



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWSLETTER

Volume 59 Number 6

June 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
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www.uccmanhattan.org

Summer Reading

When I was a little girl in Leavenworth, Kansas the highlight of my summer was the R.I.F. (Reading is Fundamental) book fair at the local public library. All summer long I would read and read and collect points. At the end of the summer I could trade in those points for more books! It was like a reader's paradise.

No one gives me points for reading these days, but it's still one of my favorite pastimes. And there's still something about summer that makes me want to lie in a hammock or by a pool with a page-turner and read all day long. Let's be real, though, we have two young children. There's not a lot of lying around during this phrase of my life, so I am more often squinting at an e-book on my iPhone while lying in the dark helping one of my kids go to sleep. I'll take it however I can get it.

What have you read lately that really spoke to you? Two books I've read in the past few months that really blew me away are *Lila* by Marilynne Robinson and *Being Mortal* by [continued pg. 2]



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Atul Gawande. Some of you may know Ms. Robinson by her other novels, *Gilead* and *Housekeeping*. *Lila* takes place in that same small town of Gilead and tells the backstory on the Rev. John Ames' wife's life. It was hard reading at first. I texted one of my best friends to say, "This book is painful. Will it be worth it?" Jennifer promised me it would be and she was right. It's a beautiful story of grace, redemption, and love.

Being Mortal by Atul Gawande is one of those books that I've already recommended to 15 people since I finished it a few weeks ago. Dr. Gawande is a surgeon...and he's also a gifted storyteller. In *Being Mortal* he deals with end-of-life and aging issues from the perspective of a doctor, an adult son, and a U.S.-American of Indian descent. Because he writes so well, I could hardly put the book down. You can expect a book study on this one in the future!

Right now I'm in the middle of *Life of Pi* (haven't read it yet, can you believe it?) and in the pile next are *Sabbath as Resistance* by Walter Brueggemann and *The Other Wes Moore*, which is the K-State common read for the upcoming school year. As we settle into summer together, I hope you'll find some time during these months to relax and enjoy whatever it is that soothes your soul, be it reading or something else. And if you read something good, please let me know so I can add it to my list!

Pastor Caela

Pastor Out-of-the-Office-Hours

This summer, Pastor Caela will not be holding her regular out-of-the-office hours at Radina's on Tuesdays. Instead, she will be having four out-of-the-office events at various locations around town. No need to RSVP, just show up!

Playdate for All Ages—Tuesday, June 2, 10:00-11:30 a.m. at Anneberg Park

Breakfast at the Chef—Monday, June 22 at 8:00 a.m.

Linear Trail Walk—Wednesday, July 15 at 9:00 a.m. at Pecan Circle Entrance

Happy Hour—Thursday, July 30 at 5:00 p.m. at Powercat Sports

Sharing and Caring

Prayers and Concerns

- For more information, please contact the church office at office@uccmanhattan.org or 785-537-7006.

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.

Freedom-Gospel Sing-Along at First Congregational UCC

Please join the MLK Memorial Committee in a community-wide celebration of Gospel music and freedom songs on Saturday, June 6. Our song leaders will be Bill and Linnetta Hill and a potluck meal will follow. Pastor Caela would very much appreciate a few volunteers for the kitchen crew (helping set up the potluck and washing dishes afterwards). Since it's a Saturday night, we'll need to get the building very clean after the event. Please contact the church office if you can help.

Dinner Church

Join the Vitality committee for our next dinner discussion on Monday, June 8th at 6:00 pm in Andover Hall. Jessica Haymaker will be leading a discussion on "How to support survivors of interpersonal violence". Dinner will be provided. If you would like to bring a dish to share, it is always welcome.



Worship in the Park

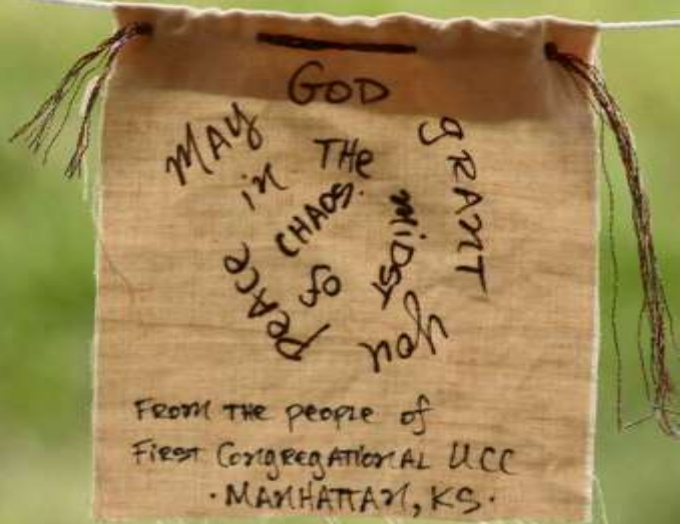
Join us at the City Park Shelter (on Poyntz) on June 21st for our annual Worship in the Park and Blessing of the Animals. We will gather at 10:45 a.m. for worship and a potluck will follow. Kids can run and play on the playground and pets will be blessed. Please bring a dish to share and your own table service. Bringing along a folding chair isn't a bad idea, either.

Ministers of Care

Last month we had the opportunity to bless our new Ministers of Care during Sunday morning worship. This team has been trained by Pastor Caela and will be working with the Board of Deacons and our Pastor to visit our members who are unable to regularly make it to worship. If you have suggestions for people who need to be visited, please speak to one of our Deacons. Our Ministers of Care are Jean Hill, Carolyn and Jim Hodgson, Wade Honey, Gretchen Lewis, Martha Miller, Dona Sidorfsky, Mary Ellen and Ralph Titus.

Worship in the Park

Sunday, June 21



10:45 a.m.

City Park, Poyntz Shelter

Blessing of the Animals & Potluck
Bring your pet(s), a dish to share, and
your own table service

Revelation Un/Veiled

The first sermon series of the summer is **Revelation Un/Veiled**, a four-week series on the Book of Revelation. This book is Apocalyptic literature, which means it's support reveal or unveil. Instead, Revelation mostly seems to obscure and hide. Biblical scholars have been arguing about it for centuries and we all know that it makes for great pop-culture references. But what could this odd book possible have to offer us as 21st century Christ-followers? Join us in worship, Sunday, May 31 through Sunday, June 21 as we explore Revelation together.



Common Table Garden

Have you seen the garden? Plants are growing and there's improved fencing! Financial support has come in from the Atina Hanna memorial, First United Methodist, and St Paul's Episcopal. If you'd like to contact Garden Intern Matt DeCapo to volunteer, please call the church office at 785-537-7006.

Congratulations 2015 Graduates



Bernie Vaughn completed his Doctor of Musical Arts in violin performance at Florida State University in May. Dr. Vaughn is the son-in-law of Alfred Cochran.

Sarah Wilde Sinnott graduated May 9 from University of St Joseph School of Pharmacy. Dr. Sinnott is the daughter of RC and Melissa Jones.

Barrett Scroggs completed his Master of Arts in Theatre with an emphasis in Drama Therapy.

Josh Manning graduated from Manhattan High School in May. This summer he becomes a full-time student in Computer Science at K-State and is working in the Computer and Information Sciences Department as well.

Kyle Weston graduated from Manhattan High School in May. He'll be attending K-State and majoring in mathematics.

Nick Clark graduated from Manhattan High School in May. He'll be attending Kansas State University with plans to join the marching band.

Ben Clark graduated from Manhattan High School in May. He'll be attending Butler Community College on a vocal music scholarship.

Simone Buelow graduated from Manhattan High School in May. She plans to enroll at Bellus Academy in Manhattan and follow that with Junior College.

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, June 25 until 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 27, in Andover Hall. We break at midnight Thursday and Friday to get a good night's rest but start up again in the morning at 7:00 a.m. Everyone is welcome. 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.



Staff Transition: Thanksgiving for the Ministry of Tracey Weston

We have been richly blessed by the ministry of Tracey Weston as our Director of Youth Ministries for more than a decade. Tracey decided to step down from that position at the end of May. Tracey has such a natural rapport with youth, drawing in many youth from outside our church and creating a warm and loving place for them to move through the teenage years together.

Fortunately, we are not really losing Tracey! She is looking forward to taking off her "staff hat" and returning to her previous life as a member of the congregation. The timing is also wonderful, since our youth ministries are on hiatus every summer. I will be working with the Board of Christian Education to make plans for the upcoming school year. Parents of youth and youth should be on the lookout for an email from me in the next few days requesting your input as we work together to create "what's next."

We will be celebrating Tracey's ministry on Sunday, June 21st when we gather in the park. If you have ideas or would like to help with that, please contact Amanda Tross, Presiding Officer of Christian Education.

Thank You!

Thanks to all the wonderful donors who made the church's participation in the recent Grow Green event at the

Greater Manhattan Community Foundation (GMCF) a huge success! Total donations for the church's endowment were \$4,450, and the 50% match by a generous community donor makes \$2,225 available to the church this year. (The Gifts, Endowments, and Investments Committee will manage these funds.)

GROW Green Match Day

You make a gift. We make it grow.

Lunch Bunch June 3



Join the Women of the Church for Lunch Bunch on Wednesday, June 3 at Happy Valley Chinese (Bluehills Shopping Center). 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.)

For Your Garden

From time to time I will be bringing plants from my garden to church on Sundays for anyone to take. (Other gardeners are welcome to do the same.) If you give these plants a home, you might consider making a donation to Second Helping. Right now I have some of last year's iris roots--they look dry, but they will grow. Other possibilities are pachysandra and other ground covers, a clear red canna, a scarlet canna, euphorbia Chameleon, rose of sharon, Wentworth viburnum, Japanese kerria, and much more. Please get in touch if you'd like any specific items. Happy Gardening! *Ann Smit*

Christian Education

Summer Events

This summer we are offering many exciting opportunities for family events at First Congregational United Church of Christ (see event schedule at right). Our goal is to have an event each week during the months of June and July. The best part is that these events are all FREE! All of the events occur at the church (700 Poyntz Ave.) and are divided into four categories:

Movie Night (K-6th Grades) – Movie nights feature a different movie each month in the Hollywood Theater.

Service Project (2nd-6th Grades) – Our service projects are kid-friendly projects to help the mission of the church.

Intergenerational Gathering (All ages) – The intergenerational gatherings will be fun events for the whole church to get to know one another.

Parents-Night-Out (Toddler-K) – Designed for parents with toddlers and preschool/kindergarten students, these evenings will feature games, arts and crafts, and more.

Please complete the registration form, available on the website (www.uccmanhattan.org/childrens-ministry.html) or from the church office, to give us an idea about how many kids to expect at each event.

-Barrett Scroggs

MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, June 19 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**

Summer Event	Date	Start time	End time
Intergenerational Gathering (All ages)	Sun, 6/7/15	9:30 am	10:30 am
Movie Night (K-6th Grades)	Fri 6/19/15	7:30 pm	9:30 pm
Parents-Night-Out (Toddler-K)	Mon, 6/22/15	5:30 pm	7:30 pm
Service Project: Baking for 2nd Helping (2nd-6th Grades)	Sat, 6/27/15	12:30 pm	2:30 pm
Service Project: Food pantry organization (2nd-6th Grades)	Sat, 7/11/15	12:30 pm	2:30 pm
Movie Night (K-6th Grades)	Fri, 7/17/15	7:30 pm	9:30 pm
Parents-Night-Out (Toddler-K)	Mon, 7/20/15	5:30 pm	7:30 pm
Intergenerational Gathering (All ages)	Sun, 7/26/15	9:30 am	10:30 am



Cobb Corner — Going Green

“To desire to be rich is to desire to have more than what we need to be content.” — Amish saying, The Green Bible, I-33.

This time of year many are moving. The trash bins are overflowing. For some of us with strong hunter-gatherer genes it is a time that both horrifies and delights. The vast amount of things discarded would furnish, clothe and feed a village. Still, when I've seen something useful and inquired about it or rescued it ahead of the trash truck, no one seems to mind.

This month has been especially amazing. Over 800 books, garden pots, a huge Boston fern, sacks of oranges, grapes and apples are just a few of our freebies! True, we needed none of these things, but we ate the fruit, re-homed 600 books to the public library, took 99 children's books to Northview School, gave boxes of vinyl records to friends and kept other books and records for ourselves. Other alternatives should you find some treasures are to post your items on freecycle.com, or give things to the Salvation Army or the Encore Shop. For furniture, tools, paint, and lumber, Re-Store will pick up your things to be used in building homes for Habitat for Humanity.

Let's vow to acquire more deliberately. A University of Minnesota study found that people buy more of everything – not just food – when they are hungry! Don't you love a study that urges us not to get hungry!

Finally, let's try to find someone or someplace that can use what we no longer need. I especially appreciated the recent donations to the animal shelter which were received with delight by the dedicated staff.

— *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 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 Mary Ellen Barkley at office@uccmanhattan.org or 785-537-7006.

June 7, 2015

Dessert: Kerri Keller

Volunteers: Kathy Bleam, Susanne Gilmore, Erika Krueger & friend

Chief Cook: Jeff Keller

Church Host: David Jones

June 14, 2015

Dessert: Stephanie Reeck

Volunteers: Mary Ellen Barkley, Caffey Family

Chief Cook: Andy Barkley

Church Host: Myles Alexander

June 21, 2015

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: Erica Krueger & friend, *need 2 volunteers*

Chief Cook: Gretchen Lewis

Church Host: Jim Lewis

June 28, 2015

Dessert: *volunteer needed*

Volunteers: ESA Sorority

Chief Cook: Andy Barkley

Church Host: Mary Ellen Barkley

***Thank you for keeping your pledge
up-to-date during the summer months.***

Worship & Volunteers

June 7, 2015

Greeters	<i>volunteers needed</i>
Scripture Reader	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Word for Children	Pastor Caela
Communion Servers	Judy Ahrens, Gretchen Lewis, Craig Weston
Fellowship Hour	Kerri Keller
Flowers	Vanessa Kearns
Lawn Care	Craig Weston (<i>June 4-6</i>)

June 14, 2015

Greeters	<i>volunteers needed</i>
Scripture Reader	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Word for Children	Dave Smit
Fellowship Hour	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Flowers	Barbara Withee
Lawn Care	Bill Pallett (<i>June 11-13</i>)

June 21, 2015

Greeters	<i>volunteers needed</i>
Scripture Reader	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Word for Children	Pastor Caela
Fellowship Hour	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Flowers	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Lawn Care	Judy Willingham (<i>June 18-20</i>)

June 28, 2015

Greeters	<i>volunteers needed</i>
Scripture Reader	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Word for Children	Leo Schell
Fellowship Hour	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Flowers	<i>volunteer needed</i>
Lawn Care	David Stone (<i>June 25-27</i>)

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

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.

Community News



**26th ANNUAL
JUNETEENTH
COMMUNITY FESTIVAL**

**City Park
Manhattan KS
June 19 & 20 2015**

Vendor Sign up now open
Sponsorship Packages are available
Share your photos from past events
150th Nationwide Anniversary

Come celebrate Juneteenth!

This annual celebration starts Friday afternoon in City Park. The celebration continues all day Saturday in City Park with indoor and outdoor activities, including a parade from Manhattan Town Center to City Park beginning at 10 AM.

**Gospel Fest • Parade • Guest Speaker • Entertainment
Food/Craft Vendors • Free Children's Activities
3-on-3 Basketball Tournament • Historical Displays**

manhattanjuneteenth.org

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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

uccmanhattan.org



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Return Service Requested

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 11:30 Lunch Bunch 3:45 Common Table meeting 7:00 Board Meetings	4 7:00 Taizé	5	6 5:00 Freedom Sings & Potluck
7 9:30 Intergenerational gathering 10:45 Worship & Communion 12:00 Fellowship Hour 5:15 Second Helping	8 6:00 Dinner Discussion 6:45 Endless A Cappella	9	10 6:30 CE Board 7:00 Vitality & Outreach -----Sandy Vacation-----	11 7:00 Taizé	12 Buscher/Paulk rehearsal	13 Buscher/Paulk wedding
14 10:45 Worship 12:00 Fellowship Hour 5:15 Second Helping -----	15 5:15 Yoga 6:45 Endless A Cappella 7:00 MLK Jr. Mem. Comm.	16 10:00 N.C. Area Clergy Mtg	17 6:00 Cabinet Mtg	18 7:00 Taizé	19 12:00 Newsletter Deadline 7:30 Movie Night <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">HCI Sale</div>	20
21 10:45 Outdoor Worship Blessing of the Animals City Park Shelter 12:00 Fellowship Hour 5:15 Second Helping	22 5:15 Yoga 5:30 Parents Night Out 6:45 Endless A Cappella	23	24	25 7:00 Taizé <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;">Ministry of the Decorative Scissors</div>	26	27 12:30 Kids' Service Project
28 10:45 Worship 12:00 Fellowship Hour 5:15 Second Helping	29 5:15 Yoga 6:45 Endless A Cappella	30	<h1>June 2015</h1>			