



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 59 Number 2

February 2015

Sunday School at 9:30 A.M.
Sunday Worship at 10:45 A.M.
Second Helping Dinner at 5:15 P.M.
Thursday Evening Taizé at 7:00 P.M.

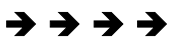
700 Poyntz Avenue
Manhattan, Kansas 66502
telephone 785-537-7006
www.uccmanhattan.org

Open to the Call

A year ago, I was on an airplane traveling to Manhattan to meet with the search committee of our church. I was amazed at the ability to fly directly in to Manhattan. When I lived here before, back in the early 2000s, the airport didn't have daily flights to Chicago. As the plane came closer to the earth, I saw Tuttle Creek and the vast prairie and I felt deep within me that I was coming home.

Although I've always been a fairly rational person, I've also always respected that which I cannot understand. I don't pretend to understand *how* God speaks to us or nudges us in particular directions. But I do know what it feels like to be called.

"Called" is a very specific word, yes? We typically think of something like the passage we just heard a few weeks ago from 1 Samuel where God shouts at us in the night. Or we remember the Annunciation, when Mary is visited by the angel. More often, though, I think the call of the Spirit comes as a faint whisper, a gentle nudge, or just a very firm sense of "oh, okay, so this is what is happening right now."
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That's how it was for me when I was called to serve with you here at First Congregational. I wasn't looking for a new call. I was actually quite content where I was and thought I'd be there for several more years. Leaving Bloomington was fairly excruciating because it came as such a surprise to me. And yet – when I first read the profile your search committee put together and saw the lovely video on your website – I felt the voice of the Holy say, “So, Caela, take a deep breath. This is happening. This is where you're headed next.”

I remember being so nervous when I first Skyped with the search committee. I just had this overwhelming sense that something very important was taking place for all of us. Their warm smiles, laughter, and stories of love for this congregation put me right at ease. It was as if I had known them for a long, long time.

Throughout the process of discernment, I felt as if a big hand had reached down from the heavens and was picking me up and moving me to this place. I'm not usually a person who thinks of God as being so directly active in our lives, but I really felt it this time.

I am so thankful to be here with you. Your kindness, courage, faithfulness, openness, and care are truly a joy to witness. As we settle into 2015 together, you are in my prayer each day....prayers for health and healing, wholeness and joy...and also that you would be open to hearing that whisper, feeling that nudge, gladly accepting whatever new call God has for your life.

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 at 537-7006 or office@uccmanhattan.org

Congratulations

- MHS junior **Nathan McClendon** and his debate partner, senior Peter Sang, went undefeated in their portion of the four-speaker debate contest, clinching the 2015 Kansas 6A championship.

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 4



Join the Women of the Church for Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, February 4 at Carlos O'Kelly's (in the mall). It's not for women only—everyone is welcome to join us for lunch at 11:30 A.M. (See individual Lunch Bunch locations for the year by going to the church website at www.uccmanhattan.org and then clicking on Fellowship/Events/ Event Calendar.)

Communion with Bethel AME

Many thanks to all of you who were able to join us last month as we visited Bethel AME for Holy Communion. It is now our chance to host. After worship on Feb. 15 we will have fellowship hour while we wait for our guests to arrive. Once they are here, we'll head back into the Sanctuary to share Holy Communion together.

Board of Mission

The Board of Missions is seeking two volunteers. The Board of Missions has an open position on the Board. The Board usually meets at 5:30 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month.

A second opportunity is to represent our church for the Voice of Justice group. This is a group of civic and religious organizations concerned with the welfare of local undocumented immigrants, helping with the DACA waiver applications and other needs. Jerry Hanna served as this church's representative last year. This group usually meets on Sundays at 2 p.m. about every other month.

Please contact Jan Lange if you are interested in serving First Congregational UCC on either of these two groups. Many thanks to Kerri Keller who volunteered to be our third church representative to the ECM Board of Directors

Ministry of the Decorative Scissors

The next retreat of the Ministry of the Decorative Scissors will be a three-day event held from 7 a.m. on Thursday, February 5, until 7 p.m. on Saturday, February 7, in Andover Hall. We'll break at midnight Thursday and Friday to go home and get a good

night's rest but start up again in the morning at 7:00 a.m. We welcome everyone to come and experience a joy-filled time for crafting, eating, and laughing. Bring your UFOs (UnFinished Objects) and work on them in an atmosphere of fellowship. We do not guarantee 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.



Lenten Services

Ash Wednesday is Feb. 18th - We will have a worship service here at First Congregational that evening at 6:30 p.m. It will be a quiet, contemplative service that includes the imposition of



ashes. Ash Wednesday is a time to remember our mortality and to center ourselves as we begin the season of Lent. This period of 40 days plus Sundays before Easter is an ancient period of fasting and preparation for Holy Week and Easter.

Throughout Lent (Feb. 18 - Apr. 5) we will join with other Christians for worship and lunch each Wednesday during Lent. The services will be held at First Christian Church (115 Courthouse Plaza) at Noon and will consist of a 30-minute time of worship and a simple lunch. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with people from other congregations in town. The first gathering is on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 18 at Noon.

We also hope to join together with some other downtown churches for Palm processional on Palm Sunday, March 29th. We will have our own meal and worship service on Maundy Thursday, April 2. More details to come about those events in future newsletters.

Guest Preacher Stephanie Mott

It will be our honor to hear the gospel proclaimed by Stephanie Mott during worship on Sunday, Feb. 22. Stephanie is the Executive Director of the Kansas State Transgender Education Project and a nationally known transgender advocate. Stephanie is full of love and good stories – stories which are rooted in her journey to self-acceptance as a person who is transgender and in her deep and abiding faith in God. Pastor Caela and Stephanie will preside in worship together and Stephanie will be available at Fellowship Hour for continued conversation after the service. You can learn more about Stephanie's work and read some of her writing at transfaithtour.org.

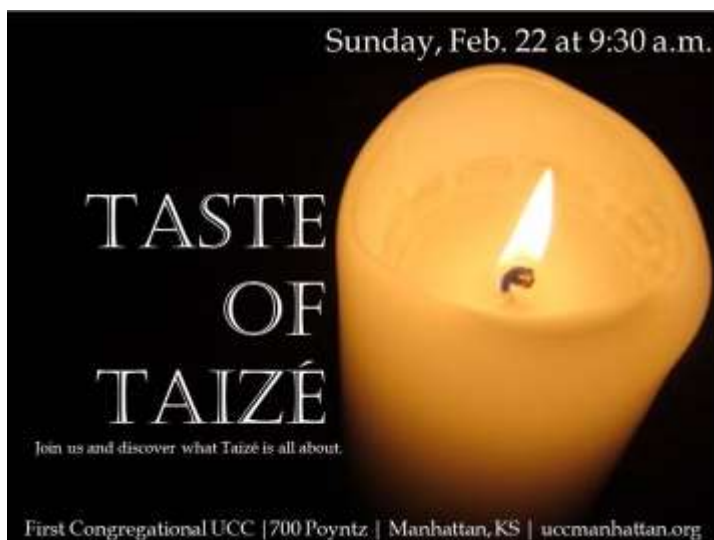
Christian Education

Adult Sunday School in February

For the first three weeks of February, we'll be finishing up our class on Martin Luther King, Jr.

On Sunday, Feb. 22 you are invited to join us for a Taste of Taizé. Those who regularly participate in Taizé invite you to join us at 9:30 a.m. to worship in Pioneer Hall. Taizé is a contemplative style of worship which originated in an intentional Christian community in Taizé, France. We will sing, pray (silently and aloud), hear scripture, and spend time in silent contemplation.

On Sunday, March 1 we will revisit Barbara Brown Taylor's book, *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith*. Jim Mock will lead us in a five-week discussion on the second half of the book. Nora Gallagher says, "“An Altar in the World is about how faith can be both practical and sensuous. In Barbara Brown Taylor's hands, the old division between heaven and earth is healed and both come alive. Your mind, your body and your soul will be well fed by this wonderful book.” If you would like the church office to order you a copy of the book, please contact Sandy and we'd be happy to help.



From the Director of Children's Ministries...

Parents, we are in the process of updating our Child Information and Photo Release forms. Even if you have already filled out one or both of these please update the information. This way we can all be on the same page with the most up-to-date information. Look for these new cards in the Nursery, Sunday school classes, and the pews in the Sanctuary. You can return these forms to me or put them in my mailbox above the coat rack.

It is an exciting time for children at First Congregational. We have kicked off the new year with Sunday School. All children are invited to join us each Sunday morning at 9:30 downstairs with Amanda and Sue. We have also added some fun new songs to our repertoire in Kids' Worship. If you haven't checked it out before then come join Barrett in the Hollywood Theater during the 10:45 Worship service. (Adults are also welcome to come give Kids' Worship a try!) Finally, I wanted to thank all of you who donated toys to our nursery. The nursery has now received a new energy thanks to all of these exciting new toys. We've also welcomed new Nursery staff members! Look for information about our new Nursery staff (Anna Meyer, Hannah O'Neil, and Abbie Walker) soon!

Barrett Scroggs



MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, February 20 7:30 p.m.

Popcorn, drinks, other snacks and more will be provided. Drop off your kids and their friends for a fun evening. Hope to see you!

**First Congregational UCC | 700 Poyntz
Manhattan, KS
uccmanhattan.org**

Youth Schedule

Feb 1	3:30 – Second Helping
Feb 8	6:30-8:30 – Our Whole Lives
Feb 15	6:30-8:30 – Our Whole Lives
Feb 22	6:00 – Progressive Dinner
Feb 27	Friday Evening – All Kansas Youth Lock-in at Plymouth Congregational in Lawrence – time to be announced
Mar 1	12:15 – Confirmation 6:30-8:30 – Our Whole Lives
Mar 8	12:15 – Confirmation 3:30 – Second Helping – Movie afterwards
Mar 15	No Confirmation or Youth Group
Mar 22	12:15 – Confirmation Class 6:30-8:30 – Our Whole Lives
Mar 28	9:00 pm – Lock -in
Mar 29	12:15 – Confirmation Class 6:30-8:30 – Our Whole Lives
Apr 5	No Confirmation Class 9:30 – Easter Breakfast Potluck; Fill Eggs and hide them during Church for Easter Egg Hunt
Apr 12	12:15 – Confirmation Class 3:30 – Second Helping – Movie afterwards
Apr 17-18	Camp White, Our Whole Lives (3 sessions)
Apr 19	12:15 – Confirmation Class 1:00 – Miniature Golf following Confirmation Class for all Youth Group
Apr 26	12:15 – Confirmation Class 6:30-8:30 – Our Whole Lives
May 3	12:15 – Confirmation Class 6:30-8:30 – Our Whole Lives
May 10	10:45 – Confirmation! During Church Service End of the Year Picnic – Location to be announced
May 31	3:30 – Second Helping

Cobb Corner — Going Green

“If we learn to love the earth, we will find labyrinths, gardens, fountains and precious jewels! A whole new world will open itself to us. We will discover what it means to be truly alive.”

— Teresa of Avila (1515-82) *Green Bible*. I-103.

I always like inexpensive, recycling activities that have short and long-run benefits. The Manhattan Public Library Book Sale is one of these. It will be held 5:30-7:30 on Friday, February 27th for library association members. You can become one for \$10 a year and thus get first crack at thousands of neatly organized books.

On Saturday the 28th and Sunday, March 1, the sale is open to the general public. Sunday you can buy books by the BOX! I have been known to get over 40 books in a box. Young men are on hand to carry these treasures to the car! The prices are so low you'll want to pick up lots of favorites and children's books to share with the schools, church nursery and library or to send to relatives and friends. I love to stock up on great reads some of which I donate back to the library for future sales.

We all win! Great books for the schools, the church and our own use and the MPL typically makes between eight and ten thousand dollars! In the process about 25,000 books are saved from the dump!

Also, be sure to check out Rosie's Corner in the library throughout the year. It has several hundred used books of all kinds and for typically less than two dollars each. This special spot is named for Rosie Pettle, a wonderful woman who donated so much time and effort into our excellent library. — *Linda Richter*

Share ideas for future Cobb columns with Linda Richter.

Recycling at Church!

Bring your recyclable items with you to church and leave them at the collection point in the eastern passage between the Sanctuary and Blachly Hall. Please bring your things through Blachly Hall on Sunday mornings.

Please sort your items according to marked containers, paying special attention to numbered plastics. Also, all items should be rinsed *so they do not create odors or attract pests*.



Stewardship

It was a great year for our stewardship campaign. We give thanks for all who participated in this year's campaign. It was wonderful to hear the testimony of April Mason and Kristin Mulready-Stone with her daughters during worship.

In 2015 we have 54 people/families that have turned in pledges for a total of \$165,174. This includes 8 families/individuals who are new pledgers this year. The total increase in pledged giving from 2014 to 2015 is a substantial amount: \$19,474.

We have 26 givers who increased their pledges in 2015 - which is over half. Of those, 16 givers increased their pledge 10% or more. 7 givers increased their pledge 30% or more.

We are thankful for all who give of their time and talent to First Congregational UCC. Those who pledge help us in our financial planning, making it easier for our church leadership to anticipate our income. We are looking forward to living more fully into our mission in 2015 thanks to your generosity.

Dillons Fundraiser Update

Time to register your card!

Great news! Rather than continually reloading a Dillons gift card to raise money for the church, you can now link your Plus Shopper Card to the First Congregational account and we will earn money every time you use your shopper card at Dillons. Please tell friends or family who might also want to register their cards. Here's what you need to do....and if you need help, just give Sandy a call.

1. Visit www.dillons.com/communityrewards
2. Sign in OR create a new account.
3. Click "enroll now."
4. Enter "First" or the 5 digit NPO for the church, which is 10145, and search.
5. Select the fully named entry (**First Congregational UCC**) and click "enroll."

You're all set! Thanks for supporting our shared life and work.

Save the Date

All-church Bunco night hosted by Vitality and Outreach – Friday, March 13 at 6:30 p.m. Fun for all ages!



All-Church Baby Shower

Sunday, February 8 at 1:30 p.m.

Everyone is invited to a baby shower for Courtney Keith and family in Pioneer and Blachly Halls, Sunday, February 8 at 1:30 p.m. For the most current details, please contact the church office.



Guest Preacher: Stephanie Mott



Ms. Mott is Executive Director of the Kansas State Transgender Education Project and will be visiting us as a part of her Transgender Faith Tour.

Sunday, Feb. 22
10:45 a.m.

First Congregational UCC | uccmanhattan.org
700 Poyntz | Manhattan, KS

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 25-35 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 537-7006 or office@uccmanhattan.org.

February 1, 2015

Dessert: Stephanie Reeck

Volunteers: First Congregational Youth Group, Ann Gleason

Chief Cook: Brent Maner

Church Host: Tracey Weston

February 8, 2015

Dessert: Stacy Shaffer

Volunteers: Manhattan Mennonite Church, Ann Gleason

Chief Cook: Bob Atchison

Church Host: Myles Alexander

February 15, 2015

Dessert: Greta Climenhaga

Volunteers: Kathy Bleam, Joy Schell, Lauren Ritterbush, Brad Logan

Chief Cook: Gretchen Lewis

Church Host: Jim Lewis

February 22, 2015

Dessert: Ann Smit

Volunteers: ESA Sorority

Chief Cook: Ann Smit

Church Host: Dave Smit

Take time for Taize

On Thursday evenings at 7 p.m., a small group of us meets for thirty minutes of quiet worship in scripture reading, contemplation and song. Those of us who attend feel moved and nourished by the opportunity to pray in silence and in community with others. We invite others to join us; you can come once in a while, once a month, or every week, and we'll always be happy to see you! We meet in Pioneer Hall.

Worship & Volunteers

February 1, 2015

Greeters	Carolyn Hodgson, Stacy Shaffer
Scripture Reader	Sue Gerth
Word for Children .	Pastor Caela
Fellowship Hour	Keller family
Flowers	Margery Bayer
Snow Removal	Dave Stone (<i>Jan 26-Feb 1</i>)

February 8, 2015

Greeters	Gina Davidson, Sue Gerth
Scripture Reader	Judy Ahrens
Word for Children .	David Smit
Fellowship Hour	Kathy Bleam
Flowers	Vanessa Kearns
Snow Removal	Brett Parsons/Jessica Haymaker (<i>Feb 2-8</i>)

February 15, 2015

Greeters	Angela Hubler, Joy Schell
Scripture Reader	Angela Hubler
Word for Children .	Pastor Caela
Fellowship Hour	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Flowers	Kathy Bleam
Snow Removal	Andy Casto (<i>Feb 9-15</i>)

February 22, 2015

Greeters	The Peterson family
Scripture Reader	Aimee McLendon
Word for Children .	Kerri Keller
Fellowship Hour	Weston family
Flowers	Wade Honey and Dan Barnes
Snow Removal	Andy Barkley (<i>Feb 16-22</i>)
Snow Removal	Brent Maner (<i>Feb 23-Mar 1</i>)

To volunteer, please contact the church office at 537-7006 or office@uccmanhattan.org.

Community News

Pancakes for the Community Meals Network

The **Manhattan SERTOMA Club** plans to make a major donation of equipment to the Community Meals Network (CoMN Table). CoMN Table is the local consortium of individuals and churches (including this one) committed to providing meals for those who need them.

Support SERTOMA and CoMN Table by attending the 53rd annual

SERTOMA PANCAKE AND GROUND HOG FEED

Saturday Feb. 7, 7am-1pm

Cico Park, Pottorf Hall

Tickets: Adults \$6, Children Ages 6-12 \$3

Partner: HCI Sales

Crisis Center Training

The Crisis Center urges those interested in the issue of violence against women to attend an upcoming two-day training/workshop on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.

Saturday, Feb. 7 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and

Saturday, Feb. 14 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

For details, location, and to reserve your spot, please call the Crisis Center at 785-539-7935. The registration fee of \$15 covers training materials and supplies.

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 statement.

Phone Directory Update

Please help make the **2015 phone directory** of members and friends of First Congregational as accurate as possible. Please complete this form and return it to the church office by February 23. If nothing has changed from the 2014 directory, just check the box at the bottom. You can place it in the pocket on the office door or mail it to the church. You may also call the office between 9:00 and 3:00 Monday-Friday, or send a note to office@uccmanhattan.org.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Zip _____

Home # _____

Work # _____

Cell # _____

E-mail(s) _____

Other Info: (birthdays, anniversaries, emergency contact)

No changes from 2014 information

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

700 Poyntz Avenue
Manhattan, KS 66502
(785) 537-7006

uccmanhattan.org




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Calendar follows on next page

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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MANHATTAN, KS 66502

Return Service Requested

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>February</h1>						
1 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Church School 10:45 Worship & Communion <i>Fill the Bread Basket</i> 12:00 Fellowship Hour 3:30 Youth Group 5:15 Second Helping	2 5:15 Yoga	3	4 11:30 Lunch Bunch 3:30 Staff mtg 3:45 CoMN mtg 5:30 Board of Mission 7:00 Board mtgs: Trustees, Deacons	5 7:00 Taizé	6	7
				Ministry of the Decorative Scissors		
8 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Church School 10:45 Worship 12:00 Fellowship Hour 1:30 Baby Shower 5:15 Second Helping 6:30 OWL	9 5:15 Yoga 5:30 AAUW Dinner	10	11 6:30 CE Board Mtg 7:00 Vitality & Outreach mtg	12 7:00 Taizé	13	14
15 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Church School 10:45 Worship 12:00 Communion w/Bethel AME 5:15 Second Helping 6:30 OWL	16 5:15 Yoga	17 10:00 N. Central Clergy Mtg. <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Sandy on vacation</div>	18 Ash Wednesday 12:00 Lenten Lunch & Worship @First Christian 6:30 Ash Wed Service 7:00 Cabinet	19 7:00 Taizé	20 12:00 Newsletter Deadline 7:30 Movie Night	21
22 8:30 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Church School 10:45 Worship – <i>Stephanie Mott</i> 12:00 Fellowship Hour 5:15 Second Helping 6:00 Youth Group	23 5:15 Yoga	24	25 12:00 Lenten Lunch & Worship @First Christian	26 7:00 Taizé	27	28 9:00-3:00 Cabinet Retreat