesday, 5 May, we will be reading Cynthia Bourgeault’s book *The Meaning of Mary Magdalene*. Mary Magdalene is probably the most famous character in the Bible about whom the least is known. Bourgeault’s book seeks to address that, starting by look at what the Bible does say about her and how church tradition, art, and legend have added – and frequently distorted - the picture we have of Mary. In addition, Bourgeault introduces her readers to *The Gospel of Mary Magdalene* and other lost gospels and demonstrates how these lost writings have altered our perspective of her. What has emerged in recent years is a serious re-evaluation of Mary Magdalene’s place among Christ’s followers and Bourgeault thoroughly examines that new perspective.

The book is available at Amazon in either paperback or Kindle form. If you have trouble obtaining a book, please text or call Pastor Sue. Please join us!

### Life & Creativity Interviews

Do you enjoy a good conversation? Wouldn't mind sharing it (podcast style) with the congregation? If so Chad Moreau would like to arrange a time to chat. The conversations aim to offer a chance to go deeper than a typical, in-passing Sunday morning chat. And for the congregation to understand the myriad creative ways we all are handling social distancing.

Contact Chad if interested: Email: [Chad@MHKtoday.com](mailto:Chad@MHKtoday.com).

# Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday School from 9:30-10:30 a.m. via Zoom at [www.uccmanhattan.org/worship-online.html](http://www.uccmanhattan.org/worship-online.html) or call 1-669-900-6833 and dial meeting ID 152-486-671# at the prompt. Meeting password is 66502.

## **Doubt part 2**

**May 3 at 9:30am**

**Led by Marilynn Mock**

## **To Be Announced**

**May 10 at 9:30am**

**Led by Cassidy Moreau**

Stay at Home recommendations may have been relaxed by the time you get this newsletter but we realize some of us will continue to minimize physical contact. In recognition of this, the Christian education board is working to implement other means of maintaining contact. By the time you receive this, we will have our zoom check in set up.

If you have ideas, requests, or want to volunteer, please contact Deane Lehmann.

## Seeking Photos for Worship

We love showcasing photos from our members and friends during worship. We've been using these as a visual focal point paired with music on Sundays.

Please consider submitting photos of nature or your home worship/devotional space on our website here:

<http://www.uccmanhattan.org/photovideo-portal.html>.



## Great News!

As many of you know, the community meal that our church sponsors, Second Helping, has gone entirely to take-out meals because of the coronavirus pandemic. The pandemic has increased our meal costs because of the need for take-out containers.

Common Table, the coalition of churches that provide community meals, applied to the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation for assistance in purchasing these containers and for funding of the extra food costs that we anticipate. The great news is that the Community Foundation has awarded Common Table more than \$8000 over the next three months to help with these additional costs. So if you know someone at the Community Foundation, please thank them!

## Cobb Corner — Going Green

“The Baltimore oriole can eat 17 hairy caterpillars in a minute.” – *Tree City USA bulletin, March-April, 2020*

Food for thought? Actually birds eat awesome amounts of insects. Yet, since 1970 the U.S. has lost over 30% of its birds! So hold the insecticides. Besides, those dandelions may soon be in your salads.

It has been a very sad time for the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. President Trump continues to weaken environmental laws on water and air pollution, auto mileage standards, and oil and gas exploration. He has cut over 50% of the land in two national parks and has opened up wildlife refuges, particularly near the southern U.S. border. The latest issue of the Center for Science in the Public Interest newsletter notes that the Food and Drug Administration will no longer have inspectors on pork production lines and that those assembly lines will be speeded up!

The federal delay in confronting Covid-19 has cost thousands of lives, wrecked the economy and left charities with massively increased need and with reduced ability to meet that need.

Howie's and other commercial carriers still pick up trash but recycling has ground to a halt. Remember Carol Sevin notes cardboard can still go in compost. Toilet paper rolls and stale spices can be saved for when the zoo reopens. Red pepper can be put around plants vulnerable to deer. Magazines, puzzles, newspapers can be swapped.

Bored? If you are handy like Sue Gerth's Sisterhood of the Decorative Scissors you can make masks. If they are no longer scarce by the time this is published, keep them for possible reinfection or Halloween.

Try repurposing things too often trashed: Cut old t-shirts into rags or kitchen towels. Use brown paper bags for wrapping paper or book covers. Use coffee grounds as an exfoliant for you and an ant repellent for your home's foundation. Have a clothing swap. “Keeping clothing in use for just 9 extra months can reduce the related carbon, water and waste footprint by 20-30%.” (*Green America*, Spring 2020, pp. 26-27.)

If swaps are impractical now, use this time to go through your home and identify excess items for that wonderful day when you can swap or head to the Encore Shop! You can still offer to foster animals

through the Riley County Humane Society and take food, toys and other items to the Shelter. Call ahead. I can vouch for the fact that our cats have become needed therapy animals in this anxious time.

Finally, some needed advice:

Grant me the ability to be alone.

May it be my custom to go outdoors each day

Among the trees and grasses, among all growing things

To talk to the one to whom I belong.

– Nachman Bratisav (1772-1810), *The Green Bible* I-106.

– *Linda Richter*

*Share ideas for future Cobb columns with Linda Richter .*

## Grow Green Thanks

We are so thankful for the tremendous support the Church received through the Grow Green Match Day on April 22, 2020. This annual event creates a matching opportunity for our accounts invested with the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation. We received forty-six gifts this year for a total of \$9,415!! The total amount is a record for our Church, and the number of gifts shatters previous participation numbers!! Most of the \$9,415 will receive a 50% match from donors to the GMCF. We'll be sure to provide an update when the final figures are available. What wonderful contributions to the mission and financial strength of our Church. Thank you for the many gifts!

*--Gifts, Endowment, & Investments Committee*



Neighborhood Groups are up and running. If you've not heard from your Neighborhood Captain via e-mail or phone, please

contact the church office so we can get you connected. These groups are an informal way for members and friends to stay connected to one another during the COVID pandemic. Groups are communicating via e-mail, text, and phone call to share about their lives and check in on one another.

# Federal Stimulus Giving Program: Local Ministry in Times of Need

## *A message from our Board of Mission*

In these extraordinary times of world-wide and local pandemic, we all face loss.

For some of us it is in contact with those we love and loss of our freedom to come and go, which is a true loss. However, many among us face life-threatening challenges of lack of a safe place to shelter, loss of income, lack of access to medical care, and food insecurity.

Your Board of Mission is working hard to find ways our church can respond to the extra financial and food-insecurity related stresses. Much of our efforts have focused on our church's food ministries, Second Helping and the Blessing Box. Additionally, at our last meeting we allocated half of our \$2000 discretionary budget to immediate concerns: \$500 to the Kansas-Oklahoma Conference Medical Debt fund, and \$250 each to the local community ministries Shepherd's Crossing and the Crisis Center.

We encourage members and friends of our faith community at First Congregational Church UCC Manhattan to think about, and consider donating financial resources if they are able, to groups that are reaching out to people who have been deeply affected by the COVID 19 crisis. If you are among the fortunate people in our community who are still gainfully employed, or whose retirement income has yet to be affected by the crisis, please prayerfully consider donating part of your federal stimulus check, if you receive one, to one or more of these groups involved in helping our neighbors. You might also consider donating part of your income tax refund.





Suggested organizations that need help include, but are not limited to:

- KO Conference Medical Debt Relief Fund
- Shepherd's Crossing - a combined ministry of area Manhattan congregations to community members who need help paying emergency bills
- The Crisis Center - shelters women and children in domestic crisis in our community
- First Congregational Church Second Helping Ministry
- COVID Relief Fund at the Greater Manhattan Community Foundation - funds will be distributed to local agencies that provide relief
- Kansas Food Bank
- First Congregational Church Benevolence Fund - one-time emergencies payments to assist with things not covered by other local agencies

It would be lovely for our church faith family to be able to say: together we have donated X dollars to community organizations in this time of need. We would like to invite people who are able to make a donation to notify Sandy in the church office when they've made a gift, including how much and to where. She could give us a total number while keeping the names confidential.

If you personally are experiencing heightened financial stress, we send you our love and support, and encourage you to reach out to Pastor Caela, who can help you access community organizations that would be of help. You are also encouraged to give your loving, prayerful support for the efforts of our greater church family; in the words of the Apostle Paul, we are all a part of the body of Christ.

As always, we on the Board of Mission consider ourselves blessed to be stewards and cheerleaders for our church's mission, stated so clearly in our official Mission Statement, to (love and) minister to others locally and globally with the same fervor as we minister to ourselves. Thank you to all.



**WEEKLY CONNECTION POINTS**

Sundays:	Adult Sunday School, Worship, Fellowship Hour
Tuesdays:	Book Club via Zoom
Thursdays:	Prayers & Fellowship via Zoom

UCCMANHATTAN.ORG/WORSHIP-ONLINE

# Food Mission Updates

A huge thank you to all of the volunteers who are keeping our Second Helping and Blessing Box missions going through this time of physical distancing. The need has never been greater and our congregation is stepping up to do its part.

We had to halt sit down meals in mid-March when the church leadership determined that services and other activities at the church would move on-line. The Mission Committee had already begun planning with Linda Thurston, our Second Helping Leader, on updating our operating procedures to ensure the health of our clients and volunteers. Currently volunteers come in three shifts - two mid-week to make and refrigerate sandwiches and prep the lunch/breakfast bags. The cook and assistant come Sunday afternoon to prepare and box the hot meals. The distribution volunteers bag the hot meal and lunch/breakfast bags for distribution by our Church Host, Reggie, in the parking lot to our clients. In March, 43 volunteers served 200 adults and 6 children a hot meal plus sack lunch and breakfast.

A tremendous amount of food is also going out through the Blessing Box. We are particularly grateful to Jonathan Mertz who noticed a damaged shelf one afternoon and to Knick Knicklebine who had repaired our box almost before we could blink. The First Presbyterian Church has adopted our box and members help stock it on Saturdays and the First Lutheran Church has established their own box further up Poyntz. Many of our members include a bag of groceries for the Blessing Box when they get their own food, and bring it by the church. We urge you to wear gloves when doing this if you are able. The Church also receives designated donations to allow us to purchase items for the Blessing Box and Second Helping.

This is a community wide effort. Ann Smit is our liaison to the Common Table to work with other meal and blessing box missions at other venues. As a tribute to Earth Day, 2020, the Mission Committee is working on a longer-term plan to convert our supplies to renewable sources in order to balance Manhattan's food needs, cost concerns, and sustainability.

With everyone working together, we are striving to ease the burdens of those who live on the edge in our community and who need extra help right now.

Again, thank you to the members and all of our food mission volunteers from the Mission Committee.

# 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!



## New Volunteers Needed

I am seeking to find volunteers for the Sunday evening 2nd Helping dinners. Traditionally, many of our volunteers are more mature congregants or college students from K-State. Given the physical closure of the University and the high-risk factors associated with the Coronavirus, we are finding ourselves short on volunteers, therefore I am reaching out to ask each of you to consider your willingness to volunteer at 2nd Helping.

Currently, the meals are prepared in the church, but are distributed outside of the church in to-go containers to help minimize the risk to our outside volunteers and neighbors. There are also a number of other protocols being put into place for the purpose of safeguarding all involved with 2nd Helping.

Further, while we value anyone who is willing to volunteer, for the safety of all we ask you not to volunteer if you are exhibiting any symptoms of COVID meet any of the quarantine criteria below. We also strongly recommend that those in the high-risk category not volunteer as well.

**If you are unable to volunteer at Second Helping, we still welcome your support.** Monetary donations can be made via PayPal on the website or mailed to the church (First Congregational UCC, 700 Poyntz Ave., Manhattan, KS 66502). Thank you for your support of this important ministry,

Di Hinrichs-Toburen, Ph.D.  
Second Helping Volunteer Coordinator  
diane.hinrichs@pawnee.org

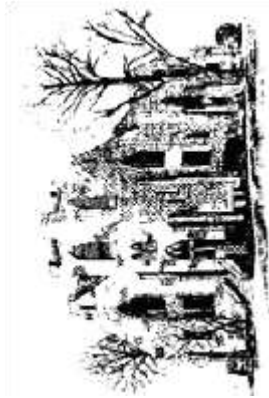
**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
700 Poyntz Avenue  
Manhattan, KS 66502  
(785) 537-7006  
[uccmanhattan.org](http://uccmanhattan.org)

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U S POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 478  
MANHATTAN, KS 66502

**Return Service Requested**



This newsletter is printed on recycled paper  
made of 100% post-consumer content.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7:30 NA mtg	2
3 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Worship and Communion online 6:00 Second Helping	4 7:30 NA mtg	5 11:30 Book Study	6 5:15 Deacons 7:00 AA Meeting	7 7:00 Taizé 7:30 NA mtg	8 7:30 NA mtg	9
10 9:30 Last day of Sunday School 10:45 Worship online 6:00 Second Helping	11 7:30 NA mtg	12 11:30 Book Study	13 5:30 Mission, CE 6:30 Justice & Witness 7:00 Facilities 7:00 AA Meeting	14 7:30 NA mtg	15 5:00 Newsletter Deadline 7:30 NA mtg	16
17 10:45 Worship online 6:00 Second Helping	18 7:30 NA mtg	19 11:30 Book Study	20 7:00 Cabinet mtg 7:00 AA Meeting	21 7:30 NA mtg	22 7:30 NA mtg	23
24 10:45 Worship online 6:00 Second Helping	25 <b>Memorial Day Office Closed</b> 7:30 NA mtg	26 11:30 Book Study	27 7:00 AA Meeting	28 7:30 NA mtg	29 7:30 NA mtg	30
31 10:45 Worship online 6:00 Second Helping			<b>May 2020</b>			