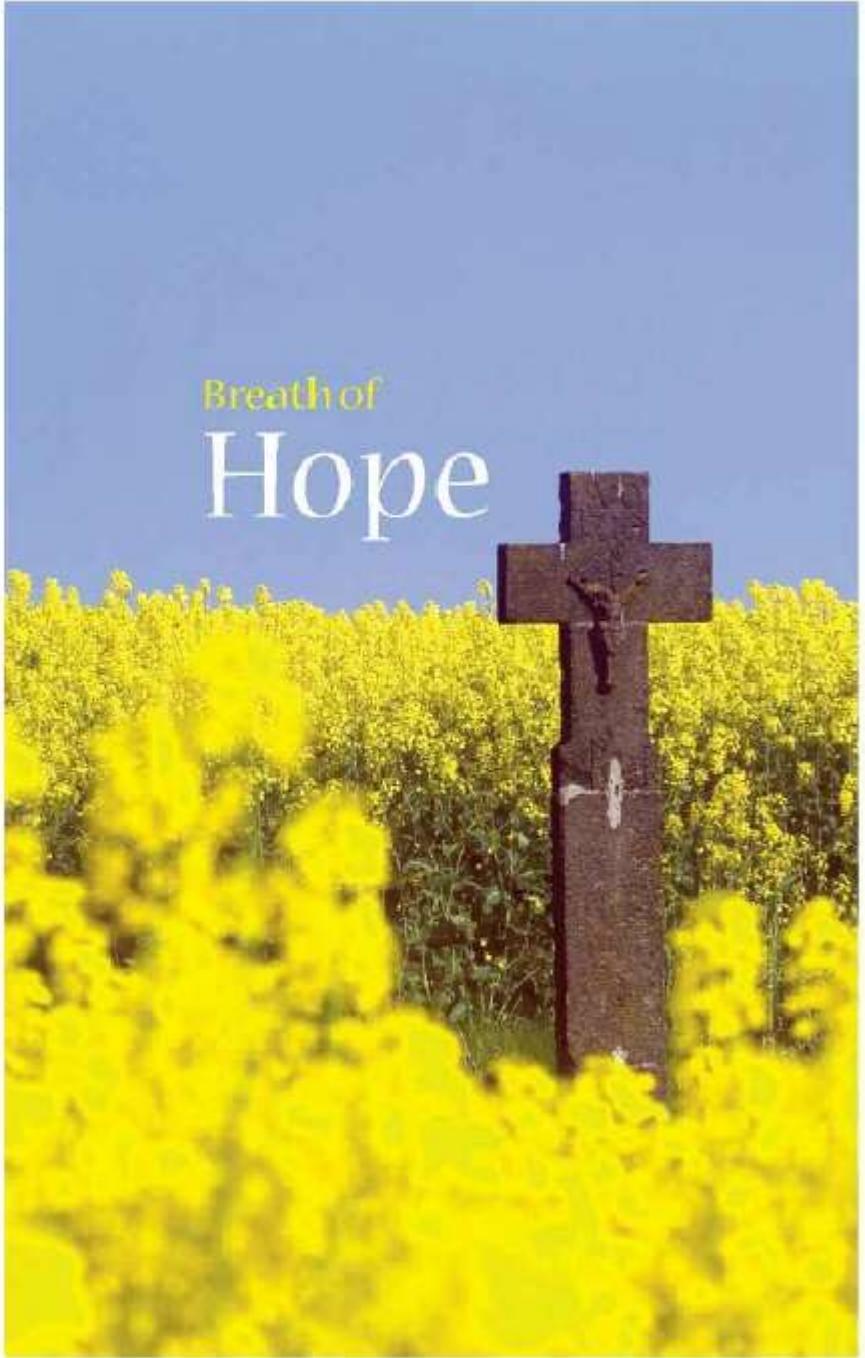




First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Manhattan, Kansas

*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](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

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT APRIL 2, 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:** Gina Davidson, Julie & Jim Appino

**Word for Children:** Leo Schell

**Reading Scripture:** Jim Mock

**Sanctuary Flowers:** Judy Willingham

**Fellowship Hour:** Donna Keyser & Millie Schroeder

**Communion Servers:** Gina Davidson, Brent Maner, Linda Thurston

# **GATHERING**

*in the presence of God*

## **GATHERING MUSIC**

Tower Chimes

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRELUDE**

Mary Ellen Sutton, organ  
Reger

“O Sacred Head”

### **CALLED IN GOD'S PRESENCE** *(based on Psalm 84)*

*One:* How lovely is the dwelling place of God!

*Many:* **Our soul longs for the home of God, and we sing with joy to the living God.**

*One:* Happy are those who find their strength with God.

*Many:* **We sing the praise of God, And in our heart we know the way to God.**

*One:* For a day in the home of God is better than a thousand elsewhere! All are blessed whose home is within you.

*Many:* **Come, let us worship God, who is with us now. 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**

Leo Schell

*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

Ezekiel 37:1-14 (*Old Testament page 764 in the pew Bible*)

Jim Mock

## HYMN 288 (*The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs*)

“Let It Breathe on Me”

*Breathe on Me*

## SILENT PRAYER OR MEDITATION

Cha

## THE WORD IN MUSIC

“Come and Taste”

Chancel Choir

Alice Parker

## SERMON

“Breathing Through Death into Life”

Rev. Caela Simmons Wood

## **RESPONDING**

*in hope and thanksgiving*

## 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

“Jesus, Bread of Life”

Reger

## ✦ 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.

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

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## THE SERVICE OF SACRED COMMUNION

*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**

*Leader:* Come. Come and find your place at this table.

*East:* Come without answers.

*West:* Come without knowing peace.

*East:* Come without preparation.

*West:* Come. Come to find a place here.

*Leader:* This is the table Christ prepares for us.

*All:* **This is the feast God imagines – where peace can be found in a simple meal.**

## **THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

*One:* God be with you.

*All:* **And also with you.**

*One:* Lift up your hearts.

*All:* **We lift them up to God.**

*One:* Let us give thanks for the peace of God.

*All:* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*One:* In the streets, In our homes, Here beside this table,

*Many:* **We give you thanks, O Holy One.**

*One:* We give you thanks for giving us a story.

*East:* Even when we do not understand its meaning,

*West:* Even when we doubt it happened this way,

*All:* **Even when we want to rush ahead to the end,**

*One:* We know that you have given us this story in which to live and move and have our being.

*One:* We remember that your story did not begin with the parade that we commemorate next week. Your story began even before you moved over the waters of creation. We remember the tragedies that came to your people. And we know that you were not silent.

*Many:* **You gave your people a story. You gave your people a rainbow. You gave your people songs of celebration and sorrow, joy and wonder. You gave your people prophets, teachers, leaders who felt unsure of their place.**

*One:* You gave your people your breath....the ruach that moved over the waters of creation, the dry bones in the valley, the waters of the Jordan, the silence of the tomb.

*Many:* **Gathered here with us now, O Holy One, Speak to us through this bread and this cup. Remind us of all the stories we've ever heard about you. Remind us now of the story of the night when Jesus first shared this meal with his disciples.**

*One:* Help us remember how, on the night he was betrayed he took the bread, blessed it, broke it, shared it among all gathered and said,

*Many:* **"Take, eat. This is my body, given for you."**

*One:* Help us remember how, after the meal, Jesus took the cup, blessed it, filled it, passed it among his friends and said,

*Many:* **"Drink from this all of you. This is a new covenant. As often as you drink from this cup, remember me."**

*One:* Imbue these symbols with your peace so that we might find your peace within ourselves.

*Many:* **Help us remember the stories. Help us feel your spirit of life. Help us share these life-giving stories with the world. Amen.**

*Adapted from a Palm Sunday Communion Liturgy by the Rev. Elsa Peters*

## **SHARING GIFTS OF FOOD AND COMMUNION**

### **✦ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER OF JESUS** (*Unison*)

**O Holy One, there are no words to describe the mystery of this bread and cup. There are no sighs too deep to reveal what we feel in sharing in this feast. Thank you for gathering us together to remember that you are always present among us. We lift our hearts in prayer, toward your spirit and pray the Prayer that Jesus taught us:**

*"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.

## 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: Jim and Marian Fuller; Sue and Alan Gerth.*

## GOING FORTH

*to be messengers of good news*

✦ **HYMN 286** (*The New Century Hymnal located in pew backs*)

**"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"**

*Spirit*

## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

✦ **CONGREGATIONAL CHORAL BENEDICTION**

*(Sung two times)*

**"Let Us Live in the Light"**



C G/B Am Em Em7 F G9/F C C#dim7

Let us live in the light, let us love in the light, and

Dm Am/E Dm7/F F#dim Gsus G Csus C

let the Spir - it do its work in us.

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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.



## 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.

### *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.

**Ready to Become a Member?** — On April 23rd, we will welcome a new group of members who desire to join with us in covenant as the people of First Congregational United Church of Christ. If you are interested in membership and haven't yet had a chance to sit down with Pastor Caela to talk about what membership means and have your questions answered, please contact her ([pastor@uccmanhattan.org](mailto:pastor@uccmanhattan.org)) to set up an appointment. You can also learn more and fill out a new member info form at [www.uccmanhattan.org/become-a-member](http://www.uccmanhattan.org/become-a-member).

# **THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE**

## ***THIS SUNDAY, APRIL 2***

- 8:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday school for all ages
- 10:45 a.m. Service of Word and Sacrament
- 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, APRIL 3***

- 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, APRIL 5***

- 11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch @ Little Apple Brewing Co.
- 5:30 p.m. Board of Mission meeting, Blachly Hall
- 5:45 p.m. Board of Deacons meeting, Conference Room
- 7:00 p.m. Board of Trustees meeting, Blachly Hall  
Turning Point AA meeting, Andover Hall

## ***THURSDAY, APRIL 6***

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

## ***FRIDAY, APRIL 7***

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

## ***SATURDAY, APRIL 8***

- 9:00 a.m. Spring Clean Up  
Mrunch @ Chamberlain home

## ***NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 9***

- 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://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](http://www.ksu.edu/ecm).



## Lent, Holy Week and Easter 2017

Palm Sunday, Apr. 9	Palm Processional on Poyntz (City Park)	9:30am
Maundy Thursday, Apr. 13	Maundy Thursday Meal & Worship	6:00pm
Good Friday, Apr. 14	Ecumenical Good Friday Service	noon
Holy Saturday, Apr. 15	Paschal Fire	8:04pm
Easter Sunday, Apr. 16	Potluck Breakfast	9:30am
	Festival Worship	10:45am
	Egg Hunt	Noon

### **Palm Sunday Processional, April 9 at 9:30 a.m.**

Gather with community members from the other downtown churches at 9:30 a.m. in City Park (near the shelter on Poyntz). We will share music and process down Poyntz towards our churches. At each stop along the way, we'll share a blessing for the people of that congregation as they peel off to go to their own worship services. There will be no Sunday School that day (nursery care is still available) and our regular worship service will include a palm processional for our children at 10:45 a.m.

### **Maundy Thursday Meal and Liturgy, April 13 at 6:00 p.m.**

"Maundy" comes from the same root as "mandate" and this holy day is the day we remember Jesus's commandment to love and serve one another. We gather for a simple meal provided by the Deacons at 6:00 p.m. After we eat, we share prayer and singing together and remember Jesus's last supper with his friends through the sharing of Holy Communion.

### **Good Friday, April 14 at Noon**

Join us at First Christian Church over the lunch hour as we worship with others from the Manhattan community. This will be a simple and contemplative worship service as we remember the day of Jesus's death.

### **Holy Saturday Paschal Fire, April 15 at Sunset**

Have you ever been to an Easter Vigil? It's an ancient Christian tradition to gather in the darkness of night, light a new fire, and prepare for the morning to come. We will be doing our own (much shorter) take on Holy Saturday at sunset (8:04 pm). Join us as we share in a simple liturgy together, kindle a Paschal Fire in front of the church, and then bring the light into our Sanctuary. We thank the Ministry of the Decorative Scissors for making our Paschal Candle, which will be re-lit throughout the coming year at baptisms and funerals as we remember the promise of God's unending Easter love.

## **Easter Sunday, April 16**

We gather for a potluck breakfast in historic Pioneer-Blachly Halls at 9:30 a.m. That's right. Potluck breakfast. YUM. Bring your favorite quiche, those decadent cinnamon rolls, fruit, or anything else your heart desires.

Our Festival Worship is at 10:45 a.m. and will include inspiring music and an opportunity to hear and recommit to living out the good news of a God who is too big to fail. We are also thrilled to be celebrating a baptism on Easter morning. Come early to grab a seat and enjoy special music from our brass ensemble at 10:30. Immediately following worship we'll head outside to the front lawn so the kids can hunt Easter eggs.

**Lunch Bunch April 5** – We join together with Bethel AME Church in an opportunity for members of our two congregations to get to know one another. Wednesday, April 5 at **Little Apple Brewing Co. (1110 West Loop Shopping Center)**. It's not for women only – everyone is welcome to join us for lunch at 11:30 a.m. (Find monthly Lunch Bunch locations by going to the church website at [www.uccmanhattan.org](http://www.uccmanhattan.org) and then clicking on Community Life/Events Calendar.)

**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).

## One Great Hour of Sharing

You arrive home in the evening, tired from a long day, and on the news comes a bulletin about an earthquake, or refugee crisis, or typhoon, or famine that has struck people far away. You watch it on the television, or your computer screen. You've seen it all before—the dirty children, the helpless mothers, the smoke and mounds of rubble, people screaming, men gesturing. You say to yourself, "There's so much misery in the world." Then, you change the channel. After all, what can you do? You have work the next day, and your life to live. In your wallet might be twenty or forty dollars. How far could that go to help thousands of people? Besides, there are plenty of helping organizations out there to respond.

One Great Hour of Sharing is more than a helping organization. It's part of the mission of the Christian church. More than the just the United Church of Christ, we join with eight other Christian denominations in this work. Together, with those partners, we raise approximately 12 million dollars a year. Of each dollar given, 91 cents is used directly for mission, five cents for printing materials and four cents for administrative costs. With some of the money we support seven missionaries and two interns who are our feet on the ground and arms open wide helping in the midst of disasters, as well as providing health care and long-term initiatives in education and agricultural development.

You can do something other than look in your wallet and feel powerless. We have a way to reach into that news story and make a difference. Think of your response as if you are the father in today's scripture story of the Prodigal Son. You can watch but you don't have to stand still; you can run toward the one who needs you and give so our representative is there when it matters. Give because when we join our gifts with others we can make a difference in the world. Share in this ministry because it's a way we can share the love of Christ with others.

Imagine yourself on the receiving end of that great hug and kiss of a father to a son. Imagine yourself separated from your family by some disaster and there are only strangers all around you. Then picture this: picture someone handing you something warm to drink, a blanket and a way to get home again. Give generously so we can all be there to offer hope to those suffering and to bring home the lost.



8 1/2" x 14" UCC SUNDAY BULLETIN SERVICE

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