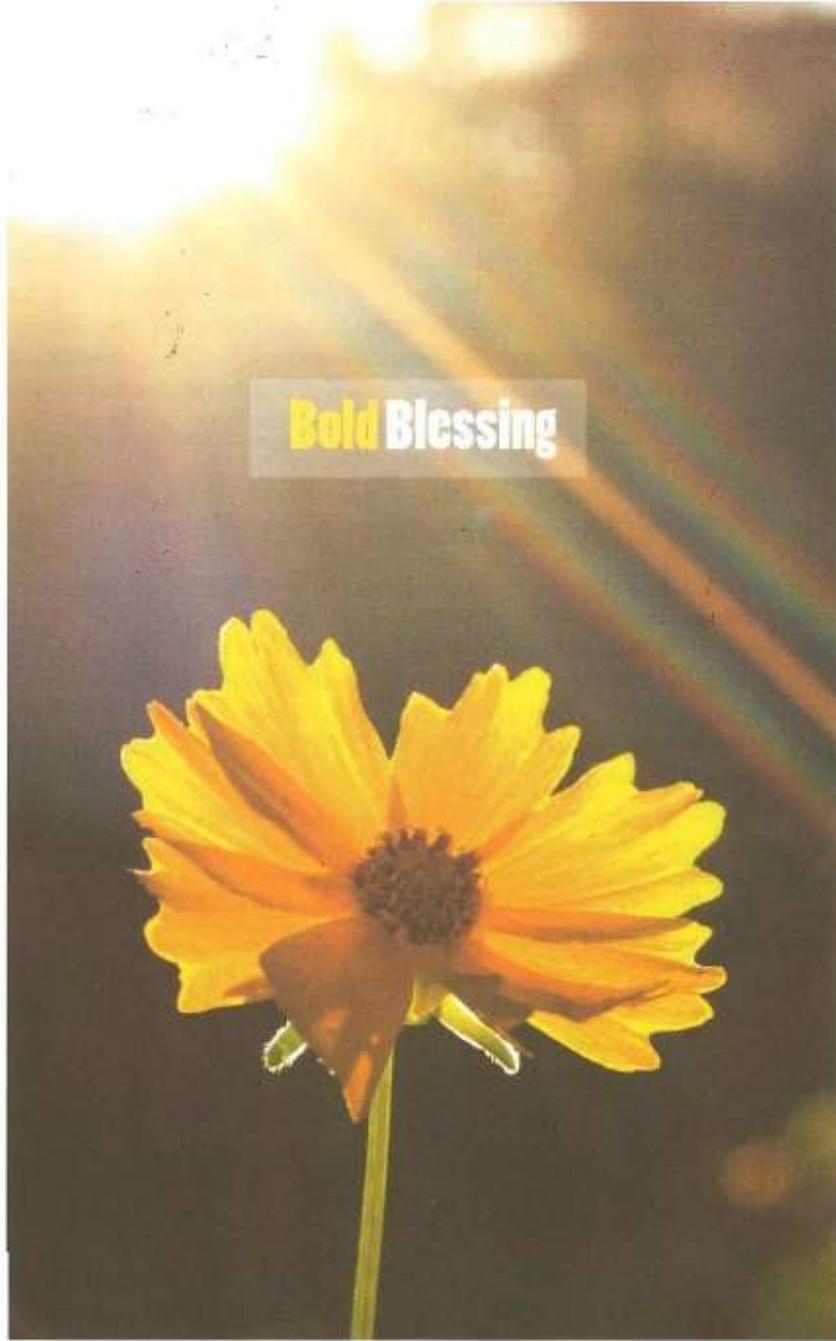




**First Congregational United Church of Christ**  
Manhattan, Kansas

*where God is still speaking.*



**Bold Blessing**

# FIRST CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

700 Poyntz Avenue

Manhattan, Kansas 66502

The Rev. Caela Simmons Wood, Pastor

Julie Hunt, Moderator

Tai Amri Spann-Wilson, Youth Ministry

Andria Anderson, Director of Children's Ministries

Sue Zschoche, Pastoral Associate

Sean Weston, Ministry Intern    Dave Smit, Treasurer

telephone 785-537-7006

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

Gretchen Lewis, Choir Director

Robert Edwards, Mary Ellen Sutton, Organists

The Rev. David Jones, Campus Pastor

Nancy Holmes, Custodian

Sandy Nelson, Administrative Assistant

Jeff Keller, Financial Secretary

## SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 12, 2017, AT 10:45 A.M.

**Welcome!** If you are worshipping with us for the first time, we hope that you will find God's presence among us. Your presence with us enriches our vision of the Body of Christ, and we give thanks that you have joined us today. We hope you will sign the register pad when it is passed. Immediately following worship, refreshments are served at **Fellowship Hour** in Pioneer and Blachly Halls. Just exit the doors to the left of the pulpit and follow the crowd. Enjoy a cup of fair trade coffee. We look forward to greeting you there. If you have questions, please ask.

**If you have special needs**, please let one of the ushers know. Hearing assist devices, wheelchairs, and walkers are available. The elevator provides access to all three floors of the building. Restrooms are located on each floor. Our lower level has wheelchair accessible, all gender restrooms. A diaper changing table is in the Nursery upstairs.

**Children** are welcome in worship (and we know they may need to wiggle!). If you'd prefer, we do offer activities upstairs. Children ages 3 and under are welcome in the Nursery at any time. After the Word for Children, children 3 and up are invited to join us in the theater for Kids Worship - a worship service that mirrors our service in the Sanctuary. Please check out our website for information about Sunday School for children and adults at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays during the school year.

### ---- *Assisting in Today's Worship* ----

**Greeters:** Linda Thurston, *volunteer needed*

**Fellowship Hour:** TBA

**Sanctuary Flowers:** Judy Willingham

**Communion Servers:** Jess Girdler, Stephanie Swank

**Reading Scripture:** Brent Maner

**Word for Children:** Sue Gerth

**Grounds Care:** Rachel Martin

# **GATHERING**

*in the presence of God*

## **GATHERING MUSIC**

Tower Chimes

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRELUDE**

Mary Ellen Sutton, organ

“Lamb of God, Most Holy”

Bach

### **CALLED IN GOD'S PRESENCE**

*One:* I lift my eyes up to the mountains, from where does my help come?

*Many:* **My help comes from God, creator of heaven and earth.**

*One:* God is found in the mountains and valleys of our lives.

*Many:* **God is also found among us.**

*One:* Come, let us worship the God of Creation, the God of Humanity, the God of Community.

*Many:* **Let us follow Jesus, for Jesus is The Way. Let us worship together in faith.**

*Adapted from the Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell. Based on Psalm 121.*

### **EXCHANGING THE PEACE**

*One:* The peace of Christ be with you.

*Many:* **And also with you.**

*As a sign of our reconciliation, please greet those around you with words such as: “Peace be with you. / And also with you.”*

### **CENTERING MUSIC**

“Stay with Me”

Stay with me, remain here with me,  
watch and pray, watch and pray.

# **LISTENING**

*for our Still-speaking God*

## **WORD FOR CHILDREN**

Sue Gerth

*If your child is going to the Nursery or Kids' Worship for the first time today, please fill out a Child Information Card (located in the back of the pew) and deliver it to one of our staff members upstairs.*

✦ **HYMN** (*See page 8*)

**“Come and Find the Quiet Center”**

*Beach Spring*

✦ *Indicates all who are able, please stand.*

**SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION**

**SCRIPTURE LESSON**

Brent Maner

**Genesis 12:1-4a** (*Old Testament page 9 in the pew Bible*)

**Psalm 121** (*Page 704 The New Century Hymnal* **read responsively**; all join in singing the refrain as indicated by the symbol **R.**)

**THE WORD IN MUSIC**

Chancel Choir

**“Come and Taste”**

Alice Parker

**SERMON**

**“Blessed to Be a Blessing”**

Rev. Caela Simmons Wood

** RESPONDING**

*in hope and thanksgiving*

**MISSION MOMENT: STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH**

Stephanie Reeck

**OFFERTORY SENTENCE**

*Prefer to make an electronic contribution? Visit the Giving Station located in the back of the Sanctuary to make a credit or debit card gift or set up recurring contributions from your bank account.*

**MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY**

Rachel Shivers, soloist

**“Ashes”**

Conry

✦ **DOXOLOGY**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host:  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

## THE SERVICE OF SACRED COMMUNION

*The Lenten season is set apart. A time to try new practices and open ourselves to the deep movement of the Spirit in the Wilderness. This morning we will practice a silent communion liturgy*

*This is the table of Christ, not of this church. All are welcome and encouraged to join in the sharing of communion at Christ's Table, regardless of age or tradition, for this is the meal which binds all of us, different as we are, together.*

*We will commune by intinction (dipping the bread in the cup) at the front of the church. The ushers will direct you. If you would rather remain seated, please let an usher know and we will bring the elements to you. The bread served is gluten free and the cup contains grape juice.*

*As you come forward, you are invited to "fill the breadbasket." The gifts shared support the work of **The Second Helping** ministry of this church.*

## THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

*As Pastor Caela approaches the table and opens her arms to indicate welcome, please read silently. If you have a person near you who is unable to read, please read to them in a whisper.*

*The first time Jesus sat down to this meal, among those gathered there were one who would doubt him, one who would deny him, one who would betray him, and they would all leave him alone before that night was over – and he knew it. Still he sat down and ate with them. If he ate with them, surely he's ready to eat with us – baptized or not, confessed or not, Christian or not, sure or not, believer or not, saint or sinner....and God knows we're all a little bit of both. All you have to be to eat at this table is hungry; God will do the rest. All things are ready – come and get it!*

*Adapted from the Rev. Quinn Caldwell.*

## THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

*As the symbols and elements are brought to the table, please remember the story of the first Communion in your own mind. If a person near you does not know the story, please help them find the story in a pew Bible or share it with them in a whisper.*

*Matthew 26: 20-29*

*Mark 14: 17-25*

*Luke 22: 14-23*

*1 Corinthians 11:23-26*

*Once the elements are prepared, the servers will create two serving stations. You are invited to come forward as you are ready to receive the holy meal. As always, we will bring the bread and cup to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.*

## SHARING GIFTS OF FOOD AND COMMUNION

## ✦ PRAYER OF GRATITUDE

*After the elements have been returned to the table, we will pray together.*

*Pastor Caela will gesture for us to rise in body or spirit (please rise).*

*We will pray silently together:*

*Silently: God of the abundant feast and overflowing cup,*

**We give you thanks for the refreshment we have found at this table.**

**Strengthen us. Help us to better love each other and ourselves.**

**Send us forth to boldly and confidently proclaim the Gospel of our Still-speaking, Still-loving, Still-saving God. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*You are invited to share your joy or concern aloud. If you would prefer to have Caela read your prayer aloud, please use one of the cards located at the back of the Sanctuary.*

*We respond: Merciful God...**hear our prayer.***

*Each week, we hold a few of our members in prayer, working our way through the entire membership over the course of a year. This week, we hold the following people in prayer: Rick and Gayle Doll, James and Elise Dunnigan, Julie and Paul Hunt, Rachel Hunt*

## PRAYER OF JESUS (said in unison)

*“Our Father” is the traditional way this prayer begins. For many, however, the traditional language is a hindrance to the intimacy of their relationship with God. You are invited to use whatever name for God you find most meaningful (Mother, Father, Creator, God, Friend, etc.). Together, our names for God will create a beautiful chorus reaching out to the Holy.*

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kingdom come.**

**Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.**

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

# **GOING FORTH**

*to be messengers of good news*

- ✦ **HYMN 77** (*The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs*)  
"Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing"

*Sicilian Mariners*

## **CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

- ✦ **CONGREGATIONAL CHORAL BENEDICTION**  
"Let Us Live in the Light"

*(Sung two times)*

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Let Us Live in the Light". It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system has the lyrics "Let us live in the light, let us love in the light, and" and the second system has "let the Spir - it do its work in us." The score includes various chords and a key signature of one sharp (F#).

Chords for the first system: C, G/B, Am, Em, Em7, F, G9/F, C, C#dim7

Chords for the second system: Dm, Am/E, Dm7/F, F#dim, Gsus, G, Csus, C

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# **THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

## ***THIS SUNDAY, MARCH 12***

- 8:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday school for all ages
- 10:45 a.m. Service of Word and Sacrament  
*Fill the Breadbasket*
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Hour  
Confirmation Class, Conference Room
- 1:00 p.m. Disciple Bible Study, Andover Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Second Helping

## ***MONDAY, MARCH 13***

### **Stand with Muslim Neighbors Advocacy Day at the state capitol**

- 5:15 p.m. Yoga, Andover Hall
- 6:45 p.m. Timeless A Cappella, Andover Hall
- 7:30 p.m. MOA Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Art Room

## ***TUESDAY, MARCH 14***

- 7:00 p.m. Vitality & Outreach: "Social Justice Write In", Pioneer/Blachly

## ***WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15***

- 7:00 p.m. Cabinet meeting, Conference Room
- 7:00 p.m. Turning Point AA meeting, Andover Hall

## ***THURSDAY, MARCH 16***

- 7:00 p.m. Taizé Service, Pioneer Hall
- 7:00 p.m. MLK meeting, Conference Room
- 8:00 p.m. MOA Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Art Room

## ***FRIDAY, MARCH 17***

- 7:30 p.m. MOA Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Art Room

## ***NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 19***

- 8:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday school for all ages
- 10:45 a.m. Service of the Word
- 12:00 p.m. Fellowship Hour  
Confirmation Class, Conference Room
- 1:00 p.m. Disciple Bible Study, Andover Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Second Helping



*Join us on Facebook at  
[facebook.com/uccmanhattanks](https://facebook.com/uccmanhattanks)*

### ***First Congregational UCC, Manhattan—an Open and Affirming Congregation***

In the spirit of love, openness, and inclusiveness we welcome persons of every race, culture, nationality, age, family configuration, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, and socio-economic status to participate fully in all aspects of our church's life and ministry. *—from Open and Affirming Statement adopted May 11, 2003*

#### ***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.*

Ecumenical Campus Ministry at Kansas State University is a cooperative ministry supported by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the United Church of Christ, and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). For more information on ECM's activities and schedules, please visit us on Facebook (ECM at K-State) or at [www.ksu.edu/ecm](http://www.ksu.edu/ecm).



### **Adult Sunday School – March 12 through April 2 (five weeks) at 9:30 a.m.**

Join us for our Lenten Study of *Accidental Saints: Finding God in All the Wrong People* by Nadia Bolz-Weber. Craig Weston will lead us in an exploration of this New York Times bestselling author's newest book, where she invites readers to accompany her on what she calls her "religious but not-so-spiritual" life. From the publisher: "Tattooed, angry, and profane, this former standup comic turned pastor stubbornly, sometimes hilariously, resists the God she feels called to serve. But God keeps showing up in the least likely of people – a church-loving agnostic, a drag queen, a felonious Bishop, and a gun-toting member of the NRA."

**Library Revitalization - Part Two** – As we continue to revitalize our church library we are now in phase two or three: giving books away. We appreciate the help you've given us so far as we ensure the books remaining are relevant and in good condition. Before we take the "give away" pile to the Public Library and Dusty Bookshelf, we invite members and friends to take a peek and see if there are any you might like to take home and add to your collection. You may take any of the books marked "give away" any time before March 15th.

**Social Justice Write-In** – On Tuesday, March 14, from 7 – 8:30, the Vitality & Outreach Committee invites members and friends to a Social Justice Write-In, a casual event for people to spend time together reading and writing or just sitting quietly in community. You might write to local policy makers, a neighbor, a close or estranged family member, or in your diary. We will provide coffee and tea, as well as writing materials and stamps. Feel free to bring your supper or snacks. Contact Rachel Gintner for information or suggestions.

## **Conversation on Race and Reconciliation: A Faith-based Dialogue**

*Deepening Understanding. Developing New Perspectives. Discussing Community Initiatives.*  
Thursday, March 30 at 7:00 - 8:30 PM • Manhattan Public Library Auditorium

Panelists will be representatives from First Congregational UCC, Bethel AME Church, Manhattan Jewish Congregation, Islamic Center of Manhattan, and Seven Dolors Catholic Church. Sponsors: Martin Luther King Memorial Committee, Bethel AME Church & First Congregational UCC

**Picture Directory Arriving This Spring** – The Board of Deacons has been working with our staff and we are pleased to announce a picture directory will be arriving this Spring. Won't it be great to finally be able to put faces with names? Even better, our new directory will also have an online component that you'll be able to access from [www.instantchurchdirectory.com](http://www.instantchurchdirectory.com) AND a free app for your smartphone or tablet. We hope to begin rolling out the online directory in March and new print copies should be available in early April.

You can help us prepare for this new directory in two important ways:

1) Please begin thinking of a photo of you/your family that you'd like to use in the directory. Once the online version is launched, you will have the opportunity to upload the photo. If you do not have access to a digital photo, Gina Davidson will be available immediately following worship on March 12th and March 19th to take a snapshot, which can be e-mailed to you or uploaded on your behalf.

2) Please check to see if the contact information we have on file is correct. If you wish to use the online directory or app, please ensure we have your correct e-mail address, as it will become your username. You can check our current records by viewing the sample directory hanging on the office door.

## Ecumenical Community Lenten Lunches

The Manhattan Ministerial Association Lenten Lunches and Services will begin at First Presbyterian on March 8th and continue for consecutive Wednesdays thru April 5. The lunches will begin at 11:45, followed by the service at 12:15, and will meet in Presby Place (the recreation center at First Presbyterian). The cost for each of the lunches is \$8.00. Please call the Presbyterian church office, 785-537-0518, to make a luncheon reservation by the Monday before each Wednesday program. The theme of the series is: "Faith Essentials." Each speaker will talk about the essentials and principles of his or her faith. Our own April Mason is the featured speaker on March 29th and a full list of all speakers is available on our website.

**\$hop \$mart Grocery Gift Cards** – It's the easy way to make a donation to the Church. Purchase your HyVee gift card after worship to use when you buy groceries. Buy them at face value, spend them like cash, and the church receives a donation.



**Volunteers Needed** – to help with worship, host fellowship hour, or serve at Second Helping. Sign up is easy! A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board outside the kitchen, or go online to [Signupgenius.com](http://Signupgenius.com) and search for *fccvolunteers*. If you are interested in a specific volunteer opportunity but want more information, contact [office@uccmanhattan.org](mailto:office@uccmanhattan.org).

**Help Needed** –Do you have a vehicle that you are no longer using? A member of our church family is in need of a reliable vehicle, as either a long-term loan or low-cost sale. If you have such a vehicle, please contact Gretchen Lewis. Many thanks!



### TAKE TIME FOR TAIZÉ

Join us on Thursday evenings at 7:00 p.m. for Taizé Worship. Taizé is a 30 minute service of singing, scripture, prayer and silence based on the pattern of worship in use at the ecumenical community at Taizé, France.

### Bold Blessing

Why does Nicodemus seek Jesus under the cover of night, in a city lit only by fire? He is a leader in his religious community – a Pharisee. Does he worry about his reputation? Is he afraid he will be thought less of if people know he has questions for Jesus? Asking a question can feel vulnerable, especially if you are the person people usually turn to for answers.

The streets of Jerusalem were narrow and the night would have been as hard to navigate as a small country road at midnight. But sometimes the dark is exactly the place we want to be. We are vulnerable in the night, and vulnerable when we let others know what we don't know. How brave a thing it was for Nicodemus to come through the night and fearlessly let this itinerant preacher, this Jesus, know what he didn't know and didn't understand. There is a bravery born in a willingness to be vulnerable. A bravery rewarded by a blessing born in that boldness.

We are often afraid of appearing foolish by asking some “wrong” question. But faith is nurtured in those genuine moments of doubt and questioning. That's when we ask the real questions that keep us up at night. The United Church of Christ has been offering its churches and clergy a curriculum on racism that centers on “white privilege.” The material invites people into deep reflections about our lives and how we see the world. It leads us all toward the same kind of vulnerability that impelled Nicodemus into that night meeting. Confronting racism asks us all to give something of our security and open ourselves to the experiences of others and the deep truths of our own lives. We are all Nicodemus in this desire for what is real and just. Perhaps, like him, we will receive a blessing for our churches, our communities and our country if we pursue these conversations with the grace and fearless hope of Nicodemus. (Go to [ucc.org](http://ucc.org) to find out more.)

