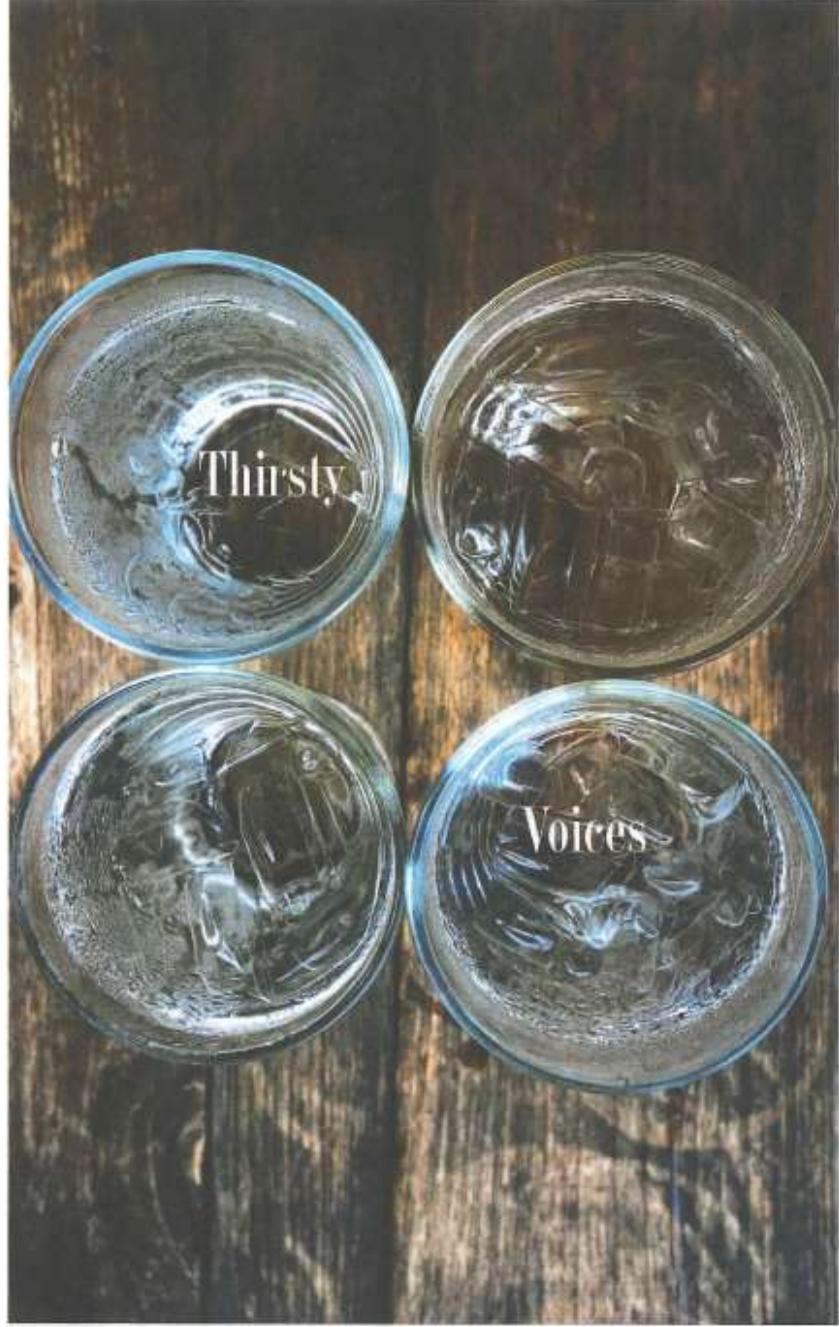




First Congregational United Church of Christ
Manhattan, Kansas

where God is still speaking,



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

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

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 19, 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: Jennifer Edwards, *volunteer needed*

Reading Scripture: Jess Girdler

Word for Children: Andria Anderson

Fellowship Hour: Kathy Bleam

Sanctuary Flowers: Judy Willingham

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Sarabande in B-flat Major (from Partita I)

Robert Edwards, organ

J.S. Bach

CALLED IN GOD'S PRESENCE

One: Come, you who wander and wonder.

Many: **Come, follow the One who leads us to freedom.**

One: Come, you who are stumble, you whose steps are certain.

Many: **Come, journey in the ways of the One who makes our paths sure.**

One: Come, you who are thirsty, you who know where to find living waters.

Many: **Come, share what you have found. Ask for what you need.**

One: Come, let us wander, wonder, stumble, journey, drink, share together.

Many: **Come, let us worship God.**

✦ **HYMN 326** (*The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs*)

"Crashing Waters at Creation"

Stuttgart

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

✦ **PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*Unison*)

Holy One, we confess that we are fatigued, tired, distressed, at all that is going on in the world. We are worn out and weary from all of the struggle. Grant us in this space rest for the journey that is ahead of us. Grant us in this space wisdom to choose how we engage and bring change to the world. Grant us in this space your comfort and clarity, in the midst of the hardship and despair many of us face. Renew us, give us strength, and guide us to live into your ways of love, mercy, justice, and hope.

(Silence is kept for individual reflection and confession)

One: ...through Jesus Christ, our Ruler and Savior.

Many: **Amen.**

✦ **WORDS OF ASSURANCE** (*from Lamentations 3:22-23*)

One: The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; God's mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning.

Many: **Great is God's faithfulness!**

One: Go forth and love one another, knowing that the God of love and peace and justice is with you, renewing you, restoring you, and giving you strength for the journey ahead.

Many: **Amen.**

Adapted from the Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell

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

Andria Anderson

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.

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Jess Girdler

John 4:5-15 (*New Testament page 90 in the pew Bible*)

Psalm 95 (*Page 683 The New Century Hymnal read responsively; all join in singing the refrain as indicated by the symbol R.*)

THE WORD IN MUSIC

"Deep River"

Chancel Choir
arr. Matthew Culloton

SERMON

"Vulnerable, Leaky Tents of Peace"

Rev. Caela Simmons Wood

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

O World, I must leave thee

Johannes Brahms

✦ 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.**

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: Victor Force, Anne Fredrickson and Sue Zschoche, Melia Fritch.

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 196** (*The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs*)
"When, like the Woman at the Well"

Craven

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

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

(Sung two times)

The image shows a musical score for the benediction "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 guitar chords and a key signature of one flat (B-flat major). The chords for the first system are C, G/B, Am, Em, Em7, F, G9/F, C, and C#dim7. The chords for the second system are Dm, Am/E, Dm7/F, F#dim, Gsus, G, Csus, and C.

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"Let us Live in the Light" words and music by Barbara Hamm © 2002 Abingdon Press. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A710121.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

THIS 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
- 1:00 p.m. Disciple Bible Study, Andover Hall
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Group - Movie
- 6:00 p.m. Second Helping
- 6:30 p.m. GSA Movie Night

MONDAY, MARCH 20

- 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

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

Office Closed

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 23

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 24

- 5:00 p.m. Newsletter Deadline
- 7:30 p.m. MOA Narcotics Anonymous meeting, Art Room

NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 26

- 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
- 1:00 p.m. Disciple Bible Study, Andover Hall
- 6:00 p.m. Second Helping



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

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.



Pastor Caela on Vacation – Caela and her family will be traveling for vacation over Spring Break. Sue Zschoche and Sean Weston will be on call for any pastoral care needs that arise during this time. Caela leaves after worship on Sunday, March 19 and returns to the office on Monday, March 27.

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 leads 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."

\$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.



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.

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.

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 Dolores 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 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 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.

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 and search for *fccvolunteers*. If you are interested in a specific volunteer opportunity but want more information, contact office@uccmanhattan.org.

Youth Calendar

March 19th 4-6:30 PM Miyazaki Movie Night: Castle In The Sky

March 26th Spring Break

April 2nd No Youth Group (Confirmation)

April 9th No Youth Group (Confirmation)

April 16th 4-6:30 PM Miyazaki Movie Night: Spirited Away

April 23rd 3-6 PM 2nd Helping

April 30th 4-6:30 PM Game Night



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.

Thirsty Voices

Dry heat is hard on the respiratory system and sand blowing in the desert can catch in the back of your throat creating a husky, scratchy voice. Singers who play Las Vegas call it the “desert voice.” Such a voice would sound as thirsty as it felt. After a long day, a tired and thirsty Jesus sits on the edge of the famed well of Jacob, but with no vessel and no way to get a drink. A woman walks by, a Samaritan woman, a woman with a vessel. He asks her for a drink. Imagine the long sun made shadows on that hot afternoon and hear the quiet, husky, parched voices banter over the meaning of living water. She brings him a drink of potable water and he offers her a spring that will quench her longings and fill her heart with something true.

Where and when Jesus walked, wells were the center of a village. In some parts of the world they still are. However, where drought conditions have decimated the water supply, it is a lucky town that has a viable well. Instead, women and children walk every day for miles to fill one container. In Mozambique, the United Church of Christ has been working on water projects with Global Ministries – digging wells and creating water projects.

In the United States we are facing droughts as well. Many of us take water for granted. Just like we take our spiritual lives for granted. We believe all is well and water will keep flowing even though we do little to make that happen. The thing about a “desert voice” is that you can tell when someone is thirsty. They don’t have to ask. We know what thirst sounds like in the real desert. What does thirst sound like in the spiritual desert? Did the Samaritan woman know she was thirsty for what Jesus had to offer before he spoke to her? Before he told her everything about her life, did her true interior self long for something more? What does spiritual longing sound like? What are the qualities of its desert voice?

